NEWS RELEASE

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TCDSB Congratulates "Team of the Year" From Neil McNeil Catholic Secondary School

The Toronto Catholic District School Board congratulates the leadership team from Neil McNeil Catholic Secondary School for being recognized with this year's Premier's Award for Teaching Excellence in the "Team of the Year" category.

The team includes Alan Baigent, Susanna Bellisario, Paul Edwards, Michael Fellin, Nicholas Kovacs and Tony Morale.

"We are very proud of this wonderful and deserving group of educators for this outstanding accomplishment," says Ann Perron, Director of Education. "It is just another reminder of the level of commitment that our staff have to the students who are entrusted to us."

The team developed a peer support program at the all-boys' school to empower students as leaders in helping others. The focus starts with the transition to secondary school, each incoming student paired with a "big brother" during a three-day camp experience. The orientation forms the basis of a lasting relationship that is maintained through peer mentoring.

"Winning the Premier's Award is an affirmation for us of the importance of community, relationship and collaboration in creating programs that help our students to thrive," says John Shanahan, Principal of Neil McNeil. "By valuing everyone's talents and by sharing our gifts, we have created a dynamic nurturing environment where all our members grow and flourish."

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The Toronto Catholic District School Board educates more than 90,000 students from diverse cultures and language backgrounds in its 201 Catholic elementary and secondary schools and serves 474,876 Catholic school supporters across the City of Toronto.

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