



# NEWS RELEASE

February 21, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Communications Department

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#### TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2018-2019

##### Wards

1. Joseph Martino	416-512-3401
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4. Teresa Lubinski	416-512-3404
5. Maria Rizzo, Chair	416-512-3405
6. Frank D'Amico	416-512-3406
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## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Northern Spirit Games

TORONTO – The Northern Spirit Games are an annual celebration of athletic, cultural and spiritual traditions. Students are taught ten indoor and outdoor activities based on traditional First Nations, Métis and Inuit games, which focus on physical strength, agility and endurance.

The Northern Spirit Games emphasize team work and introduce students to sports and activities still alive in northern communities, such as snow shoeing, rope skipping, and spear throw. The Games are part of the Board's larger First Nations, Métis and Inuit initiatives, including curriculum development, teacher workshops and twinning with Northern communities.

The opening ceremonies are based on the teachings of the Medicine Wheel and honour the gifts of Mother Earth, reminding students of their sacred connection to nature. Métis guest presenters will engage students with storytelling, music and cultural teachings, both before and after the athletic events.

This year, there are four Catholic Secondary School sites hosting games from **10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** for students across the TCDSB:

**Friday, February 22, 2019**  
**St. John Paul II CSS**  
**685 Military Trail, Scarborough**

**Monday, February 25, 2019**  
**Bishop Marrocco/Thomas Merton CSS**  
**1515 Bloor St. W, Toronto**

**Thursday, February 28, 2019**  
**St. Patrick CSS**  
**49 Felstead Avenue, Toronto**

**Friday, March 1, 2019**  
**Monsignor Percy Johnson CSS**  
**2170 Kipling Avenue, Etobicoke**

### More about the Northern Spirit Games

Since 2002, over 23,000 students in Grades 4, 5 and 6 have participated in these annual games. Each day's activities are facilitated by trained secondary student leaders from the hosting school.

Each site will host 300 students (Grades 4, 5, and 6) from 10 elementary schools. For more information, visit our [website](#).

The Games (formerly called the Arctic Games) arose from the Twinning Initiative which was established by former Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the Honourable James K. Bartleman.

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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.*