### YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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## AGENDA STUDENT SUCCESS & PATHWAYS COMMITTEE Monday, February 24, 2025 - 2:00 p.m.

#### 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.

			Page
1.	OPENING PRAYER / LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	A. Arcadi	
2.	ROLL CALL	A. Arcadi	
3.	ELECTIONS a. Chair b. Vice Chair	A. Arcadi	
4.	REVIEW TERMS OF REFERENCE	Committee Chair	2
5.	APPROVAL OF NEW MATERIAL	Committee Chair	
6.	APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA	Committee Chair	
7.	APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES: a. Student Success & Pathways Committee Meeting, November 13, 2024	Committee Chair	3
8.	BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING		Ū
9.	PRESENTATION(S):		
	<ul> <li>a. Early Reading Screening (ERS) Website Update</li> <li>b. Religious Education Update</li> <li>c. Indigenous Education Updates</li> </ul>	C. Reda, M. Perry, M. Highet D. Pimentel N. Galatianos, R. Cannone, A. Gatto	6 10 22
10.	ACTION ITEMS: N/A		
11.	DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS:		
12.	NOTICES OF MOTION:		
13.	FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S):		

- 14. NEXT MEETING DATE: May 12, 2025
- 15. ADJOURNMENT:

Trustee Committee Members: F. Alexander, M. Barbieri, M. Iafrate, T. McNicol, A. Saggese

Jesus, Prince of all Heavenly truths, Your Words are carved for eternity. You have commanded the virtue of honesty. It is the power against all deceptions. Direct Your Spirit of honesty upon us. Guide our daily thoughts, words and actions, to join those living by the Spirit of truth. For honesty yields harmony and loyalty. Amen

## YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## STUDENT SUCCESS & PATHWAYS (STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD)

# TERMS OF REFERENCE 2025

The Student Success & Pathways Committee will support the York Catholic District School Board's Mission, Vision, Core Values and Strategic Commitments and good Governance as outlined within these Terms of Reference.

## 1. Purpose/Mandate:

- 1.1. To receive staff presentations on the Board Improvement Learning Cycle for Student Achievement and Well-Being (BILC-SAW) and review its alignment with the YCDSB Strategic Plan.
- 1.2. To review programs and initiatives that promote student achievement, student engagement, mental health and well-being and align with the BILC-SAW.
- 1.3. To receive staff presentations and demonstrations regarding technology enhanced learning opportunities for students.
- 1.4. To report student achievement on the province-wide assessments of reading, writing and math skills at key stages of students' elementary and secondary school education.
- 1.5. To receive staff presentations on the implementation and assessment of various academic programs, both elementary and secondary, within the board.
- 1.6. To make recommendations to the board regarding the establishment/expansion/relocation of focus/specialized programs, in the curriculum and special education departments.
- 1.7. To receive staff presentations on Special Education issues and initiatives.
- 1.8. To receive staff presentations on professional learning initiatives i.e. PA Days.
- 1.9. To receive staff presentations that help students transition to high school.
- 1.10. To develop strategies to help attract/retain Catholic students.

## 2. Expected Outcome of the Committee's Work:

2.1 To ensure continuous improvement of student achievement and well-being.

## 3. Committee Membership:

3.1 The Student Success & Pathways Committee will be comprised of five Trustees.

## 4. Resource Personnel:

- 4.1 Director of Education
- 4.2 Associate Director
- 4.3 Superintendent of Curriculum & Assessment
- 4.4 Superintendent of Exceptional Learners
- 4.5 Chief Information Officer
- 4.6 Principal of Student Success
- 4.7 Coordinator: Elementary Programs
- 4.8 Coordinator: Secondary Programs
- 4.9 Research Officer, Instructional Services
- 4.10 Superintendents of Education: School Leadership
- 4.11 Coordinating Manager, Budget & Audit Services
- 4.12 Administrative Assistant, Director's Office

As agenda requires: Curriculum, Planning, Plant, and Transportation Department Staff

## 5. Meeting Schedule and Time:

5.1 The Student Success & Pathways Committee will meet at least three times per year or as needed.

Trustee Membership: F. Alexander M. Barbieri M. lafrate T. McNicol A. Saggese Last Revision / Approval Date:

# York Catholic District School Board MINUTES STUDENT SUCCESS & PATHWAYS COMMITTEE Wednesday, November 13, 2024

## Attending:

Tr	ustee Committee Membe	ers: (In Person) F. Alexander, A. Saggese (Virtual) M. Barbieri
0	ther Trustees:	(In Person) M. lafrate
Α	bsent with Notice:	J. DiMeo, A. Grella
A	dministration:	A. Arcadi, J. De Faveri, J. Sarna, A. Battick
St	aff:	Marisa Benakis, Daniel LaGamba Cristine Mazzeo, Anthony Pasquini, Tim Laliberte, Joel Chiutsi Jennifer Powers
R	ecording:	L. Coquim
Pi	residing:	A.Saggese, Committee Chair
1.	OPENING PRAYER: (	The Land Acknowledgement was recited after the Prayer)
2.	ROLL CALL: A	ll present. Absent with notice - J. DiMeo, A. Grella
3.	APPROVAL OF NEW MA	ATERIAL: NIL
4.	APPROVAL OF THE AG THAT the Student Success MOTION: Alexander/ Barb CARRIED	& Pathways Committee Agenda be approved as presented.

- APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES THAT the Minutes of the Student Success & Pathways Committee Minutes held on May 13, 2024 MOTION: Alexander/ Barbieri CARRIED
- 6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: NIL
- 7. OUTSIDE PRESENTATION(S): NIL
- 8. PRESENTATION(S): Curriculum Updates Presentations Presented by Anthony Arcadi, Superintendent of Education: Curriculum and Assessment

## A. Artificial Intelligence Update

Superintendent Arcadi presented an overview of YCDSB's approach to integrating AI into education, highlighting the issuance of a September 2024 document that establishes ethical and privacy-focused guidelines based on Catholic values. Trustees were introduced to a new AI Parent Guide, which provides definitions and explains YCDSB's stance on generative AI tools like ChatGPT and Gemini, though no specific tools are endorsed. Emphasizing the balance between educational benefits and student protection, the guide outlines AI's alignment with curriculum goals, the importance of academic integrity, and expectations for responsible use. Additionally, AI's role in fostering critical thinking was discussed, with teachers encouraged to integrate AI in ways that enhance learning without diminishing student contributions.

Key topics covered included privacy guidelines, such as avoiding identifiable student data in AI platforms, and a Green-Yellow-Red framework for evaluating tool security. For students aged 13–17, parental consent is required for data-related AI activities, ensuring family involvement in privacy decisions. Trustees also reviewed YCDSB's stance on academic integrity, where AI use must complement, not replace, student work, with clear boundaries to avoid plagiarism. Resources like Google's "Guardian's Guide to AI" and an AI citation guide will be available to parents to support informed engagement with AI. Trustees expressed gratitude for the board's proactive approach, especially in providing transparent, supportive resources for families navigating AI in education.

Trustee Alexander inquired if the AI guidelines created by the curriculum align with ministry standards. Superintendent Arcadi confirmed they do.

Trustee Saggese raised concerns about ensuring AI doesn't replace the skill of researching resources. An example was provided that often students may not remember how to locate Scripture passages from a Bible, and instead use BibleGateway, an AI tool. Superintendent Arcadi assured that AI is a tool to complement, not replace, teachers or educators. Trustee Saggese inquired about the board's ability to create its own AI. Superintendent Arcadi confirmed they are exploring the development of an internal AI engine, using their documents to allow students to access only board-specific data.

#### B. STREAM Centres of Excellence

Presented by Marisa Benakis - SREAM Consultant

The STREAM Centres of Excellence have had a significant impact, facilitating 315 workshops by the end of Term 1, engaging over 315 educators and nearly 8,000 students across all elementary schools. Workshops are redesigned to align more closely with curriculum goals and Catholic Social Teachings, tackling real-world issues like mental health, stewardship, and social justice using tools such as coding, robotics, and 3D design. The theme "Pilgrims of Hope" inspires students to approach challenges with creativity and optimism, while a focus on each monthly Saints connects STREAM learning with faith-based role models.

Parents and guardians are now included in data collection, with feedback showing positive impacts on student engagement and career readiness. Post-visit slideshows celebrate learning and are widely shared within school communities. STREAM Centres also support school-led, multi-day projects and offer professional development tied to new STEM-integrated curricula. Future initiatives include the "A Rover's Story" program, blending STREAM learning with the Catholic Social Teaching on Human Dignity, further emphasizing STREAM's role in fostering faith-driven, purposeful education.

Trustee Alexander expressed excitement about the groundbreaking initiatives and praised the 100% student involvement. He asked for an example of integrating geography. Consultant Benakis explained they would align global issues with geography.

Trustee lafrate expressed enthusiasm for STREAM and asked about the feedback from grade 7 and 8 students. Consultant Benakis explained that these students initially wanted more leadership roles, so schools were given the flexibility to explore STREAM in ways that suited them. Benakis also noted that they receive many inquiries from other boards and actively share their work to support equitable opportunities for all students.

## C. Continuing Education: Travel for Credit Programs

Presented by Anthony Pasquini - Principal of Continuing Education

The International Language program has expanded to include IGBO (Nigerian Language), following a parent's request and high demand, with the parent helping secure an instructor. The program now operates across eight sites and offers a virtual option. Additionally, an elementary band program was introduced at St. Elizabeth CHS, with performances scheduled for Christmas and Spring.

Fall Night School credit programs remain popular due to advertising, innovative teachers, and robust offerings, though Saturday International Language courses saw a decline, possibly due to the March Break Travel for Credit program. There has been a significant increase in after-school remedial programs for Grades 9 and 10, focusing on EQAO and OSSLT preparation. These programs are highly funded by the Ministry of Education and are now streamlined through a central registration platform.

Trustee Alexander found the presentation engaging and advised them to consider natural disasters when focusing on Spain. Trustee lafrate expressed excitement for the students, while Trustee Saggese noted that feedback from previous programs highlights their success and encourages student participation.

## 9. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS:

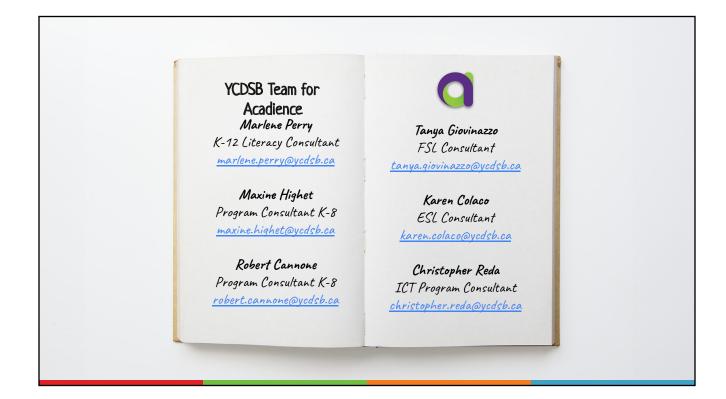
Superintendent Arcadi provided an update on a letter sent to the Ministry requesting the continuation of the de-streaming teacher support. The Ministry has not yet responded.

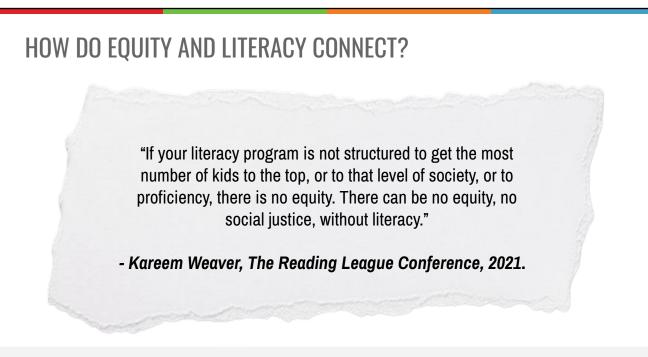
## 11. NOTICE OF MOTION:

- 12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S): NIL
- 13. NEXT MEETING DATE: To be Announced
- 14. ADJOURNMENT: 2:53 pm ON MOTION: Alexander/ lafrate CARRIED









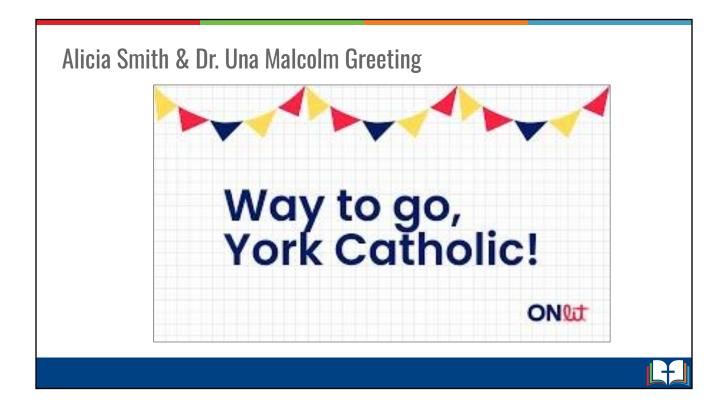
Catholic Education with Jesus Christ as our model

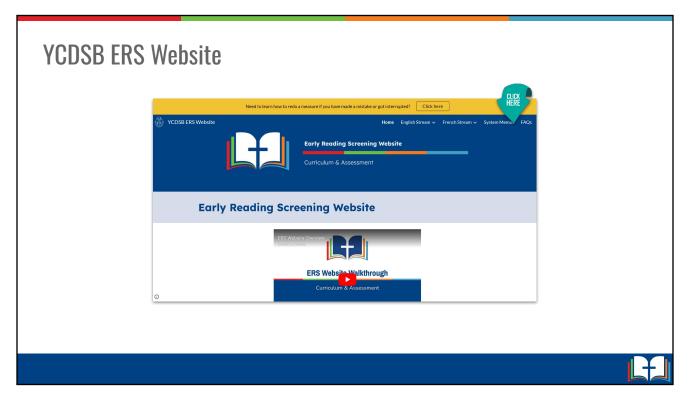
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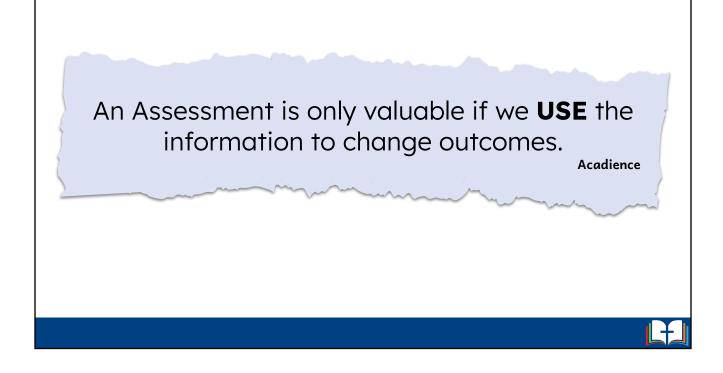


# **ERS Website Launch**

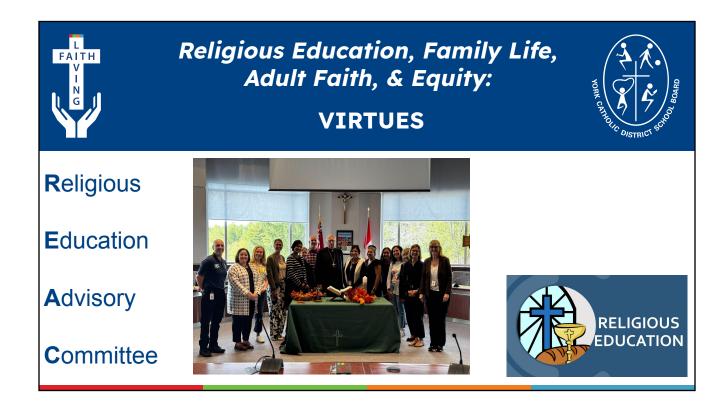
Curriculum & Assessment









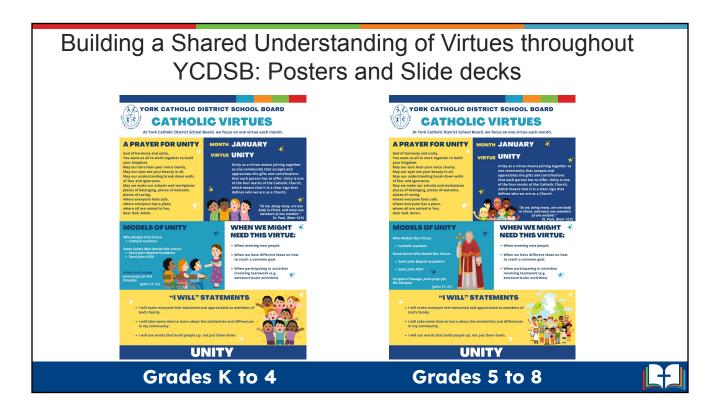


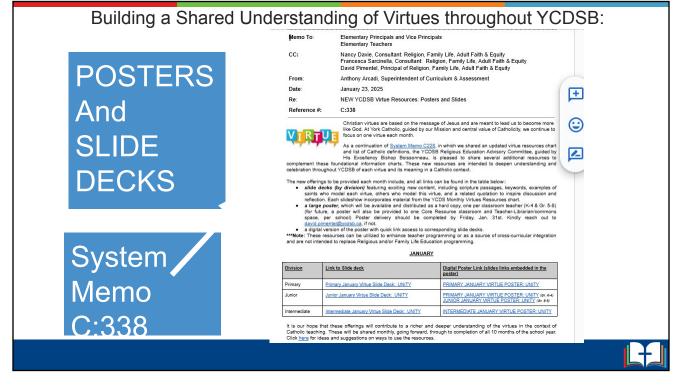
# Building a Shared Understanding of Virtues throughout YCDSB: Reference Documents

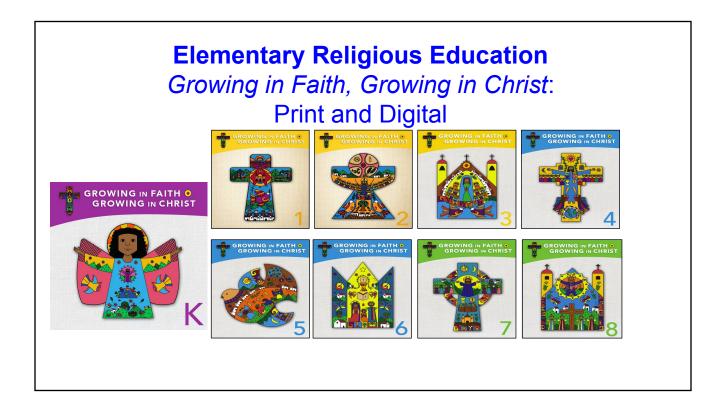
					REV	/ Nov. 2024
		York Catholic District School Board Virtues Resource			() () () () () () () () () () () () () (	
MONTH OCGE or Liturgical Season	CATHOLIC VIRTUE	I WILL STATEMENTS	SCRIPTURE PASSAGE Key Word (s)	EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE WHO MODEL THIS VIRTUE	OTHER VIRTUOUS FIGURES	QUOTATION
SEPTEMBER A self-directed, responsible, life-long learner	Courage	<ul> <li>I will stand up for what I know is right and just based on the word of God.</li> <li>I will face challenges, fears and difficulties with fortitude.</li> <li>I will trust God.</li> </ul>	(Manhew 14: 22-27) fortitude	who died because of their faith in Jewn.) Saint Marguerite d'Youville	those who act as champions for the rights and dignity of others	"We shall steer safely farces every storm so long as our beart is right, our intention fervear, our course usedfau and our trust fixed on Ood." St. Francis de Sales
OCTOBER A discerning believer	Compassion	<ul> <li>I will seek to understand others by listening.</li> <li>I will be willing to forgive others.</li> <li>I will give of my resources to help those in need.</li> </ul>	(The Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 25-36) empathy, suffering with	Saint Vincent de Pau Saint Teresa of Calcutta	those who case for people who are ill or dying	*Compassion is like the lens of the heart. 
NOVEMBER A responsible citizen	Justice	I will treat others in a just, equitable and loving manner.     I will play by the rules, take turns and share.     I will be open-minded, listen to others and acknowledge other voices	The Laborers in the Vineyard: (Matthew 20 1-16) harmony, right relationship	Saint Josephine Bakhita Saint Martin de Porres	those who work for truth and reconciliation	<sup>17</sup> Justice is love, serving only God who is its object <sup>1</sup> St. Augustus of Hippo
DECEMBER Advent	Норе	<ul> <li>I will trust in God's love.</li> <li>I will maintain a positive attitude and look for the brighter side of situations.</li> <li>I will rely on the grace of the Holy Spirit for patience and strength.</li> </ul>	The Annunciation (Luke 1: 28-38) trust in God	Mother Mary, Mother of Jesus	those who participate in mission work	"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound it hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." It Peal (Fees 15-19)

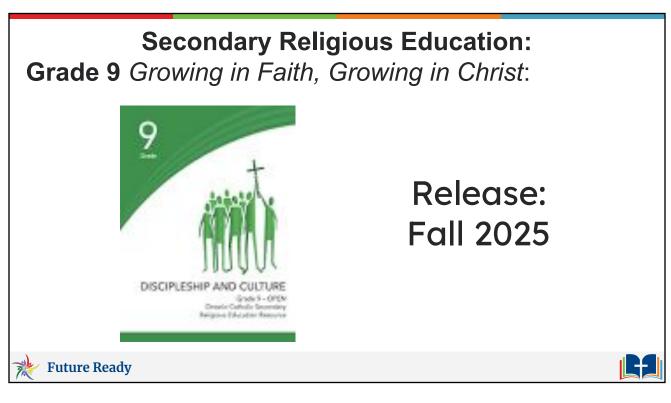
×	York Catho	lic District Scho	ol Board: Understanding Catholic Virtues		
		s the power or	attitude to do good.		
What is a Chri					
			of Jesus, leading us to become more like God. re focus on one virtue each month.		
		virtues are roo	oted in the seven traditional virtues.		
MONTH	CATHOLIC VIRTUE	Key Word (s)	CATHOLIC DEFINITION/EXPLANATION		
SEPTEMBER	Courage	fortitude	Courage as a virtue means being strong in times of difficulty. In the Catholic Church, courage is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.		
OCTOBER	Compassion	empathy, suffering with	Compassion as a virtue means following the example of Jesus by understanding and sharing in the feelings of others. The Catholic Church teaches us to care for our brothers and sisters when they suffer.		
NOVEMBER	Justice		Instice as a virtue means doing the right thing. It means acting like Jesu in treating everyone with respect and in giving others what they deser Justice is one of the four cardinal virtues, which means it is one of the main virtues on which the other virtues depend.		
DECEMBER	Норе	trust in God	Hope as a virtue means placing our trust in God as we look ahead to the future in confident expectation. In the Catholic Church, <b>hope</b> means depending not on our own strength but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit.		

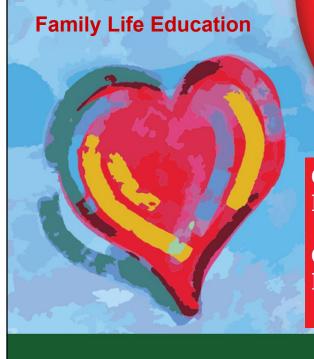












# Blessed& Beloved

Grade One Program: Fully Implemented

Grade 1 Teachers Inserviced November 2024

rclbenziger.com | (877) 275-4725

Tentative Schedule of *Blessed* & *Beloved* Rollout from Publisher

September 2025....Grades 2 and 3

September 2026...Grades 4 and 5

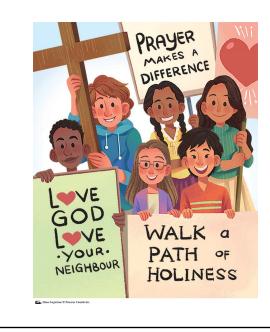
September 2027...Grades 6,7, 8

# While We Wait...

*Fully Alive* continues to be the only approved resource for the teaching of Family Life until the new program becomes available for each Grades 2 through 8.







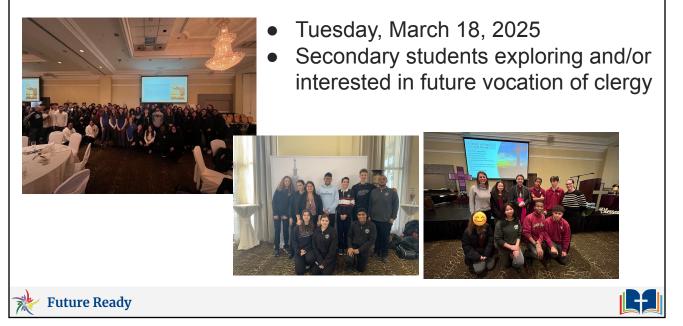
# Our Call to Catholic Education

**NTIP Teacher Sessions 2024** 

 Mandatory Elementary Religion and Family Life Sessions were held in December



# **Ordinandi Youth Event 2025**



# Boardwide Lenten Mass of Reconciliation and Renewal: March 27, 2025





# WFMP 2024 Conference: Pilgrims of Hope

- YCDSB staff presented workshops for elementary and secondary teachers on a number of topics
- WFMP 2025 planning well underway, and will include the biennial *Youth Forum*



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YOUTH 💐 FORUM
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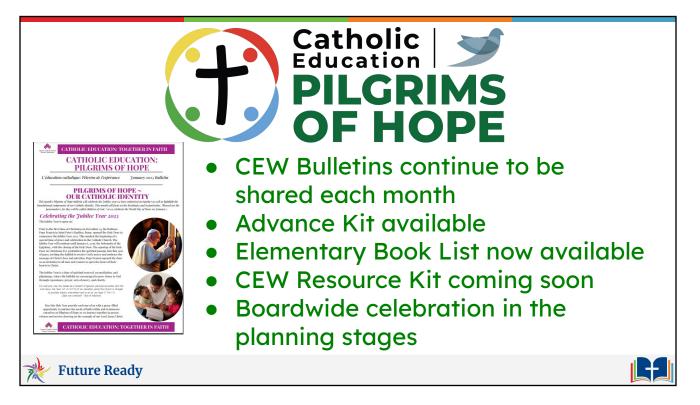


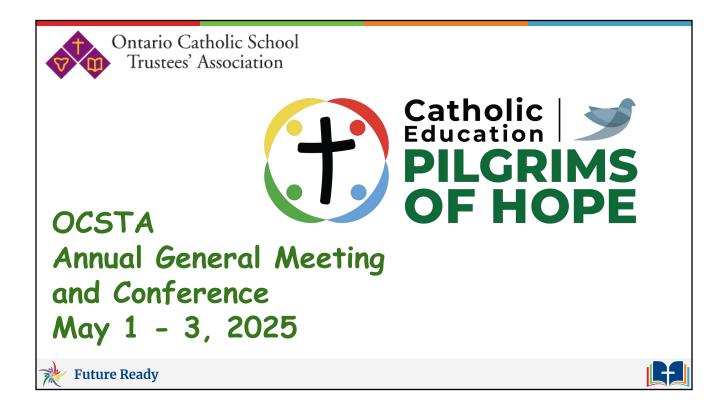
# Pastoral Zone Meeting February 5th



St. Agnes Kouying Tsao Parish, Markham









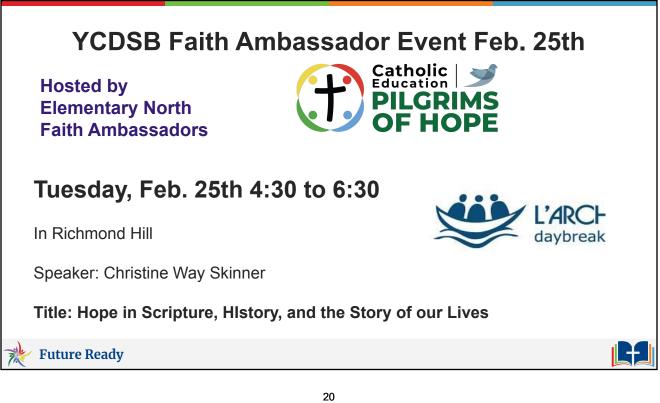
# Faith Ambassador Program 2024-25 **Adult Faith**

"We are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making an appeal through us ...See now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of goodness!" Corinthians 5:20, 6:22

> Faith Ambassador events planned throughout the year. All are welcome!

> > welcome











# **GRADE 4 PROFESSIONAL LEARNING**

Overview:

- This initiative integrated Indigenous knowledge and perspectives into Language, Math, Science, and Religious Education.
- Grade 4 teachers gained strategies to create meaningful curriculum connections while emphasizing the interdisciplinary nature of Indigenous knowledge.
- Special focus was given to Religious Education, highlighting parallels between Indigenous ways of knowing and stewardship of the Earth.





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# **GRADE 5 LANGUAGE LESSONS**

## **Overview:**

- Developed in summer 2024, a series of lessons were designed based on five Indigenous texts, selected for varied levels and themes to support diverse learners (in consultation with GoodMinds and Indigenous community partners).
- Grade 5 teachers used Literature Circles to foster deep, reflective discussions.
- Teachers were introduced to the spider web discussion format to promote meaningful, collaborative conversations.



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# GRADE 6 & 7 FROST AND FIRE GAMES

**Overview:** 

- Grade 6 or 7 students engaged in a full-day event (January 13, 2025 and March 3, 2025) featuring Indigenous cultural games and activities, including the Creator's Game, traditional Inuit games, drumming, and dancing.
- The event was organized and facilitated by Grade 11 and 12 student leaders from the host schools, who were responsible for the planning and execution of all parts of the event

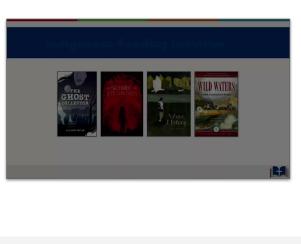


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# **GRADE 7 & 8 SOCIAL STUDIES AND LANGUAGE**

## Overview:

- The Edwin pilot initiative provided Grade 7 teachers with the opportunity to learn how to use Indigenous resources for Social Studies and History.
- Feedback from teachers will be collected in May 2025 to assess the platform's effectiveness and determine our direction for the creation of new resources.
- Grade 8 teachers continue to access a series of Indigenous texts and lessons that align with Strand A in the Language curriculum. Teacher feedback was collected, and this video presents a sample of their responses.



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# GRADE 9 GEOGRAPHY

Overview:

- Teachers participated in the OFIFC Trauma-Informed Schools Workshop, gaining strategies to support both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students.
- They explored the revised CGC1W curriculum, focusing on Indigenous expectations and authentic perspectives.
- Educators also collaborated to develop resources for the de-streamed curriculum, prioritizing Indigenous voices.



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# **GRADE 9 BIOLOGY**

## **Overview:**

- Educators will receive a resource package for the de-streamed unit, developed with Indigenous partners to integrate diverse perspectives while meeting curriculum expectations.
- The unit incorporates land-based learning and experiential activities to enhance engagement and deepen ecological understanding.



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# GRADE 11 AUTHOR TALK

Overview:

- All Grade 11 NBE3U and NBE3C classes will receive a virtual author presentation, featuring Indigenous author Richard Van Camp, who will lead a creative writing workshop and share insights into his experiences as an Indigenous author.
- The presentation aligns with the NBE curriculum, deepening students' understanding of Indigenous storytelling, literature, and cultural perspectives.



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