



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

Our New Pastoral Plan “*Rooted in Christ: we Belong, we Believe, we Become*”

We are truly delighted to see the many schools who have already incorporated our new pastoral plan into their plans for the year ahead. Our theme of “***Rooted in Christ: we Belong, we Believe, we Become***” calls us not to take on something new and different, but instead to examine the things that we are doing to support our students, our colleagues and our families so that they feel a true connection to our TCDSB community.

We all Belong...to the family of God, to our own families, to our school and work communities, to our parish, to our neighbourhood and to our planet. We know that all of you will continue to embrace this basic concept that is so intrinsic to our Catholic faith, to the values and teachings of our Catholic church. Inclusion, acceptance and belonging are easily incorporated and reflected in our day to day teachings in all areas of the curriculum.

It is our hope that schools will consider how this sense of belonging can be further nurtured in the classroom, in the community, and in the parish as well, and that you will share your ideas, and document any new initiatives that you are taking on in support of this goal. Resources and information for our pastoral plan can be found on the Nurturing our Catholic Community website <https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/rooted-in-christ/Pages/default.aspx>. And of course, the Religion and Family Life Team as well as the Catholic Teachers Centre are available to discuss any ideas you may have throughout the year.

Staff are being invited to in-services focusing on our new pastoral plan, and we are already starting to plan for a culminating celebration in May 2019. Stay tuned for additional information coming from [ncc.team@tcdsb.org](mailto:ncc.team@tcdsb.org) soon with more detailed information about that event.

We look forward to seeing, and hearing about, the many things that are happening in your school communities. For those who are on Twitter, remember to include the hashtag **#TCDSBelongs** and **@TCDSB** so that we have an opportunity to share your ideas, and to gather them centrally on the Board’s website.

Rory McGuckin  
*Director of Education*