



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Communications

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Rebels With A Cause: An Exhibit Featuring the Stories of Strong & Inspiring Women

TORONTO – In celebration of International Women’s Day, students from St. Mary’s Catholic Academy (SMCA) are preparing to showcase a unique exhibition that will feature the portraits and stories of influential women who have made an impact on their lives:

When: Friday, March 8, 2019
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Where: St. Mary Catholic Academy
66 Dufferin Park Avenue
Toronto, ON

Teachers Eliana Tiberio-Imeneo and Lea Lion lead the project, with assistance from a Ministry of Education Experiential Learning Grant. The project was inspired by the best-selling book, “Good Night Stories For Rebel Girls”.

The project is part of an ongoing initiative at the school to bring awareness to the issues that women have faced or will continue to face in a globalized world. The *Rebel Girls of SMCA* were asked to choose a woman in their lives that is inspirational to them and identify qualities that they admire about them.

In order to complete the project, the *Rebel Girls of SMCA* have met weekly since January, engaging in discussion, team building activities, and of course developing and refining their written and visual portraits of their chosen "Rebel Women".

“The strong community of inclusive friendships that have emerged throughout this process has been truly amazing and inspirational,” shared teacher Lea Lion.

The 26 women and students who will be celebrated include mothers, sisters, aunts, teachers, grandmothers and friends. Students will share powerful stories of survival, hardship and triumph that these women have faced in their lives.

The following Rebel Women’s stories will be shared by the SMCA students who profiled them:

- Ana Maria Chacon, a political refugee during the Chilean dictatorship
- Silvia Batista, who fought for her right to attend College as a Portuguese female immigrant
- Calixta Velazquez, who began attending Law school after the age of 55
- Jessica Ortouste Gonzales, a single mother from the Philippines who immigrated to Canada
- Svetlana Javadova, who followed a path that was less travelled

“The beautiful part of being Canadian is that we have all come together in the same place to share these stories that empower us to challenge the obstacles we may be confronted with,” commented teacher Eliana Tiberio-Imeneo.

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The Toronto Catholic District School Board educates more than 92,000 students from diverse cultures and language backgrounds in 200 Catholic elementary and secondary schools, serving over half-a-million Catholic school supporters across the City of Toronto. As the world’s largest publicly funded Catholic school system, we educate students in an inclusive learning community rooted in the love of Christ, where they are challenged to grow in grace and knowledge and to lead lives of faith, hope and charity. At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.