



# Toronto Catholic District School Board Summer UPDATE 2010



## End of Year Message from the Director of Education

As the year of the Word draws to a close, we reflect on the impact that the Word of God has in our daily lives in Catholic education. When we focus on the Word, we are given clarity of purpose, direction and peace in our hearts. Our prayers for our community and the world around us make a difference in our lives and are supportive while uniting us. We look forward next year to a focus on "Worship" when we will emphasize and celebrate the liturgical season of the Church. Through the efforts of Nurturing our Catholic Community, we are reinforcing and building on the Virtue of the Month initiative and the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations.

We have celebrated several milestones this year with school and Church anniversaries; successes in academics, athletics, art, music and more and I know that our school communities are busy this month with final papers, examinations, and report cards. Once again, we will watch proudly with our parent community as hundreds of our students graduate and move on to higher learning. I extend congratulations and best wishes to all of them.

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is committed to ensuring that all students in all of our schools will benefit from a publicly-funded Catholic education and be prepared for the challenges and with the skills they need to possess to address tomorrow's issues – not just at home but in graduate work and in the workplace. As leaders, teachers and shepherds, we are responsible to engage, encourage and light the path for students in our care.

Learning is an empowering experience and our shared desire is that we want students to be curious and excited about what they may bring to the journey and in turn share what they know with their brothers and sisters, and to ultimately improve and contribute to our shared space, the planet.

The Board continues to focus on critical thinking, problem solving, communicating effectively, collaboration, creativity and innovation. Ultimately, the goal is to help students become who they were born to be—to overcome any challenges and to aspire to new heights.

In closing, I wish each and every one of you a relaxing, re-energizing and pleasant summer. I know that many of our staff and students continue to study and work over the summer months. Many of our staff takes part in our Summer Institutes professional workshops; students attend summer school and some take part in Camp Olympia Leadership to prepare for next year. Still others use this time to give back to their communities and the world through social justice initiatives here and abroad.

Thank you for your ongoing support and may God bless you and your families. Have a wonderful summer.

## Exemplary Practice Awards



*St. Antoine Daniel Catholic School was among the many schools honoured for excellence in education at the annual TCDSB Exemplary Practice Awards.*

## School Year Calendar 2010-2011

Labour Day	September 6, 2010
School Starts (tentative)	September 7, 2010
Thanksgiving Day	October 11, 2010
Christmas Break (inclusive)	December 20-31, 2010
Family Day	February 21, 2011
Mid-Winter Break (inclusive)	March 14-18, 2011
Good Friday	April 22, 2011
Easter Monday	April 25, 2011
Victoria Day	May 23, 2011
Professional Activity Days:	
Elementary	September 2, 2010, November 19, 2010, January 21, 2011, February 18, 2011, May 20, 2011, June 30, 2011
Secondary	September 2, 2010, November 19, 2010, February 18, 2011, June 28, 29, 30, 2011

## Introducing the TCDSB Enterprise Portal

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is pleased to be moving forward with the development of an Enterprise Portal for the entire system in an effort to streamline workflow, reduce duplication of effort, increase efficiency and ultimately to provide a more positive experience for all visitors to the TCDSB public website as well as the internal Intranet.

A portal is a web-based point of entry to an organization's collection of information, resources and tools. Members of a portal

have access to resources based on their credentials (as staff, parent, student etc.). From a user perspective, the portal will provide a clean and straightforward interface that will allow individuals to quickly access up-to-date and relevant information online, with the ability to customize the type of information that they wish to receive. It will also eliminate the clutter of information sent out in so many different formats.

From an administrative perspective, the portal will allow community publishers to customize and upload materials quickly and efficiently. Administrators, managers, resource teams, school and support staff do not need to be experts in web design or web maintenance to publish information and timely communications.

A portal will integrate electronic communications such as monthly calendars, newsletters, photographs and memos easily without having to worry about the format of the various files. Rather than recreating the same data in multiple areas (such as enrolment figures), information that appears in several areas can be drawn from one single source, making it easier to keep information up to date and accurate. Portal technology will combine communications, document management, HR systems, calendars, news and events into one simple interface that will engage all our users, whether they are school staff, parents or students.

Discussions will continue among the various stakeholders—students, parents, staff (teaching and non-teaching), unions and trustees about the possibilities. The portal would facilitate communication among teachers, parents and students.

The portal is expected to go live on **January 1<sup>st</sup> 2011**. For information, visit: <http://sharepoint01/EP/default.aspx>.

## Farewell to Senior Staff

The Board bids a fond farewell to Mark Fenwick, Superintendent of Education with responsibility for Strategic Renewal, and to Bernice Brand, Superintendent of Education for Area 7 Schools, who are retiring this year.

Both have served the Toronto Catholic District School Board and its students for many years, and their expertise will be missed. We wish them well in their future endeavours.



Bernice Brand (above) and Mark Fenwick (below) with Director of Education Ann Perron and Ministry Supervisor Dr. Richard Alway.



## Student Trustee 2010-2011



Natalie Rizzo, who will be starting grade 12 at Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts in North York this fall, has been selected as Student Trustee for the Toronto Catholic District School Board for 2010-2011. She officially takes over from current Student Trustee, Connor Rollit, on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Ms. Rizzo is a Visual Arts student at her school and has been a member of the Catholic Student Leadership Impact Team (C.S.L.I.T.) since 2008. She has also been a member of the school's Student Advisory Council, as Junior Social Representative in Grade 9 and Arts Representative in Grade 10. In particular, she is interested in The Ontario No Sweat Network and other social justice issues. At Cardinal Carter she has been actively involved in the school's Social Justice Group, which targets issues such as poverty, Free the Children, Amnesty International and Development and Peace which fights for workers' rights in fair trade.

"I recently spent two weeks in Kolkata, India. That leadership experience provided me with a new perspective; challenging the values that I hold in my own life. I hope to bring this fresh viewpoint to the table as Student Trustee where I will focus on enhancing student leadership and voicing the concerns and interests of all students", says Ms. Rizzo.

"We look forward to Ms. Rizzo's involvement as a representative of the students. The Student Trustee provides us with insight into the needs and opinions of our young people," says TCDSB Chair Angela Kennedy.

"I welcome her and am confident that she is an excellent choice for Student Trustee. She will do well as she will bring enthusiasm, energy and commitment. She has proven to be a real leader," says outgoing Student Trustee Connor Rollit.

Ms. Rizzo will be the voice for more than 90,000 students from diverse cultures and language backgrounds in TCDSB's 201 Catholic elementary and secondary schools. TCDSB also serves 475,032 Catholic school supporters across the City of Toronto.

## Full-Day Kindergarten Program Phase II Sites

Earlier this year, the Province approved the implementation of the Full-Day Kindergarten Program at 28 Toronto Catholic District School Board sites for Fall 2010. Ministry required consultations with identified partners have been completed and the prescribed criteria have been considered to finalize site selections for the delivery of Phase II of the Program for September 2011 – 2012.

On June 15th the Ministry of Education approved the following sites for Phase II: Holy Rosary, Nativity of Our Lord, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Charles Garnier, St. Dominic Savio, St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, St. Norbert, St. Rita, St. Teresa and St. Wilfrid Catholic Schools.

The site selection process for Phase II sites reflected the revised criteria set out by the Ministry of Education:

- geographic distribution from Year 1 sites (2500m)
- all JK/SK classes in a school can accommodate the new model
- schools did not have an early French-Immersion program
- impact on Best Starts and current childcare
- impact of Full-Day Kindergarten on primary class size compliance
- impact on grades 4-8 class averages
- impact on existing child care programs

Please note that based on this revised criteria from the Ministry, additional Phase I sites which were not selected for 2010-11 could no longer be considered for Phase II implementation.

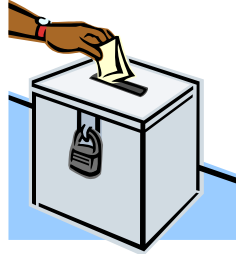
It remains the Province's intention to have the Full-Day Kindergarten Program in all publicly-funded elementary schools across Ontario by September 2015.

Much work lies ahead in planning and preparing for the implementation of this exciting new learning initiative for both the Phase I and Phase II sites. We will endeavour to keep you informed as we move towards full implementation.

Please visit the Board's website [www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org) for more information about Full-Day Kindergarten, as well as any other programs and services offered by our Board.

## Municipal Election

The next municipal election, including the election of Catholic school trustees, takes place on October 25<sup>th</sup>. All eligible Catholics are encouraged to ensure that they are registered to vote in this election. For more information about voter registration, contact Sandra Vitale by email [sandra.vitale@tcdsb.org](mailto:sandra.vitale@tcdsb.org) or at 416-222-8282 ext. 2666.



### **The following ward boundary changes take effect December 1st:**

Three elementary and two secondary schools in City Ward 24 (TCDSB Ward 5), currently serviced by Trustee Maria Rizzo will be moved to TCDSB Ward 7. Schools moving from **TCDSB Ward 5** to **Ward 7**: Blessed Trinity, Holy Redeemer, St. Agnes, Brebeuf College and St. Joseph's Morrow Park.

Three elementary schools in City Ward 21 (TCDSB Ward 6) currently serviced by Trustee Rob Davis will be moved to TCDSB Ward 9. Schools moving from **TCDSB Ward 6** to **Ward 9**: Holy Rosary, St. Alphonsus and St. Bruno.

Two elementary schools in City Ward 26 (TCDSB Ward 9) currently serviced by Trustee Catherine LeBlanc-Miller will be moved to TCDSB Ward 11. Schools moving from **TCDSB Ward 9** to **Ward 11**: Blessed John XXIII and St. Anselm.

***PLEASE NOTE: All schools continue to be serviced by their current Catholic School Trustee until November 30, 2010.***



## Celebrating Catholic Education

Catholic Education Week was launched with the annual Awards Night, honouring outstanding achievements of students, staff, alumni and our Catholic Community. Among the many honourees was Thurga Kanagasekarampillai, one of the winners of the Sr. Mary Hamilton Award for Exceptional Students.

***Thurga with Director of Education Ann Perron.***

## TCDSB Projects a Balanced Budget

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is pleased to report that according to the most recent projections, the Board will end the 2009-2010 school year with a cumulative surplus. Previously, the Board was projected to reduce its cumulative deficit by some \$7.8 million, but would continue to face a \$1.5 million cumulative deficit at the end of the 2009-10 year. A favourable court ruling has enabled the Board to balance its budget sooner than originally anticipated.

The Board is poised to adopt a balanced budget for the 2010-11 school year and is projected to continue to be in balance for the 2011-12 and 2012-13 school years. The budget report was approved on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

For the 2010-11 year and future years, the projected balance is both fiscally and educationally sustainable, featuring modest reinvestments in smaller class sizes in grades 4-8, in information technology, improved human resources and governance processes. This will be accomplished without major ongoing program reductions. On the capital side, we have now retired the board's capital deficit, and are on the cusp of major capital projects at 16 sites across the city which will improve learning conditions for students.

The Board is on track to complete revisions to by-laws, policies and processes at the board, which will include consultation with the trustees on these matters during the late summer and early fall. This includes the new trustee expenses policy already adopted and in place, a new code of conduct for trustees and the establishment of a new trustee liaison position in the Director's office to streamline and improve the interaction between trustees and board staff. The Board's Catholic Parent Involvement Committee and a Community Advisory Committee meet regularly with the Director of Education and the Ministry Supervisor to strengthen ties between the TCDSB and the broader Catholic community.

TCDSB is proud to report that the board has maintained a strong focus on student achievement over the course of this supervision, which has seen steady gains on provincial assessments. With strong leadership from board staff, the TCDSB has done well by its students and the broader community over the course of this supervision.

Staff is to be congratulated for ensuring that the level of services and programs for our students has been a priority throughout the budget process.

## St. Patrick Catholic Secondary School: NewArts, Media and Technologies Centre

The Toronto Catholic District School Board approved the development of a strategy to support the creation of a grades 9-12 Arts, Media and Technologies Centre at St. Patrick Catholic Secondary School in Toronto's east end.



The school was part of an Accommodation Review process that included five schools in that area of the city: Cardinal Newman, Jean Vanier, Neil McNeil, Notre Dame and St. Patrick.

After a lengthy review process, the Accommodation Review Committee recommended the programming change, and the

ARCs recommendations were approved at the June 16<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

Part of the rebranding strategy would include the renaming of the school. A working committee is to be formed to support the transition, as well as to explore possibilities of partnerships with community businesses and services.

TCDSB will now have four schools that offer arts programming for students: Cardinal Carter Academy in the north, Father John Redmond in the west, Bishop Marrocco/Thomas Merton in the downtown area and now St. Patrick's in the east end.

### Shared site possible for Blessed Trinity and St. Joseph Morrow Park

The Board approved the exploration of a shared site for Blessed Trinity Catholic School and St. Joseph Morrow Park Catholic Secondary School. Subsequent to the Ministry of Education approval of project scope and the Board's financial capacity, the Director of Education has been directed to proceed with the design and construction of a JK-12 school facility on the site of the current Blessed Trinity elementary school at 3205 Bayview Avenue, Toronto which would include: an 800 pupil-place all-girls secondary school to accommodate the St. Joseph Morrow Park school population, and a 285 pupil place co-ed elementary replacement for Blessed Trinity.

The Director of Education is to report to Board with the concept and funding recommendations at the September meeting of the Board. The current Blessed Trinity School would be temporarily relocated to the former St. Leonard facility during construction. The site of the former St. Leonard is to be declared surplus and disposed of when no longer required in support of current capital project relocation projects.

The Board thanks everyone involved with the lengthy process of exploring options for the accommodation of students from St. Joseph Morrow Park. We are confident that this innovative solution will meet the needs of the students in the area.

### Strategic Renewal Update

The third Progress Report, The Road Ahead: Strategic renewal 2009-2010 is available on the board's website: <http://www.tcdsb.org/Strategic%20Renewal/strategic%20renewal.htm>. A broad consultation was undertaken to determine "What would it look like if the best happened?". The feedback was analyzed, synthesized and consolidated by a large representative group of system leaders. Actions that have been taken during the period of December 2009 to April 2010, all focus on the three core dimensions of Student Achievement in Our Learning Communities, Governance and Community Engagement and Excellence in Corporate Services.

#### Summary of Some Recent Highlights:






- A proactive, public consultation process has been completed to help inform the budget dialogue.
- A formal strategy to reduce the number of portable classrooms in the system has been implemented and received by the Ministry of Education.
- TCDSB personnel are working collaboratively with Ministry staff to coordinate approvals for an ambitious multi-faceted capital plan. The Ministry has approved the use of Board funds for the construction of 16 elementary school additions. Board staff is now preparing a submission to the Ministry for project approval for the capital group of six new elementary schools.

- The Ministry Supervisor (The Board) approved a report outlining steps and stages to restructuring the Human Resources Department and the implementation has begun.
- IBM Canada has provided consulting services related to IT governance and a three-year technology plan. The report has been submitted and will be considered as part of the budget planning process.
- A formal schedule of internal monthly management reporting based on leading practices is being implemented.

#### Next Actions:

- Rigorous implementation will continue on all issues under the theme of fragmented organizational structure.
- The Director's Office is coordinating an Administrative Review involving all Supervisory Officers.
- The fourth progress report will be posted on the board's website in July 2010.

### Other Recent Highlights:

<p>The Special Mini-Olympics hosted by Michael Power/St. Joseph Catholic Secondary School.</p> 	<p>The celebration of Asian Canadian Heritage Month in May.</p> 
<p>The second consecutive OFSAA title for the St. Basil girls' hockey team.</p> 	<p>The annual conference for Gifted students.</p> 
<p>New Teacher Induction Program workshops.</p> 	<p>Conference for Academic Information and Communication Technology teachers.</p> 