

April 14, 2022

Dear TCDSB Community:

Today, and every year thereafter, the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) recognizes Sri Lankan New Year, also known as Sinhala and Tamil New Year.

Sinhala and Tamil New Year is a national holiday in Sri Lanka observed every April by all Sri Lankans. It is also observed by Tamils outside of Sri Lanka, including Indian and Malaysian Tamils.

Traditionally, New Year's Day is marked by religious ceremonies, family activities, traditional foods, colourful decorations, and a general feeling of goodwill toward neighbours and friends. The celebration promotes family unity and a spirit of gratitude and community. This important national festival is known as *Avurudu* in Sinhala and *Puththandu* in Tamil.

With thousands of Canadians of Sinhalese and Tamil ancestry, many reside in Toronto and many also attend our Catholic schools. The TCDSB makes every effort to recognize and commemorate observances that reflect the heritage, history and values of our diverse communities. We are committed to educating students about different cultural ceremonies and dates of significance, not only in Canada but around the world.

Looking for an inspired art lesson and other Sri Lankan, Sinhala, and Tamil New Year ideas? [Please visit our Choice Board.](#)

The TCDSB wishes its students, families and friends of Sri Lankan, Sinhalese, and Tamil heritage, a joyous New Year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brendan Browne
Director of Education

Angela Kennedy
Chair of the Board