

REPRESENTING:

Elementary Schools:

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha	Epiphany of Our Lord
Holy Spirit	Our Lady of Guadalupe
Our Lady of Wisdom	Precious Blood
St. Aidan	St. Albert
St. Gerald	St. Henry
St. Kevin	St. Lawrence
St. Matthias	St. Maximilian Kolbe
St. Sylvester	St. Timothy

Secondary Schools:

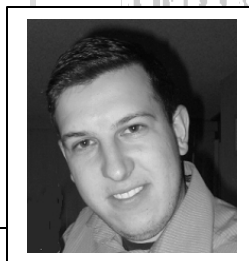
Jean Vanier	Mary Ward
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Superintendents of Education:

Gerald Dagenais	Michael McMorrow
Geoffrey Grant	

Parishes:

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Holy Spirit
Epiphany of Our Lord	St. Aidan's
Precious Blood	St. Maria Goretti
St. Lawrence Martyr	St. Timothy



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Summer 2009

As another school year comes to an end....

We have been through an entire year under supervision. As a reminder, the Board is being run by provincially appointed supervisors. We anticipate this to remain for at least another year and this could possibly extend until the end of 2010. During this time, trustees' rights to convene regular Board meetings and make decisions have been suspended. Trustees still will act as advocates and direct liaisons between constituents and school Board staff. I will continue to work with all stakeholders to further establish transparency and restore local democracy.

In May, I had convened a ward update meeting at St. Gerald School. While I admit we had a disappointing turnout (maybe due to the warm weather that evening), however parents and staff who did attend had a lively discussion on parent councils, parent-staff relationships and catholic identity and promotion. Several of their recommendations I hope to highlight in future reports and executing at the local school level.

For those parents attending south Scarborough high schools, I remind you of the School Accommodation Review that was initiated this spring for Jean Vanier, Notre Dame, Neil McNeil, St. Patrick and Cardinal Newman.

This review was setup in order to explore the ongoing accommodation issues of secondary schools in the review area. Questions we hope to get recommendations for are: how do we best utilize our existing space and buildings? How do we enroll more students wanting to attend our schools?

We continue to watch the fate of St. Maximilian Kolbe and St. Catherine's schools. Despite excellent overall academic achievements by students and involved in school staff, these schools were recommended for closure by the Director of Education. The supervision team has granted a decision deferral to allow for more meaningful community consultation and an exploration of all options for continuing to keep the schools viable both in terms of student success and financial viability for the board.

As mentioned before St. Albert school on Midland Avenue was slated for a large school addition.

Summer 2009: Portable relocations to clear space for future construction including replacement of two aging portables.

September 2011: Tentative completion date for the 18 room addition.

As the City of Toronto garbage strike looms please continue to be responsible citizens, do not litter or dump trash illegally.

I wish you all a happy and safe summer.



School Year Calendar 2009-2010

Joint Panel PA Day s
September 2-3, 2009

Labour Day
September 7, 2009

Thanksgiving
October 12, 2009

Elementary PA Day
November 13, 2009

Christmas Break
December 21, 2009 to
January 1, 2010

Joint Panel PA Day
February 13, 2009

Elementary PA Day
December 4, 2009

Family Day
February 15, 2010

Secondary PA Day
February 12, 2010

Elementary PA Day
March 5, 2010

Mid-Winter Break
March 15-19, 2010

Good Friday
April 2, 2010

Easter Monday
April 5, 2010

Victoria Day
May 24, 2010

Last day of classes for
elementary students
June 29, 2010

Joint Panel PA Day s
June 30, 2010

Trustee Report – Summer 2009

New Superintendent

Mr. Geoffrey Grant (former acting superintendent – Area 5) will assume to duties for Area 8 formerly held by Mr. Mark Fenwick. Mr. Fenwick has been appointed as new superintendent overseeing ‘Strategic Renewal’ for the Board.

Parent Concerns

Local school concerns should first be directed to the teacher then to the Principal or Vice-Principal. If a situation cannot be resolved at the local level, the issue should be brought to the attention of the area Superintendent. The local parent council is responsible for working with school administration to deal with local issues and policies that affect a wide number of parents or students. Please bring to my attention issues that pertain to Board policies or where you do not feel satisfaction has been obtained through normal protocols.

Please do not wonder or suffer alone. As a parent you have many rights and responsibilities within the school system. You may call my office at any time for advice or direction.

Arrowsmith Program



Parents and students have been in strong support of the renewal of the Arrowsmith program this year.

The Arrowsmith Program is a cognitive program for students with

learning disabilities that provides alternate programming strategies for learning disabilities within a learning disability program.

Currently two schools in ward 7 (of a total of 7 across the city) offer the program. For more information visit arrowsmithschool.org

2008/09 Student Awards

For the sixth year in a row, I was pleased to present the Trustees Catholic Excellence Award to Ward 7 elementary schools. The award recognizes a graduating grade 8 student “who is actively involved in the parish and exhibits a good example of Christian living to others”. During graduation ceremonies, thirteen students received formal recognition and a plaque.

The Trustee's Catholic Community Leadership Award is presented to a graduating high school student "who has achieved a 75% average or better who is involved in both the church and community through an active leadership role". This years recipients were:
Michael Del Mundo – Mary Ward
Katrina Lazo - Jean Vanier

School Administration Changes

I wanted to extend a welcome to Patricia Coburn who took over as Principal of Mary Ward this spring. Despite being new to the Mary Ward Community and its unique program, she has jumped in and has got up to speed quickly. She will be an ongoing asset to the community and school.

I welcome the following people to our Ward 7 schools for September:

Principal Promotions

Althea Parsons to Our Lady of Guadalupe
David Iogna to Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha
Sienna DaCosta to St. Gerald

Incoming Transfers

Marilena Antonini to St. Matthias

Outgoing Transfers

Ann McInerney to St. Rene Goupil
Rocchina Leone to St. Margaret

I also extend well wishes to all our principals, teachers and other staff who will be retiring this year.