# Christmas Message
# From the Director of Education
# And Chair of the Board

Advent is a season of preparation, expectation and celebration, with the Advent wreath being the most recognizable symbol of the season.

For all its light and promise of good things to come, this season can be a very difficult one for many, particularly those who are need either physically, financially, emotionally or spiritually. It is important for us to reach out with compassion and sensitivity to our colleagues, classmates and families and do whatever we can to make their journey through Advent easier.

We are always proud to see how our school communities respond to the call for help, whether that call comes from remote places around the world, or locally from people in their own neighbourhoods. The outpouring of generosity is a testament to our Catholic values, and our vision of hope for this particular school year. Most recently we have seen our students and staff raise in excess of $114,000 for relief efforts in the Philippines, which will be matched dollar for dollar by the Canadian Government. We also continue to witness our schools and parishes collecting winter clothing and food items, making Christmas baskets, visiting local food banks and homeless shelters.

Of course, this season is full of joy as well.  There are concerts, liturgies, open houses and other gatherings taking place across our great Board.  I congratulate and thank our staff and parents for their dedication and enthusiasm in planning these celebrations for our communities.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Senior Team of the Toronto Catholic District School Board, we wish you and your loved ones the peace of Christ at this very special time of year in our Liturgical Calendar.

May you experience the gift of faith and the blessing of hope at Christmas and always.

*Angela Gauthier, Director of Education*                         *Jo-Ann Davis, Chair of the Board*

*She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus for he will save his people from their sins.--***Matthew 1:21**