



# TCDSB'S UNSUNG HEROES



**June 2023**

## **Nicole Ross, Secondary Teacher, Neil McNeil High School**



Ms. Ross, a passionate educator at Neil McNeil High School, is a true champion in her field, both inside and outside the classroom! As a Red Seal Carpenter and the lead teacher of the Construction Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Program at Neil McNeil, Ms. Ross is committed to showcasing the skilled trades and apprenticeship pathways as exciting and valuable post-secondary opportunities for her students. She excels in teaching and actively contributes as a member of the TCDSB Skills Team, constantly striving to bring valuable learning opportunities to her students. Ms. Ross's unwavering dedication to using SHSM to provide excellent learning, meaningful experiences, and hands-on learning is remarkable. Recently, she played a pivotal role in organizing an unforgettable *Scaffold Day* experience for her students. Collaborating

with the Carpenter's Union and Don Fry Scaffold Service Inc., Ms. Ross ensured that her students could work alongside skilled professionals to build and dismantle a scaffold on school property. Her meticulous planning, including the extra effort to secure the necessary equipment after a delivery mishap, demonstrated her exceptional commitment to her students' education. Ms. Ross is a shining example of the "call to action" in Catholic education, a fantastic role model who recognizes and encourages each student's God-given talents. She collaborates seamlessly with her fellow SHSM teachers, always putting students at the centre of her work. Ms. Ross's unwavering dedication and contributions make her an invaluable member of the Neil McNeil learning community, supporting the success of both students and staff alike.

## **William Fongying, Occasional Teacher, Monsignor Fraser College**



Mr. Fongying is an extraordinary Monsignor Fraser College community member who brings boundless positive energy to work daily, inspiring all. As an Occasional Teacher, he consistently goes above and beyond to ensure the classroom is a place of engagement, safety, and joy. Mr. Fongying takes the time to learn each student's name, aspirations, and goals, offering guidance and support as if they were his own long-term students. Wherever he goes, be it in a classroom or hallway, Mr. Fongying radiates an undeniable light that brightens the day for everyone around him. His passion for teaching is evident in his meaningful connections with students and staff and his ability to inspire and encourage students to be passionate about their work. Reliable and cherished by our team, Mr. Fongying is a valued member who embodies the true spirit of teaching as a vocation, not just a job. His warm and respectful demeanour makes him approachable and collaborative,

and he has become an integral part of our school community through his unwavering dedication.

### Denise Daly, Education Assistant, St. Joan of Arc Catholic Academy



Ms. Daly, a dedicated Educational Assistant in the Intensive Support Program (ISP), is an unwavering pillar of support for the St. Joan of Arc Catholic Academy (SJOA) community. She tirelessly assists students in various settings, from ISP classrooms to integrated learning environments. Ms. Daly's commitment extends beyond academics, as she actively participates in the St. Joan's coffee program, collaborates on art projects, engages in sports activities, and even joins in karaoke sing-offs! Her passion for the arts is evident, as she dedicates herself to building sets, creating costumes, and nurturing students' creativity. Denise's kindness and encouragement resonate with students and staff, making her a role model for the SJOA community. She selflessly volunteers for school projects, communicates compassionately, and actively listens to others. From organizing events like the *Sight and Sound* celebration to supporting students in various initiatives, Ms. Daly's dedication knows no bounds.

Her organizational skills and artistic talents shine, as seen in the success of multicultural events and upcoming musical productions. Denise Daly's invaluable contributions exemplify the Catholic Graduate Expectations, leaving a lasting impact on the SJOA community. Thank you, Ms. Daly, for everything that you do!

### Andrew Gergely, Elementary Teacher, St. Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic School



In his first year at St. Kateri Tekakwitha (SKT), Mr. Gergely's remarkable energy and dedication have brought a wave of celebration to the school. The positive impact on his grade 6 students is truly inspiring. Mr. Gergely has infused a new level of respect that permeates the school, and it is a joy for everyone in the SKT community. His commitment knows no bounds as he volunteers every single recess, even sacrificing his lunch break, to organize extracurricular activities for students. Every day, without fail, he has a well-planned schedule of engaging activities for all grades, ranging from basketball and jogging to chess, ping pong, video games, and an art club! On top of that, he has created a martial arts program, complete with awards for the student's achievements. Beyond his dedication to his students, Mr. Gergely's mannerisms exemplify respect toward his colleagues. He radiates a jovial and cordial demeanour, making him an absolute pleasure to work with. He leads by example during liturgies,

singing with reverence and ensuring students exhibit respectful behaviour. In collaboration with the Physical Education department, Mr. Gergely has shown great respect for the shared gym space. He has even lent his expertise to coaching, collaborating effectively, and offering valuable ideas. Mr. Gergely has undeniably transformed SKT into a better place for staff and, most importantly, the students, leaving a lasting legacy for celebration and growth.

### **Monica Dillon, Secretary, St. Rose of Lima Catholic School**



Ms. Dillon, the exceptional Secretary at St. Rose of Lima, embodies the true spirit of dedication and compassion. Beyond her official role, she tirelessly works to ensure the well-being of students daily, going above and beyond to care for the children within the St. Rose learning community. Ms. Dillon's involvement with our parent council is invaluable as she assists with organizing food days and selflessly donates essential items to students in need, such as clothing. Her passion for her job is evident in how she wholeheartedly supports and assists our staff in any way possible, constantly going above and beyond her role to nurture and care for students and colleagues. She is a shining role model in Catholic education, earning the admiration of our entire staff. She cheers on our teams, provides unwavering support to students requiring assistance, and readily extends a helping hand whenever and wherever needed. Ms. Dillon's incredible dedication and selflessness make her an outstanding team player,

always willing to lend a helping hand without a second thought. St. Rose of Lima is truly blessed to have such an incredible individual like Ms. Dillon, whose unwavering commitment uplifts and enriches our entire school community.

### **Jackie Delaney, Nutrition Lead, St. Rose of Lima Catholic School**



Ms. Delaney, a cherished St. Rose of Lima community member for over two decades, is a beacon of compassion and generosity. Her impact has been immeasurable, from organizing the breakfast program at our parish to rallying community donors and assembling a dedicated team of volunteers to ensure students start their day with nourishment, kindness, and care. Currently serving as our nutrition lead, Ms. Delaney's commitment knows no bounds. She extends her support beyond the cafeteria, passionately cheering on our students at tournaments and providing lunches for those in need. Her selflessness stems from the depths of her heart, making her an invaluable and beloved member of the St. Rose of Lima community. She embodies the epitome of a role model in Catholic education, always giving, serving, and helping with an infectious smile. Her acts of kindness, both grand and small, such as surprising the soccer team with freezies or slipping encouraging notes into teachers' snack bags, highlight her selfless nature. A true team player and student advocate, Ms. Delaney consistently goes above

and beyond, leaving no stone unturned. The entire St. Rose of Lima community is blessed to have her unwavering dedication, as she tirelessly cares for students in countless meaningful ways.

### **Sally Tellis, Teacher, Student Information System Project**



Sally Tellis, a true champion of the Student Information System (SIS) Project, deserves a resounding celebration for her invaluable contributions. From day one, Sally has been an unwavering pillar of support for guidance teachers, secretaries, and administrators, providing unparalleled assistance in all matters concerning Trillium and now the new SIS. Her leadership in conducting training sessions on scheduling, transcript entry, OnSIS, and other essential topics has been instrumental in ensuring our Board's seamless and efficient functioning. With unyielding dedication, Sally tirelessly ensures that all stakeholders receive accurate information, comprehensive training, and unwavering support in adapting to the new SIS. She has become the go-to person for every member of the SIS Project team, thanks to her unrivalled expertise, tireless work ethic, and unique problem-solving abilities. Leading by example, Sally is fully engaged in learning the new SIS and selflessly shares her knowledge with confidence and patience. Her profound understanding of not just her role but the inner workings of the entire Board has earned her admiration from her team and the individuals she has assisted. Sally is the very cornerstone of the SIS Project Team, and with her, the transition from Trillium to the new SIS was more remarkably seamless, despite the minor roadblocks. Her unwavering dedication, respect, and high esteem among her colleagues, both within the SIS team and Board-wide, exemplify her exceptional character.

### **Margaret Dovigo, Child and Youth Worker, St. Michael's Choir School**



As an extraordinary advocate and Child and Youth Worker at St. Michael's Choir School, Ms. Dovigo has genuinely made an unforgettable impact on the school's community. She spearheaded the breakfast program, securing funding from the Angel Foundation for Learning and Catholic School Parent Councils (CSPC) after recognizing that students travel long distances to the downtown core to attend school. Margaret's leadership of the *Stop the Stigma* club since 2015 empowers students to prioritize their mental health. She actively engages in well-being projects, from cooking yogurt with the Biology class to art therapy sessions with the English class. During the pandemic, Ms. Dovigo led Zoom sessions combining cooking, baking, and mental health, benefiting the school community. Her genuine care and sincerity extend to the Covid Triage Team, which supports at-risk students throughout the pandemic. As our CYW, she creates a welcoming atmosphere through monthly bulletin board updates and involvement in Choir School events. Margaret embodies virtues such as patience, charity, justice, wisdom, listening attentively, and supporting families. Her advocacy and teamwork have earned her recognition, including an award supporting mental health. Ms. Dovigo is a cherished pillar of the St. Michael's Choir School community, whose love and stability hold everyone together! On behalf of everyone at the TCDSB, we would like to express our sincere congratulations on your retirement milestone, Ms. Dovigo! You have undeniably earned the well-deserved happiness and peace that comes with it.



## David Poole, Secondary Teacher, Monsignor Fraser Midland Campus



Mr. Poole's unwavering positive energy and dedication to supporting Monsignor Fraser Midland Campus students beyond the confines of a standard classroom are truly incredible. His classroom doors are always open, creating a safe haven where every student is welcome. Not only does he provide a recreational program after school, but he also goes above and beyond to ensure that everyone who enters those doors feels cared for and supported. It is evident that without Mr. Poole, Fraser Midland would not be the thriving community it is today. Among his many all-star acts, one standout moment is his incredible support for graduating students. Mr. Poole takes students under his wing, assisting them in earning their final credits and securing work opportunities beyond the school. He goes the extra mile to provide students with the resources, nourishment, connections, and even attire for their graduation, epitomizing his commitment to their success. As a mentor to many at Fraser

Midland, Mr. Poole lives the gospel values through his kindness and compassion, inspiring students to be present and engaged each day. He offers them a fresh start, not just academically but also in terms of their sense of self, resilience, workplace readiness, and extracurricular involvement. Mr. Poole's dedication, mentorship, and selflessness make him an invaluable asset to our school community. From providing recreational programs to supporting graduation and beyond, Mr. Poole goes above and beyond to ensure student success. He exemplifies the true nature of a Catholic Educator and is a shining advocate for the TCDSB. We are incredibly fortunate to have Mr. Poole with us!

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