

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S

ANNUAL REPORT
2024/2025



IN GOD'S IMAGE:
GROWING IN
KNOWLEDGE
WITH JUSTICE
AND HOPE



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Message from the Chief Executive Officer of the Board



The 2024–2025 school year has been one of growth and possibility for the Toronto Catholic District School Board. Looking back, what stands out most is the undeniable strength of our community made up of students, families, educators, staff, and partners who continue to show up with heart, purpose, and faith. Guided by our **Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP)**, we have pushed forward with a shared commitment to excellence, upholding the dignity and supporting the success of every learner we welcome in our schools.

Throughout this time of growth, our community also experienced a moment of deep reflection with the passing of Pope Francis. His legacy of compassion and service continues to guide us, while the leadership of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV calls us to lead with courage and hope.

In this time of transition, we are reminded that faith grounds our work and unites us in our mission to serve others with humility and love.

That same spirit of unity has been evident throughout the year in the opening of new schools and learning spaces, in faith-filled celebrations and cultural events, and in the growing leadership of our students. Each moment has reflected what is possible when we come together as one Catholic community, rooted in shared values and guided by a common purpose.

At the heart of this work is our new **Pastoral Plan, In God's Image: Growing in Knowledge, with Justice and Hope**, reminding us that we are called to grow in faith, justice, and knowledge together.

As we look ahead, may we continue to build on this foundation of faith and community, guiding our students toward a future defined by compassion, courage, and purpose.

To every student, educator, staff member, parish partner, and family, thank you for your dedication and commitment.

Together, we remain committed to Catholic education as an investment not only in learning, but in the future of all students.

Yours in faith,



Dr. Brendan Browne
Chief Executive Officer



Multi-Year Strategic Plan

2022 - 2029



VISION

IN GOD'S IMAGE: Growing in Knowledge, with Justice and Hope.

MISSION

Nurturing the faith development and academic excellence of our Catholic learning community through the love of God, neighbour, and self.



Learning:

Growing in Knowledge

“Make me to know your ways,
O Lord; teach me your paths.”

Psalm 25:4

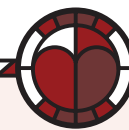


Equity:

Growing in Knowledge
with Justice

“This is my commandment,
that you love one another as
I have loved you.”

John 15:12



Well-Being:

Growing in Knowledge
with Justice and Hope

“For surely I know the plans I
have for you, says the Lord, plans
for your welfare and not for harm,
to give you a future with hope.”

Jeremiah 29:11

SUCCESS STARTS HERE

196

ELEMENTARY &
SECONDARY
SCHOOLS

EACH PAIRED
WITH A LOCAL
PARISH

88K

STUDENTS &
GROWING



17

CATHOLIC
STUDENT
LEADERS FROM
12 DIFFERENT
HIGH SCHOOLS

475K

CATHOLIC SCHOOL
SUPPORTERS

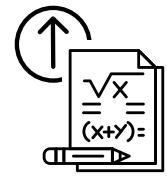


15

TOP SCHOLARS
98-100% AVERAGE



ELEMENTARY:
**ABOVE
PROVINCIAL
AVERAGE**
ON READING
& WRITING



SECONDARY:
**ABOVE
PROVINCIAL
AVERAGE**
ON MATH
ACHIEVEMENT

3K⁺

SHSM
STUDENTS
ACROSS 30
SCHOOLS



1/4

OF GR. 11 & 12
STUDENTS IN
JOB SKILLS
PROGRAMS

28K

SECONDARY STUDENTS
ENGAGED IN FAITH-BASED
ACTIVITIES, CHARITABLE WORK,
& SOCIAL JUSTICE EFFORTS



GRADUATION RATE



91.4%



ABOVE PROVINCIAL AVERAGE



Learning: Growing in Knowledge

PASTORAL PLAN, STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND LEGACY

The launch of our new **Pastoral Plan, In God's Image: Growing in Knowledge**, set the tone for a year filled with purpose, faith and growth. The plan, rooted in faith formation and Catholic identity, calls on us to grow in wisdom, leadership, and service.

Our **elementary** and **secondary** Catholic Student Leadership Teams continued to turn faith into action through cultural events, community projects, and student voice opportunities across the Board. Highlights included Young Disciples' Day, where Grade 6 elementary students gathered in prayer, reflection, and fellowship before returning to their schools as ambassadors of hope. At the Voices That Challenge conference, more than 300 students from 26 high schools convened to advocate for social justice. Together, these student leaders embody faith, vision, and purpose.

Catholic Education Week 2025, themed Pilgrims of Hope, brought our shared mission to life. Inspired by Pope Francis' call to honour human dignity, care for creation, and to advance peace, our community came together to celebrate faith through creativity and service.

Schools also joined to mark the passing of Pope Francis, organizing Masses, art displays, and classroom reflections to honour his life and legacy. These moments reminded students that leadership is rooted in humility, compassion, and love.

Looking ahead, we are excited to enter Year Two of the **Pastoral Plan, Growing in Knowledge with Justice**, which will connect academic excellence with Catholic social teaching and our call to serve.





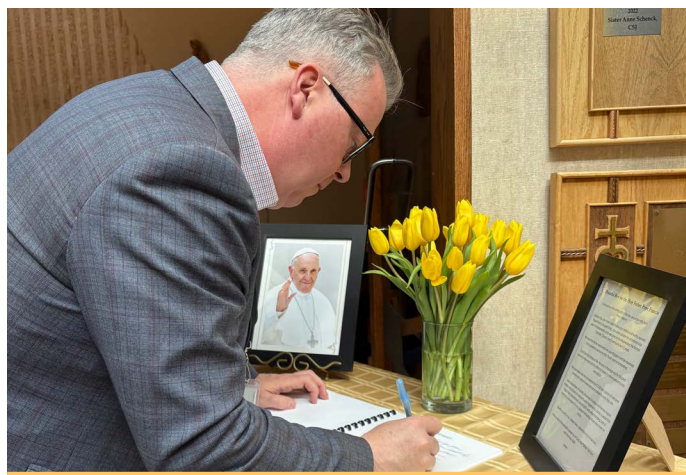
Brendan Browne



At the 'Voices That Challenge Conference,' we saw a record, 300 students from 26 schools, advocating for social justice.



Catholic Student Leadership: Young Disciples' Day



Honouring Pope Francis



2024-2027 Pastoral Plan Launch



STRENGTHENING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND PATHWAYS

Academic achievement remained a core focus through the launch of the **Student Achievement Plan**, designed to ensure every student receives the support they need to succeed.

Programs such as the **Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)**, **Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)**, **Continuing Education**, **Summer School**, and **International Education** expanded opportunities for learners across all pathways. Building on our commitment to experiential learning, we introduced five new SHSM programs, including Business at Brebeuf College and Arts & Culture at Monsignor Percy Johnson, further empowering students to explore their passions and develop skills that prepare them for future success.

We celebrated remarkable academic success, including a **Top Scholar**, Sophie Kukovica from Bishop Allen Academy, who achieved a 100% average, a testament to the commitment of both students and educators.

CP24 News

A Grade 12 Etobicoke student earned a perfect 100 per cent average last year. Here is how she did it

By Elianna Lev

Published: August 17, 2025 at 6:36AM EDT

Bishop Allen Academy graduate Sophie Kukovica has a 100 per cent grade average. (Handout)

The Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) has announced their top scholars for the 2024-2025 academic year and

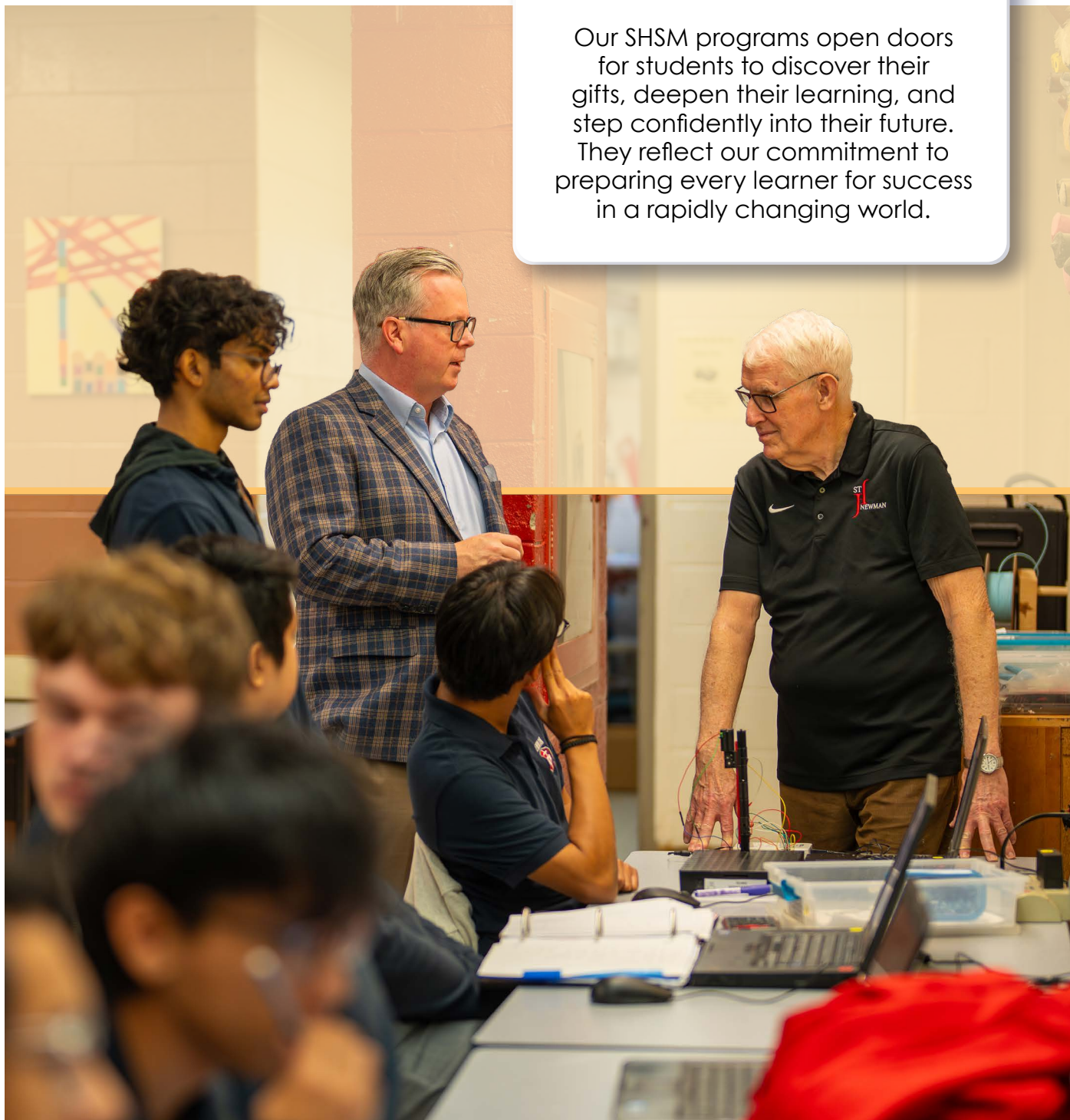
Rodha Ramsohoye WARD ONE Father Henry Carr Catholic Secondary School 99.5%	Iain So WARD TWO Michael Power St. Joseph Catholic High School 99.33%	Lucas Vu WARD THREE St. Basil the Great College 98.17%
Klara Sophia Gonzalez Lopez WARD THREE James Cardinal Carter Catholic High School 98.17%	Sophie Kukovica WARD FOUR Bishop Allen Academy 100%	Ella Choi WARD FIVE Cardinal George Collins Catholic High School 99.5%
Brianna Campanaro WARD SIX St. Mary's Catholic Academy 98.83%	Margaret Billett WARD SIX St. Mary's Catholic Academy 98.83%	Thulashini Chinnappan WARD SEVEN St. Joseph's College School 98.83%
Yanet Fessaha WARD EIGHT Francis Lievenmont Catholic High School 98.83%	Junia Friesen WARD NINE St. Joseph's College School 99.33%	Anthony Tu WARD TEN Charmade College School 99.17%
Julianne Leek WARD ELEVEN Notre-Dame High School 99.5%	Ania Nedelkovic WARD TWELVE St. Mary's Catholic Academy 99.5%	Patrick Jeffries WARD THIRTEEN Notre-Dame High School 99.5%



Brendan Browne



Our SHSM programs open doors for students to discover their gifts, deepen their learning, and step confidently into their future. They reflect our commitment to preparing every learner for success in a rapidly changing world.



Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Program



BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

The 2024–2025 school year marked an exciting period of renewal and growth. Three new schools, Holy Angels, St. Leo, and Divine Mercy, opened their doors. These new schools offer modern learning environments with flexible classrooms, collaborative breakout spaces, and technology-enhanced learning commons, reflecting our commitment to innovation and 21st-century Catholic education. Looking ahead, several additional school openings are on the horizon as we continue to invest in spaces that inspire faith, foster community, and empower every learner to thrive.

We are also investing in the renewal and revitalization of our schools, with 363 projects completed this year, including new gyms, outdoor fields, and additions that expand spaces for learning and growth. As part of our commitment to supporting students and families, we welcomed four new child care operators to our system. Each opened centres with five-rooms, adding 88 spaces each for a total of 440 new child care spaces across the board. Together, we are helping better serve our youngest learners and their families.

Students are also benefiting from new playgrounds at St. Paul, St. Maria Goretti, St. John the Evangelist, St. Augustine, and many more schools, giving students safe, inclusive, and joyful spaces to learn, play, and build community.

3 NEW SCHOOLS



4 NEW CHILD CARE OPERATORS



363 COMPLETED RENEWAL AND REVITALIZATION PROJECTS

440 NEW CHILD CARE SPACES



St. Paul Playground Opening



Divine Mercy Catholic Elementary School



Holy Angels Catholic School



St. Leo Catholic School



CELEBRATING LEARNING AND CONNECTION

Throughout the year, students across the Toronto Catholic District School Board found meaningful ways to learn, lead, and connect. **Focus on Youth** continued to provide meaningful summer employment and mentorship opportunities for secondary students, giving them valuable workplace experience and exposure to career pathways. This year over 250 students were successfully hired, gaining hands-on skills, professional development, and mentorship. Extending this focus on real-world learning, the program complements initiatives like Take Our Kids to Work Day, where Grade 9 students explored diverse workplaces. Together, these opportunities help students explore their interests, develop skills, and prepare for future careers. Students also explored their passions through specialized programs like **OYAP** and **SHSM**.

Innovation and creativity were at the forefront as initiatives like Pascal Siakam's Data Dunkers initiative gave students a hands-on opportunity to dive into data and problem-solving in a fun, engaging way. The first and last days of school bookended the year with moments of joy, reflection, and excitement, as schools welcomed students into vibrant Catholic learning communities and closed the year by celebrating growth and achievement.

Connection also extended beyond the classroom through continued visibility and outreach from the CEO's Office. Both the "**Lunch with the CEO**" livestream series and podcasts such as **LearnIt**, offered a direct look at the CEO's perspectives on learning, leadership, and innovation across the system, highlighting student voice, classroom excellence, and the many ways our schools bring Catholic education to life every day.



Pascal Siakam's Data Dunkers



Focus on Youth Training



Brendan Browne



Intellectual pursuits, curiosity and learning are gifts of the Holy Spirit, and they enrich the understanding one has of oneself, others, and the world.





Equity: Growing in Knowledge with Justice

Equity remained front and centre of our work this year, guided by the 2024–2025 Equity Action Plan. Our shared goal is clear: create learning environments where every student feels safe, valued, and empowered to thrive in their identity. Equity is not an isolated initiative; it is woven into teaching, policy, and leadership at every level of the Board.

HONOURING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF KNOWING

This year, The Tree of Life Indigenous Education Framework guided our work in reconciliation, cultural responsiveness, and inclusive learning, celebrating Indigenous knowledge, languages, and traditions while supporting Indigenous students and families.

Students applied these principles across classrooms and school communities through art, reflection, and partnerships that recognize Indigenous knowledge as a living guide for resilience and growth. They also engaged directly with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, particularly on Truth and Reconciliation Day, through storytelling, creative expression, and interactions with Indigenous leaders and Knowledge Keepers, fostering meaningful connections throughout the system.

The year also highlighted Indigenous leadership and representation at the Indigenous Justice Symposium, honouring Supreme Justice Michelle O'Bonsawin, a historic celebration that inspired students and staff alike.

DISMANTLING ANTI-BLACK RACISM

This year, the TCDSB strengthened its Anti-Black Racism (ABR) strategy through system-wide programming and targeted initiatives aligned with the Equity Action Plan. Signature events such as the African Canadian Heritage Mass and Cultural Expo, the I Am King Conference, and the Black Career Fair at Father Henry Carr celebrated Black identity, fostered mentorship, and nurtured the next generation of student leaders.



Brendan Browne



We're better together
and the power of our
community is unmatched.

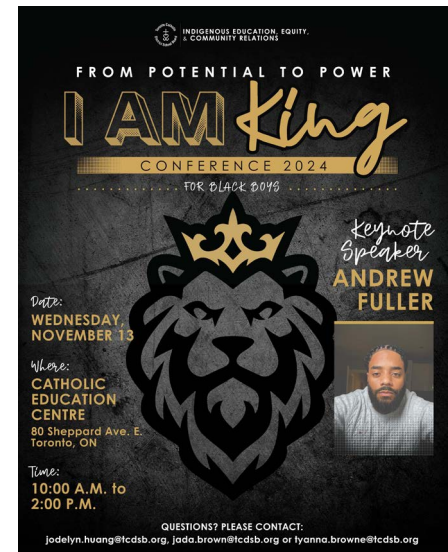


Indigenous Justice Symposium, honouring Supreme Justice Michelle O'Bonsawin



The **Racialized Administrator Mentorship Program (RAMP)** series for racialized educators aspiring to become Principals or Vice-Principals continues to grow, with membership now reaching 45. By pairing mentorship with leadership development, this initiative is helping to build pathways for greater representation and retention of Black and racialized staff across the system.

At the system level, data analysis and equity-focused advisory groups guided targeted actions to remove systemic barriers and expand access to opportunity. Together, these efforts underscore our unwavering commitment to advancing equity and affirming that Black excellence is integral to Catholic education.



I Am King Conference Poster

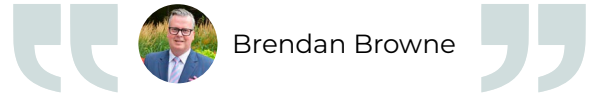
SUPPORTING 2SLGBTQ+ STUDENTS

Supporting safe, inclusive, and identity-affirming environments for **2SLGBTQ+** students remained central to the TCDSB's ongoing equity work. Student-led clubs, conferences, and workshops fostered belonging and peer support, while equity advisory committees helped shape school and system-wide policy.

This year featured the first Belonging and Inclusion Retreat, bringing Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) members together at the Catholic Education Centre for workshops led by the Nurturing Our Catholic Community (NCC) team and student facilitators, creating meaningful opportunities for connection, learning, and empowerment.

The Pride Month launch focused on staff learning and allyship, with a keynote from the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA) emphasizing inclusion and professional responsibilities.

Ongoing professional learning highlighted inclusive practices, affirming language, and anti-bullying strategies, while partnerships with families, community advocates, and external organizations expanded supports for 2SLGBTQ+ youth, ensuring they have the resources and affirmation, and care they need to thrive.



Brendan Browne

Celebrating Black heritage is not a moment, it's a commitment to uplifting voices, expanding opportunities, and challenging the barriers that persist.

Our students and educators remind us that meaningful change is possible when we lead with courage and compassion.

African Canadian Heritage/Black History Month (BHM) Launch



Student Artwork for BHM Launch



Belonging and Inclusion Retreat



CELEBRATING CULTURE, LANGUAGE, AND GENDER EQUITY

The richness of our Catholic and cultural diversity shone through heritage months, cultural expos, and language celebrations across the TCDSB. Students, families, and parishes came together for meaningful events like Spanish Language Day and heritage month masses, performances, and showcases of tradition and identity. Across the system, more than 100 heritage months and observance recognitions took place, helping students share their gifts, honour their roots, and learn from one another in solidarity.

We also deepened our focus on gender equity, empowering girls to take up space in leadership, sports, and STEAM fields. The Women in STEM Symposium at Humber Polytechnic engaged more than 200 students, while the Girls Who Game event inspired girls to explore innovation in technology. Across the Board, events and initiatives ranging from sports gatherings to faith-based celebrations and mentorship programs celebrated achievement, built confidence, and strengthened networks, supporting young women in realizing their full potential.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AND SPECIAL SERVICES

We continued to strengthen supports for diverse learners through the TCDSB Special Services Action Plan by empowering schools to implement inclusive practices, delivering targeted professional learning for staff, and expanding meaningful opportunities that foster success and belonging for students with exceptionalities.

This year, a meaningful prayer and resources were shared with schools in advance of the Social Butterfly event at St. Bruno/St.

Raymond Catholic School. Designed for students in grades 3 to 7, this event supported the social-emotional well-being of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (D/HH) students and fostered a strong sense of community. Awareness was also raised around VOICE Dress Loud Day, an initiative that celebrates inclusivity and the many ways people communicate.

These initiatives reflect our ongoing commitment to removing barriers and ensuring every child has the opportunity to thrive.

SUPPORTING OVER
14,000
STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL
LEARNING NEEDS

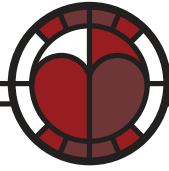


Brendan Browne

Across the TCDSB, our girls are stepping boldly into spaces where their voices, talents, and leadership are needed more than ever. When we create opportunities, young women show us what's possible when potential is nurtured.



Girls Who Game Event



Well-Being: Growing in Knowledge with Justice and Hope

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE AND LEADERSHIP

This year, the TCDSB proudly celebrated the outstanding contributions of students, staff, and community partners who make a landing impact on classrooms, schools, and the broader Toronto Catholic community. Award ceremonies, retirement celebrations, and recognition events spotlighted individuals and teams whose leadership, service, and creativity inspire others.

Key celebrations included the Toronto Catholic Principals and Vice-Principals Awards (TCPVA) Annual Awards Dinner, the Years of Service and Retirement Celebration, and TCDSB Awards Night, where we honoured exceptional educators, staff and partners.

Programs such as the Unsung Heroes Recognition and the TCDSB Innovation and Exemplary Practice Awards recognized staff who go above and beyond to shape vibrant learning communities and model excellence in Catholic education. With over 30 Unsung Heroes recognized, 20 awards presented at Awards Night, and 279 retirees, the year marked a significant milestone in service. Notably, Dean Netto from St. John Henry Newman Catholic High School received the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence, exemplifying the Board's commitment to outstanding teaching and leadership.

30⁺ UNSUNG
HEROES
RECOGNIZED

20⁺ AWARDS
NIGHT
RECIPIENTS

279 STAFF
RETIREES

Beyond our schools, I was proud to participate in provincial and post-secondary leadership tables that are helping shape the future of education. Through my roles with the University of St. Michael's College Collegium Board of Directors and the Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) Director's Advisory Committee on School Mental Health Ontario, I contributed to advancing student well-being, innovation, and learning across the province. These experiences help bring new ideas and informed practices back to support and strengthen our ongoing work within the Toronto Catholic community.

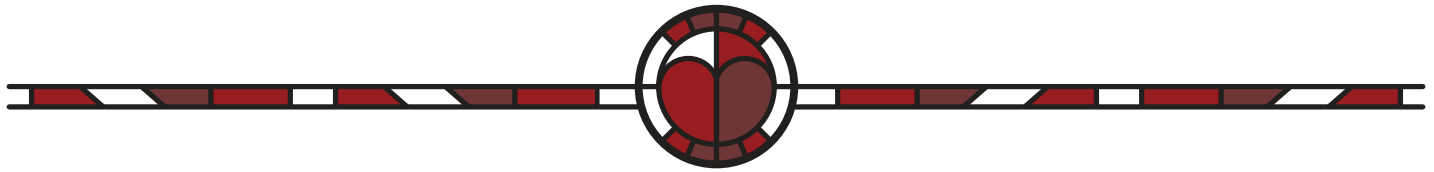


Brendan Browne



Across our system, students and educators are showing what it looks like to lead with purpose, courage, and care. Their achievements remind us that when we lift one another up, our entire Catholic community moves forward.

TCDSB Innovation and Exemplary Practice Awards:
Father Henry Carr Black Student Association Mr. Agyemang & Ms. Plummer.



SUPPORTING STUDENT AND COMMUNITY WELLNESS

Well-being remained at the heart of our work, encompassing physical, mental, and spiritual health. **The Angel Foundation for Learning** (AFL) continued to play a vital role in supporting students through programs like the **Student Nutrition Program**, delivered in partnership with the City of Toronto. This year, the program added seven new locations, bringing the total to 167 across schools throughout the Board, serving over 71,000 students and providing 1.3 million snacks each month.

Across the Board, awareness campaigns like Pink Shirt Day and other anti-bullying initiatives helped build a culture rooted in respect, inclusion, and care. Schools expanded mental health resources to offer targeted supports for students facing challenges, and professional learning for staff helped strengthen their capacity to meet students' social-emotional needs.

CELEBRATING MILESTONES AND INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION

Celebration of community milestones showcased the deep roots and vibrant tradition of Catholic education in Toronto. This year, several schools celebrated milestone anniversaries, honouring generations of students, staff, and families. Celebrations at Holy Child, St. Norbert, St. Paul VI, Annunciation, and Dante Alighieri and others brought communities together through liturgies, heritage events, and community gatherings.

Student achievements took centre stage, with many receiving provincial and national recognition for their outstanding accomplishments. Among those recognized were **Joygold Goodluck, Loran Scholar**, and **Prerana Manoj, University of Toronto National Scholar**. Their accomplishments exemplify excellence, service, and faith in action.

EXCELLENCE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

At the TCDSB, student achievement extends far beyond academics. Across sports, arts, clubs, and experiential learning, students demonstrated leadership, teamwork, and creativity, earning recognition both locally, provincially, and nationally. Highlights included **Father Henry Carr's senior boys 4x100m relay team setting new Canadian and Ontario records**, and **Marshall McLuhan Students achieving excellence at the National Science Rendezvous STEAM Competition**, amongst many more. These accomplishments reflect the Board's commitment to nurturing well-rounded learners, providing opportunities to explore passions, develop skills, and make meaningful contributions to their schools and communities.



Student Nutrition Program - Make Tummies Happy at St. Augustine



Joygold Goodluck, Loran Scholar



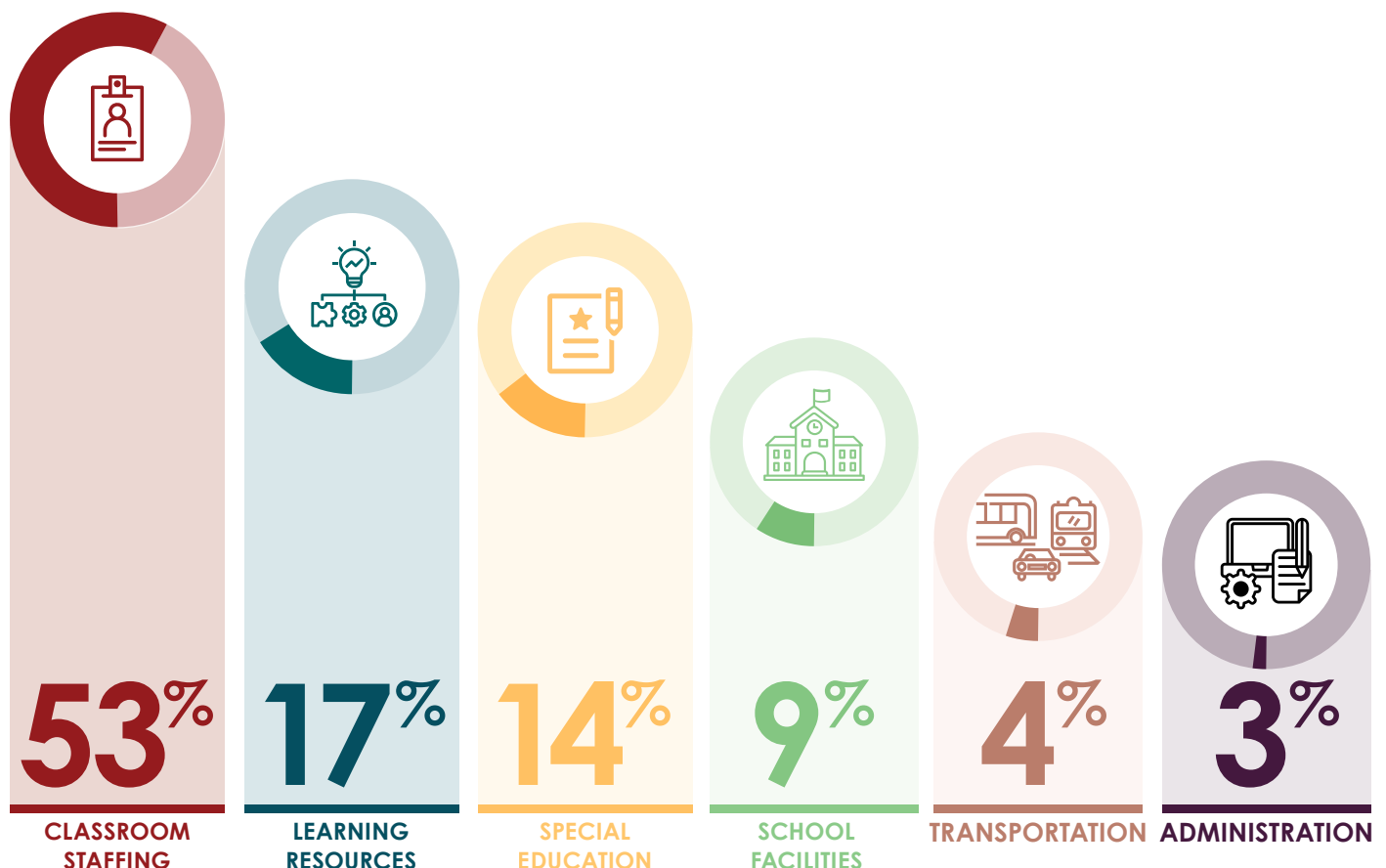
Prerana Manoj, University of Toronto National Scholar

Financial Update

The Board continued to prioritize investments in the essential supports and services that enabled student success throughout the year. Community engagement and stakeholder input continued to play an important role in shaping the budget, helping refine priorities and maintain alignment with the Multi-Year Strategic Plan. This also included working within the local priorities and commitments that are embedded in its various local collective agreements. Taken together, these factors contributed to an in-year deficit of \$19.4M and an accumulated deficit (or debt) of \$28.7M as of August 31, 2025.

As part of its commitment to strong financial stewardship, staff developed a Multi-Year Financial Recovery Plan that provides a clear roadmap for balancing the budget and eliminating the debt over the next several years, while maintaining flexibility as priorities evolve.

Looking ahead, the Board will continue to find ways to identify savings and maximize resources, while working with the Ministry of Education to improve our financial outlook. For 2024–2025, a \$1.3-billion budget was approved, with 97% supporting students in the following areas:



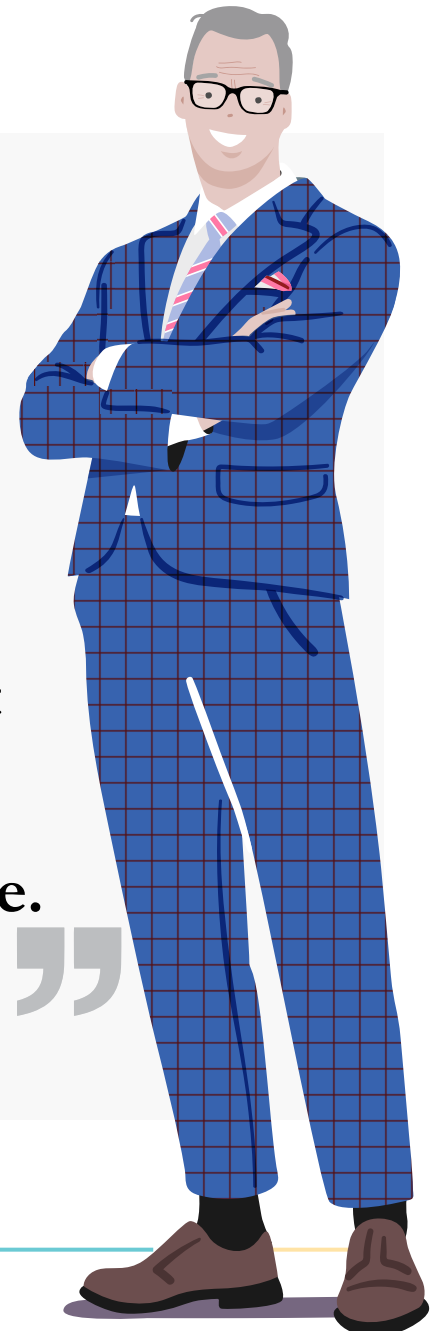
The Year Ahead

As we look to the 2025–2026 school year, our shared focus turns toward deepening the promise of Catholic education, ensuring we continue to create vibrant, inclusive, and innovative learning environments for all students. New school openings on the horizon will expand opportunities for faith-filled education, modern learning spaces, and programs that prepare students for a rapidly changing world. Building on this year's successes, there will be an ongoing emphasis on equity, student leadership, and community engagement, ensuring every learner feels supported, seen, and empowered.

“

My hope is that we continue to walk together in faith, courage, and compassion, building a community where every student feels loved, valued, and inspired to achieve and lead with purpose.

”





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NOTES ON TRANSLATION:

The electronic translation service on the Toronto Catholic District School Board's website is hosted by Google Translate. The quality of the translation will vary in some of the languages offered by Google: <https://translate.google.com>

