June 2, 2020

The events of the past few days and weeks, have been disturbing and heartbreaking. The death of George Floyd, an unarmed Black man who was killed during a police arrest in Minneapolis, Ahmaud Arbery, a man in Georgia who was killed by two armed white men after spotting him running in their neighbourhood, and countless others who have lost their lives, is a reminder that anti-black racism is real. We have to face the truth that anti-black racism exists in our city and in our schools.

We reaffirm that the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) is committed to fostering an environment of equity and inclusion where everyone is respected, valued and welcomed. We acknowledge that anti-black racism has devastating affects on individuals, members of our school community, and our society. Anti-black racism has no place in our schools or in our hearts.

We also acknowledge there is more that we can do. We must continue to identify and eliminate discriminatory practices, systemic barriers, and bias from our classrooms, our schools, and our offices. We will continue to work with our partners and community members to ensure that the perspectives and experiences of racialized students are heard, understood and accepted with open hearts. We will work to ensure that racialized students see themselves reflected in their learning. We will continue to offer professional learning opportunities to combat racism in all its forms, increase parent engagement in equity and inclusive education, and support equity of outcomes.

We recognize that these recent news events may cause a heightened sense of insecurity and anxiety in our children and communities. Our staff have developed a webpage with resources that may support you during these difficult times. If you have concerns about your child’s emotional well-being, please contact your school principal so we can arrange for the appropriate supports.

At the TCDSB, we strive to nourish safe, healthy and caring school communities that are fair and equitable places for our staff and students. As a faith community, we must stand up for justice. Let us come together to recognize that we must do “what leads to peace and to building up one another” (Romans 14:19).

Let us come together to pray for the victims and their families and unite against anti-black racism.

God bless,

Rory McGuckin
Director of Education

Joseph Martino
Chair of the Board