



Board meeting report from Catholic Student Trustee, Andrew D'Alessio

Student Trustee Report - September 19, 2017

Tonight, I am very excited, as this is my first board report and therefore marks the beginning of another school year. I would like to state how privileged I feel to be sitting here tonight at the board table.

Throughout my time as Student Trustee I can assure you all that I will provide this Board with many insights and recommendations from a Catholic student's perspective. I plan on being a strong voice for the students across the board. I am looking forward to having the honour of working with the members of the Student Senate. We have a strong senate this year with Vice Chair Toni Steele from St. Thomas Aquinas CHS and Secretary Michael Fenn from St. Mary CHS.

My goal is to promote our Catholic Faith within my fellow Student Senate members and work towards collecting student voice so that they can be empowered to make a difference at their schools.

The school year began on September 5th. Students across the board now have to start getting used to getting up before 11:00 am. and getting back into the routine. Student councils were very busy planning activities for the new students at their schools. Many of our elementary schools are planning open house events in September and their students and parents will enjoy welcome barbecues. The open houses are great because it allows parents to meet the teachers.

Many schools are gearing up for the Terry Fox Run where our schools will raise a lot of money for cancer research. The high school sports are starting in full swing. In the fall, there is football, boy's volleyball, girl's basketball, tennis, track and field and cross country. Several of our high schools are starting up clubs like the "Link Crew" and "buddy systems" that welcome new students to their schools making them feel comfortable.

Schools across the board have also received International students from different countries. How fortunate we are to share and learn about other cultures and make new friends. Many of the mission teams have begun and I know they are a big presence among the rest of the students in their school. Students look up to them and the work they will do to help poorer communities.

Many of our schools are planning opening masses to celebrate our Catholic faith. We are very fortunate to begin the school year as a community in Christ. I would like to conclude by stating that I am looking forward to promoting our Catholic faith and representing our student voice. I thank you all for this opportunity and I feel privileged to be part of our Board of Trustees.

