



Office of the Director of Education

June 20, 2008

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As we come to the end of another school year and look forward to the long, warm days of summer, it gives us all an opportunity to reflect on the past year. We hope that your child has experienced a successful year and that you have witnessed spiritual, emotional, physical and academic growth.

Your child may have celebrated First Communion, Reconciliation or Confirmation, one of the many milestones in your child's Catholic education experience. As a Catholic community, we are blessed with the opportunity to join in these celebrations with the strong partnership of home, school and parish.

Perhaps you have a child who is celebrating a graduation from Kindergarten to Grade 1, from Grade 8 to Secondary School or from Secondary School to explore future endeavours in the work place, Apprenticeship Programs, College or University. We know these are also exciting times. We acknowledge that students go through these transitions with some hesitation, but we are comforted with the knowledge that they have a solid Catholic education learning foundation that will guide them and that through the on-going support of family, friends and staff they will succeed.

We are blessed with the staff in our schools who are committed and devoted to Catholic Education and to serving the unique needs of each and every student – one student at a time. We have parents who continue to be involved in the education of their children, which has always proven to be a key ingredient to student achievement. We remain extremely appreciative of the countless volunteer hours and the increased parental engagement in our school communities. We encourage this and welcome it.

The last six months have been extremely difficult for our Board. We realize this has not been easy for our parents, staff, Catholic ratepayers, students and ultimately the Trustees. As you are aware, the Minister of Education appointed a Supervision Team effective June 4, 2008. Mr. Norbert Hartmann and Mr. Norm Forma are working diligently to identify processes and practices that will be accountable and transparent and will focus on including the opportunity for parental input on matters pertaining to budget items, services and programs. We assure you that parental consultation and input will remain a priority as we move forward.

At this time, it is premature to confirm these processes as the Supervision Team continues to explore and meet with staff and Trustees to properly prepare for implementation in the Fall 2008. We will take every opportunity to communicate with you at the beginning of the school year.

In the meantime, on behalf of all senior staff, I wish you and your loved ones a very safe and happy summer and THANK YOU for your on-going support of Catholic education. There has never been a more crucial time for all of us to come together and focus on continuing to build the legacy of Catholic education that was left for us to proudly carry on some 160 years ago.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Kobus".

Kevin Kobus
Director of Education

c.c. All Superintendents and All Principals