



## Living out our Pastoral Plan

### *Welcome to Year 3 of our Pastoral Plan: We belong together*

Tricia Weltz, Director of Education

As we begin a new school year, we joyfully enter Year 3 of our Pastoral Plan – a year that invites us to fully live out the call to community, faith, and shared purpose. Our theme, “We Belong Together,” reminds us that we are not meant to journey alone. In every classroom, staffroom, hallway, and home, we are called to recognize the dignity of one another and to build a culture where all are seen, valued, and loved.

This year also calls us to strengthen our ties with our parishes, families, and broader communities – reaching out in service, collaboration, and compassion. Together, we walk forward – stronger in unity, rooted in Christ, and committed to being a Catholic school system where every person knows they belong.



This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you.

John 15:12

### *What's Inside:*

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# Celebrating our Catholic Identity & The Pastoral Plan



**We belong together**  
school, family & community

## *Year 3 Toolkit*

We are excited to launch and begin living out Year 3 - We belong together.

Each month will offer meaningful opportunities for engagement across our schools and system. These efforts are thoughtfully aligned with our renewed Virtues Program - Celebrating Our Catholic Identity.

More detailed plans and descriptions will be shared with schools and staff at the start of each month to help guide and support local implementation.

SEPTEMBER: Launch Month  
*We belong together*

OCTOBER: Faith  
*Trusting in God Together*

NOVEMBER: Charity  
*Love in Action*

DECEMBER: Advent  
*Waiting Together with Hope*

JANUARY: Temperance  
*Living with Balance & Peace*

FEBRUARY: Justice  
*Dignity for All*

MARCH: Lent  
*Walking Together in Faith*

APRIL: Prudence  
*Guided by Wisdom*

MAY: Fortitude  
*Strength in Community*

JUNE: Hope  
*United in Joy*

**A system-wide guide to  
cultivating belonging, virtue,  
and faith in action.**

## 2025-2026 Year at-a-glance

Here is a general overview of what you can expect to help your school community plan for Year 3 of our Pastoral Plan. We belong together.

**SEPTEMBER** - We will launch this year's theme. There will be a community prayer service and assembly. We belong by celebrating who we are.

**OCTOBER** - We will invite schools to develop a friendship with another school. We will engage in a Thanksgiving "gift forward" challenge. We belong through shared prayer and connection.

**NOVEMBER** - We will start a kindness campaign. This may include letters of light for community members. We belong by lifting others in love.

**DECEMBER** - We will participate in a shared Advent service project. We belong in sacred waiting, together.

**JANUARY** - We will practice gratitude and live balanced, joyful lives. We belong when we shine from within and find joy in the good that surrounds us.

**FEBRUARY** - We will practice kindness to ourselves and each other. We belong through fairness, inclusion, and love.

**MARCH** - We will focus on renewal, forgiveness, and reflection. We belong through healing hearts and reconciliation.

**APRIL** - We will focus on stewardship and living as joyful disciples. We belong through our care for each other and our world.

**MAY** - We will honour Catholic Education Week, our Mother Mary, and each other. We belong by celebrating the gifts of community, gratitude, and companionship.

**JUNE** - Celebrations of our year together and our many moments of belonging. We belong to a future filled with hope and promise.



# Ideas & Opportunities



We are called to build community where belonging, service, and love are made visible and tangible through our shared action.

## *Other considerations*

There are so many ideas and opportunities for us to consider as we live out the final year of our Pastoral Plan. With a focus on strengthening our relationships with each other, our families, and the broader community, we can build and sustain places of belonging for all. As you think about the year ahead, perhaps you might consider these ideas and opportunities.

## **Spotlight on Belonging**

Celebrate school-based stories of students and staff who demonstrate compassion, leadership and solidarity.

## **Gratitude Trees or Walls of Blessing**

Visual displays that reflect the many ways God blesses us and how we share those blessings.

## **Belonging Audits**

Engage in a shared reflection on how welcoming our spaces and practices are and identify what we can do differently.

## **Belonging Days**

Create opportunities for families to share cultural stories, food, language or traditions with each other.

## **Community Connections**

Engage students in learning more about how we can support and serve different community partners.

## **Belonging Buddies**

Form cross-grade partnerships to foster mutual care and inclusion.

**NCDSB**  
*A place where we all belong.*

**Year 3: We belong together**