

Greetings From Your Trustee



REPRESENTING:

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

Secondary Schools:

James Cardinal McGuigan
Madonna

Superintendents of Education, Josie Nespolo,
Colleen Shackleton 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

80 Sheppard Avenue East,
North York, ON M2N 6E8

Tel/Fax: 416-512-3404

Email: mary.cicogna@tcdsb.org

JANUARY 2005

Happy New Year!

I hope that you have all had a safe, restful and happy Christmas holiday. I look forward to working with all my constituents and our school communities in Ward 4 throughout 2005.

I thank all of you for the contribution that you have made to the education of children in our TCDSB schools, and I wish you much success and joy in the year ahead.

Happy New Year!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Cicogna".

TCDSB schools benefit from additional spending

TCDSB Trustees approved a total of \$12.7 million in additional spending for a variety of classroom and school-related needs. Among the allocations is \$5.4 million for the "Success for All" initiative (including support for the hospitality program at James Cardinal McGuigan), \$4.95 million for science labs in secondary schools (including Madonna) and \$770,000 for summer literacy camps (including one at St. Jerome). Trustees also approved \$10,000 per secondary school and \$5,000 per elementary school to acknowledge and support the work of parents and school staff.

St. Jerome recognized for Exemplary Practice



"Building a Catholic Community at St. Jerome and Beyond": Various projects have been initiated by St. Jerome in order to build a Christian community, to instill Gospel values and inspire ideas of how to live the Gospel in daily life, to promote peace on the students' level in their contexts and experiences, to promote the idea of the universal family (we are all children of God) and to help one another to live Christian values.

Cube of Love: Through teacher guided activities, school assemblies, passport activities, liturgical drama and dance the students will live the 6 points of the "Art of Loving" from the Cube of Love developed by Chiara Lubich. A presentation of New Luminous Mysteries during designed Year of the Rosary by Pope John Paul II and Adoptions at a Distance: adoption of 3 children from 3 different countries (Haiti, Africa and the Philippines); raise \$1200 yearly (already 7 years in progress).



Toronto Mayor David Miller attended a recent Board meeting to make a presentation regarding the development of further partnerships between the City and our Board. His Worship took time out of his schedule to meet with students from St. Conrad Catholic School, who were at the same meeting to make a presentation to the Board about the need for a new school.

Awards Night—November 2004

The auditorium at Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts was close to capacity for the Toronto Catholic District School Board's fall awards event. Approximately 186 awards and certificates of appreciation were handed out during the gala. Among the recipients were Award of Merit winners Donald Ciune (former Trustee and Chair of the Board), Charles Arsenaault and Jean-Guy Saint-Yves (also former Trustees and Presidents of the French Language Section of the Board) and Chris Cromien (retired Deputy Director of Education), Alumni Award winners John Derringer (Q107 Radio Personality and Toronto Sun Columnist), John McDermott (Tenor, Solo Artist and Founding Member of the Irish Tenors), Julian Wharton (Creative Head of Production and Technology with TVOntario) and Rick Wharton (Actor, Comedian, Producer, Writer) and many parents, staff and students who were presented with the Student Achievement Award and certificates of achievement for their diverse accomplishments. The student award winners included: Michael Picchelli from St. Norbert Catholic School, who won first prize in the Toronto Police Services Poster Contest for Anti-Racism, and Bona Kim from St. Raphael Catholic School (see picture at right), recipient of Outstanding Achievement Certificate (highest score) in the 2004 Gauss Canadian Mathematics Contest.



Parent volunteers Anna Perskalla (below left) and Marie Wilbur (below right), both from St. Augustine Catholic School, received certificates of appreciation for their dedication and support to the school community.



IMPORTANT REMINDER: Registration begins in February

Registration for September 2005 begins in February at all TCDSB elementary schools. For more information, visit our website at www.tcdsb.org or call 416-222-8282, extension 5314.

TCDSB schools participate in anniversary of Peace Garden

Over 21 faith communities came together to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Peace Garden on September 19, 2004. Mayor David Miller proclaimed the day as 'Toronto Peace Day' to help us reaffirm our commitment to peace and harmony. The Peace Garden at the Toronto City Hall is a monument to the nuclear horror that engulfed Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6, 1945. It is also a reminder of how critically important it is for us to live in peace and harmony with tolerance and mutual respect.

In an effort to promote peace, many TCDSB secondary students were enthusiastically involved in the festivities and multi-faith prayer celebration. Students and staff from Madonna Catholic Secondary School challenged everyone in the making of origami paper peace cranes and shared ESP (Empowered Student Partnerships) information with everyone there. St. Patrick Catholic Secondary School staff and students were a big hit with the face painting of peace symbols for the crowd. The students and staff from St. Joseph College School organized a centre where everyone signed the Peace Flag and received a purple ribbon to wear as a reminder of the SAVE campaign- Students Against Violence Everywhere. Dancers from Mary Ward Catholic Secondary School provided the audience with a gospel dance movement piece – You Are the Source of My Strength and St. Michael's Choir School sang beautifully throughout the multi-faith prayer celebration.

The organizing committee extends special thanks to the many TCDSB parents, trustees, superintendents, principals, teachers and students who were in attendance to share in the 20th anniversary of the Toronto Peace Garden. The flame that burns signifies both hope and a reminder that we must work together to promote peace and harmony everywhere.



The group from Madonna (above) and a group of students from St. Robert Catholic School meet Mayor David Miller and Police Chief Julian Fantino.



TCDSB hosts luncheon to acknowledge "Jobs for Youth Program" participants



The Toronto Catholic District School Board hosted a luncheon in August to thank the student participants in the "Jobs for Youth Program" and to acknowledge the City of Toronto for providing the funding for this initiative.

Through Tropicana Community Services Organization and the City of Toronto, TCDSB hired 27 students this summer from the Malvern, St. Jamestown and Jane/Finch neighbourhoods. The luncheon, attended by Claudia Burke from Tropicana (second from right), Linda McGrath from the office of Mayor David Miller (third from right), Ward 4 Trustee Mary Cicogna (4th from left) and TCDSB Chair Oliver Carroll (far right), was an opportunity for the Board to thank the students for their enthusiasm and hard work, and to acknowledge the two partners who have ensure the success of the program.

Minister of Education visits St. Robert Catholic School



Teachers gathered at St. Robert Catholic School in August for a summer training session in mathematics. Trustee Mary Cicogna and Minister of Education Gerard Kennedy were on hand to observe the session.

News from Across the Board

Reporting of cancellations and closures due to inclement weather

Any school closures, cancellation of classes or cancellation of school bus transportation due to inclement weather, will be reported through the Board's 24-hour recorded telephone information line at 416-222-8282, ext. 2873, the Board's website www.tcdsb.org as well as through local television and radio broadcasts.

Partnership between TCDSB and City of Toronto

TCDSB has endorsed a plan to enter into an exchange of services agreement between the Board and the City of Toronto's Parks and Recreation Division. The one-year revenue-neutral pilot project will see the City exchange daytime ice time in Toronto-operated rinks for space in TCDSB schools for camps and recreation programs.

Changes made to Italian secondary school program

The Board approved changes to the Toronto Catholic Centro Scuola Secondary School Credit Program in Italy. Students have an opportunity to spend three months studying in Italy from March to June 2005. Information meetings were held in December for those interested in participating. More information is available on the Board's website at <http://www.tcdsb.org>.

Did you know...

- That Maria Sparano, Filomena DiMatteo and Antoniette Barbaro from **St. Jerome Catholic School** received TCDSB Certificates of Appreciation for their contribution to the Catholic community and teaching excellence?
- That **Madonna Catholic Secondary School** has introduced a new mentorship program? MQuest challenges students and stimulates interest in technology, science, mathematics and language arts.

In November a three-part Lego Robotics workshop was conducted for grade 7 students from St. Raphael's. In June, there are plans for an M-Quest Blast, in which all participating schools will come together to display their creations and compete in technological and scientific challenges.

- Paul Bottoni, former vice-principal at the former **Regina Pacis Catholic Secondary School**, was recognized with a Teacher of the Year Award?
- That Kristoffer Moraleja from **James Cardinal McGuigan Catholic Secondary School** achieved 98.67 per cent, the highest average of all Ontario Academic Credit (OAC) graduating students for 2001-2002? This was the second year in a row that a student from McGuigan was TCDSB's top student. In 2000-2001 Ifeanyichukwu Megwalu achieved the highest average.
- That Ehis Adada from **St. Jane Frances Catholic School** has set a new national jump record at the Youth Meet of Champions held at York University?
- That **St. Wilfrid Catholic School** is the only TCDSB professional learning centre with a specific focus on Guidance and Career Education?
- That **St. Raphael Catholic School** is piloting the "Roots of Emphathy" program, designed to educate students about child development and explore related issues?
- That Natasha Davis from **James Cardinal McGuigan** won second place for her book, "Girls Can Play Football" in the Anti-Racism Book Competition sponsored by the Toronto Residents in Partnership?
- That Ela Mema from **Madonna** saved her mother's life by performing CPR, which she learned in her grade physical and health education program?
- That TCDSB schools have raised more than \$100,000 to date to support Tsunami relief efforts?

Special welcome

I would like to extend a special welcome to Stefano Di Domenico and Maria Arcuri, who have been assisting me in my duties as Trustee.

If you are unable to reach me personally, any concerns or questions you may have can be directed to them at 416-512-3504 or via email at stefano.didomenico@tcdsb.org or maria.arcuria@tcdsb.org.



Stefano Di Domenico



Maria Arcuri