



Trustee, Ward 2

September 29, 2004

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Whether you are new to our Catholic community or a returning family, I would like to welcome you back to a new school year. We look forward to a year of great promise.

I am pleased to share with you a number of decisions that have been made recently, which directly benefit all students in our Catholic schools. At the regular meeting of the Board held on August 19th, the Trustee's approved the 2004-2005 budget estimates of \$780,963,680. Within that budget we have been able to implement a number of new initiatives to improve student learning, which include:

- \$4.6 million for textbooks with a priority being given to Mathematics materials
- \$5.4 million for the Success for All initiative to support those students who may be at risk of not completing their education.
- \$600,000 for playground equipment.
- A full-day senior kindergarten program at seven school sites, including St. Teresa Catholic School in our own ward.
- Funding was allocated to maintain a full-time secretary at St. Teresa.
- Primary class size reduction. To date 60 (full time equivalent) teacher positions have been implemented in 65 schools to reduce class sizes in the primary grades in many of our schools, including Holy Angels, St. Gregory, St. Leo and St. Louis. The total allocation for our Board was \$4.3 million.
- Lead literacy and numeracy teacher initiative in elementary schools. To date 85 teachers have received training to assist them in their role as lead teacher in their respective schools.

In addition to our earlier budgeted projects, the Board of Trustees also approved the following expenditures at our September meeting:

- \$4.95 million for science labs in our secondary schools, including Michael Power and Bishop Allen.
- \$700,000 for summer literacy camps, much like the camps that were held this past summer in 12 schools, including Christ the King.

The Board of Trustees further approved, at its September meeting, the distribution of a one-time allocation of funds totalling \$1,175,000 to schools. We decided that each elementary school would receive \$5,000 and each secondary school would receive \$10,000 to acknowledge and support the work of the parent community as well as that of our school staff. I am requesting that a meeting be scheduled with the Catholic School Advisory Council, Principal and myself to discuss how this one-time fund will be allocated.

I am pleased that money is being directed back into the schools and classrooms where it is needed. Thank you once again for your collaborative efforts in support of our Catholic school community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ann Andrachuk".

Ann Andrachuk
Trustee, Ward 2

Cc: School Principals