



Monthly Update from the Board

March 2017

TCDSB Expands French Immersion Sites

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is pleased to announce the expansion of French Immersion sites, making it possible for more children and their families to take advantage of French Immersion programming. Parents and guardians can re-register their child for French Immersion using the SOAR-French Immersion application until March 10, 2017. Apply for French Immersion here: <http://fisoar.tcdsb.org>

Focus on Youth Summer Employment Program

The “[Focus On Youth](#)” program is a partnership between the Ontario Government, school boards, and local community agencies, providing summer programs for students in recognized high needs urban neighbourhoods, as well as employment opportunities and leadership training for youth. Focus on Youth supports the use of TCDSB school space and the employment of TCDSB students by non-profit community organizations participating in the program, and school space was offered to 85 community groups in 58 schools. Employment Applications Are Now Being Accepted For: Custodial /Maintenance, Clerical Positions and Camp counsellors for July 4 – August 11, 2017. **Deadline for applications is March 9, 2017.** <https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/FocusOnYouth/pages/employmentapplication.aspx>

Anonymous Alerts

Starting in March, students in TCDSB secondary schools will be able to anonymously message their school principal about a range of issues including bullying and other safety concerns. www.anonymousalerts.com/tcdsb

Let's Get Ready to Celebrate Canada 150

Everyone in the Toronto Catholic District School Board community is invited to join in Canada's 150th birthday celebration throughout 2017. The 150th anniversaries of our nation and our province, coincide with our ongoing focus on our Pastoral Plan: “Together With One Voice: family, parish and school” which honours the three partners who have created the solid foundation on which Catholic education has been built. Catholic schools have been a rich and vibrant part of Canada's and Ontario's heritage since before confederation. JOIN US as we recognize our Boards unique place in Canadian history during this sesquicentennial year.

A website has been created for the many exciting events and initiatives that are already underway around the board: <https://www.tcdsb.org/Canada150>

Parish Family Day Happening May 5, 2017

As we continue to celebrate our **Year of the Parish** we want to know **what makes your pastor and/or your parish unique.**

Students are invited to create a short video, an original song, or piece of original artwork, write a short story or poem, or express themselves in any way artistically to highlight the relationship that the students have with the local parish and/or the priest/pastor at their church.

Remember that this does not have to be an additional assignment. Why not use the pastor/parish theme for a regular classroom lesson--whether that be a writing exercise, a poetry writing session or visual art project.

“Promote Your Parish” and let’s celebrate the many ways that our parishes and our parish priests contribute to our schools and communities. **Submit the completed projects via email to parish.project@tcdsb.org by no later than April 7, 2017.**

2017 ShareLife Parish Campaign

During this, our Year of the Parish, we encourage all students, staff and their families to consider supporting the many local Catholic charities that are funded through ShareLife. These Catholic agencies help families, single parents, the elderly, individuals with special needs, immigrants and refugees, the homeless and the needy, as well as the education of clergy within our own City of Toronto. Learn more about these organizations here: <http://www.sharelife.org/Public/ShareLife-List-of-Agencies>.

During Lent, and throughout the coming months, we invite you to consider partnering with your parish and support the work of ShareLife as it continues to “work wonders” in our own community and around the world. .

A Mission of Hope for Haiti--Lenten Project with Missionaries of the Poor

This year, in co-operation with the Missionaries of the Poor, we are inviting our schools to participate in a special Lenten Drive, **A Mission of Hope for Haiti**. Our goal is to fill a 40-foot-long container with food, toiletries and school items that we may take for granted—e.g. food items, like rice and beans, toiletries, like toothpaste and toothbrushes, or school items, like pencils and pens. These items would be picked up from your school by volunteers from the Missionaries of the Poor, and through *Canadian Food for Children*, these items will be shipped to the Missionaries of the Poor to Haiti. The hope is that all schools will consider participating to some extent. If every student and staff provides just one item, it would be a tremendous help to the people of Haiti. Details are online here: <https://www.tcdsb.org/board/nurturingourcatholiccommunity/pages/hope-for-haiti-lenten-project.aspx>

March Mental Health Newsletter

<https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SpecialEducation/mhs/newsletters/March%20MH%20Newsletter%202017.pdf>

Event Reminders:

March is Celtic Canadian Heritage Month

<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORCOMMUNITY/HeritageCelebration/CelticCanadianHeritage/Pages/default.aspx>

March 1, 2017—Ash Wednesday; Lent Begins

<https://www.tcdsb.org/board/nurturingourcatholiccommunity/pages/lent-and-easter-resources.aspx>

March 3, 2017—World Day of Prayer

<https://www.tcdsb.org/board/nurturingourcatholiccommunity/news/2016-2017/pages/world-day-of-prayer.aspx>

March 4, 2017—Lift Jesus Higher Rally <https://www.tcdsb.org/pages/liftjesushigher-rally.aspx>

March 6, 2017--Education Support Staff Appreciation Day <https://www.tcdsb.org/pages/education-support-staff-appreciation-day.aspx>

March 7, 2017—Pray for Vocations <https://www.tcdsb.org/pages/prayers-for-vocations-a-spiritual-bouquet.aspx>

March 8, 2017—International Women’s Day <https://www.tcdsb.org/Pages/International-Womens-Day.aspx>

March 12, 2017—Clocks go forward 1 hour

March 13-17, 2017—March Break

March 20, 2017—Voices that Challenge Student Leadership Conference

<https://www.tcdsb.org/forstudents/catholicstudentleadership/news/pages/voices-that-challenge.aspx>

March 21, 2017--International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination

<https://www.tcdsb.org/pages/international-day-for-elimination-of-racial-discrimination.aspx>

March 21, 2017--World Down Syndrome Day <https://www.tcdsb.org/pages/world-down-syndrome-day.aspx>

March 22, 2017—World Water Day <https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/environment/water>

March 24, 2017—Earth Hour <https://www.tcdsb.org/board/environment/earthhour/pages/default.aspx>

April 1, 2017—Special Education Conference <https://www.tcdsb.org/pages/special-education-conference---2017.aspx>

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