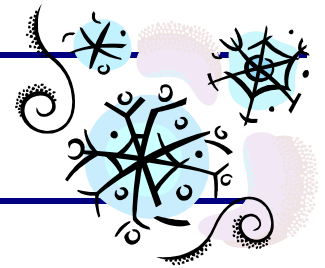




Toronto Catholic District School Board Winter UPDATE 2010



Dear Members of the TCDSB Community:

We are all aware of the recent tragedy in Haiti with the loss of life and property due to a massive earthquake. We recognize many members of our community who have relatives and friends in the affected regions. Our prayers are offered to the victims and their families as they attempt to cope with the aftermath of this recent catastrophe.

Loving God, we ask you in this time of great fear and sorrow to be with all who suffer and experience pain, loss and death through the tragedy of the earthquake in Haiti.

Through the inspiration of your Son Jesus, the Prince of Peace, lead us in ways that can assist those affected by this tragedy .May we join our efforts with all people of good will to bring your healing to those who are in need.

Strengthen and comfort all who grieve the loss of friends and relatives. Strengthen and guide those who are working in relief efforts – providing comfort food, shelter and whatever is needed to bring healing to people’s lives. Help them bring your peace and your justice to this troubled area.

Mary, consoler of the grieving pray for us

Jesus, healer of those in need graciously hear us.

God of Peace and justice, guide our efforts.

As a Catholic community, we are called upon many times to reach out to those in need of relief aid. Let us come together to help those who are forced to deal with horrific conditions. Donations can be made on-line through ShareLife www.sharelife.org or the Red Cross www.redcross.ca/article.asp?id=000005&tid=003 We thank you for your kind consideration of this request.

Ann Perron, Director of Education

Kindergarten Registration

Registration at all elementary schools across the Toronto Catholic District School Board began January 4th, 2010. Families are invited to call the Catholic school closest to their home to register their children. For information about Kindergarten, French Immersion and Extended French programs, call 416-222-8282, ext. 5314 or visit <http://www.tcdsb.org/curriculum/kindergarten.htm>.



Early Learning Programs for September

The Province has confirmed the schools for the first year of implementation of the full-day Early Learning Program. A new Catholic curriculum, based largely on the existing

Catholic kindergarten program, will be developed for full-day early learning. Certified teachers and certified early childhood educators (ECE) will work together to help children learn during the regular school day. Through instruction and play-based learning, children will develop their capacity in language and mathematics, build a strong foundation for future learning, engage in healthy physical activities and the arts, and develop socially and emotionally through interaction with their peers and the adults who teach and guide them.

Approved Schools for Phase 1 of Full-Day Early Learning for September 2010:

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, Christ the King, Holy Child, Holy Cross, Holy Family, Holy Name, Immaculate Conception, James Culnan, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Precious Blood, Sacred Heart, Santa Maria, St. Angela, St. Anthony, St. Antoine Daniel, St. Barbara, St. Charles, St. Dunstan, St. Elizabeth Seton, St. Francis Xavier, St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. John Bosco, St. Leo, St. Luke, St. Martha, St. Martin de Porres, St. Maurice and Stella Maris

As communicated in December, it is the Province’s intention to have the full-day Early Learning Program in all publicly-funded elementary schools across Ontario by September 2015. The list of schools above has been selected for the first phase of implementation.

Much work lies ahead in planning and preparing for the implementation of this exciting new learning initiative in the phase 1 sites, and indeed in planning for the extension of the Early Learning Program to our other elementary schools in the future. We will endeavour to keep you informed throughout the planning process. The Board continues to offer a wide range of programs and services for young children, including: our already vibrant half-day Catholic Kindergarten program, after-school programs, Parenting and Family Literacy Centres, Early Years Centres and Best Start Centres.

The Board’s website continues to be a good resource for families who would like more information about the Early Learning Program, as well as any other programs and services offered by our Board. Please visit www.tcdsb.org regularly to see the latest news and information.

Reporting of cancellations or closures

Cancellation of school bus transportation or school closures due to inclement weather will be reported through the following vehicles:

- A news release sent to all media outlets in Toronto

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2009-2010			
Wards			
1. Joseph Martino		8. Mary Ann Robillard	
2. Ann Andrachuk, Vice-Chair		9. Catherine LeBlanc-Miller	
3. Sal Piccinini		10. Barbara Poplawski	
4. Mary Cocogna		11. Angela Kennedy, Chair	
5. Maria Rizzo		12. Paul John Crawford, Honorary	
6. Rob Davis		Treasurer	
7. John Del Grande		Connor Rollit, Student	
		Trustee	

- An email to the system to advise of any cancellations or closures
- Information sent electronically to E-News subscribers
- Transportation Department website at http://www.schoolbus.to/c_home.asp
- Updates posted on the Board's 24-hour telephone information line, 416-222-8282, extension 2873, the Board's website at www.tcdsb.org and the

Budget Consultation Process

The Toronto Catholic District School initiated a lengthy budget consultation process in November 2009 to prepare for the development of the 2010-2011 budget. This consultation process included a number of presentations made to members of our Catholic community, including Catholic School Advisory Council representatives, the Union Staff Liaison Committee, the Community Advisory Committee and the Catholic Parent Involvement Committee as well as trustees and interested parents and stakeholders.

These presentations outlined the budget process, and highlighted the projected surplus of \$3.05 million for 2010-2011. The focus of the consultation has been to provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to identify their priorities as we move towards finalizing the board's budget in the coming months.

If you have not had an opportunity to attend any of the meetings that took place during the period of November to January, we would encourage you to visit the board's website www.tcdsb.org and complete an online survey to make your views known.

The survey will be available until Friday, February 12th.

Budget reports will be going to Board for discussion/consideration this spring, and delegations are welcome at those monthly meetings. Should you wish to make a presentation on the budget, you may contact the office of the recording secretary at 416-222-8282 ext. 2293.

We thank all those who have already taken the time to attend one of the consultation sessions, or who have already completed the survey.

We look forward to your continued participation in the process.

Strategic Renewal Update

The Road Ahead, Progress Report #2, December 2009, has been completed and the entire document is now available on the board's website at <http://www.tcdsb.org/Strategic%20Renewal/Strategic%20Renewal%20Progress%20Report%20December%202009.pdf>. Some of the highlights of that report include the following:

Student Achievement in our Catholic Learning Communities is the first and central core dimension of Strategic Renewal. The annual Board Learning Improvement Plan is posted on the board's website and will be reviewed mid-year in collaboration with Ministry of Education officials and key Toronto Catholic District School Board colleagues. Each school's annual School

Learning Improvement Plan is posted on the school's website and is considered a dynamic document available to both Catholic School Advisory Councils and individual parents.

Governance and Community Engagement is the second core dimension of Strategic Renewal and focuses on our shared responsibilities to ensure collaborative processes and engaging participation by our stakeholders and significant partners. An important element is *Nurturing Our Catholic Community Partners*, a three year journey of the TCDSB and all its communities to fulfill its Mission through the ministries of Word, Worship and Witness. Our focus in 2009-10 is on Word.

Excellence in Business Services: Deloitte Review is the third core dimension of Strategic Renewal and focuses our attention on the 22 detailed issues and accompanying recommendations to achieve excellence in our business functional areas.

Strategic Renewal 2009-2010



- **Issue 1:** the sequence of budget planning activities has been redesigned to start earlier allowing more time for the board's ability to balance the budget and meet Ministry timelines. A proactive, public consultation process has been planned and communicated with supporting details, documents and timelines posted on the website. A three year focused delivery budget has been approved by the Ministry with a projected surplus in both the 2nd and 3rd years of the plan.
- **Issue 7:** a formal strategy to reduce the number of portables in use has been implemented and received by the Ministry.
- **Issue 8:** key TCDSB personnel are working collaboratively with Ministry staff to streamline timelines in an ambitious and comprehensive capital project planning process (additions, new schools, accommodation review committees) using benchmarking to other boards' timelines and leveraging best practices.
- **Issues 10, 11, 13:** these three Human Resources issues are related and require an integrated problem approach. A report has been developed with clear steps and stages to be implemented starting in January 2010. Leading practices from completed Ministry operational reviews and benchmarking to other GTA boards have informed the next steps outlined in the report.

- **Issue 12:** the original recommendation to centralize the IT function has been described as the significant element “ICT Systems enabling 21st Century leading + learning”. IBM Canada has been awarded the Request for Proposal to provide consulting services related to ICT Governance and a Three Year Technology Plan. The consultant’s report will be received by the Board in late March, in time to be considered in the on-going budget consultation process for 2010-11.

Looking forward: January - March 2010

- External consultant IBM Canada to complete review and report by March 2010.
- The redesign of Human Resources will begin in this period with the implementation of the identified steps and stages and the on-going use of Ministry resources to identify leading practices in the several areas of Human Resources.
- Progress Report 3 will be posted on Board website in April 2009.

Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy

The TCDSB is developing, through consultation with all stakeholders (including parents), an equity and inclusive education policy that encompasses eight areas of focus. Specifically, we are developing an Equity Human Resources policy congruent with the EIE strategy and with our denominational rights. The Board will be performing a cyclical review of the policy, guidelines and practises relating to equity and inclusive education, as well as the development of a religious accommodation policy.

The Board has been using indicators to identify barriers to student achievement. These would include achievement by gender, English Language Learners, Special Education, socio-economic status, etc. We will continue to consult in 2009-2010 with our community as to what additional indicators could be used to support the monitoring of the strategy in future years.

Equity and inclusive education policy and practise will support an engaging learning environment so that all students can feel empowered by what they are learning; supported by the teachers and staff from whom they are learning; and welcome in the environment in which they are learning.

The eight areas of EIE focus are the following:

- Board policies, programs, guidelines, and practices
- Shared and committed leadership
- School–community relationships
- Inclusive curriculum and assessment practices
- Religious accommodation
- School climate and the prevention of discrimination and harassment
- Professional learning
- Accountability and transparency

Importantly, the EIE strategy of equity and inclusion works in tandem to support our TCDSB mission of educating our students to their fullest potential through a community that is informed by Catholic beliefs and traditions. Our innate sense of social justice tells us that

we must respond with equity to each other according to our needs. One size hardly fits all and equity and inclusive education speaks to this practise.

In our age, equity and inclusion has taken on even more prescient meaning than in the past. Because of the increasing diversity and rate of change in society, equity and inclusion as a practise offer a means of addressing the needs of specific individuals and groups while being able to ensure social cohesion.

Accountability and Transparency

As you may already be aware, the Trustee Expense Policy has been revised to provide clarity around eligible expenses. Any expenses deemed ineligible through an independent audit conducted last year at the request of the Ministry of Education, have been repaid, or are in the process of being repaid. This is yet another step in the Board’s commitment to restoring public trust and confidence. Trustee Expenses are posted at www.tcdsb.org/trustees/Trustee%20Expenses/trusteeexpenses.htm.

Highlights of Bill 157

The Toronto Catholic District School Board has always recognized the moral obligation for adults to respond and report incidents that impact negatively on school climate. New legislation effective February 1st--*Bill 157 ‘Keeping Our Kids Safe At School Act’*--creates a legal obligation for all those employed to support schools to respond.

TCDSB supports the spirit of the legislation and views this as an opportunity to continue to ensure that our school communities are safe, caring and inclusive schools where Gospel values are lived out each day.

These new legislative requirements include:

- All board employees (teaching and non-teaching) must report to the principal if they become aware that a student may have engaged in an activity for which the student must be considered for suspension or expulsion. (*TCDSB Code of Conduct* lists activities considered for suspension or expulsion.). Boards may also put policies in place to require other non-board employees who come into direct contact with pupils on a regular basis to report such matters to the principal. Importantly, included in the list of those who have a duty to report are bus drivers. In the past this was an expectation, now it is a legal requirement.
- If a board employee who works directly with students observes a pupil behaving in a way that is likely to have a negative impact on school climate, he/she must respond to the behaviour. These behaviours include (but not limited to) racist, sexual, sexist, or homophobic comments, slurs, and jokes or graffiti, as well as activities for which suspension and expulsion must be considered. Board employees are not required to respond if responding would, in the employee’s opinion, cause immediate physical harm to him/herself, a student or another person.
- Principal must inform the parents/guardians of students who have been harmed as a result of any incident for which suspension or expulsion must be considered unless:

- 1) The victim is 18 years old or over,
 - 2) The victim is 16 or 17 years old and has withdrawn from parental control, or
 - 3) in the opinion of the principal, doing so would put the victim at risk of harm from the parent.
- In the past on those occasions when the principal (and vice principal) were out of the building a teacher was designated to act on the principal's behalf. Under the new legislation the principal of a school may delegate his or her powers under Part XIII of the *Education Act (Behaviour, Discipline and Safety)* to a vice-principal of the school or a teacher employed in the school, per ministry policy. A principal may only delegate his or her powers to a teacher if the principal and vice-principal are absent from the school and must respect the terms of all applicable collective agreements.

Recent Highlights: 25th Anniversary of Peace Garden

Over 4,000 students from Toronto Catholic schools gathered in Nathan Phillips Square on September 29th for the 25th Anniversary of the Peace Garden. Keynote Speaker, Justin Trudeau, MP, challenged the students to be "leaders today". His father, the late Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau, turned the sod for the Garden twenty-five years ago.



Archbishop Thomas Collins, Minister of Education Kathleen Wynne and Mayor David Miller also addressed the students. Several distinguished guests who have contributed to race relations and unity in TCDSB schools and communities were also in attendance.

Retired Social Worker, Order of Canada recipient and Hiroshima survivor, Ms. Setsuko Thurlow, shared her tragic experiences during World War II and urged students to take up the challenge of nurturing peace.

The celebration was hosted by the Toronto Catholic District School Board. Students acted as M.C.'s and there were performances by groups from Bishop Marrocco-/Thomas Merton C.C.S., St. Michael's Choir School and Dante Alighieri Academy.

The event also launched the TCDSB "Peace Ambassador" program which will see the appointment of a Peace Ambassador in each TCDSB school. The Peace Ambassador will have one obligation: to spread the word of Peace. An



(Left to Right): Bishop Marrocco/Thomas Merton C.C.S. student Ricky Rodrigues, Mr. Trudeau, Archbishop Collins, Mrs. Thurlow, Father Massey Lombardi and Connor Rollit, Student Trustee.

award in memory of St. Peter Claver, the Patron Saint of Race Relations, will be granted each year to the Peace Ambassador who has inspired peace and harmony in his or her school. *Peace.....amen*

TCDSB Captures the Olympic Spirit



Students, staff and families cheered on the Olympic flame as it made its way through the streets of Toronto on December 17th. Several local TCDSB schools attended the celebration planned

at the Square outside the Scarborough Town Center and, later that day; students from St. Luke and Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Schools were flag bearers at Nathan Phillips Square. Carrying flags that represent the 50 Olympic countries, the students formed an honour guard for the final torch carrier that day.

Three lucky TCDSB students were selected to carry the torch. Harmond De Juan, a student at Senator O'Connor College School carried the torch on the Toronto route from 100 York Mills Road to York Ridge Road.

Luis Santiago-Gonsalves, Grade 10 student at St. Patrick Catholic Secondary School carried 2010 Olympic Torch in Markham and Olivia Piluso, grade 9 student at Loretto Abbey Catholic Secondary School ran the historic route on December 21st in Port Colborne.

Toronto Catholic District School Board elementary school students were selected to display art work in the rotunda at Toronto City Hall from December 11th to 18th. Students from across the City were challenged to create two-dimensional art on the theme of the Olympic torch to coincide with its arrival in Toronto. Students, parents, staff and trustees attended a reception hosted by the Mayor on Friday evening, December 11th. Students were presented with certificates signed by the Mayor.



A former student at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys carried the Olympic torch on Thursday, December 17th. Joanne St. Bernard then surprised the pupils of St. Marguerite Bourgeoys by visiting with

the torch. Joanne talked to the pupils about the importance of being good citizens and about becoming community volunteers.