



# YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

*Director's Annual Report*

2016-2017



The York Catholic District School Board is consistently ranked as one of the top-performing school boards in the province of Ontario.

It is governed by 10 publicly-elected trustees, and has over 8,000 staff, making it one of the region's largest employers.

The York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB) provides Catholic educational programming to approximately 54,000 students in Kindergarten to Grade 12, as well as, general interest and language courses for the public through its Continuing Education Department.

YCDSB operates 103 schools located throughout the Regional Municipality of York, which is comprised of nine municipalities: Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, King, Markham, Newmarket, Richmond Hill, Vaughan, and Whitchurch-Stouffville.



## Message from the Director of Education and Chair of the Board

It is with great pride that we share with you the York Catholic District School Board's 2016-2017 Annual Report. This report highlights many new, enhanced and expanded initiatives, programs and events, as well as some of our successful longstanding traditions within the York Catholic District School Board.

During the 2016-2017 school year, YCDSB celebrated Catholic Education Week with the theme, *Walking Forward Together*. Creating inclusive school communities is a focus at York Catholic, and our schools have done wonderful work educating and inspiring all students, so they can reach their full potential in safe and caring environments.

Working with families, parishes, and community partners YCDSB strived to elevate student voice and promoted many opportunities for students to support their peers. Our popular Newcomer Orientation Program, Grade 9 retreats, High School Orientation Day, and Leadership Links Conference continued in 2016-2017 and helped students develop their leadership skills while supporting and mentoring each other.

New initiatives and events such as our Welcome Ambassadors' Retreat for Grade 6 and 7 students, the province-wide Responding to the Call Student Leadership Conference, and Best Buddies Love of Friendship Semi-Formal furthered our goal to make every student feel accepted, included and loved as a member of our York Catholic family. You can read more about these great opportunities in the following pages.

### From Patricia Preston, Director of Education

In October 2017, I announced my retirement with the York Catholic District School Board. It has been an honour to serve as Director of Education for the past 5 years. I am very grateful to have shared the privilege of leading the York Catholic District School Board with our Board of Trustees.

I am indebted to our Senior Team, Principals, Vice-Principals, Board and school staff, parents, families and students for all of the work they have done to make YCDSB one of the top-performing boards in the province! Thank you for helping us to reach the goals in our strategic plan, your commitment to Catholic Education, those who are marginalized, for supporting charitable causes and for helping all students achieve their personal excellence. I wish our students and staff continued success!

This annual report also reflects the goals and progress we made in our Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP). Our MYSP continues to guide everything that we do as a Board and enables us to support the integration of our Catholic faith as we advance the legislative goals of: promoting student achievement and well-being; ensuring effective stewardship of the Board's resources; delivering effective and appropriate educational programs to our students; and engaging our communities.

We are very proud of the many achievements of our students. Their hard work and commitment to academic success has allowed us to move forward as a top-performing school board, with an outstanding graduation rate. We thank our staff, parent community, parishes and community partners for their dedication and service to our students.

Sincerely,

Patricia Preston  
Director of Education

Carol Cotton  
Chair of the Board

# Multi-Year Strategic Plan



## Mission Statement

Guided by Gospel Values and Catholic Virtues, in partnership with home and Church, we educate and inspire all students to reach their full potential in a safe and caring environment.

## Vision Statement

Our students will become creative and critical thinkers who integrate Catholic Values into their daily lives, as socially responsible global citizens.

## Core Values



## Strategic Commitments

Integration of Our Catholic Faith

Continuous Improvement of Student Achievement

Effective Use of Our Resources

Engaging Our Communities

## The York Catholic District School Board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan identifies four strategic commitments to our stakeholders:

### Integration of Our Catholic Faith

- Nurture the Catholic faith and spirituality of all through relevant and engaging religious education programs and experiences.
- Foster a culture in which daily interactions and practices are respectful and inclusive, and inspired by Gospel Values.
- Support members of our community on their faith journeys.

### Continuous Improvement of Student Achievement

- Nurture well-being by supporting students to become resilient, optimistic and responsible.
- Promote academic excellence through programs and educational experiences that prepare students for success in the 21st century.
- Foster a culture of instructional excellence that is welcoming, engaging and inclusive.
- Provide a safe, supportive and healthy environment.

### Effective Use of Our Resources

- Ensure that the budget is shaped by strategic priorities.
- Manage our resources in a sustainable and effective manner.

### Engaging Our Communities

- Provide stakeholders with opportunities for input and/or feedback that supports or informs Board decision-making.
- Develop and implement communication practices and procedures that improve the quality and timeliness of Board communication.
- Establish community partnerships that assist with the achievement of the Board's strategic commitments.

During the 2016-2017 school year, the YCDSB continued its work towards achieving the goals and actions as outlined in the four strategic commitments. Some of the goals achieved in the 2016-2017 year included:

- Implemented increased opportunities for Equity and Inclusion by offering newcomer students with tailored retreats.
- Developed teacher resources for the implementation of new Religious Education curriculum (Secondary & expansion of Primary).
- Expanded 21st Century Learning initiatives with increased professional learning opportunities for staff.
- Collected and analyzed data on the impact of Mental Health and Well-being initiatives for students.
- Expanded global and local partnerships to recruit international students.
- Implemented directives as outlined in the Board's Long Term Accommodation Plan to address excess pupil spaces.
- Implemented facilities management software to support accommodation needs and requests.

As we move forward with the implementation of action plans for the 2017-2018 year, it must be noted that the 2017-2018 school year is the final year of the Board's approved Multi-Year Strategic Plan. Staff will reconvene during the 2017-2018 school year for the purposes of reviewing accomplishments to date, initiatives in progress, and to develop an updated Multi-Year Strategic Plan that continues to support the Board's four (4) Strategic Commitments.

To view our MYSP Annual Report and to view a more in-depth summary of the findings from our stakeholder feedback, visit [www.ycdsb.ca/strategicplan](http://www.ycdsb.ca/strategicplan).

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# *Integration of Our Catholic Faith*





## *When Faith Meets Pedagogy 2016*

The Catholic Curriculum Corporation (CCC) hosted the annual When Faith Meets Pedagogy conference in October 2016. The theme of the conference was "Mercy: Wellspring of Joy, Serenity and Peace," and was inspired by Pope Francis' declaration of the Year of Mercy. YCDSB sent 50 delegates and a number of them offered workshops and presentations. His Eminence, Thomas Cardinal Collins, celebrated the Eucharist and the YCDSB Religious Education Team led a prayer service.

## *Staff Resources*

In 2016-2017 the following resources were developed to support staff:

- Annual Daily Prayers for Children
- St. Tabitha's Gift, A Resource for Charitable Giving in Elementary and Secondary Schools

## *Walking Forward Together in Faith*

The 2016-2017 school year was rooted in the theme, "Walking Forward Together in Faith." Faith Day and Catholic Education Week used this theme to renew the commitment to being an inclusive faith community.

- We continued to implement the new Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ Religious Education Program in Grade 3 Classes.
- YCDSB contributed to the writing of the new Secondary Religious Education Program with the Institute for Religious Education (ICE) and the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario.
- With the assistance of our Elementary Religious Education Advisory Committee (EREAC), we began the process of assessment and evaluation for Primary Religion.

## York Catholic Cares for Global Community

Throughout the 2016-2017 school year, schools and the Board office raised funds for many humanitarian causes. The York Catholic community raised \$45,112.80 for earthquake victims in Italy, and \$16,655 for humanitarian relief in Haiti following the damage caused by Hurricane Matthew.

## YCDSB Supports ShareLife

In the 2016-2017 school year, YCDSB raised \$35,576.50 through the ShareLife Employee Campaign. The School Campaign, which includes various in-school fundraisers and activities, raised \$133,446.14. This brought the total raised for ShareLife by our YCDSB community to an outstanding \$169,022.64!

Twenty-four York Catholic schools made ShareLife's list of the Top 100 Fundraising Schools:

- St. Stephen in Vaughan raised the most among YCDSB elementary schools
- St. Robert in Markham raised the most among YCDSB high schools

## Milestones in Catholic Education

The following schools celebrated a milestone anniversary during the 2016-2017 school year. They hosted various events to mark the occasion with their parish, parent and school communities.

- San Lorenzo Ruiz in Markham celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- St. Veronica CES in Woodbridge celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Christ the King CES in Richmond Hill celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Father Michael McGivney CA celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Holy Family CES in Vaughan celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Light of Christ CES in Aurora celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- St. Clare CES in Woodbridge celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- St. Joseph CES in Markham celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary

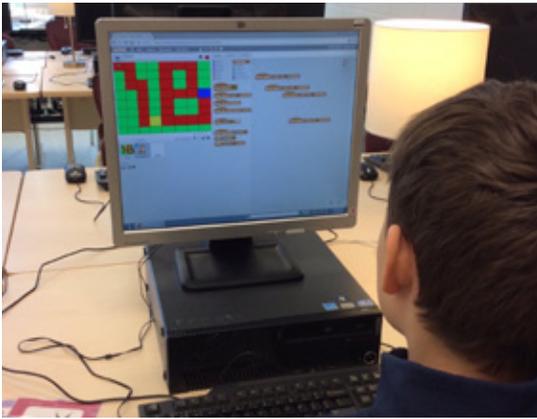


Father Michael McGivney's Student Council President, Richards Alexander was asked to greet His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins, after the Cardinal celebrated the school's 25th anniversary mass. Richards and the Cardinal began to play an intense game of Chess.

“ I’m in shock. I still can’t believe that really happened,” said Richards afterward. “ I will remember this experience for the rest of my life.”

# Continuous Improvement of Student Achievement





## 21st Century Learning

21st Century Learning initiatives offer opportunities for students and staff to collaborate, communicate, address global issues and think creatively and critically. Teaching and learning strategies that engage students in the development of these transferable skills encourage students to work together successfully, and are supported by the appropriate use of technology for learning.

## Professional Learning

2016-17 was a great year for 21C because there was an opportunity for every teacher in YCDSB to attend a workshop of their choice to enhance the innovative teaching and learning in their classes. The Board's 2,400 elementary teachers participated in half-day workshops, that offered various topics based on needs identified through surveys.

Teachers from all of our secondary schools participated in a learning event at St. Maximilian Kolbe CHS that centred around the theme of 'innovation'. Renowned educator, George Couros, gave an inspirational keynote about the Innovator's Mindset. Over 60 workshops were offered on various topics related to tech-enabled learning.

## SILC-SAW Web App

This year, YCDSB introduced its first- ever online web-based system in support of the School Improvement Learning Cycle for Student Achievement and Well being (SILC-SAW). The application aligned Ministry and Board funding for the schools to the strategies that teachers would use to meet these goals. The web app covers a complete Learning Cycle that includes an assessment with data from EQAO, OSSLT and report card achievement, goals, actions and an implementation budget.

## Principal Dashboard

The Principal Dashboard was created by the YCDSB Information and Communications Systems Department (ICT) to provide principals with quick access to information. The dashboard is visible to the principal when he/she turns on the computer in the morning, giving instant access to emergency support, students' contact information and other critical details that support student needs throughout the day.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual EdTech Day for Students

YCDSB hosted its 3rd annual EdTech Day for students. The keynote speaker, Brian Aspinall is considered one of the brightest STEM innovators in Canadian education and is a recent winner of the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence for his work with coding and computational thinking. Brian and Corinne Hoisington, Professor of Information Systems Technology at Central Virginia Community College, led workshops for elementary students using computational thinking strategies in support of Math and Science.

## Spotlight on Schools

### Special Delivery from His Holiness Pope Francis to Pope Francis CES

On June 15th, Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick surprised Pope Francis Catholic Elementary School to make a special delivery on behalf of His Holiness Pope Francis!

Bishop Kirkpatrick, who officiated the Kleinburg school's Solemn Blessing and Official Opening in April, visited the Pope in Rome in the days immediately after the Blessing event. Bishop Kirkpatrick told Pope Francis about the Solemn Blessing of the school in Kleinburg, Ontario which bears his name. As a gift to the school, Pope Francis gave his zucchetto – the white skull cap which is particular to Popes – to Bishop Kirkpatrick and asked him to gift it to the school.

### St. Patrick students help open Canada's first municipal milkweed nursery

In fall 2016, students from St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School helped Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti, Council Members, and representatives from the David Suzuki Foundation officially open Canada's first municipal milkweed nursery at Milne Dam Conservation Park. The nursery will provide a habitat and vital food source for monarch butterfly caterpillars for years to come.

### St. Brother André Catholic High School students win high school Automotive Technology Competition

Two automotive technician students from St. Brother André Catholic High School in Markham, Ontario, prevailed over 18 other Toronto-area high school teams to win a high-octane skills competition at the Canadian International Auto Show in February 2017.

Ryan Gullage and Michael Lamanna performed a number of timed technical tasks and worked on a new Volkswagen Golf Sportwagen that had been rigged with a no-start condition by automotive instructors from Centennial College.

By finishing first, the pair then represented Canada at the National Automotive Technology Competition in New York City.

### St. Margaret Mary student named YRP Chief for a Day

Bianca Basso, Grade 5 student at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Elementary School in Vaughan was selected by York Regional Police to be the YRP Chief for a Day. Bianca was selected thanks to her fantastic delivery of an essay she wrote about how policing in York Region has changed with the advancement of technology. Bianca was officially sworn in during a ceremony at YRP headquarters on Thursday, May 4, 2017. That day, she took over for YRP Chief, Eric Jolliffe, and had a chance to tour YRP facilities, including the new training facility, Air2, the Emergency Response Unit and Canine Unit.



# Canada 150

## York Catholic Schools Celebrate Canada 150

Schools across the York Catholic School Board celebrated Canada's 150th Birthday in 2017 with a variety of special events and activities that included: Red and White Days, aerial photos of school communities taken by drones, class projects highlighting historical Canadian events and people, a trip to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, and much more.

"We are blessed to live in Canada, a country that celebrates diversity, democracy, and protects our rights and freedoms. Happy 150th Birthday, Canada!" -- Patricia Preston, Director of Education.

## 100th Anniversary of Vimy Ridge

More than 300 York Catholic students and staff from 13 high schools travelled to France in April 2017 to take part in the official ceremonies commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

Planning for this Board-wide initiative began in the fall of 2015. YCDSB Canadian and World Studies Teachers organized the educational and reflective trip opportunity in their schools. Students who registered for the trip were assigned a Canadian soldier to research while in school, and during the trip they had the opportunity to pay their respects "at the soldiers' gravesites in France."





## 2017 EQAO & OSSLT Assessments

YCDSB students continue to perform well on the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) assessments and the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). Results continue to show that Grade 3 and 6 students demonstrate strong performance in reading and writing and continue to perform above the provincial average in Mathematics. At the secondary level, 86 percent of York Catholic students achieved the standard on the Grade 9 Assessment of Academic Mathematics, and 87 percent also passed the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test.

### Literacy

Over the last five years, performance on the Primary and Junior Division Assessment of Reading has increased and surpassed the provincial target of 75% of students achieving or surpassing the standard (i.e., Levels 3 and 4). Grade 3 and 6 students attending elementary schools continue to maintain very high levels of performance on the writing components of the provincial assessments. Secondary students continue to demonstrate very high levels of success on the Literacy Test.

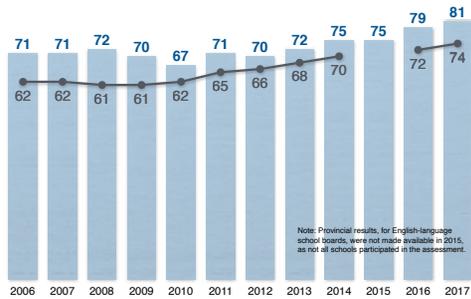
### Numeracy

Improving student achievement in Mathematics from Kindergarten to Grade 12 is a key priority of the YCDSB. There was an increase in student performance from the previous year on the Grade 6 Assessment of Mathematics and the Grade 9 Assessment of Applied Mathematics. Students in the Grade 9 Academic Mathematics program maintained their high level of performance. There was a decrease in performance on the Grade 3 Assessment of Mathematics.

# EQAO Historical Assessment Results

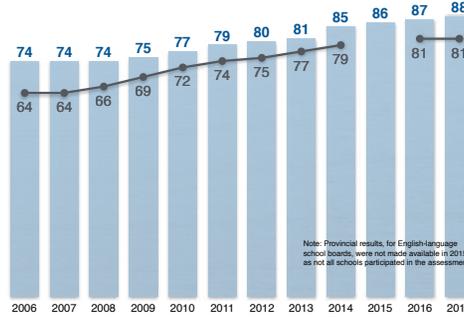
## Grade 3 Assessment of Reading

Percentage of Grade 3 Students who achieved the Standard in Reading (Level 3,4)



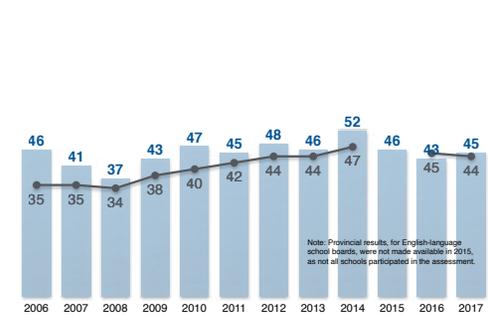
## Grade 6 Assessment of Reading

Percentage of Grade 6 Students who achieved the Standard in Reading (Level 3,4)



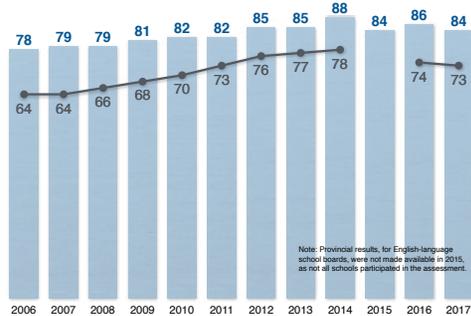
## Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics - Applied Math

Percentage of Students Enrolled in the Applied Math Course who achieved the Standard (Level 3,4)



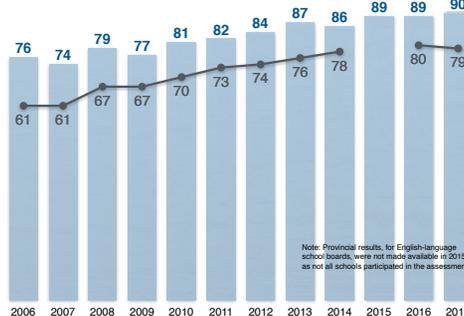
## Grade 3 Assessment of Writing

Percentage of Grade 3 Students who achieved the Standard in Writing (Level 3,4)



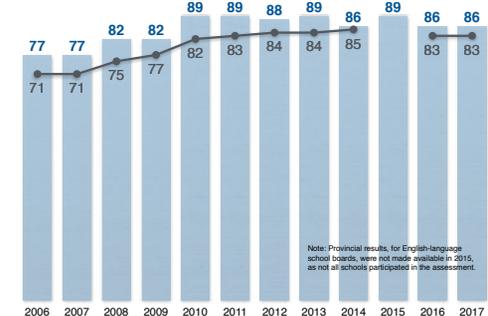
## Grade 6 Assessment of Writing

Percentage of Grade 6 Students who achieved the Standard in Writing (Level 3,4)



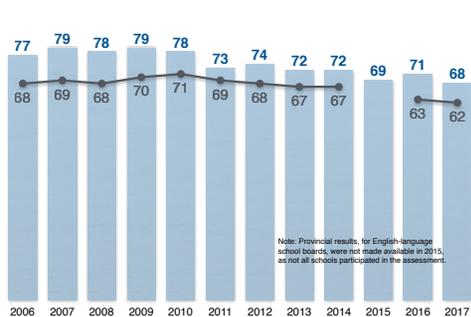
## Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics - Academic Math

Percentage of Students Enrolled in the Academic Math Course who achieved the Standard (Level 3,4)



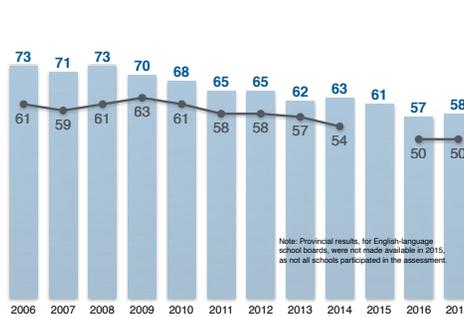
## Grade 3 Assessment of Mathematics

Percentage of Grade 3 Students who achieved the Standard in Mathematics (Level 3,4)



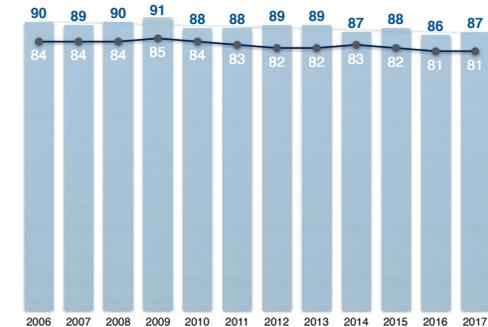
## Grade 6 Assessment of Mathematics

Percentage of Grade 6 Students who achieved the Standard in Mathematics (Level 3,4)



## Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

Percentage of Students in the Board and Province who were Successful





## Top Graduating Student

Chris Staykov from Cardinal Carter Catholic High School in Aurora scored a near perfect, 99.67%, making him the York Catholic District School Board's top graduating student in 2017.

Chris was enrolled in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program. "My high school experience was great," said Chris. "There's a great sense of community in the IB program. Our teachers are very supportive and students in the program face challenges together."

At Cardinal Carter, Chris participated in several clubs and activities including the school's Legacy Leadership Council, OSAID Chapter (Ontario Students Against Impaired Driving), Free the Children committee, and UN Assembly. Chris attended elementary school at YCDSB's Our Lady of the Annunciation CES in Oak Ridges.

## Graduation Rate

York Catholic achieved the highest four and five-year graduation rate of all English language school boards in the province. Our five-year graduation rate for 2016 was 96.4%. This exceeded the provincial average of 86.5%. The Board also continues to experience a consistent pattern of improvement in credit accumulation for all secondary students and students with special needs.

## Student Leadership

### Leadership Links

Secondary student leaders hosted a student leadership conference, entitled "Leadership Links," at Holy Cross CA for 150 elementary students from over 50 schools. The theme of the conference was "Mission Possible." Elementary students learned about the importance of being a positive leader and an agent of change.



## Ontario Catholic Student Leadership Conference

York Catholic District School Board hosted the Ontario Catholic Student Leadership Conference April 27-29, 2017.

This event was held in York Region at The Sheraton Toronto Parkway North. YCDSB hosted over 500 Catholic students from across the province. Students had an opportunity to hear keynote addresses by David Mulrone, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of St. Michael's College (U of T) and Sister Miriam James, best known as "One Groovy Nun". Over 5,000 health kits were assembled as a collaborative action of social justice for numerous ShareLife organizations throughout the GTA.

## ESP/ DAW

The Board supports ESP (Empowered Student Partnership) and DAW (Drug Awareness Week) Councils in its secondary schools. Students in their school's ESP Council partner with York Regional Police to promote safety in their schools and community. Students in their school's DAW Council coordinate an annual Drug and Alcohol Awareness Week at their school to encourage students to make healthy life choices.

## Student Voice, YSCPC

YSCPC (York Catholic Secondary Presidents' Council) is a council that consists of the student council groups from each YCDSB secondary school as well as the Student Trustees. They meet monthly to discuss shared issues, initiatives, ideas, and ways to support student life at their schools and across the Board.

*A Healthy Mind Means  
A Healthy Life*

## Mental Health Symposium #ycdsbHMHL

In 2017 YCDSB held its second annual Elementary School Student Mental Health Symposium, #ycdsbHMHL, and it was a tremendous success! Grade 7 and 8 students had the opportunity to meet their peers from across the Board and learn about positive mental health and healthy coping skills. The Board also hosted its third annual Secondary Student Mental Health Symposium, where students listened to keynote speakers and inspiring youth who managed their mental health. Students also participated in workshops that increased their mental health literacy and resiliency skills.

YCDSB also began the planning for a new three-year mental health strategy set to begin in September 2017. Through consultation with SMH-ASSIST (Ministry of Education) coaches and various stakeholders at YCDSB, a new strategy was created with the goal of building students' resiliency and improving the well-being of all stakeholders here at YCDSB.





## Indigenous People Education

### Land Acknowledgement

The Indigenous Education Steering Committee at YCDSB is comprised of Board staff, and representatives of Cree, Mi'kmaq, Dene, Temiskaming, Oneida, Anishnabe, and Métis heritages. The group developed the YCDSB Land Acknowledgement. It is written to include every Indigenous person in our area, yesterday, today and tomorrow. It will be read at all school and Board public gatherings.

York Catholic continued to implement its Indigenous Education Policy Framework, and self-identified FNMI families increased from 87 to 106, during the 2016-2017 school year. The Board engages these families on relevant issues, and also encourages others to self-identify, so they too can receive supports.

Consistent with the goals of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation document, a great deal of work was done to build understanding and awareness around issues related to our Indigenous community. There were numerous Indigenous-related projects, presentations and outreach, in both elementary and secondary, such as the Community Speaks evening event. Teachers worked to compile and create resources to support the implementation of the Grade 11 Native Studies English course, which was offered in 14 secondary schools, in its first year.



### YCDSB Land Acknowledgement

*We are gathered on the ancestral lands and waters of all Indigenous Peoples, who have left their footprints on Mother Earth before us. We respectfully acknowledge, those who have walked on it, those who walk on it now, and future generations who have yet to walk upon it. We pray to the Creator for strength and wisdom that all may continue to serve as stewards of the earth.*

Artwork by: Todd Jamieson,  
YCDSB Knowledge Keeper

## Renewed Math Strategy

To improve student achievement in Mathematics, the Ministry of Education has funded focused work in Math for all publically funded school boards and York Catholic DSB has developed a rigorous learning program for students, teachers, and administrators.

In the elementary schools, each school had either one, two or three Math Lead Teachers, depending upon the school's size. In all secondary schools, teachers of students in Gr. 9 Applied Math courses worked together, within and across schools, to improve Math instruction and student learning. Administrators also worked together to improve Math leadership within our schools, to better support teacher and student learning.

Both groups of Math teachers attended in-services on a range of best practices for teaching Math, worked with their colleagues at school on Math instruction and supported the use of new resources, such as technology in Math instruction. In addition to the attention that has always been paid to foundational skills, innovative instructional approaches were utilized that were supported by Math research and best classroom pedagogy. Special attention was given to thinking questions so that students could understand proportional reasoning and solve real-world math problems. Technology-enhanced learning was encouraged to increase student engagement, develop student achievement and honour student voice.



# Curriculum

## French Immersion

In 2016-2017, St. Mark CES in Stouffville became the 15th York Catholic school to offer the French Immersion program.

In September 2017, the French Immersion program will include Grade 9 students at St. Brother Andre CHS. The program is comprised of ten core courses offered in the French language, including French Immersion French, Religious Education, Grade 9 Geography and Grade 10 History. In September, 2018 the program will also be offered at Jean Vanier CHS, St. Maximilian Kolbe CHS and Father Bressani CHS.

For more information on YCDSB's Regional French Immersion Programs visit, <http://www.ycdsb.ca/frenchimmersion>.

## Programs and Pathways

Programs and Pathways represents a collection of programs, supports and activities that provide students with the knowledge, skills and tools they need to make successful transitions from grade-to-grade, to life after high school, and throughout their lives. At the end of the 2016-2017 school year, there were noted improvements in student performance, as well as the 5-year graduation rate. The Board also continues to experience a consistent pattern of improvement in credit accumulation for all secondary students and students with special education needs.

Programs offered by the Board at the secondary level include:

- International Baccalaureate Program
- Advanced Placement (AP) Program
- Regional Arts Program
- Laptop Learning
- Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM)
- Dual Credit Courses
- Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)
- School-Within-A-College (SWAC) Program
- Credit Recovery
- French Immersion
- English as a Second Language (ESL) / English Language Learner (ELL)
- High Performer Athlete (September 2018)

# EDUCATION & CAREER / LIFE PLANNING

Gathering evidence to show my learning ...

## Who am I?

### Knowing Yourself

- What are my God-given gifts and talents?
- What are my interests?
- What is my preferred learning style?
- Who helps me develop my skills?
- How can my skills and strengths help me in school? In my community? In my parish?
- What experiences have guided me along my faith journey?

## Who do I want to become?

### Making Decisions and Setting Goals

- What contribution is God calling me to make?
- What goals do I have for myself?
- What do I learn about myself when I set goals?
- How do my goals change as I get older?
- What kind of person do I want to become?
- How do I demonstrate my Catholic character?

## What are my opportunities?

### Exploring Opportunities

- How can I develop Christian leadership? In my community? In my parish?
- What teams and clubs can I join?
- Where can I volunteer my time?
- What do I learn about myself when I participate in clubs and teams?
- What field of work interests me?

## What is my plan for achieving my goals?

### Achieving Goals and Making Transitions

- What do I need to do to achieve my goals?
- Who can help me achieve my goals?
- What do I learn about myself when I reach a goal?
- What do I do when I encounter a problem?
- Who can I go to for support?
- How does my faith support me in challenging times?

*Our students will become creative and critical thinkers who integrate Catholic values into their daily lives, as socially responsible global citizens.*

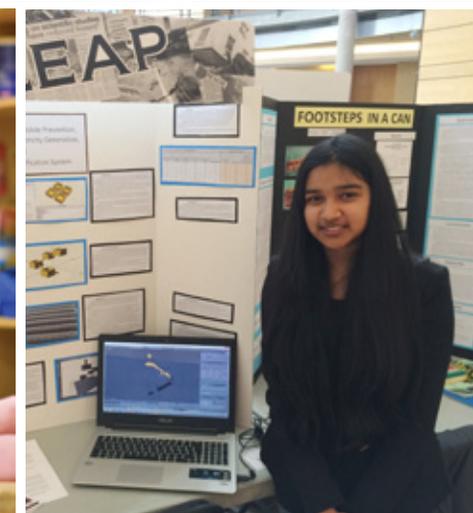
## Individual Pathways Plan (IPP)

The Individual Pathways Plan (IPP), which involves students collecting and curating evidence of their learning via a digital portfolio, helps develop the capacity to achieve their personal goals for work and life. What started out as a pilot of 6 schools, soon gained momentum and spread to all 15 of our secondary schools. Collaborative teams of teachers and student mentors, participated in training to help create an implementation plan for the IPP at their schools and to support Grade 9 students as they begin the work of creating a digital portfolio using Google sites. Work was also done to help subject teachers understand how career exploration is embedded in all curriculum areas. By the end of the year, students, teachers and administrators all participated in a conference which included an outstanding keynote speaker, Sean Stephens, CEO of Treefrog, whose inspiring words helped to demonstrate the importance of living a thoughtful life, and positive digital discipleship.



## Expansion of Specialist High Skills Major Program

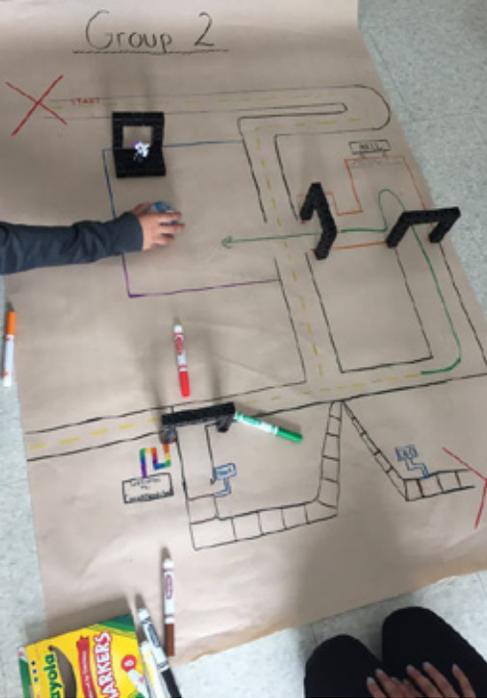
The Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) is a series of Ministry of Education approved specialized programs that help Grade 11 and 12 students focus their learning on a specific economic sector, while meeting the requirements to graduate from secondary school. In 2016-2017, we offered 21 SHSM programs, which included two new school programs in Health and Wellness and Business. Gr. 12 students who have completed all requirements of the SHSM program receive an SHSM Seal. Our "SHSM Seal" completion rate for 2016-2017 was 76% compared to the provincial average of 53%.



## SHSMs offered during the 2016-2017 school year

- Arts and Culture (4 schools)
- Business (5 schools)
- Health and Wellness (5 schools)
- Hospitality and Tourism (1 school)
- Information Communications and Technology (2 schools)
- Manufacturing (1 school)
- Non-Profit (1 school)
- Sport (1 school)
- Transportation (1 school)





## Community Connected Experiential Learning

Community-connected experiential learning is an inquiry-based approach that helps students develop a greater understanding of how the classroom curriculum is directly related to the community and the world of work.

Projects included:

- The Sacred Canoe - staff and students worked with Indigenous community members to create a mixed media presentation.
- Splice Week - students and staff worked with various community members to complete and present a week long passion project.
- Escape Room - student's created an escape room supported by Ikea, where puzzles and challenges needed to be solved.
- 20 Plus Project - students were connected to a community mentor who supported projects in areas including app development, journalism, songwriting, and broadcast television.

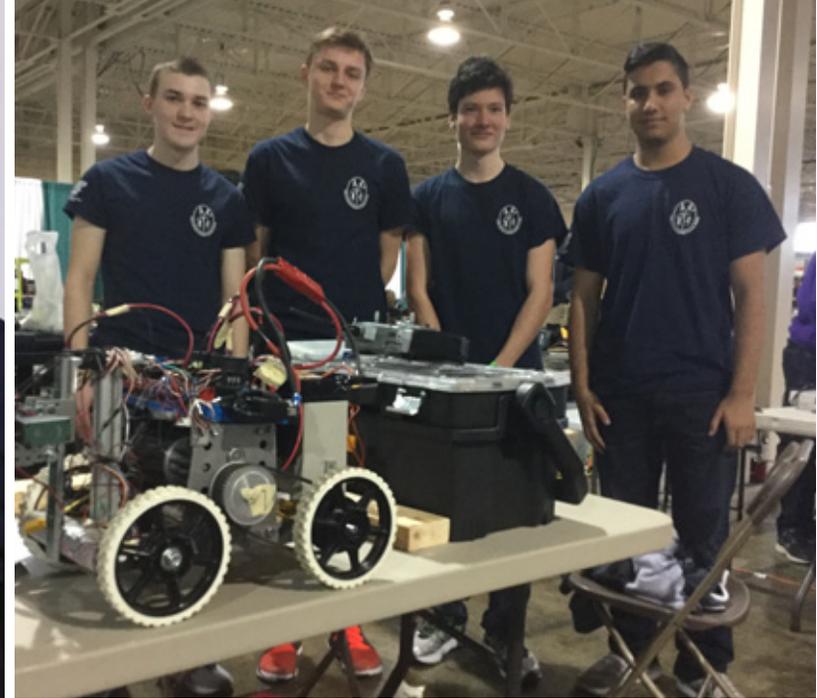
## Coding and Robotics

In order to engage students in the type of logic that supports mathematical thinking, many of our elementary schools offered coding classes. Students not only learned the basics of coding, but they were able to program 'Spheros' to navigate through obstacles courses of their own design. In addition to this, our elementary schools continued to participate in the Lego and First Robotics Competitions.

Secondary students worked diligently for months designing, building and testing robots in preparation for the provincial First Robotics Competition.

## After School Coding Classes

An after school Coding Program was also initiated in 22 elementary schools this year. The courses taught students block coding and teachers learned how coding and robotics connect to the curriculum and the development of thinking skills, especially in math.



## Focus on Youth

The Focus on Youth program, for students aged 16 to 21, focuses on developing employability skills, financial literacy, leadership, volunteer work in a non-profit, as well student well-being.

## Dual Credits

The YCDSB experienced a surge in student interest in dual credits. Working in partnership with Georgian, Seneca, Centennial and Humber College, students earned a total of 268 dual credits.

## Level One Accelerated Programs through OYAP

There was an increase in the number of students participating in the Level One Apprenticeship program in Grade 12. These students completed an 8 week block in fields such as: electrical, plumbing, automotive, baking and cooking.

## Skills Ontario Competition

Thirty-six YCDSB students competed in the provincial Secondary Skills Ontario Technological Competition in various categories. YCDSB students earned bronze, silver and gold medals in areas including: transportation, graphic design presentation, 3D animation, IT office solutions, coding and graphic design studio production.

## SWAC - School Within A College

We continue to provide students in their last semester of Grade 12 or those who are in need of credits, with the opportunity to earn credits in college level courses and complete their Ontario Secondary School Diploma at the same time. These students are provided with flexibility in scheduling that facilitates dual credits, co-op and individualized instruction.

# Continuing Education:

## Serving Children and Adults in the Community

The Continuing Education Department offers a wide variety of programming serving elementary, secondary and adult learners.

### *English as a Second Language / English Language Learner*

The YCDSB Adult ESL/ELL program is the second largest in the province of Ontario consisting of 665 classes and 22,790 learners. The Adult ESL/ELL program includes sector-specific courses in accounting, engineering, business administration and information technology. Other specialized programs include: literacy and citizenship preparation courses. Courses are offered weekdays, evenings and on Saturdays throughout York Region. Standardized assessment and learner evaluation are key features of the program.

The Adult ESL/ELL program proudly coordinates programming with various community partners including: local libraries, Welcome Centre Immigrant Services, COSTI Immigrant Services and other local agencies. In 2017, a partnership with Seneca College was formed to deliver Intensive English for college programming to potential Seneca students at the Vaughan and Newmarket Seneca Employment Centres. The Adult ESL/ELL program is funded by the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration.

The Continuing Education Department provides the International Languages Instructor Training Program, as well as, computer training programs like Microsoft Basic and Intermediate for the adult learner.

### Elementary Programs

The elementary division of Continuing Education provides opportunities for extended learning after school, Saturday mornings, and during the summer to more than 2,500 students. With the inclusion of the Extended Day International Language Italian Program in 21 schools, the overall student population benefitting from the Elementary Continuing Education Program is over 8,000 students system wide.

The International Languages Saturday and Summer Programs expanded to 19 schools offering classes in 16 languages throughout York Region, including:

- Cantonese
- Croatian
- Farsi
- Filipino
- Greek
- Korean
- Italian
- Malayalam
- Mandarin
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Russian
- Spanish
- Tamil
- Urdu
- Vietnamese

### Elementary Division Programs:

- Art 4 Kids (Gr. 4-6)
- Budding Artists (JK & SK)
- Creative Hands (Gr. 1-3)
- Family Literacy & Numeracy (SK to Gr. 8)
- French Conversation (Gr. SK-5)
- French Immersion Summer Camp (Gr. 1)
- International Extended Day Italian Program (Gr. 1-8)
- International Languages Saturday and Summer Programs (JK to Gr. 8)
- Literacy & Numeracy After School Skills (Gr. 1-6) Grant Program
- Literacy & Numeracy After School Skills (Gr. 1-6) Grant Program
- Literacy & Numeracy Skills Development (Gr. 7-8)
- Reading Readiness (Gr. 1-2)
- S.T.A.R.S. (Skills, Technology, Applications, and Remedial Support) (Gr. 4-6)
- Summer Learning Program & Council of Ontario Directors in Education (Gr. 4 & 5)
- Techno Projects Primary (Gr. 1-3)
- Techno Projects Junior (Gr. 4-6)
- Techno Projects Intermediate (Gr. 7 & 8)

## Secondary Programs

In the secondary division, Saturday credit programs increased from 5 sections to 15 sections.

The eLearning course that was introduced in 2014-2015 was so successful that it was introduced into regular day programming in 2016-2017. In this learning strategies course, teachers use the D2L (Destination to Learning) platform in their day-to-day teaching to help connect students with an online global learning community.

### SMK Kick-Start Program - Grade 9 Summer Transition Program

The Kick-Start program is offered at St. Maximilian Kolbe CHS in Aurora and helps to support students transitioning into high school by providing them with opportunities to review and build on their math knowledge.

### Exploring Technologies - Grade 9 Summer Transition Program

A new summer credit transition program for Grade 8 students going into Grade 9 at St. Augustine CHS is called Exploring Technologies. It is focused on design and helps students develop their critical thinking and entrepreneurial skills through Makerspace projects, coding and Minecraft. As part of this program, students also spend four weeks engaged in high interest projects and challenges, and participate in workshops hosted by York University.

### Dual Credit - Summer Learning Program

Dual credit programs are ministry-approved programs that allow secondary school students to take college or apprenticeship courses that count towards both the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) and credits towards post-secondary programs.

### eLearn Summer School

Approximately 187 students were able to access eLearn courses in Careers and Civics, Grade 12 English, and Grade 12 History through YCDSB's Summer School Continuing Education Department. Plans are in the works to expand and increase the ability for students to access additional eLearn courses next summer.

### Co-operative Education

Students in the Board's SHSM program now have the option to complete their co-op placement during the summer. Almost 92 students took advantage of this opportunity during the 2016-2017 school year.

### Global Education Program

Students participated in the Board's global education program where they took credit courses in various subjects including Italian, English, and history, while in Italy, Germany and Poland.

## Secondary Division Programs:

- After School Literacy and Numeracy
- Driver's Education
- PLAR (Prior Learning and Assessment and Recognition)
- Global Education
- Learning Strategies, Gr. 8 e-learning class
- Night School Semester 1 and 2
- Night School eLearning
- Summer School
- Summer eLearning
- Summer School Dual Credit
- Reaching up Credits for Gr. 8 students
- Saturday Credit Programs in Languages and Subjects
- Literacy Preparation for Gr. 8 students
- Math Preparation for Gr. 8 students

### NOW (Newcomer Orientation Week) Program

Over 135 students who are newcomers to Canada participated in the NOW Program which aims to help students adjust to high school life in Canada through a series of interactive activities and valuable information sessions. This program is offered in partnership with Catholic Community Services of York Region and Citizenship and Immigration Canada. Participants in the NOW Program develop a better understanding of the routines and practices in local high schools and strategies for successfully adapting. It also gives students an opportunity to make new friends with other participants and former newcomer students who act as peer leaders for the program.



# *Effective Use of Our Resources*

# Building a Bright Future



## YCDSB opens Pope Francis Catholic Elementary School in Kleinburg

YCDSB welcomed nearly 250 Kindergarten to Grade 8 students to its newest school, Pope Francis Catholic Elementary School. The 65,015 square foot school is located in Kleinburg.

Pope Francis CES features 6 kindergarten classrooms specially designed for play-based learning, a music room, reflection room, and a Special Education classroom. All classrooms are equipped with smart boards, which align with the Board's focus on technology. Pope Francis CES was designed with environmentally friendly features including lighting, which is controlled by occupancy and daylight sensors, and water bottle filling stations to conserve water use. The school was designed to provide barrier free access to both floors, and signage and tactile warning devices to assist the visually impaired.

In the spring, a Solemn Blessing and Official Opening Ceremony was held at the school. The blessing was led by Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick of the Archdiocese of Toronto, and Monsignor Gregory Ace of St. Padre Pio Church.

## Construction and Renovation Projects

Over 100 construction and renovation projects took place during the 2016-2017 school year and throughout the summer months. Many of these projects are funded through the following grants:

- School Renewal Allocation
- School Condition Improvement Funding
- Full-Day Kindergarten Funding
- Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funding

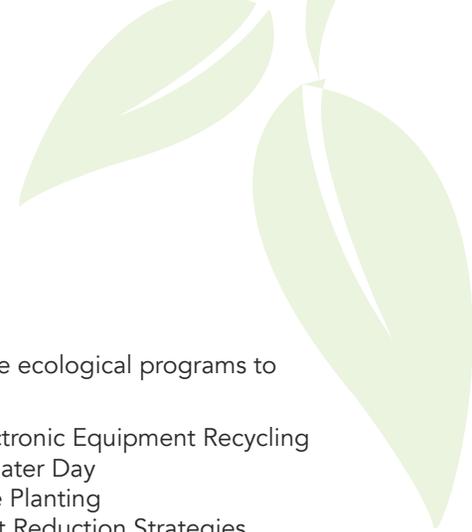
School Renewal Allocation projects included: adding Braille signage to enhance accessibility, replacing carpet flooring with vinyl flooring in select schools, and renovating four elementary schools to accommodate the Orff music program.

School Condition Improvement projects included renewing or replacing school playgrounds, asphalt driveways and parking lots, concrete sidewalks, school roofs and staircases, and other building renovations.

FDK renovations took place at:

- St. Patrick CES in Markham
- Canadian Martyrs CES in Newmarket
- St. Joseph the Worker CES in Thornhill





## Environmental Initiatives

### YCDSB wins MUSH (Municipal University Schools Hospital) Sector Award

YCDSB won the Energy Innovation Award for Best MUSH Customer (1 MegaWatt +) for having demonstrated energy conservation leadership. The award is based on energy reduction projects utilizing incentives while demonstrating leadership in conservation for their corporate initiatives and staff awareness programs.

### YCDSB Among Top Energy Performing School Boards in Ontario

YCDSB was named one of the Top Energy Performing Boards in Ontario by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. York Catholic schools and Board office staff are deeply committed to improving our ecological footprint and finding meaningful ways to cut electricity and natural gas usage.

### Ontario EcoSchools Program

The Ontario EcoSchools Program continued to be a success at York Catholic. A total of 49 schools were certified as EcoSchools in 2016-2017. St. Charles Garnier CES, Our Lady of the Annunciation CES, St. Justin Martyr CES, Prince of Peace CES, Father Frederick McGinn CES and St. Emily CES achieved platinum certification for the 2016-2017 school year.

### Markham Zero Waste Program

In collaboration with the City of Markham's Zero Waste Program, the city delivers recycling presentations to students and has committed to picking up all recycled products, including organic waste, at no cost to YCDSB. This program continued to be expanded during the 2016-2017 school year to include all schools located within the City of Markham.

## Environmental Programs

Environmental Services continues to promote ecological programs to schools, including:

- Rock-the-Bike Program
- Environmental Presentations
- Healthy Kids Challenge
- Project Bird Nests
- Toner Cartridge Recycling Program
- Electronic Equipment Recycling
- Sweater Day
- Tree Planting
- Print Reduction Strategies

## Energy Conservation Projects

Schools throughout YCDSB worked on a large number of energy conservation projects in 2016-17. Major projects included:

- LED lighting retrofit at 7 secondary and 6 elementary schools
- Replacement of boilers at 3 schools
- Upgrade HVAC systems at 3 schools
- Replace rooftop HVAC units at 5 schools
- Replace Cooling systems at 2 schools
- Replace ventilation units at 1 school

## School Ground Greening

The YCDSB, in partnership with the Region of York and Evergreen, enlisted the services of a school ground greening consultant to support schools that expressed a desire to enhance playgrounds through tree planting, shade features and outdoor classrooms. Several schools participated in School Ground Greening Projects. Some examples include:

St. Nicholas CES, with the collaboration of Windfall Ecology Centre, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, Evergreen and Environment Services completed a greening project, which included a de-paving of the outdoor play area.

Light of Christ CES replaced a large portion of the exterior play area with mulch, an ecological solution to replace hard play surfaces.

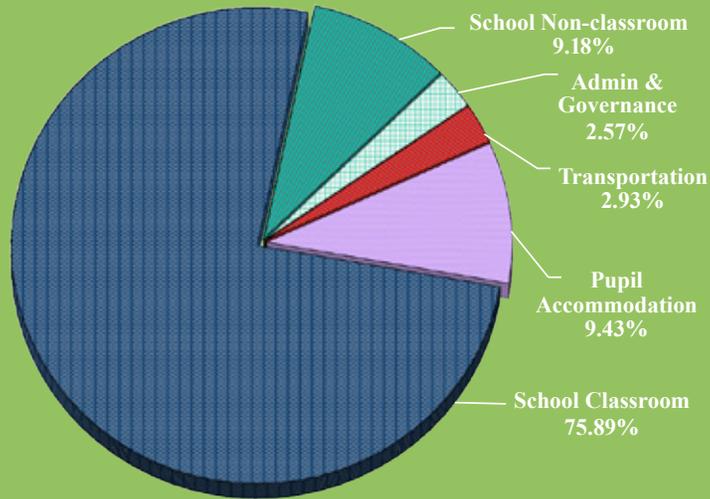
## Spotlight on St. Nicholas CES's Outdoor Classroom

On June 9th, the St. Nicholas CES community in Newmarket gathered to bless its new outdoor classroom, which features a teepee, wooden stump seating ingrained with the Seven Grandfather teachings, and a mulched natural playground area.

At the ceremony, Father Efred Alvarez of St. John Chrysostom Parish blessed the outdoor space, and YCDSB Knowledge Keeper, Todd Jamieson, and Aboriginal Artist, John Somosi led a traditional Indigenous smudging and drumming ceremony. Principal Deirdre Vance read the Board's Land Acknowledgment at the ceremony. Newmarket Deputy Mayor, John Taylor, recounted stories about 17th Century longhouses that existed near the school. Following the ceremony, students shared artwork they created to celebrate our creation and diversity.



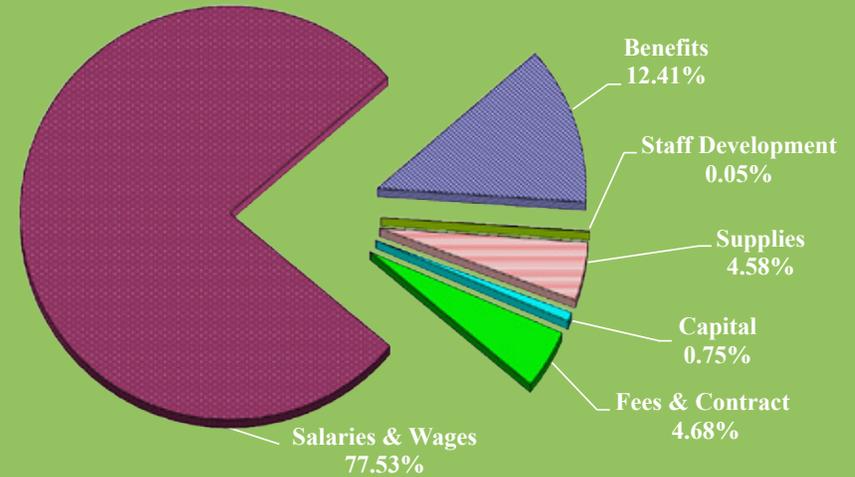
## Operating Expenditures 2016-2017 Year End Report Expenditures by Function



|                        |                    |                |
|------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| • School Classroom     | 443,206,754        | 75.89%         |
| • School Non-classroom | 53,605,771         | 9.18%          |
| • Administration       | 15,050,836         | 2.57%          |
| • Transportation       | 17,087,155         | 2.93%          |
| • School Operations    | <u>55,026,053</u>  | <u>9.43%</u>   |
| • TOTAL                | <u>583,976,569</u> | <u>100.00%</u> |

Note: The above does not include new pupil places, facility renewal, debt charges, or other Ministry year end reporting requirements (eg:PSAB, school finances, etc.)

## Operating Expenditures 2016-2017 Year End Report Expenditures by Object



|                       |                    |                |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| • Salaries & Wages    | 452,755,205        | 77.53%         |
| • Benefits            | 72,454,973         | 12.41%         |
| • Staff Development   | 326,142            | 0.05%          |
| • Supplies & Services | 26,777,899         | 4.58%          |
| • Capital             | 4,386,025          | 0.75%          |
| • Fees & Contract.    | 27,308,098         | 4.68%          |
| • Other               | <u>(31,773)</u>    | <u>0.00%</u>   |
| • Total               | <u>583,976,569</u> | <u>100.00%</u> |

Note: The above does not include new pupil places, facility renewal, debt charges, or other Ministry year end reporting requirements (eg:PSAB, school finances, etc.)



## *Pupil Accommodation Reviews*

The YCDSB's five-year Long Term Accommodation Plan (2015-2020) (LTAP) addresses the Board's current and future student accommodation needs board-wide.

York Catholic District School Board has seen an increase in the number of surplus (unfunded) pupil places over the last decade as enrolment has declined. The LTAP outlines a number of accommodation initiatives, including Pupil Accommodation Reviews (PARs), which involve a prescribed process by the Ministry of Education where a school closure and/ or consolidation is being considered to address changing demographics, enrolment, programming, and facility condition challenges facing a school or schools in a particular area under review.

The PAR process results in a number of recommendations to the Board of Trustees to address identified challenges and provides opportunities for community participation through public consultation.

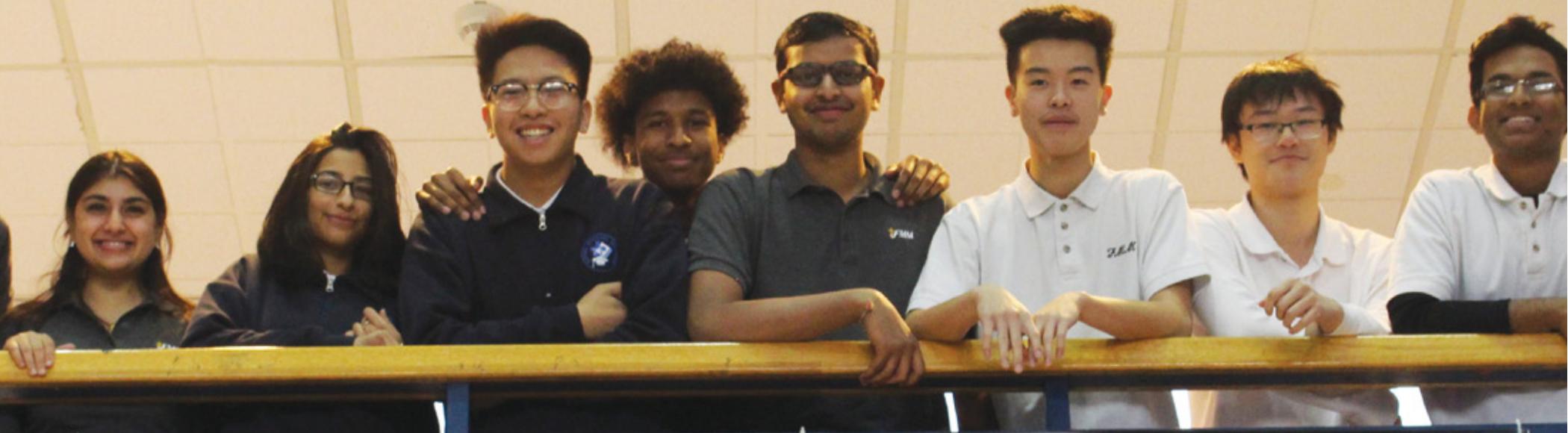
The PAR process assists the Board by ensuring that we are efficiently using available space in schools to accommodate students over the long-term while continuing to offer a high standard of program excellence in innovative, faith-filled learning environments.

In the 2016-2017 school year, Pupil Accommodation Reviews were initiated in the areas of Maple and Markham South. The Board of Trustees approved the recommendation to close Our Lady of Peace CES in Maple, St. Mother Teresa CES and St. Vincent de Paul CES in Markham.

## *Multi-Year Financial Recovery Plan*

The Board approved a budget of \$680.3 million in June 2017, which included a compliant deficit of \$4.9 million. The Board continues to be committed to working with the Ministry of Education in the development of a successful Multi-Year Financial Recovery Plan that balances fiscal responsibility with our goals to maintain student achievement and minimize impact to our classrooms.

# Engaging Our Communities



## Parent Engagement



Together with the York Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, the Board hosted two successful parenting conferences in the fall at Father Bressani CHS in Woodbridge and Sacred Heart CHS in Newmarket. Child and Family Therapist, Jennifer Kolari, spoke to parents on the topic of "Connected Parenting."

YCPIC also hosted its annual workshop for new Catholic School Council Chairs, Co-Chairs and Secretaries. YCPIC is an advisory body whose primary purpose is to promote effective parent involvement, enabling parents to play a stronger role in supporting student achievement.

## Accessibility

The 2016-2017 school year marked the Board's fourth year of its Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (2013-2018). The plan was developed in accordance with the Integration Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR) under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), 2005. The Multi-Year Accessibility Plan supports Board Policy 415: Accessibility Standards for Employment, Board Policy 601: Accessibility Standards for Customer Service, and Board Policy 609: Accessibility Standards for Information and Communication.

The Board offers accessible formats and communication supports upon request. An accessibility feedback form and request form are available online at: <http://www.ycdsb.ca/about/accessibility.htm>.

## Twitter News



@YCDSB garnered 17,000 Twitter followers by June 2017. Since launching @YCDSB in 2011, the Board has built a large following of students, parents, staff, community partners, media and other stakeholders. During the 2016-2017 school year, a naming convention for YCDSB school Twitter accounts was established, and schools were further supported to create their own accounts to share school initiatives with their communities. Follow the York Catholic District School Board @ycdsb.





## Equity – A Shared Responsibility

In partnership with the home and Church, the York Catholic District School Board believes in the need to develop students' character through the teaching of Gospel values, and to prepare students for their role in society as engaged, productive, and responsible global citizens. York Catholic strongly believes that active and engaged citizens are aware of their rights, but more importantly, they accept responsibility for protecting their rights and the rights of others.

It is the policy of the York Catholic District School Board to provide in all operations, an educational and working environment which supports diversity by adhering to the guiding principles outlined in the Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy. These guiding principles provide a foundation and framework to meet individual needs, identify and eliminate barriers, promote a sense of belonging, engage community members, build on, and enhance previous and existing initiatives, and incorporate the principles of equity and inclusion in its actions.

The Board is committed to improving student achievement and well-being and to closing achievement gaps for students by identifying, addressing, and removing all barriers and forms of discrimination through the design and implementation of an inclusive curriculum, providing staff training and professional development opportunities, ensuring hiring decisions are fair and bias free, and engaging our communities.

## Staff Training

School Board staff are provided with professional learning opportunities through the implementation of the Board and School Improvement Learning Cycle for Student Achievement and Well-Being to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviours needed to identify and eliminate discriminatory biases and systemic barriers under the Ontario Human Rights Code.

## Bias Free Hiring

YCDSB upholds the following policies regarding its hiring practices: Policy 403 Support Services Recruitment and Selection; Policy 404 Teacher Recruitment and Selection. These policies outline that all aspects of the Board's recruitment and selection process will be conducted in a fair and transparent manner, free from any bias, discrimination, nepotism and cronyism in accordance with the Ontario Human Rights Code, and the Board's historical rights under the Constitution Act, 1982 and the Education Act.

YCDSB is working to ensure that school and Board leadership teams reflect the diversity of the communities they serve. This includes the removal and prevention of discriminatory biases and systemic barriers in recruitment, hiring, talent management, career mentoring, promotion, retention and succession planning. In our hiring practices, YCDSB makes a concerted effort to consider and select candidates from diverse backgrounds.

## Equity and Inclusion: YCDSB Core Values

York Catholic recognizes that its diverse communities are its strength. The Board held engaging community presentations to address diversity challenges, and celebrate the culture and accomplishments of those who are often marginalized and misrepresented in mainstream culture. YCDSB built upon its "Beyond Black History Month" initiative by enlisting the expertise of Black Canadians so the Board could affirm the experiences of racialized students and families and enhance opportunities to address arising needs.

Retreats were offered for students who are newcomers to Canada, English Language Learners (ELL) or questioning gender identity. For ELLs, the new Welcome Ambassador Program was launched. In this program, students learned about the importance of acting as an ambassador, so that students who are new to Canada feel welcomed and can develop a sense of belonging in our Catholic school communities. Following the leadership session, the students returned to their schools as "Welcome Ambassadors" and are mentors to newly arrived newcomer students.

The Board also hosted a number of retreats for ELL students and staff at outdoor education centres, where they participated in a day of reflecting, connecting, and sharing. These retreats are part of the Board's overall commitment to inclusion and equity. The time away from the everyday demands of school life provided a wonderful opportunity for students to meet other new Canadians from across the Board, and participate in outdoor activities. For many students, it was their first time in the "great Canadian outdoors."

At other retreats, students who are members of their school's Respecting Differences Club, discussed ways to support each other, as well as the challenges and stereotypes around sexual orientation and gender identity. These retreats focused on the love of God, the call to recognize the gifts each person brings, and Jesus' call to His disciples to be inclusive and welcoming.

## Engaging our Communities

In both the Board's MYSP and Multi-Year Accessibility Plan the Board subscribes to a shared leadership philosophy that inspires, empowers, and supports all stakeholders in our Catholic community to join together to implement institutional practices and behaviours that cultivate equity and inclusion. Promoting a collaborative approach to all dimensions of equity and inclusive education, we encourage the participation of students, parents/guardians, parishes, employees, associations, unions, colleges and universities, service organizations and other community partners in various board initiatives. The YCDSB is committed to assessing and monitoring the implementation of the Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy through school climate surveys of students, parents and staff.

## Reaching Out: Improving Communication

In 2016-2017, YCDSB developed a plan to improve Board and school communications with newcomers to Canada, and English Language Learners. In various communities in our Board, the YCDSB has started to provide translated materials for parents in various languages such as Tamil, Cantonese, Punjabi. These materials include communications about parent-teacher interview nights, school newsletters, invitations to special events, among other communications.



## Engaging Our Communities Through Student Services

The YCDSB's Student Services Department partnered with various community agencies to host a series of events for parents and guardians during the 2016-2017 school year. The goal of these events is to generate awareness, share information and engage parent communities and Board partners.

- Planning for the Future Symposium
- Transition Planning Symposium
- Early Facilitation Parent Information Evenings
- Yes I Can Awards
- Program for Academic and Creative Extension (PACE) Parent Information Night
- Transition Back to School: Summer Camp for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their parents
- Technology Summer Camp to increase student proficiency in the use of Assistive Technology
- Parent Information Sessions on the topic of How to Raise Resilient Children

### After School Social Skills Development Program

In 2016-2017, as part of the New Ontario Autism Program initiative, York Catholic District School Board received funds to provide a free After School Social Skills Development Program for students in Grade 1 to 12 who have Autism Spectrum Disorder. This program allows for collaboration between parents and staff to review student needs and establish social and communication goals. Parents are provided with materials so they may support their child outside of the program. The program was offered in several YCDSB school locations. As a result of the overwhelming positive feedback from all partners, we are pleased that the program will continue into the 2017-2018 academic year.

### Planning for the Future Symposium

In 2016, the Board held its annual Planning for the Future Symposium, which is a post-secondary information session for exceptional students who are working towards earning their OSSD, and their parents. Approximately 160 participants attended the symposium which included sessions on university, college and workplace pathways. Presenters included representatives from the Student Accessibility Departments at York University, University of Toronto, Seneca College, Centennial College and YCDSB consultants. The Learning Disabilities Association of York Region and Kerry's Place representatives also attended to help answer student and parent questions.



## Transition Planning Symposium

A Transition Planning Symposium was held for parents at the Board's Catholic Education Centre. The symposium included a variety of workshops focusing on transition planning for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder and developmental delays. Topics included college integration programs, financial planning for students with disabilities, and vocational pathways. The keynote speaker was Dr. Kenneth Fung, a psychiatrist from Toronto Western Hospital who spoke about managing stress for parents of children with disabilities. Another component of the symposium was a community fair that featured information displays from relevant community agencies.

## Integrated Track and Field Events

Once again, YCDSB hosts a series of Track and Field events for elementary students with exceptionalities. These events took place at York University and St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School. This was a wonderful opportunity for the Board's exceptional students to showcase their God-given talents and abilities with the support of their peers.

## YCDSB Special Olympics

In Spring 2017, secondary students with exceptionalities participated in the Board's annual YCDSB Special Olympics at Jean Vanier Catholic High School. Students competed in various athletic events and engaged in social activities.

## Best Buddies

The international Best Buddies program was created to establish friendships that help break down barriers to inclusion, and provide opportunities for students with special needs to share experiences, laughter, and fellowship with their peers. Today, there are more than 250 Best Buddies chapters across Canada, including 12 in YCDSB high schools. YCDSB is proud to be part of this exciting movement and in February 2017, Best Buddies from the Board's secondary schools gathered at St. Maximilian Kolbe CHS for the Board's first-ever, "Love of Friendship" semi-formal event.

## Learning Disability Steering Committee

In September 2016, the YCDSB Learning Disability Steering Committee was formed in collaboration with the Learning Disabilities Association of York Region. The focus of this committee is to develop common strategic goals to serve students with Learning Disabilities and foster greater awareness of learning disabilities within the school.

## Additional Qualification Courses for Staff Teaching Students with Communication Needs (Autism Spectrum Disorder)

In 2016-2017, the Board created a new Additional Qualifications course for teachers focused on Autism Spectrum Disorder and the implementation of ABA (Applied Behaviour Analysis) strategies. It will be offered to YCDSB teachers starting in the 2017-2018 school year.

## Autism and Behaviour Science Certificate Program

In 2016-2017, YCDSB formed a new partnership with George Brown College to launch the Autism and Behavioural Sciences Certificate Program for September 2017. The program is for Educational Assistants and Educational Intervenors and will support them in responding to the complex needs of our ASD students.

# Feedback From Our Student and Parent Communities

## 2017 Exit Survey

York Catholic conducted its fifth annual Exit Survey for graduating elementary and secondary students. The survey assesses students' perceptions about their experiences at their school and their plans for continuing their studies. Students complete elementary school in Grade 8 in all York Catholic schools, except in the Town of Georgina, where students graduate in Grade 6.

## Grade 6 Students

Nearly all of the Grade 6 students in our Georgina schools indicated that they planned to enrol in a York Catholic high school. The top reasons given by Grade 6 students for enrolling in a York Catholic high school included the attendance of siblings and friends at the school and the uniqueness of the Grade 7-12 Catholic High School program.

## Grade 8 Students

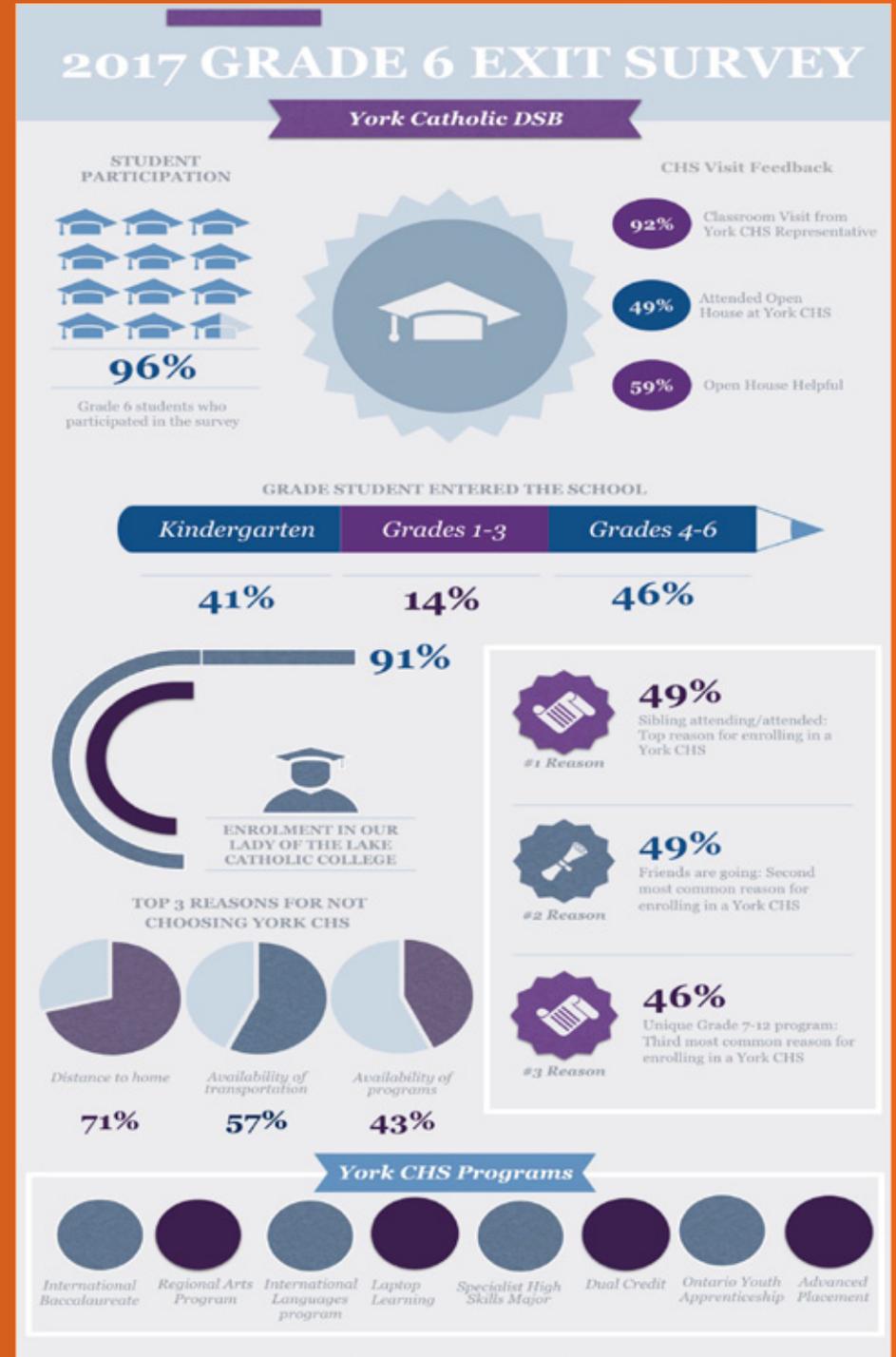
Most Grade 8 students who were surveyed indicated that they planned to enrol in a York Catholic high school because of the location, friends were attending a York Catholic high school or a family decision. Grade 8 students surveyed indicated that they understand how their skills and strengths help them be successful in school and later on in life (92%) and that they know what skills they need to be successful (91%).

## Grade 12 Students

Grade 12 students who completed the Exit Survey indicated that their Catholic education experiences helped prepare them for their postsecondary destination. More specifically, their schools helped them:

- Develop a clear sense of their initial post-secondary destination (87%);
- Formulate post-secondary plans and goals (85%);
- Identify strategies to achieve their goals (71%).

Grade 12 students also noted that they know what skills they need to develop to be successful (85%) and understand how their skills and strengths will help them be successful in school and later on in life (85%).



# 2017 GRADE 8 EXIT SURVEY

York Catholic District School Board

## CHS ENROLMENT



77%

Grade 8 students who will enrol in a York Catholic High School

## CHS VISIT FEEDBACK

- 80%** Visited York CHS with Class
- 73%** Classroom Visit from York CHS Rep.
- 63%** Attended Open House at York CHS
- 66%** Open House Helpful



## GRADE STUDENTS ENTERED THE SCHOOL



### TOP 3 REASONS FOR CHOOSING YORK CHS



**47%**  
Location

#1 Reason



**39%**  
Friends are going to a YCDSB high school

#2 Reason



**30%**  
Family decision

#3 Reason

### TOP 3 REASONS FOR NOT CHOOSING YORK CHS



**46%**  
Distance to home

#1 Reason



**41%**  
Felt more welcome at the Open House events at the public/private school

#2 Reason



**40%**  
Availability of programs

#3 Reason

## York Catholic DSB High School Programs



International Baccalaureate Program | Regional Arts Program | International Languages | Laptop Learning | Specialist High Skills Major | Dual Credit | Ontario Youth Apprenticeship | Advanced Placement

# 2017 GRADE 12 EXIT SURVEY

York Catholic District School Board

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT



74%

Grade 12 students surveyed attended a Catholic Elementary School

## YEARS ATTENDING THIS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

- 46%** More than 3 years
- 47%** 2 to 3 years
- 5%** 1 to 2 years
- 2%** Less than 1 year



## Learning Skills & Work Habits

My high school helped me develop the following skills...



### My Catholic education experiences...



**86%**  
Included the signs of the Catholic Faith which help make a Catholic school distinctive



**76%**  
Strongly reflected Catholic/Christian beliefs and values



**59%**  
Helped me see the value of one day sending my own children to Catholic Schools

### My high school experiences helped me develop...



**87%**  
A clear sense of my initial post-secondary destination



**85%**  
Post-secondary goals or plans (e.g., part time work, volunteer activities, hobbies)



**71%**  
Strategies to achieve my goals (e.g., financing, networking)

## York Catholic DSB High School Programs



International Baccalaureate Program | Regional Arts Program | International Languages | Laptop Learning | Specialist High Skills Major | Dual Credit | Ontario Youth Apprenticeship | Advanced Placement



## School Climate Survey

York Catholic invited elementary and secondary students to participate in the 2017 School Climate Survey.

### What Our Elementary Students Say We Are Doing Well

- Students feel that York Catholic elementary schools show them how to live the Catholic values which helps develop their Catholic faith and identity.
- Students indicate that York Catholic elementary school communities make them feel respected, welcomed and included which helps them treat others with dignity and respect.
- Students say that they are learning about themselves, what they are good at, what they need help with and how they learn best, so that they can achieve their full potential and be successful.
- Students feel that they have many opportunities to be successful if they work hard in school.
- Students believe that their school principal and teachers expect them to do good work.

### What Our Elementary Students Say We Need to Improve

Elementary students say that they need support to:

- Become more resilient and focused on achieving their potential.
- Learn how to recognize and effectively manage feelings of stress, anxiety anger or frustration.

### What Our Secondary Students Say We Are Doing Well

- Students feel respected, included and welcomed which has helped them learn how to treat others with dignity and respect.
- Students feel that their school has helped them learn what it means to be a critical thinker and problem solver and to apply what they are learning to new situations/challenges.
- Students indicate that they have discovered their strengths in order to achieve their full potential.
- Students say that they plan to continue their education after high school.

### What Our Secondary Students Say We Need to Improve

Secondary students say that they need support to:

- Become more resilient and focused on achieving their potential.
- Effectively manage feelings of stress, anxiety anger or frustration.

## Keeping Our Communities Informed

In June 2017, YCDSB shared the Annual Trustee Newsletter, which highlighted the successes of the 2016-2017 school year. The Newsletter also addressed the role and duties of Trustees, updated policies, Catholic School Support Declaration and more. To view a copy of this newsletter, visit: <http://www.ycdsb.ca/wp-content/uploads/year-in-review.pdf>



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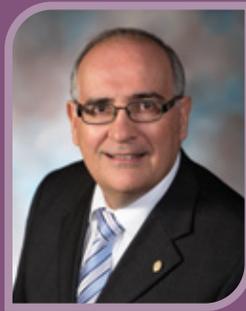
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