



# YOUR TRUSTEE'S REPORT



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**MIKE  
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**TRUSTEE WARD 7**

**SCHOOLS  
(by SUPERINTENDENT):**

Peter Aguiar (Area 4):  
416-222-8282 ext. 2267

- Blessed Trinity 416-393-5289
- Our Lady of Wisdom 416-393-5273
- Precious Blood 416-393-5258
- St. Agnes 416-393-5345
- St. Kevin 416-393-5300
- Brebeuf 416-393-5508 (secondary)
- St. Joseph Morrow Park  
416-393-5516 (secondary)

Kevin Malcolm (Area 7):  
416-222-8282 ext. 2263

- Epiphany of Our Lord 416-393-5378
- Holy Spirit 416-393-5282
- St. Aidan 416-393-5350
- St. Albert 416-393-5335
- St. Henry 416-393-5395
- St. Lawrence 416-393-5264
- St. Sylvester 416-393-5373
- Jean Vanier 416-393-5554 (secondary)
- Mary Ward 416-393-5544 (secondary)

**PARISHES:**

- Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
416-445-1760
- Blessed Trinity 416-226-0262
- Epiphany of Our Lord 416-499-2196
- Holy Spirit 416-293-7974
- Precious Blood 416-751-2661
- St. Aidan's 416-494-2704
- St. Lawrence Martyr 416-759-9359
- St. Maria Goretti 416-261-0076

## Mid-Year Update

While the winter weather seems to drag on, and the urge to hibernate grows, life in our schools is still in full swing. Throughout the system, I am continually amazed at the successes and achievements of our students and staff; they are truly inspiring. I look forward to more stories of triumphs and accomplishments as we move into the second half of the year.

In early February, the TCDSB Board of Trustees were able to take a first look at our 2018-2021 Pastoral Plan. The Pastoral Plan supports our Board wide goal of Living Our Catholic Values by nurturing our Catholic community. The theme of 2018-2021 is "Rooted in Christ: we Belong, we Believe, we Become." I look forward to the plan's official launch during Catholic Education Week.



On December 21, International and ESL students from St. Joseph Morrow Park celebrated a Canadian Christmas. Students decorated gingerbread cookies and feasted on a traditional Christmas meal which included turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, vegetables, and cranberry sauce.

Movies and a surprise visit from Santa Claus himself were part of the festivities.

Finally, as we move closer to the end of the year, the Board of Trustees is preparing to debate and decide on the budget for the 2018/2019 school year. As you may be aware, after several years of deficit the Board has balanced its books and is once more on sound financial footing. We are beginning to reinvest in areas that have faced cuts in previous years. As we begin this year's budget discussions, I look forward to your input. You can find more information on the budget online at <https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/BudgetandFinance>.

Wishing everyone a successful and happy second semester and term two.

Sincerely,

**Mike Del Grande, Trustee Ward 7**

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For further/general information visit [tcdsb.org](http://tcdsb.org) and follow @TCDSB on Twitter.



## GENERAL INFORMATION

Parents/ratepayers may find the following list of contact telephone numbers helpful:

*Admissions*  
416-222-8282,  
ext. 5320

*Communications*  
416-222-8282,  
ext. 5314

*Continuing Education*  
416-222-8282,  
ext. 2491/2556

*24-hour Information Line*  
416-222-8282,  
ext. 2873

*Permits*  
416-222-8282,  
ext. 4370

*Security*  
416-229-5360

*Curriculum and Accountability*  
416-222-8282,  
ext. 2490

*Special Services*  
416-222-8282,  
ext. 2486

*Transportation*  
416-229-5313

For news and information:  
TCDSB web site  
[tcdsb.org](http://tcdsb.org)

Subscribe to ENews  
[tcdsb.org/News/eNews/Pages/default.aspx](http://tcdsb.org/News/eNews/Pages/default.aspx)

## YOUR TRUSTEE'S REPORT

### St. Aidan Wins MusiCounts Grant

MusiCounts is a program that provides grants to school music departments in need of new instruments. Grants typically range from \$5,000- \$10,000 but, St. Aidan was lucky to be one of five schools to receive a \$20,000 grant in celebration of the 20th anniversary of MusiCounts!

St. Aidan students have been supplied with 2 new violas, 12 new violins and 5 new cellos to start! To celebrate their new instruments, on November 23rd, students participated in a celebration event where they were able to meet the donor Eleanor McCain and Canadian Music Hall of Famer Matt Dusk.

The grade 8's also had the opportunity to partner with Volkswagen and be part of their new campaign, "Everyday Heroes", which aired in January 2018. Students played the music featured in the commercial. VW also surprised their students with an additional \$4,000 worth of instruments which included 30 ukuleles, 4 violins, 3 violas and some music stands! Congrats St. Aidan!



### St Joseph Morrow Park Update

On January 18, the Board of Trustees approved a revised \$32.5 million budget for the new St. Joseph Morrow Park. Included in this budget is funding for a special project coordinator whose role will be to minimize construction related delays and bring the project to completion on time. While extended delays in City of Toronto approvals have made it feel like the end will never come, January 2020 remains as the targeted opening date. Demolition of the existing townhomes is expected to commence shortly.



### St. Albert Welcomes Educators from China

I was pleased to participate in a visit by 30 vice-principals and principals from China. Overseas visitors are often impressed by the quality of our schools and education system and the visits provide an excellent opportunity for them to learn best practices from around the world. School staff were great in allowing the visitors into the classroom. Congratulations to St. Albert for a job well done.

### OUR MISSION

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community rooted in the love of Christ. We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge and to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.

### OUR VISION

At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.

## Religion Courses

With grade 8 graduation approaching, I am occasionally asked about secondary school religion classes. Religious education is an essential component of our Catholic secondary schools, forming the bedrock of the close-knit communities that set our schools apart from their peers. Students are expected to participate fully in the faith life of the school, which includes any religious program, course or activity with a substantial component of religious content.

The Education Act does provide an exemption from religious courses and programs for “open access” students. These are students who attend a Catholic secondary school, but whose parents have been public school supporters and the pupil qualifies as a resident pupil.

## New Child Care Centre Coming to St. Kevin

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is pleased to inform you that the Province of Ontario has just confirmed funding for the construction of a child care centre at St. Kevin Catholic School. The facility will include spaces for up to 10 infants (0 – 18 months of age), up to 15 toddlers (18 months – 30 months of age) and up to 24 preschool children (2.5 - 3.8 years of age). More information, including construction timelines, will be available in the coming months.



## School Safety and Bullying

I take this very seriously. Just like you, I know having children in the system is not always carefree. Experiencing bullying while raising my own children, I can appreciate the anguish it causes. Know that you are not alone. Each and every member of the school community has a role to play in providing a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment for everyone. For more information on available resources please visit: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/safeschools/bullying.html>

As part of our commitment to a safe school environment, we asked our grade 6, 8 and high school students to fill out anonymous surveys to gauge our progress. Here is what our elementary students told us.

- 96% feel very safe in school.
- Only 79% feel safe traveling to and from school.
- 45% have witnessed/experienced Physical Violence 1-3 times, 11% 4-6 times.
- 31% have witnessed/experienced Verbal Abuse 1-3 times, 13% 4-6 times.

While the year over year trends illustrates that students are feeling safer in our schools, 12% report that they have witnessed/experienced weapons 1-3 times and 1% 4-6 times. This statistic concerns me. We all play a part in keeping our schools safe. Correcting unsafe behaviour at a young age pays dividends as our children grow to adulthood.

## Honouring Our Indigenous Heritage

TCDSB approved a change to the policy dealing with opening exercises in our schools, to include recognition of Indigenous territories. This same recognition is incorporated into the opening of our regular Board meetings and special events across the system. “Out of our deep respect for Indigenous peoples in Canada, we acknowledge that all Toronto Catholic District School Board properties are situated upon traditional territories. The territories include the Wendat, the Anishinabek Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nations. We also recognize the contributions and enduring presence of all First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people in Ontario and the rest of Canada.”

## Online Math Resources

Math doesn't have to be scary. Through the TCDSB, the Ministry of Education and a variety of not for profit groups, parents have a wealth of simple, fun resources that can help make math accessible to children of all ages. From homework help to family friendly games, there are a variety of options. For a list of resources visit the below link and click on mathematics websites: <https://www.tcdsb.org/FORPARENTS/SummerPlayground/>



**SCHOOL YEAR  
SCHOOL YEAR  
CALENDAR  
2017-2018**

First Day of School  
**September 5, 2017**

Thanksgiving Day  
**October 9, 2017**

Christmas Break  
**December 25, 2017 –  
January 5, 2018**

Start of second semester  
for secondary schools  
**February 5, 2018**

Family Day  
**February 19, 2018**

Mid-Winter Break  
**March 12–16, 2018**

Good Friday  
**March 30, 2018**

Easter Monday  
**April 2, 2018**

Victoria Day  
**May 21, 2018**

Last day of classes for  
elementary students  
**June 28, 2018**

\*Professional Activity (PA)  
Days for ELEMENTARY  
schools:

**October 6, 2017,  
November 17, 2017,  
December 1, 2017,  
January 19, 2018,  
February 16, 2018,  
June 8, 2018,  
June 29, 2018**

\*Professional Activity (PA)  
Days for SECONDARY  
schools:

**October 6, 2017  
November 17, 2017,  
December 1, 2017,  
February 16, 2018,  
June 27, 28, 29, 2018**

\*(Please confirm these  
dates with your local  
school)

## YOUR TRUSTEE'S REPORT

### Important Information

To **apply for registration** to a TCDSB elementary school, please visit:

<https://soar.tcdsb.org>

For additional information about admission and registration, call 416-222-8282 ext. 5320.

Secondary school students who are new to the country are invited to make an appointment with the **Orientation Centre** by calling 416-393-5500.

For information about **Adult Education**, click here: <https://www.tcdsb.org/FORCOMMUNITY/AdultEducationESL/Pages/Default.aspx>

**Transportation** Information, including safety tips and up to the minute reports on cancellations or delays can be found online: <https://www.torontoschoolbus.org/>

If you wish to rent a school or TCDSB facility for a community event, contact the **Permits Department** at 416-222-8282 ext. 4370.

### Combined Classes

Many of our schools have multiple combined classes depending on their population and/or student needs. Combined classes occur for a variety of reasons. They can be used to balance class sizes, adhere to union contracts, or to meet student learning needs. The Ontario Government mandates that Principals and staff will be involved in the decision making process. More info is available at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/combinedClassrooms/combinedClassrooms.pdf>.

### Entry and Exit Surveys

When families enter and exit our school communities we ask parents to fill out a survey to tell us the motivating factors behind their decisions. This is what we've heard.

#### Entry Responses

Why did you choose to register your child at this school?

1. It is my community school
2. Strong evidence of Catholic faith and culture
3. High moral values in the school
4. Reputation of the school
5. Welcoming and friendly school atmosphere

Are there any specific programs that helped you to decide?

- Arts programming
- French Immersion
- Core French starts in Grade 1
- Extended French
- Extended day International Languages program

#### Exit Responses

Did you unregister your child because you have moved?

64% Yes

36% No

For those that did not move what were the reasons for withdrawal?

1. Academic concerns
2. Student safety
3. Condition of school facilities
4. Need for a specific program that is not provided at this location
5. Reputation of the school

The TCDSB uses this information to improve programming in schools and provide the best possible education for all of our students.

