



## **Message from the Director of Education and Chair of the Board**

### **Celebrating Our Staff in October**

Congratulations to everyone for a successful start to the school year. We are truly blessed to employ dedicated and hard working staff who are devoted to fostering an inclusive learning community for our students—a community where we all Belong.

Principals, caretakers, teachers, administrative and support staff are instrumental to ensuring the success of our students and confidence of all our stakeholders. We are also grateful for the tireless work of our Academic Resource, Business, Human Resources, IT, Facilities and Planning Services staff at the Catholic Education Centre and other facilities whose expertise supports success in the classrooms. With such a talented community of educators and support staff, we are able to enrich the lives of all students and help them achieve success to the best of their abilities. A number of special days have been designated provincially or nationally throughout the month of October to acknowledge specific groups of staff for the important work they do. Our school communities continue to be better places to learn, work and play because of them.

#### **October is National Principals' Month.**

We are grateful for our Principals and Vice-Principals who are called upon to lead, to mentor and motivate, to listen as well as provide direction, to inspire and to serve with courage and kindness. Leadership in a Catholic school requires not only caring and compassionate leadership, but also a desire to work collaboratively with parents, educators, support staff, administration, parishes and other partners.

#### **Tuesday, October 2nd is National Custodial Workers' Day.**

We recognize and thank our caretakers and custodial staff for all that they do to ensure the health and safety of our students and staff. They tirelessly work to maintain our buildings and properties throughout the year to ensure that our facilities are top notch work and learning environments. We add an extra thanks to them for the work they do throughout the summer months to ensure that our schools are ready to welcome students and staff on the first day of the year.

#### **Friday, October 5th is World Teachers' Day (celebrated on Thursday, October 4th due to system wide PA Day).**

As we celebrate World Teachers' Day, we offer a heartfelt thank you to all of our educators who are committed to excellence, and strive to create nurturing, stimulating and caring learning environments for our students. Their commitment to profound learning and deep care for our students is demonstrated in and outside of our classrooms on a daily basis. Our teachers go above and beyond to motivate our students to overcome challenges and inspire them to realize their full potential.

#### **Tuesday, October 16 is Early Childhood Educators' and Childcare Workers' Appreciation Day.**

We offer our thanks for the important work that our Child Care Workers and Early Childhood Educators do, in partnership with our teachers and other support staff, to engage our youngest students in the joy of learning. Through their dedication, they help them begin the journey of self-discovery, and play an integral role in their development.

Posters will be distributed to all schools via courier to help keep these celebrations top of mind throughout the month of October. We encourage everyone to take the time to acknowledge your colleagues, and welcome you to share stories on social media to recognize their valued contributions to our Board.

To all our staff, thank you for continuing to ensure that the students of our Board grow in grace and knowledge and lead lives of faith, hope and charity. We ask for God's constant blessings on the invaluable work you do, on a daily basis, to ensure each and every student feels valued and knows they Belong.

Sincerely,

*Rory McGuckin*  
Director of Education

*Barbara Poplawski*  
Chair of the Board