

**JOHN DEL GRANDE**  
Trustee Ward 7

Scarborough/North York

HONOURARY TREASURER  
AUDIT COMMITTEE CHAIR



**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
Superintendents: J. Nespolo, M.O'Leary, G. Poole, D. Yack	

**Secondary Schools:**

Jean Vanier	Mary Ward
Superintendents: M. O'Leary, G. Poole	

**Parishes:**

Anunciation	Epiphany of Our Lord
Holy Spirit P	Precious Blood
St. Aidan	St. Lawrence
St. Maria Goretti	St. Timothy

Catholic Education Centre | 80 Sheppard Avenue East | North York, ON | M2N 6E8 416-222-8282 www.tcdsb.org

**DEAR CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARTNERS IN EDUCATION,**

I write to you at the end of this 2004-2005 school year with observations that this provincial government and premier are committed to education. We have seen numerous government announcements about safety, maintaining schools in a good state of repair, various program announcements and class size reductions.

Unfortunately, this board and others like it around the province, continue to experience serious facilities issues. We have dozens of schools that are over capacity, are too small, have inadequate facilities or are prohibitive to repair. The monthly Administrative and Corporate Services Committee at the board is consistently filled with school groups making delegations asking to rebuild their school buildings and/or turn portables into permanent additions. The sad reality is that while the government has made announcements to reduce class sizes, they have not addressed the issues of where to put the extra classrooms and students. Two months ago, the board was forced to buy additional portables to accommodate the lower class sizes. Portables are meant to be a temporary measure against over-crowding but end up being permanent sub-structures taking up play space and creating a less than ideal learning environment. We will be working with groups such as our public school counterparts, City of Toronto and Ministry of Education to find creative, viable long-term solutions with the goal of rebuilding and building new additions to our aging facilities.

By the start of the new school year, we will have a new Director of Education and a senior leadership team that will continue to ensure that the Toronto Catholic District School board provides one of the highest quality publicly-funded Catholic education systems in the province.

The Director of Education is effectively the CEO of the school board. This individual answers to the Board of Trustees and all staff in schools and board offices report to the Director. The responsibility of the Director of Education is to provide and/or manage:

- ⊙ Communications and Community Relations
- ⊙ Catholic Educational Leadership
- ⊙ Fiscal Responsibility
- ⊙ Set and Enforce Policy Strategic Plan
- ⊙ Organizational Structure
- ⊙ Board Relations

I wish everyone a very safe and enjoyable summer.

Sincerely,

John Del Grande, B.Comm

**TEACHER SETTLEMENT REACHED**

The board and both teachers' unions (Toronto Elementary Catholic Teachers & Toronto Secondary Unit of OECTA) have ratified new four-year contracts that will see labour peace for these groups until 2008. Working within a provincial framework, both unions will received a 10.6% salary increase by the end of the contract.

<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Increase</b>	
August 31, 2004	0.4%	At August 31, 2008 the A4 Max (this being the highest a teacher can be paid after 10 years of employment will be set at: \$84,124)
September 1, 2004	2%	
September 1, 2005	2%	
September 1, 2006	2.5%	There were also other clauses pertaining to class size caps, allocations, transfer procedures and various benefit increases that were related and negotiated specifically with the TCDSB.
September 1, 2007	3%	
August 31, 2008	0.7%	

## TRANSPORTATION PLANNING & SERVICE

Transportation planning is a cumbersome and difficult task. Many of our routes are coordinated with the Toronto District School Board and are based around projected enrollment numbers and student distribution within the school neighbourhoods.

According to the Board's Transportation Policy, S.T.01, "Transportation may be provided to pupils where a substantial number of Catholic pupils have difficulty in availing themselves of a Catholic education, or for Special Education and/or handicapped pupils."

In order to treat all of our students and school communities fairly, the board has applied a distance factor (1.5 km) measured from the closest elementary school to be considered for standard transportation. There are provisions within the policy that allow for exceptions for students closer than 1.5 km where family hardships, disability or safety hazards exist. 'Exceptional Circumstance-Bussing' is provided on a year-to-year basis only and intended to be a short-term measure. Exceptional Circumstance Transportation is provided only at "no cost to the Board" and on existing vehicles that have space. Valid exceptions will be approved where space and route coordination exist.

Last year, the TCDSB spent more than \$1.7 million in excess of grant revenues for school bus transportation (excluding transportation for schools under construction).

### CATHOLIC STUDENT AWARD

For the second year, I will be presenting the **TRUSTEE'S CATHOLIC EXCELLENCE AWARD** to a graduating grade 8 student in each Ward 7 elementary school.

For Mary Ward & Jean Vanier, there continues to be a **TRUSTEE'S CATHOLIC COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD** presented to a graduating student who is involved in both the church and community through an active leadership role.

Catholic values are the core foundation of our faith and school system and these qualities need to be encouraged from our youth. I continue to believe it is important to recognize a student from each school from a board level.

### SCHOOL PRINCIPAL NEWS

*A warm welcome to newly promoted principals:*

Jean Francois Cote - Our Lady of Wisdom C.S.

Carla Marchetti - St. Kevin C.S.

*Principal Transfers:*

Frank Piddisi from Archbishop Romero to

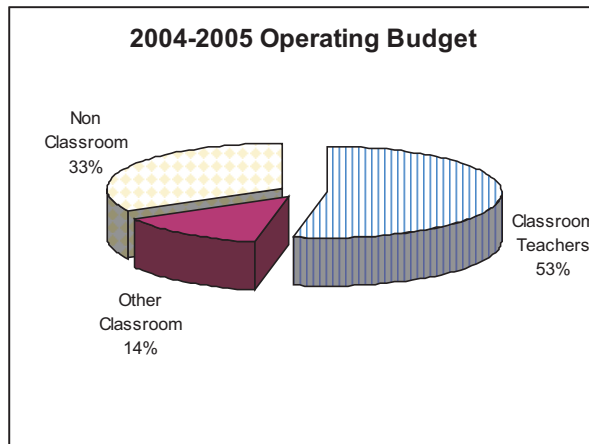
- To Mary Ward C.S.S.

Mario Iumundo from Blessed Trinity C.S.

- To Our Lady of Guadalupe C.S.

*Principal Retirements*

Peter Lannan - St. Kevin C.S.



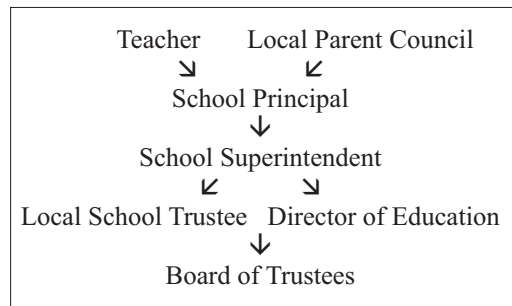
### VOTER REGISTRATION

It is important that all parents and community members eligible to be Catholic school supporters are registered as such on the Municipal Assessment roll. For school support verification, homeowners can check their Property Assessment Notices to ensure that they are "English-Separate" supporters, or contact the Voter Registration Department at 416-222-8282 ext 2444 or 2446 or visit [www.tcdsb.org/schoolsupport/default.htm](http://www.tcdsb.org/schoolsupport/default.htm)

### ISSUES MANAGEMENT

Local in-school concerns should first be directed to the teacher then to the principal or vice-principal.

Similarly, the in-school parent council is responsible to also express concerns of parents and to work with school administration to address/understand the issue.



### YOUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU

Your CSAC (**Catholic School Advisory Council**) provides a forum through which parents/guardians and other members of the school community (priest, community members, teachers, school administrators) can contribute to the education of its students (**YOUR CHILDREN!**), and strengthen this partnership to ensure the continuity of the best education in a safe learning environment.

CSACs are the primary forum to communicate with your principal on a wide range of school issues, coordinate fund-raising and community activities and have dialogue with the school board.

I invite you to get involved in next year's CSAC. Even if you cannot be on the executive, your support and input is valued whenever you can offer it.

Information about programs and services, Board policies and the latest news can also be found on TCDSB's website at [www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org)



Upcoming Approved  
WARD 7 School  
Renewal Projects

**Roof Replacement**  
St. Matthias &  
O.L. of Guadalupe

**Window Replacement**  
St. Matthias &  
St. Albert

**Replace Emergency Lighting**  
O.L. of Guadalupe,  
Precious Blood,  
St. Albert &  
St. Lawrence

**New PA System**  
Epiphany of Our  
Lord

**New Science Labs**  
Jean Vanier

**Boiler Replacement**  
St. Gerald &  
St. Albert

**Replace Fire Alarm System**  
St. Aidan

**S.K. Washroom Renovation**  
Holy Spirit

**New Success for All Classrooms**  
Mary Ward &  
Jean Vanier