



Greetings From Your Catholic School Trustee



Mary Cicogna

Trustee, Ward 4

Vice-Chair

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SPRING 2007

Ward 4 Elementary Schools:

Blessed Margherita of Citta di Castello
St. Conrad
St. Martha
St. Robert

St. Augustine
St. Jane Frances
St. Norbert

St. Charles Garnier
St. Jerome
St. Raphael
St. Wilfrid

Ward 4 Secondary Schools:

James Cardinal McGuigan
Madonna

Superintendents of Education:

Michael McMorrow and Doug Yack

Parishes:

St. Augustine of Canterbury
St. Norbert
St. Wilfrid

St. Jane Frances
St. Philip Neri

Celebrating Exemplary Practices

Each year, the Toronto Catholic District School Board recognizes innovative and creative programs and projects at local schools with the TCDSB Exemplary Practice Award. The winners of both the seventh and eighth annual awards were honoured at a special ceremony and reception on April 24th. The Ward 4 winner of the 2005-2006 Exemplary Practice Awards was **St. Raphael Catholic School** for "Building a Catholic Kindergarten Learning Community (CKLC)—Partners in Action".



The 2006-2007 Exemplary Practice Award winner for our ward was **James Cardinal McGuigan Catholic Secondary School** for "Leadership through Environment, Experience and Diversity".



A Message for Ward 4

As the 2007-2008 school year draws to a close, I thank all parents, staff and Catholic school supporters for everything they do to ensure that our students receive the best education possible. Your support of Catholic education is invaluable.

All stakeholders have been invited to participate in community consultation sessions regarding the board's draft Long Term Accommodation Plan. Some of the underlying guiding principles of this 10-year draft plan include: providing a reasonable presence of Catholic Schools across the City; retaining and strengthening religious ties and affiliations with the local parish; being sympathetic to Catholic education, its goals and traditions

The draft plan also includes consideration of the following alternative strategies to address enrolment issues: expansion of and options for innovative specialty program opportunities; review of admissions policy and consideration of school boundaries at strategic locations; development of strategies to promote the TCDSB in order to increase and retain enrolment.

If you are unable to attend the Ward 4 consultation meeting on May 31st at James Cardinal McGuigan, please visit the board's website for dates and locations of other meetings, or to complete an on-line survey. Information, as well as the survey, are posted on the board's website at www.tcdsb.org. All input received will be taken into consideration as the board moves forward to approving a final Long-Term Plan.

I wish all my constituents in Ward 4 a safe and restful summer and look forward to working with you again in the fall.

Mary Cicogna

Educational Issues

Student wins essay contest

Students across the City were invited to submit essays on the topic "What advice would you give to your Board of Education to stop racial discrimination in schools in all forms?" The TCDSB First Prize winner was Kandace Brown from **James Cardinal McGuigan Catholic Secondary School**.

Education Minister Visits Ward 4



Minister of Education Kathleen Wynne was invited to two TCDSB schools recently where she met with staff and parents to talk about issues impacting the students, and also had the opportunity to visit some of the classrooms.



Blessed Margherita Catholic School accepting the "Improvement in Academics award during the Garfield Weston Award for excellence in Education. The school was recognized for being consistent in their achievements for the past five years.

Chess Tournament a tremendous success

On March 26, 2007 and March 30, 2007, the TCDSB CA Chess Association hosted the 2007 TCDSB CA Girls and Open Individual Grade Championships at **St. Robert Catholic School**. These tournaments saw 144 of the TCDSB's most accomplished young chess players compete at the highest level of chess competition in the TCDSB. The TCDSB CA coordinated these events with the Chess N' Math Association and top place finishers from both the 2007 TCDSB CA Girls and Open Championships qualified and played in the 2007 Canadian Chess Challenge Ontario Finals. Ward 4 winners were: Joanna Lolodko from **St. Wilfrid** and Daniel Dinardo from **St. Robert**. Congratulations to all the students, the organizers and the student coaches for their efforts.

Milestones

St. Conrad Catholic School is celebrating its 25th anniversary on June 10th. Mass at noon at St. Philip Neri Church, followed by a reception, barbecue and family fair at the school.

Energy Drill Pilot Project

St. Raphael Catholic School is one of three TCDSB schools selected to participate in the Energy Drill, which aims to reduce energy consumption while generating a culture of energy conservation. The project will run throughout the school year.

Peace Day at St. Jerome

St. Jerome Catholic School recently held a Peace Day, collaboratively with their twin school in Trent, Italy, in the celebration of family and world peace. Students, staff, parents and community members took part in a peace march that was simultaneously held in Italy. Messages/songs/video were communicated between both sites through a media file. The Best Start Program and YMCA Daycare-St Jerome Kindergarten garden of peace was blessed by Father Bernard Velloz and Father Massey Lombardi.



St. Charles Garnier Makeover

Through the efforts of hundreds of volunteers, and with the strong support and leadership provided by *Let Them Be Kids*, **St. Charles Garnier Catholic School**, received a makeover in April. Hundreds of volunteers were involved in the school makeover project, which included the creation of two playgrounds, including the construction of age appropriate play structures, installation of basketball court, and soccer goal posts. The school will also see the installation of 40 new computers, as well as enhancements to classroom libraries with a generous donation of more than 10,000 books to promote literacy initiatives. Among the many dignitaries present for the event were Lt. Governor James Bartleman, Trustee Mary Cicogna and Superintendent of Education Doug Yack. The makeover school improvement plan included: painting portables and classrooms, constructing bookshelves, furniture, stage steps, general classroom repairs, hanging new stage drapes, installation of new fencing, gardening, and much more.



The Lt. Governor and Principal Linda Alonzi check out the many books that were delivered to the school library.



Trustee Mary Cicogna takes a moment to enjoy the new play structure with happy students.