



August 29, 2008

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It is our pleasure to welcome you and your child to a new school year. The start of a school year is exciting and filled with anticipation and hope. Our aim is for your child to have a very successful year in our Catholic schools. We invite you as our key partner in Catholic education to continue your involvement, or to become involved, with your child's learning experience.

As Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto recently stated when referring to the Toronto Catholic District School Board, "*The fundamental theme is simple: selfless dedication to the common good... for the benefit of the children who receive it...*" It is with this quote in mind that we have prepared our plan and the structures being introduced with a focus on "Strengthening Public Trust and Confidence: A Call to Stewardship and Service". A full report on procedures as we move forward in a collaborative manner is posted on the web site at www.tcdsb.org

The report provides detailed information and we encourage you to review it and become familiar with it. The following highlights our objectives:

- Students, parents, staff, trustees and the general public are fully aware of all matters to be decided by the supervision team;
- opportunities exist for input from students parents, staff and community members on items of concern prior to their consideration for approval;
- a mechanism for seeking the advice of students, parents, trustees and community partners on future directions is in place;
- decisions are communicated in an effective and timely manner, and
- denominational rights, collective agreements and contractual obligations are both respected and honoured.

All partners are encouraged to attend and make their views known to us at regularly scheduled monthly meetings. These will be held on the third Wednesday of every month starting at 7:00 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre. The first meeting is scheduled for *Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Items scheduled to appear on each agenda, along with accompanying reports for these meetings, will be posted on the web site by the second Friday of each month. Decisions made on all matters will be circulated to all schools through the Director's Bulletin on the third Friday of each month and posted on the web site on following Monday.

Trustees will continue to play an integral part in advocating for and representing their communities. Constituencies will continue to have access to, and service from, their elected representatives.

Trustee roles will be focused on the: continuation of local constituency work, advocacy with staff and the Supervision Team through the appropriate channels on behalf of their constituents, and representation of the Board on external committees, such as the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association, Toronto Public Health and the Library Board.

Internal committee work will also continue with the Special Education Advisory Committee, the SALEP (Supervised Alternative Learning for Excused Pupils) Committee, suspension and expulsion hearings and they will have the power to make decisions on denominational issues. The Supervision Team will work closely with Trustees and seek their advice and input on matters being considered by the Team.

Creating a safe and welcoming environment for all students and staff continues to be a top priority while enabling our students to grow spiritually, emotionally, physically and intellectually. The Toronto Catholic District School Board is rooted in a rich tradition of offering quality Catholic education. Moving forward as a Catholic community of hope, we assure you that quality Catholic education will continue to be delivered to your child through innovative programs and supportive approaches that reach out to each and every student.

Thank you for choosing Catholic education. We look forward to your involvement and working with you to reach our common goal.

Sincerely,



Norbert Hartmann
Supervisor



Norm Forma
Associate Supervisor



Les Nemes
Director of Education

Cc: All Trustees
Director's Council
All Superintendents
All Principals and Vice-Principals
All Union/Federations and Associations