

WELCOME BACK MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

*Nurturing Our Catholic Community:
Rejoicing in hope through the “Word” proclaimed and lived*

It my pleasure to welcome our new families and staff to the Toronto Catholic District School Board and to re-connect with all those who are returning from a well-deserved summer holiday. Albeit our fine summer weather arrived a little late, I am hopeful that you enjoyed your time with your loved ones and took advantage of a break from the demands of school and work.



This year, within our overall theme of Nurturing Our Catholic Community, we will be focusing on rebuilding and nurturing relationships--relationships with our students, parents and with each other. I am looking forward to renewing relationships with our parents and trustees and our federation and association leaders, along with the support and direction from our new Ministry Supervisor Mr. Richard Alway and our Chair Angela Kennedy and Vice-Chair Ann Andrachuk. They are committed to improving relationships as we are stronger when we are united in our focus on students. We are proud of the fine work and success that both our staff and students achieve throughout the TCDSB. I am overwhelmed by the great things happening in our schools and the generosity of our parents, staff, administration and leaders across the system.

I am delighted that his Grace, Archbishop Thomas Collins joined us to launch “Nurturing Our Catholic Community” with a three-year journey of Word, Worship and Witness. Our partnership with the Archdiocese is very important as we deepen our relationship with each other and the wider community. This journey will inspire and motivate us as we will build upon our existing Virtue of the Month initiative. September’s Virtue of the Month is “Hospitality”—rather apropos for the beginning of a school year.

One of my new initiatives is to launch “Director’s Voice” on our website, which I will update regularly, to speak to you personally about updates, new initiatives and information relevant to the good work being accomplished in our schools. I encourage staff, parents and students to interact through the Director’s Voice to let me know what your thoughts are and to provide suggestions so that we may all improve.

I invite you to visit our website to keep informed about our strategic renewal process which will allow us the opportunity to look at our business and system efficiencies so we may serve our schools and our students better.

We are blessed with the opportunity to witness hope for the future through the lives of our students who are entrusted to us. We are also called to be faithful to the gifts that we have been given and to renew our commitment to the Gospel values in Catholic education. I pray—we pray—for the guidance and strength to replenish our energies and talents as we serve the needs of our students and Catholic school communities.

This year the Ontario Catholic Trustees Association will be celebrating the theme “Catholic Education: Rejoicing in Hope” in our Ontario Catholic Schools. As we start this school year may we all rejoice in hope: in our hearts, in our homes, in our schools, in our communities and in our world.

May we pray – Loving God, walk with us during this school year and “always be ready to give an account of the hope that is within you” Peter 3:15. Amen.

Help us to rejoice in hope. Have a wonderful and successful year. God bless.

Ann Perron
Director of Education