


Your Trustee's Report





REPRESENTING:
Ward 4 Elementary Schools:
Blessed Margherita of Citta di Castello
St. Augustine St. Charles Garnier
St. Conrad St. Jane Frances St. Jerome
St. Martha St. Norbert St. Raphael
St. Robert St. Wilfrid

Ward 4 Secondary Schools:
James Cardinal McGuigan Madonna

Superintendents of Education:
Michael McMorrow and Doug Yack

Parishes:
St. Augustine of Canterbury St. Jane Frances
St. Norbert St. Philip Neri St. Wilfrid



**Mary
Cicogna**

**Trustee, Ward 4
Toronto Catholic
District School Board**

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Fall 2008

Welcome Back

I extend a warm welcome to all the students, families and Catholic school supporters in the Ward 4 community as we begin another exciting school year.

I know that many of our families were impacted by the explosion at the propane facility during August, and my heart goes out to everyone who was displaced from their homes, and who continue to struggle with the aftermath of this traumatic situation. My prayers are with all of you.

I am pleased that all the necessary repair work has been completed at both St. Norbert and Madonna, and that all environmental test results to date have shown that both facilities are safe for our students and staff. This is but one example of what can be accomplished when everyone works together for a common goal.

It is my hope that the current school year will be a successful one and memorable one for everyone in our community. I thank all the partners in Catholic education for their tireless efforts on behalf of the students in our schools. It is only through the support and dedication of our parents, parishes, school staff and many community partners, that we will continue to thrive and to succeed as a publicly-funded Catholic school system.

There will continue to be challenges ahead for us, but I believe by working together we can rise to the challenge and overcome all the obstacles in our path. I look forward to working with all my constituents and invite you to contact me with your questions and your ideas.

God Bless!

Mary Cicogna

Reminder: Secondary School Open Houses this Fall

Grade 8 Students and their families are invited to attend one of the following open houses in our community:

November 5, 2008, 7:00 p.m.
Madonna Catholic Secondary School
20 Dubray Avenue, North York, ON
416-393-5506

November 11, 2008, 7:00 p.m.
**James Cardinal McGuigan Catholic
Secondary School**
1440 Finch Avenue West, North York, ON
416-393-5527

Recent Ward 4 News

Blessed Margherita: School of Distinction

Blessed Margherita of Citta di Castillo Catholic School was named a School of Distinction by the Fraser Institute last Spring for their achievements on recent provincial tests.

Anti-racism posters are winners

Congratulations to Esther Noel from St. Norbert for winning second place in a poster contest hosted by Toronto Police Services' 32 Division Community Police Liaison Committee. Her winning poster, "More Cultural are Better than One--So Stop the Racism", showed girls from different countries.



General Information

Parents/ratepayers may find the following list of contact telephone numbers helpful:

Admissions

416-222-8282, ext. 5320

Communications

416-222-8282, ext. 5314

Continuing Education

416-222-8282,

ext. 2491/2556

24-hour Information Line

416-222-8282, ext. 2873

Permits

416-222-8282, ext. 4370

Security

416-229-5360

Curriculum and Accountability

416-222-8282, ext. 2490

Special Services

416-222-8282, ext. 2486

Transportation

416-229-5313

Information about programs and services, Board policies and the latest news can also be found on TCDSB's web site at www.tcdsb.org

Your Trustee's Report

Running Challenge at St. Conrad

St. Conrad Catholic School organized a Running Challenge, in support of the Herbie Fund of the SickKids Foundation at the Hospital for Sick Children last spring. Prior to the run, the school held a pep rally, which was attended by Gord Martineau of City TV and Helene Korn, one of the volunteer Directors from the Hospital for Sick Children's Herbie Fund. B The assembly was a huge success, followed by the actual Running Challenge in Roding Park, adjacent to the school. The challenge was created during cross country season to spur the kids on in the final weeks of preparation. Along with the "Me to We" coordinators, a challenge evolved to embrace the "Kids Helping Kids". To date, the school has raised over \$3000 for the Herbie Fund.



Vietnamese Community Celebrates Asian Heritage Month With Gusto!

More than 100 parents, some of them wearing traditional Vietnamese costumes, participated in the parent sessions on topics about safety, transition to high school and discipline at St. Jane Frances Catholic School on May 4, 2008 during the Asian Heritage Month celebrations. The Toronto Catholic and Toronto District School Boards worked together jointly to recognize Asian Heritage Month and acknowledge the tremendous history and contributions of Asians within the school communities. Asian Heritage Month offers all Canadians an opportunity to learn more about the history of Asian Canadians and to celebrate their contribution to the growth and prosperity of Canada.



Certified Schools Eco-Celebration

On Tuesday June 3, 2008, St. Jerome's Eco-Club attended the Eco-Schools Celebration at Downsview Park. The day was organized and officiated by the Science and Religious Education Departments. St. Jerome staff and students worked very hard to achieve their eco-certification. Students participated in various workshops including making birdhouses to attract bluebirds and worm composting. The students were involved and excited and came way with many ideas to work on for next year's certification. St. Jerome is making a difference!!



Meagan's "Mini-Walk" at St. Raphael

Students at St. Raphael Catholic School gathered together to send a message of 'Kids helping Kids' through their support of Meagan's Walk. Meagan's Walk was named for Meagan Bebenek, a former student at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School, who passed away in 2001 from brain stem glioma. In Meagan's memory, Denise established an annual Mother's Day walk to help raise funds for the Meagan Bebenek Endowment Fund for Brain Tumour Research. Students at St. Raphael were introduced to Meagan's story and, through readings, they learned about other courageous children sending out messages of hope and love in times of hardship.

It began as a simple gesture of creating paper cranes as a sign of hope, the same cranes that Meagan was given by her classmates at Our Lady of Sorrows when she fell ill. These cranes were brought to the Hospital for Sick Children on the Launch of Meagan's Walk three years ago. This message was empowering the students to take responsible actions demonstrate their will to help.

The following year, students at the school began asking in September if they could be part of Meagan's Walk again. The enthusiasm spread



School Support

Roman Catholic parents, ratepayers & members of the Eastern Rite in union with the See of Rome, must declare their support for Catholic schools.

School support is used to determine the number of trustees to be elected to each board to represent the interest of parents and other ratepayers.

A Catholic who is not registered as a separate school supporter would not be allowed to vote in the election of separate school trustees in municipal elections.

School support is one of the indicators the government can use to determine overall support for, and strength of, the publicly funded Catholic school system in Ontario.

Please check your recent Assessment Notice, check with your landlord or call the TCDSB Voter Registration Department 416-222-8282 ext 2666 email: sandra.vitale@tcdsb.org

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throughout the school. Last year, St. Raphael formed a team of over 40 staff and families who participated in the walk on Mother's Day. It was a powerful moment when they gathered in front of Sick Kids and joined hands with other children, mothers, fathers, siblings, friends. All gathered had been touched by the powerful message of hope from an angel named Meagan and looked towards the hospital, knowing that the children in there all needed their show of support, and raised their arms in a unified hug.

Last spring, St. Raphael held its first Meagan's Mini-Walk. Over 550 students, teachers, and parents gathered in a sea of pink and purple (Meagan's favourite colours), and walked around St. Raphael as Meagan's song "Goodnight My Angel" carried them forward.



Celebrating Exemplary Practices

Each year, the Toronto Catholic District School Board is proud to acknowledge innovative programs and special projects at local schools with the TCDSB Exemplary Practice Award. The winners of the ninth annual awards were honoured at a special ceremony and reception in April. Among the winners was St. Wilfrid Catholic School for their project. Students Develop Comprehension of Academic Content through Instructions of Vocabulary from Different Subject Areas--Specific classroom strategies included cooperative groups based on learning styles and a variety of accommodations for students with special needs.



Toronto Catholic School Board Employees Credit Union Student Bursary Winner

Each year the Toronto Catholic School Board Employees Credit Union has awarded \$500 to one secondary student for the TCSBECU Student Bursary. The bursary was established in 2002 to provide a graduating student with financial assistance in order to pursue studies at university or college. Students across the system are invited to submit a one page essay for the bursary. Students must demonstrate a 'B' average or higher, financial need, overall contribution to the school and community and acceptance into a post-secondary institution. The selection committee was impressed by the strong quality of the applications received this year, and are delighted to provide financial support to two graduating students.

Congratulations to Teresa Waihenya of James Cardinal McGuigan Catholic Secondary School for winning the Toronto Catholic School Board Employees Credit Union Bursary 2007-2008. Teresa has been an honour roll student for four years and has received many awards at her school. In 2006, Teresa received the ACES Award from Mayor Miller and The City of Toronto. Teresa is an active member of her school community and recently formed an after-school "Homework Club:" for students who require assistance in Math. She also volunteers her time to prepare the "Salad Bar"--McGuigan's initiative to provide a healthy alternative for lunch. Teresa will be attending the University of Toronto in September. Best of luck in your studies Teresa.

TCDSB Awards Night 2008: Celebrating Excellence in Catholic Education

Congratulations to Liana Di Nardo from James Cardinal McGuigan, winner of the 2008 Sister Mary Hamilton Award.

Jerome John Tolentino, also from McGuigan, was the first ever winner of the Student Trustee Award of Excellence (see picture below).





School Year Calendar 2008-2009

- Thanksgiving
October 13, 2008
- Elementary + Secondary PA Day
October 24, 2008
- Elementary PA Day
December 5, 2008
- Christmas Break
December 22, 2008 to January 2, 2009
- Elementary + Secondary PA Day
February 13, 2009
- Family Day
February 16, 2009
- Elementary PA Day
March 13, 2009
- Mid-Winter Break
March 16-20, 2009
- Good Friday
April 10, 2009
- Easter Monday
April 13, 2009
- Victoria Day
May 18, 2009
- Last day of classes for elementary students
June 25, 2009
- Elementary + Secondary PA Day
June 26, 2009

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Student Achievement Award winners included Joseph Nguyen from St. Charles Garnier Catholic School, for placing first at the local chess tournaments, third at the city-wide tournament and qualifying for the provincials (see below).

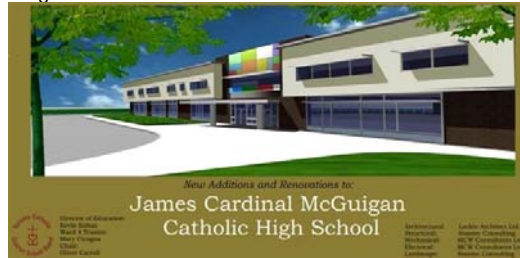


Congratulations also to St. Robert Catholic School's basketball team (Daniel Amendola, Matteo De Francesa, Andrea Fairweather, Rosemary Gagliardi, John Rabang and Michael Zambrano), who participated in the Pielle Matera International Basketball Tournament held in Italy. They were North America's only representatives.

I am always impressed by the accomplishments of our staff and students, and I look forward to hearing about the many achievements of our TCDSB students during the school year ahead.

Looking forward to the new and improved facilities

Construction is well under way for the new McGuigan facility and three other school sites are in the planning stages.



Capital Development has set up meetings with the Principal, Catholic School Advisory Council executive and other interested CSAC members to review the design status of the additions to existing schools to address Enrolment Pressures & Primary Class Size including schedules and implementation strategies as they have been developed to this point. Meetings will be at the school from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm at:

- St. Charles Garnier - September 24, 2008
- St. Conrad - October 1, 2008
- St. Norbert - October 7, 2008

Toronto Catholic District School Board Launches E-NEWS

In an effort to enhance ongoing communication with Catholic school supporters and members of its school communities, the Toronto Catholic District School Board is launching E-NEWS this fall. This electronic news service will provide regular email notifications of the latest news and special bulletins from, and about, Toronto Catholic schools.

Anyone interested in receiving the latest news from the Board, is invited to visit the board's website at www.tcdsb.org and click on the E-NEWS logo on the homepage to activate their subscription.

The Board will continue to publish a variety of news and information on its website at www.tcdsb.org/news as well as posting urgent notices on its 24-hour telephone information line at 416-222-8282 ext. 2873.

School Resource Officer Initiative

Toronto Police Service, in partnership with the Toronto Catholic District School Board, is launching the School Resource Officer Initiative this fall in schools across the City of Toronto. Archbishop Romero (Division 12), Bishop Marrocco/Thomas Merton (Division 11), Cardinal Newman (Division 41), Don Bosco (Division 23), James Cardinal McGuigan (Division 31), Mary Ward (Division 42), Michael Power/St. Joseph (Division 22) and St. Patrick Catholic (Division 55) will host the SROs. The remainder of Catholic Secondary Schools in these Divisions will also be serviced by the SRO. Catholic Secondary Schools outside of these Divisions will continue to receive support through existing partnerships and programs.

The central objective of the School Resource Officer initiative is to enhance safe and caring school relationships and programs with students, school staff, parents and partnership members.

Their duties would include: being visible and active in the school community; providing information and education on programs to support positive outcomes for students and participating on the School Council and other school and community associations

The eight SROs assigned to TCDSB schools will receive a wide range of ongoing training, including: Secondary School Culture, Diversion Options and Safe Schools Programs. Developing positive, engaging relationships between students, staff and the Toronto Police Service is a primary goal of this initiative.