1. Student Council Emails

The OUTLINE below was presented by CSLIT to the Board’s secondary principals (and subsequently approved by them!) to meet the overall goal of empowering Student Councils. Details are found within.

Outline: Student Council Emails

We, the 2013-2014 CSLIT has made it one of our goals to establish emails for all secondary Student Councils across the board (e.g. notredame.studentcouncil@tcdsb.org) due to the enormous benefit that would arise from their implementation.

The emails will allow for:

A clear system of communication between each Student Council and their respective school’s staff.

This will be incredibly helpful for coordinating announcements to be read on the PA, as well as for the many school events that take place throughout the year e.g. finding chaperones for a school dance.

A set system of communication between Student Councils themselves.

Many Councils across the years have found it difficult to coordinate inter-school activities due to the lack of ease to other Councils’ contact information.

A set system of communication between CSLIT and individual schools.

The implementation of these emails will allow us to share with student councils across the city (and their students) the many opportunities that are shared through CSLIT e.g. Scholarships, awards, service trips, Student Trustee elections, etc. We will be able to finally have an organized network of sharing opportunities and general communication.

Overall Empowerment of Student Councils

The creation of these emails will help us achieve our goal in sending the message that Student Councils are to be taken seriously. Indeed, an overarching desire of this request to implement these emails is a desire to turn Student Councils into the effective agents of change, and representatives of their schools’ student body, that they were meant to be – not just a group of kids who are elected for their popularity and serve to do nothing throughout the year.
2. Dodging for Justice (Board-wide Dodge-ball Tournament)

Together with Development and Peace, the CSLIT Social Justice Committee will be taking part in the A Voice for Justice campaign which seeks to:

- Educate people on the broad theme of international justice
- Encourage people to learn about the practices of mining operations in other countries that fail to respect the health and livelihood of the communities found therein
- Spur people into action by lobbying the Federal Government to fight against the injustices of unethical mining by putting into place an effective and independent extractive sector ombudsman

As summed up on D&P’s website:

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE is launching its new campaign, A Voice for Justice, in response to reports from mine-affected communities in Africa, Asia and Latin America that are experiencing conflict, pollution, forced displacements and other negative impacts from the presence of Canadian mines.

A Voice for Justice calls on the Government of Canada to establish an independent ombudsman for the Canadian extractive sector that can investigate complaints brought by communities overseas where companies operate.

To meet this end of helping them in this noble effort, we will be sending out an invitation for all interested student leaders to take part in this initiative’s MP Letter Campaign. The goal is to have 10,000 petition postcards signed by students across the city so as to let the government hear a voice that calls for justice.

This will all be integrated heavily in our overall PR initiatives and into a Dodge ball competition set up this April 4 at SJCS Wellesley as a way to centre this initiative on a fun community event.
3. Environmental Conference

The CSLIT is currently in the process of organizing an Ecological Justice conference at the CEC on Earth Day, April 22. It will be titled “Project Green” and we are expecting approximately 200 students to attend. We will be targeting the Environmental Clubs of each secondary school.

Our team has seen a lack in environmental knowledge within our students, including ourselves. Some may be aware of the problems and issues that we have in regards to the environment, but most of us decide to ignore problems and simply hope that they will go away or that someone else will take action. We often hear about the horrible effects of climate change, global warming and animal extinction, but for some reason not many of us choose to take initiative and prevent these events from happening. We simply look at these issues as a problem we cannot overcome. I believe that raising awareness and doing the best we can to protect and care for the environment adds up to a the prevention of our environmental problems. Our deep concern and respect for the environment inspired us to plan this conference in the hopes of inspiring others to look at the world as a precious place that needs to be taken great care of. We strongly believe that many students can benefit from this conference as we hope to inspire the younger grades to create an environmental change within their schools. In addition to providing them knowledge and inspiration, we would like to present them with solutions as to how they can take action by connecting them with environmental organizations across the city, from the Toronto Zoo to Teens Against the Privatization of Water.

- Lovely Juson, Project Lead
4. Bettering our Religious Education

An issue that has sprung up time and time again in CSLIT meetings for the past two years has been the issue of religious education and what steps can be taken to enhance it. Some ideas that were thrown around have been:

- Students want more from Apologetics: the arguments in defence of the Christian faith. E.g. is the idea of a God compatible with the claims of modern science?
- Students want more opportunities to take part in the Social Justice component of the Gospel that should be found within all forms of our religious education
- Let’s study the hard questions in depth: E.g. Why does the Church disagree with same-sex marital unions, and why have some dissenting Catholic priests been fighting so hard to change the Church’s current stance on the issue?

The plan that we have in place is very simple in its approach. We will consult the students and ask them what steps they think should be taken to improve our religious education and present it to the board’s Religious Subject Council at their This, of course, is an amazing way to teach students the importance of getting their voice heard.

The tentative format for this consultation breaks down as follows:

At our next CSLIT meeting, we will break out our student leaders into groups of maximum ten people. A facilitator will be present in each group to guide them through the following questions, and their answers will be subsequently compiled into a formal document/presentation that will be presented to the Religious Subject Council.

Topics/Questions:

- **Topic: Teaching Strategies** (guiding question: what should teachers do to improve religious education and get students interested?) (sample answer: more discussions in a safe space)
- **Topic: Curriculum focus** (guiding question: what topics or themes would you like see covered in your religion class?) (sample answer: social justice)
- **Topic: Learning Strategies** (guiding question: what is the best way you could get involved in your class?) (sample answer: service learning)
- **Topic: Rooted in community and fostering a culture of faith** (guiding question: what can your school do promote the Catholic faith in your community?) (sample answer: Catechesis sessions, invite different students to say the morning prayer just like how the Board does to open their meetings)
5. AFL school visits and fundraising

The Angel Foundation for Learning (TCDSB official charity) Committee of CSLIT has been working with Student Councils across the board to encourage that their funds from civies days, bake sales, and fundraisers in general, go towards the AFL.

**CSLIT’s Angel Council (as they like to style themselves) has set a $30,000 fundraising goal for this year.**

Awareness is also a key issue that the Council plans on addressing through many ways such as:

- A poster campaign with student councils
- A social media campaign with the CSLIT PR team
- Have members of the committee pitch to individual school’s administrative staff to let them come in to their school and present to either their leadership/religion classes or to the school as a whole in an assembly format

This will all be done in the name of promoting the great work that the Angel Foundation for Learning does for students, as well as encouraging student leaders across the Board to support the great work that they do in prayer, deed, and in whatever way we can.

Of course, this will all do well in achieving our overall goal of creating a culture in which students are empowered and feel capable of rising up and making a change.
6. Presidents’ Council (Student Council Professional Development)

Student Council professional development has been an important goal of CSLIT for this year. To meet this end, we have developed plans for a system of two meetings in every school year going forward that follow this format:

May 2014 (end of school year A):

- Host a full day conference at the CEC that will address topics such as
  - How to fundraise
  - How to properly delegate responsibilities amongst Council members
  - How to run fair elections
  - Etc.
- Share best practices between OUTGOING and INCOMING Student Council members

October 2014 (start of school year B):

- Host another full day conference at the CEC that will address the same topics as above
- Host networking workshops
- Etc.

The plans are underway for the inaugural AGM for the Presidents’ Council, which is (to put it simply), the collective of every single Student Council member in TCDSB Secondary Schools.

Implementing this format conference is the main effort in CSLIT’s goal of developing Student Councils to be the effective agents of change and representatives of the student voice that they are called to be. Indeed, many of the issues that students face can be solved with an effective, empowered, and engaged Student Council.
7. Nutritional Information in School Cafeterias

“CSLIT is championing the right to have Nutritional Information, such as calories, sugars, carbohydrates, fat etc., available and visible in every cafeteria in the TCDSB. This knowledge will provide students with the necessary knowledge about their diet in order to live a healthier life style.

After reviewing PPM 150, the “School and Beverage” Policy effective September 2011 which sets out nutrition standards for food and beverages sold in Ontario schools, we requested the nutritional information from the cafeteria providers. We received a menu list from most providers detailing the nutritional information per item, however some important categories, such as total calories and carbohydrates per item were not included. We decided to submit a formal letter to all cafeteria providers on behalf of the students asking for the remaining nutritional facts. This letter can be found in Appendix D.

We are in constant communication with the Material Management department and are expecting positive results within the next month.”

- Taken from the Student Trustee Monthly Report for February

Final Thoughts

“An authentic faith always implies a deep desire to change the world. And this is the question we should pose ourselves: do we too have great visions and zeal? Are we bold too? Do our dreams fly high? Are we consumed by zeal? Or are we mediocre and satisfied with our theoretical apostolic plans?

– Pope Francis
## 2015 AGM & Conference – April 30 to May 2
### Co-Host Board Timelines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Deadline Date</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liturgical Committee</td>
<td>August 2014</td>
<td>Co-Host-Board to establish a liturgical committee.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops (optional)</td>
<td>November 28, 2014</td>
<td>Co-Host-Board may develop up to 2 workshops (1 student trustee &amp; 1 delegate workshop) and provide OCSTA with information re: topics and presenters.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liturgical Program Concept Development:</td>
<td>November 2014</td>
<td>Co-Host-Board to develop the content and various aspects of the liturgical programs based on the theme: “Ontario’s Catholic Trustees: Inspired by the Past… Focused on the Future” and send to Margaret Binns for review by the Director of Catholic Education and OCSTA Chaplain.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening Liturgy – Thursday April 30 (20 minutes)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Morning Praise – Saturday May 2 (10 minutes)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Liturgical Program – Content:</td>
<td>January 30, 2015</td>
<td>The celebrant is responsible for Mass (OCSTA will issue an invitation to the Cardinal, co-host board will be cc’d on this letter). The co-host board is responsible for the music portion of the Friday evening Mass – all details of music to be shared with OCSTA so that this information can be provided to the celebrant. In addition, the co-host board is responsible for preparing petitions and selecting readers to deliver them at Mass. Petitions have to be approved by the celebrant in advance.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Version</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
# 2015 AGM & Conference – April 30 to May 2
## Co-Host Board Timelines

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<tr>
<td>Student Performance: During Mass – Friday May 1 (e.g. Choir)</td>
<td>January 30, 2015</td>
<td>Confirm details regarding student performance during Mass.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Artwork (optional)</td>
<td>January 30, 2015</td>
<td>Confirm details regarding student artwork. The Co-Host Board is responsible for transporting, setting up, dismantling and securing artwork throughout the event.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invited Guest List (e.g. politicians, clergy, etc)</td>
<td>January 30, 2015</td>
<td>Co-Host Board to send list of Invited Guests they wish to invite to Margaret Binns.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Dinner Tickets</td>
<td>March 19, 2015</td>
<td>5 complimentary annual dinner tickets to host board will be provided. Names to be sent to Margaret Binns.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spousal Program</td>
<td>September 30, 2014</td>
<td>Provide spousal program information to Margaret Binns.</td>
<td></td>
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</table>