

# Your Trustee's Report



**REPRESENTING:**

*Elementary Schools:*

Immaculate Heart of Mary	Our Lady of Fatima
St. Agatha	St. Barbara
St. Boniface	St. Dunstan
St. Edmund Campion	St. Joachim
St. Maria Goretti	St. Martin de Porres
St. Nicholas	St. Richard
St. Rose of Lima	St. Theresa Shrine
St. Thomas More	St. Ursula
St. Victor	

Superintendents: Gary Poole, Doug Yack

*Secondary Schools:*

Cardinal Newman	Neil McNeil
Pope John Paul II	

*Parishes:*

Immaculate Heart of Mary	Our Lady of Fatima
St. Boniface	St. Dunstan
St. John	St. Maria Goretti
St. Martin de Porres	St. Rose of Lima
St. Theresa Shrine	St. Thomas More



**Paul John Crawford**  
*Trustee, Ward 12*

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**SPRING 2006**



*He is not here; for he has risen, as he said. Come; see the place where he lay. "This is the good news we must hurry to tell. "Because I live, you will live also".*  
( John 14:19)

## An Easter Message

At this special Easter Season we are proud to be a part of the greater Catholic community. All of us involved in Catholic Education share many common goals, specifically that our schools provide our youth with the services, programs, facilities and staff support they require to experience spiritual, academic, physical, social and emotional success. As a Catholic school board we strive to meet these needs and as your Trustee I am committed to doing everything I possibly can to make this happen!

I have visited many schools in my ward, and met with staff and Catholic School Advisory Council Members. These meetings and conversations provide insight into what our ongoing needs in the schools are. Despite the inadequate funding, despite the lack of materials and the state of our school facilities, our schools are caring, compassionate and vibrant learning communities where students are not only thriving but exceeding Provincial expectations. This can only be the direct result of the strong partnerships we have built within our school and parish communities. My hat is off to parents, teachers, staff and most of all our students! Without your strong determination and continued commitment, we would not be able to accomplish such successful results. I want to thank all those parents and staff that volunteer their time for various school activities.

From bake sales; carnival days; multicultural events; fundraising, CSAC meetings to school trips. There is a quote that says: "Volunteers are not paid; not because they are worthless but because they are priceless! Without your unwavering support many of these activities would cease to be.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God. Psalm 51**

As many of you know, I had Heart Bypass Surgery last January. You cannot begin to realize how appreciative and thankful I am for your outpouring of support and good wishes! Not only have I made a quick recovery, but I am feeling better than ever! Thanks be to God! I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank everyone who sent cards, and gifts; called; emailed and visited; a special thank you to all the staff and students of my schools who held me in their prayers. Your prayers were truly the best medicine!

Thank you and may God Bless you!!



**TCDSB Float in the Beach Lions' Easter Parade.**

# Your Trustee's Report



## 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

### CSAC Information Line

416-222-8282, ext. 88000

### 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](http://www.tcdsb.org)

## Award winning principal

Congratulations are extended to Gretchen Schuler, principal at **St. Ursula Catholic School** in Ward 12, who received the 2006 Award for Toronto Elementary Principal of the Year from the Catholic Principal's Council of Ontario.

Ms. Schuler, who has been with the Board since 1976, has been a strong advocate for students with special needs throughout her career. She has served on the TCPVA (Toronto Catholic Elementary Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association) for 12 years and currently holds the role of past president. She was recognized by her peers on April 28<sup>th</sup> for demonstrating leadership ability and for her tireless efforts on behalf of her colleagues to help all find purpose and effectiveness in Catholic education in times of constant change. Congratulations to Gretchen, for an outstanding contribution!

## St. Maria Goretti celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary



Trustee Paul Crawford and Principal Josie DiGiovanni.

## For High School Valedictorians

Reader's Digest offers one-year subscriptions to the valedictorians of graduating classes of Canada high schools. Interested school principals should send the names and home addresses of valedictorians (two per school), typewritten on school letterhead, to:  
**Valedictorian Subscription Program**  
Reader's Digest Magazines Canada Limited  
1125 Stanley St.,  
Montreal, Que H3B 5H5

## Best practices celebrated by Toronto Catholic District School Board

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 the sixth annual award were honoured at a special ceremony and reception in the fall.

The winners of the 2004-2005 Exemplary Practice Awards included **St. Boniface Catholic School** (Scarborough) for their "Strengthening the Heartbeat" project.



## Basketball championships

The elementary school basketball championships were held at York University at the end of February. A large crowd was on hand to witness the best two girls' and boys' teams compete for the championship. Our local Toronto Public Health Nurses were also on hand with their annual free giveaways to promote the Not To Kids program sponsored by the Health department of Toronto.

The boys' game saw a tight scoring affair with **St. Nicholas** (East Region) coming out on top of The Divine Infant (East Region) with a score of 55 - 52.



## French Public Speaking Contest Winner

First place,  
Category: français  
plus: Carlotta  
Mutelesi, St. Agatha  
Catholic School with  
Judith Esser,  
Coordinator of  
French As a Second

## Police Chief Bill Blair makes presentation to trustees

On January 11<sup>th</sup>, Police Chief Blair attended the Board's meeting to speak with students, staff and trustees. Students in the Empowered Student Partnership program at Loretto Abbey, Madonna, Neil McNeil, Msgr. Percy Johnson St. Basil-the-Great and St. Mary's were in attendance. Chief Blair chatted informally with the students for quite some time, answering their questions, listening to their comments and providing his perspective on the many challenges the Police Service is faced with in our City and in particular in partnership with the schools. The Chief followed with a more formal presentation to those present, offering a great deal of support for the Empowered Student Partnership program and recommending the support of community officers in the schools.



## Chief Justice Roy McMurtry speaks to trustees

Ontario Chief Justice Roy McMurtry addressed Catholic school trustees, staff, students and parents at the board meeting held on Thursday, November 17, 2005. Mr. McMurtry's remarks addressed the goals of the Mayor's Panel on Community Safety, of which he is Chair.



## Award winners

The Board's awards night, held in October, included the presentation of the Student Achievement Award to the following Ward 12 students:

- Jeffrey Murley, **Pope John Paul II**, provincial judo champ
- Marianna Borsuk-Gudz, Savannah Lim-Somers, Maggie Hess and Nicole Santorufo from **St. Rose of Lima**, members of the Destination ImagiNation team who competed in the global competition

Receiving certificates of appreciation were:

- Vera Bratuz, Joe Modeste and Colin Whitebread, teachers from **Pope John Paul II** who received the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association Best Practice Award for grades 11-12 Action Research Report on Cuernavaca International Program.
- Paula Owolabi, social worker, recipient of the Jessica Fraser Award for Artists and Educators for writing the study guide for the play "Andrew's Tree" which deals with issues of bereavement and friendship.

## Summer Literacy Camp

For the month of July 2006, the Board is again offering elementary school summer literacy camps for students in grades 1-6. Among the 12 school locations offering the camps will be **Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School**.

## Helping Guatemalan schools

This year, **St Edmund Campion** and **St Thomas More Catholic Schools** and the Saturday Spanish groups at **Pope John Paul II Catholic Secondary School** generously donated 14 and a half large storage containers of brand new school supplies. Staff, students and parents all chipped in to send them to needy students in Guatemala. Some are also being sent to a rural school in Honduras and to an inner-city school in Lima, Peru.

Mrs. Romero, who teaches at the three contributing centres, is volunteer coordinator of the educational project of the Canadian Central American Relief Effort. She and other team members delivered the supplies to the rural Guatemala schools during March Break and also provided training workshops to rural Guatemalan teachers, which focus on finding ways to increase the country's literacy rate.

The classrooms they are assisting are made up of approximately 80 students of all ages and one teacher. The teacher's job is made even more difficult by the fact that there is no budget for basic supplies. The high poverty rate means that most school communities simply go without.



## Voter Registration

Roman Catholic school parents, Roman Catholic ratepayers and members of the Eastern Rite in union with the See of Rome who are home owners are being encouraged to check their school designation on their property tax bill to ensure that they are an "English Separate" school supporter.

Completed direction of school support forms can be returned to your child's school or directly to the Voter Registration Department, Toronto Catholic District School Board, 80 Sheppard Ave. E., Toronto, Ontario M2N 6E8.

For more information or clarification, contact Sandra Vitale by email [sandra.vitale@tcdsb.org](mailto:sandra.vitale@tcdsb.org) or by telephone at (416) 222-8282 ext 2666.

*The future of Catholic education in Ontario depends on all of us!*



## School Year Calendar for 2006-2007

Number of PA Days  
4

Labour Day  
September 4, 2006

First instructional day  
September 5, 2006

Thanksgiving Day  
October 9, 2006

Christmas Break  
December 25, 2006  
to January 5, 2007

Mid-Winter Break  
March 12-16, 2007

Good Friday  
April 6, 2007

Easter Monday  
April 9, 2007

Victoria Day  
May 21, 2007

Last Instructional Day  
June 28, 2007

## Best Start Programs to open for 2006-2007

Thirty-nine Toronto Catholic Schools will be the future sites of Early Learning and Care Centres for Kindergarten-aged children. Working with the Kindergarten teachers, these centres will provide a new child care option for families in our school communities.

**TCDSB Best Start Phase 1 School Sites include: St. Joachim, St. Rose of Lima and St. Martin de Porres Catholic Schools.**

The centres should be open for the beginning of August, just in time for the 2006-2007 school year.

For more information, please visit the Board's website at <http://www.tcdsb.org> (see Best Start under the "New" heading) or call: Best Start Program Coordinator: Kevin Malcolm at 416-222-8282, Ext. 2373.

## Other Board News

- I am pleased to begin a two-year term on the Board of Directors of the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association.
- The Board has approved the purchase and installation of 16 portables to accommodate additional classes created through the cap on primary class sizes, and two portables for regular program purposes at an estimated cost of \$1.494 million. The Board will request funding from the Ministry of Education to offset the cost of the 16 portables.
- CUPE Local 183 has offered the TCDSB 10 spots for the second semester of the 2006-2007 school year through the Board's accelerated OYAP (Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program). The Board, in partnership with colleges and local unions, already offers 10 such programs for its students, including programs in early childhood education, carpentry, plumbing, horticulture and mechanics.
- Staff were directed to report on the development of a strategy for school cooling using portable air conditioners. Staff will also investigate and develop a pilot project by applying for government grants that could be used to keep our schools cool using natural methods such as using green roofing, heat pumps and solar panels.

## The Human Robot Project

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual "The Human Robot Project: The Mask" Competition was held in December at the Ontario Science Center. Over 500 elementary students visited the OSC to watch teams from their schools take part in the final competition. This is a collaborative venture among **Cardinal Newman's** own Technological Studies Department, the Board's Technological Studies Department and the Grade 8 classes of **Our Lady of Fatima, St. Agatha, St. Boniface, St. Maria Goretti, Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Joachim, St. Nicholas, St. Dunstan and St. Albert Catholic Schools**. The Mask activity touches upon a wide range of the Grade 8 curriculum and provides the Grade 8 teacher with the opportunity to fulfill many diverse curriculum expectations with a single activity. Newman technology students gain valuable "real world" experience encountering many challenges by organizing the event and acting as peer tutors for the Gr. 8 students and teachers. The task for the students was to design and build a remote control toy mask, working in pairs. One team member then has to travel through a maze wearing the mask while the partner provides remote control signals giving directions to move through the maze, step over obstacles and pick up objects. The final score is based on the time each team takes to traverse the maze as well as any penalties assigned for touching the maze walls, etc.

Each elementary school visited the Cardinal Newman Robotics Lab for a half-day from mid-October to early November to complete the electrical circuit for the Mask. Newman students provide the technological expertise and guidance in areas of electronics and electrical circuitry as well as the principles of robotics remote control. Before the visit each elementary student was responsible for decorating his or her mask according to the rules of the competition. Each Grade 8 class devoted about 10 hours of class time to the Science and Technology portion of the activity as well as 2-3 hours for the art activity. Congratulations to **Immaculate Heart of Mary** for placing 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in the final competition.

