

Good evening, everyone.

It is such a pleasure to be here tonight to introduce a video that showcases something truly special happening in our board. Thanks to funding from the Italian Government, through the Italian Consulate in Toronto, four of our YCDSB schools have been part of an amazing international journey.

It's called the **eTwinning Program**. This innovative project began as a small pilot in 2004 at St. Gregory the Great Academy and has since expanded to include St. Padre Pio, St. Cecilia, and Divine Mercy Catholic Elementary Schools.

Now, eTwinning is so much more than just learning a language. It is about breaking down classroom walls. Through a safe, digital platform, our students collaborate, chat, and learn right alongside their peers in Italy and across Europe. They aren't just practicing Italian; they are building real relationships, discovering new cultures, and learning what it truly means to be a global citizen.

The photos you are about to see capture students participating in carefully planned collaborative projects with classes of the same grade level abroad. They show our students presenting their work to peers on the other side of the ocean, exchanging ideas, building friendships, and celebrating their learning through exhibitions and art showcases.

The eTwinning program **really is** the future of education. We are so proud of our students and educators for bringing this program to life, and we are thrilled to share their journey with you right now.

Please enjoy the video.