TCDSB science teacher to receive Central Canada’s Outstanding Biology Teacher Award

Gabriel Ayyavoo, a teacher at Francis Libermann Catholic Secondary School in Scarborough, is a recipient of the Central Canada’s Outstanding Biology Teacher Award from the National Association of Biology Teachers. Mr. Ayyavoo is to receive his award at the association’s national convention, October 5th to 8th in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The annual award is presented to a teacher in recognition of commitment to advancement of the sciences in education. He was nominated by Grace D’Avella, Head of Science at Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School, who worked collaboratively with Mr. Ayyavoo recently at the Ontario Science Centre.

He began his career as research assistant in University of Newfoundland’s Ocean Science Centre in the late 1980s. He joined the staff of Francis Libermann in 1990, where he not only taught and later took on a headship role, but also mentored students throughout the past 10 years as they competed annually in the Connaught/Aventis Biotech and the Canada-Wide Science Fairs. Under his guidance students earned many awards and championship titles, including the first gold for Ontario Science Centre Science School. He also finds time to coach the cross-country team at the school.

“My philosophy of science teaching is to invigorate the joy of science, taught both within and outside the classroom setting,” says Mr. Ayyavoo. “Regardless of age, gender or culture, I believe that everyone can contribute to science. My ultimate goal is to ensure that students develop a love for the sciences, particularly biology.”