



## **Year-End message from the Director of Education and Chair of the Board**

***“We must restore hope to young people, help the old, be open to the future, spread love. Be poor among the poor. We need to include the excluded and preach peace.” Pope Francis***

Over the past school year the Toronto Catholic District School Board has witnessed remarkable growth. We have opened new schools and continue to expand and improve existing facilities to create the best learning environments for our students.

As the largest publicly funded Catholic school system in the world, we continue to be at the forefront of integrating our Christ-centred faith and learning. Guided by our Multi-Year Strategic Plan, this commitment is yielding tremendous results as our students are lauded with awards and recognition for academic, artistic and athletic excellence and community service. None of this is possible without the support of our principals, teachers, parents, staff and parish communities. We are grateful for the important role you all play in ensuring the children under our care reach their full potential.

This year, students moved into three brand new schools: St. Ambrose Catholic School, St. Edward Catholic School and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati Catholic School. The new schools boast modern design features with emphasis on student accessibility and success. These new schools are only the beginning, as the Board continues to invest in its facilities, building new schools and additions renovating and renewing many more buildings to accommodate the implementation of Full-Day Kindergarten across the system by next September.

The Board just recently approved its fifth consecutive balanced budget focusing on student achievement and well-being. More than 20,000 members of the TCDSB family, including parents, students, staff and community stakeholders, took part in community engagement sessions and online surveys to provide input into the development of the budget, the review of the Multi-Year Strategic Plan and the review of our Admissions and Placement policy. We are grateful for the overwhelming response from our stakeholders to these community engagement opportunities, which reinforces our belief that we all share the responsibility of education, and have a common vision for the students that we serve.

This has been the year of Hope, the second phase of our three-year pastoral plan focusing on the virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity. Students and staff have reflected upon and celebrated Hope in God’s promise within our schools and our communities in many different ways. Over 30 schools painted individualized works of art on the ‘Doors of Hope’ which were used to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Catholic Charities, and also displayed at the TCDSB and at Nuit Blanche in October. We celebrated the canonizations of Saint John Paul II and Saint John XXIII at our namesake schools and across the Board. And our students embarked on countless initiatives, including clothing drives, food delivery and fundraisers, to help the less fortunate within our communities, in our city and around the world.

We thank our principals, teachers and staff across the Board for their tireless efforts in helping mould our young minds into leaders rooted in the love of Christ. Together with parents and parishes, we take great pride in our students, and rejoice in their many achievements, awards and accomplishments. We wish our graduating class of 2014 continued success as they move into the next phase of their lives.

To those who are leaving us this year, we thank you for your years of service, and wish you well in your future endeavours.

On behalf of the Trustees of the Board and our Senior Team, we wish you all a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing many of you again in the new school year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela Gauthier".

Angela Gauthier  
Director of Education

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jo-Ann Davis".

Jo-Ann Davis  
Chair of the Board