



Your Trustee's Report

REPRESENTING:		
<i>Elementary Schools:</i>		
Annunciation	Canadian Martyrs	
Holy Cross	Holy Name	
St. Brigid	St. Catherine	
St. Denis	St. Isaac Jogues	
St. John	St. Joseph	
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<i>Secondary Schools:</i>		
Notre Dame	Senator O'Connor	
St. Patrick		
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<i>Superintendents:</i> Bernice Brand, Gerald Dagenais		
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<i>Parishes:</i>		
Annunciation	Canadian Martyrs	Corpus Christi
Holy Cross	Holy Name	St. Ann
St. Brigid	St. Catherine	St. John
St. Joseph		



Angela Kennedy

*Trustee, Ward 11
Toronto Catholic
District School Board*

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FALL 2008

Welcome Back!

Each new year brings new challenges, but more importantly provides us with many reasons to celebrate. We have much to be proud of in our schools, in our community and across our school system. Our students and staff are second to none, and their accomplishments are too numerous to list. I have highlighted just some of the many initiatives and successes from last year in the pages of this newsletter.

I extend a special welcome to those who are new to our schools-- students and their parents, our school administrators, teachers and support staff. I look forward to working with all of you in the months ahead. Please feel free to contact me with your questions and your ideas throughout the year.

As you are most likely aware, the Board is currently under supervision. I remain committed to working closely with all of my constituents, to advocate on their behalf, and in collaboration with the supervision team to ensure accountability and transparency.

A new policy on trustee services and expenditures has been developed, and this is posted on the board's public website at <http://www.tcdsb.org/policyregister/T17.html>.

As we move forward collaboratively to continually strengthen and improve Catholic education, I wish you all a very successful and enjoyable year!

*Angela Kennedy
Trustee, Ward 11*

Celebrating Exemplary Practices

Each year, the Toronto Catholic District School Board is proud to acknowledge innovative programs and special projects at local schools with the TCDSB Exemplary Practice Award. The winners of the ninth annual awards were honoured at a special ceremony and reception in April. Among the winners were:

St. Patrick Catholic Secondary School for "A Curricular Approach to Developing Facility and SEA Grant Equipment". Students who receive hardware and software support through SEA grants require explicit teaching and opportunities for practice to develop their facility with these assistive technologies.



Senator O'Connor College for "Student Success Initiatives and Procedural Guide". This guide provides a clear school vision, an established step-by-step approach, an explanation of distinct roles and responsibilities and includes all of the various forms documenting the whole student-centred plan used by staff. The accomplishments of the Senator O'Connor Student Success Team are measured by the improvement of students and the Board's recognition of the Success Team in the area of leadership.





School Support

Roman Catholic parents, ratepayers & members of the Eastern Rite in union with the See of Rome, must declare their support for Catholic schools.

School support is used to determine the number of trustees to be elected to each board to represent the interest of parents and other ratepayers.

A Catholic who is not registered as a separate school supporter would not be allowed to vote in the election of separate school trustees in municipal elections.

School support is one of the indicators the government can use to determine overall support for, and strength of, the publicly funded Catholic school system in Ontario.

Please check your recent Assessment Notice, check with your landlord or call the TCDSB Voter Registration Department 416-222-8282 ext 2666 email: sandra.vitale@tcdsb.org

Your Trustee's Report

French Public Speaking

Congratulations to Serena Curtis from Annunciation Catholic School for placing 2nd in the grade 7-8 semi-finals of the French Public Speaking Contest for the north region in the Extended French category.

Reading Club Pilot Project

Senator O'Connor College School, Annunciation Catholic Elementary School and Frontier College launched a collaborative pilot project at Annunciation Catholic School last spring. The Reading Club Pilot Project matched Senator O'Connor students with grade 3 students from Annunciation. Tutors and students were matched one-on-one. "Students and tutors read and discussed books together, wrote stories, played word games, completed homework-anything that helped the younger students improve their reading, writing and thinking skills", wrote Sandra Huehn of Frontier College in her outline of the project.

Students from Senator O'Connor participated in a training session given by Sandra Huehn. They learned about building trust with young readers, sharing the love of reading, and assisting grade 3 students with difficult English and Math problems. Senator O'Connor students left the training session eager to meet their grade 3 reading buddies.

The Reading Club ran every Wednesday at Annunciation School. While one of the goals of the project is to provide EQAO support to grade 3 students, it also serves to engage its high school tutors, who come from a wide range of academic achievement, in a "meaningful service opportunity which focuses on the strengths and gifts they can offer to younger students".



Special thanks to Lena Virgilio from Senator O'Connor College School for submitting this article.

Intermediate W5H Winner

Congratulations to St. Denis Catholic School for winning the south region W5H competition. The team represented the south region at the city championships in April. Team members were: Kaitlyn Davies, Matthew Gibbs, Grace Hill, Katie McKenna (Captain), William Pearson, Liam Walmsley, with coaches Jennie Valentim and Robert MacNeil. They went on to finish third in the city championships.

100th Anniversary of Church and School

St. John's Catholic School and St. John's Church are both celebrating their 100th anniversaries during the 2008-2009 school year. Many special activities are being planned by the school and the parish. Stay tuned for details.

Success at Track and Field and Cross-Country

Congratulations to the students and coaches from St. John's for their success at the city track and field meet once again. The team finished in the top spot with 101 points, 30 points ahead of the second place team.

Congratulations also to all members of the cross-country team. St. John's again finished first in the city meet held May 8th at Earl Bales Park. The points for the team were 1738, more than 600 points ahead of the number two team.



Ben Azzopardi, Parker Thomlinson and Michael Workentin went on to win the grade 3 boys' Provincial team gold medal.



Bridget Hickey, Madison Hogg, Evelene Vanelsberg and Anna Zizys won the grade 3 girls' silver medal.

Senator O'Connor Student Wins Gold Medal in Women's Bronze Triathlon

Karen Urquhart, a Grade 9 student at Senator O'Connor College School, won the Gold Medal at the Skate Canada Women's Bronze Triathlon National Competition for figure skating, held in Brampton April 4th to 8th.

Karen began skating at the age of 8 and has won over 50 medals in her skating career. She also plays on many of the school's athletic teams, including field hockey, volleyball and rugby. Karen hopes to one day become a part of the Canadian competitive team and represent Canada at the senior level of competition.



Board Recognizes Skater

Natasha Popova from Senator O'Connor was also the recipient of a Student Achievement Award in recognition of her bronze medal win at the novice level in the Junior National Figure Skating Competition. Her goal is to go to the Olympics in 2014.



First Place at Provincials

Notre Dame High School won a first place ranking in its category of the Provincial Destination ImagiNation Competition. Over 180 schools from across Ontario competed in the multi-disciplinary skills competition. Notre Dame will be representing Ontario at the next level of the competition, the Global Nationals, which will take place in May in Knoxville Tennessee. Last year, over 1000 teams from around the world attended; it is the largest creativity competition of its kind anywhere. The students in the Notre Dame are: Alexandra Lincoln, Euchelle Millena, Melody Muere, Jennifer Smith and Niroja Thirugnanasampanthar.

Another Skating Success

Congratulations to Kristen Loritz from Notre Dame for being a member of the Gold Ice Junior Competitive Team. Their season ended with a national championships and a silver medal at the World Challenge Cup for Juniors in Rouen France in March 2008.

Scholarship Winner

Congratulations to Emily Ball from Notre Dame High School for being among the students selected for the 2008 CIBC Youthvision(TM) Scholarship. Thirty high school students from coast to coast, who applied for the scholarship while in Grade 10, are the winners of the awards valued at up to \$34,000 each.

The program, delivered through a partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada and YMCA Canada, helps young Canadians fulfill their academic aspirations and reach their full potential.

Congratulations to Chess Champ

Artiom Samsonkin, a student from St. Patrick Catholic Secondary School in east Toronto, has won the 37th Canadian Junior Chess Championships for the top chess players under 20 years old. Samsonkin went on to represent Canada in the 2008 World Junior Chess Championship in Ankara, Turkey in August.

The Canadian Junior Chess Championship was created in 1957 to select Canada's representatives to the 4th World Junior Chess Championship, which Canada hosted later that year in Toronto. The event was revived in 1970 as the most objective way of selecting Canada's representative to the World Junior Chess Championship. It has been held annually since 1972.

"Fruity Fridays" at St. Isaac Jogues

The Health Action Team (H.A.T.) at St. Isaac Jogues Catholic School began a new initiative during the past year at the school. Parent volunteers, along with the Team, prepared seasonal fruits and delivered them to the entire school on "Fruity Fridays". The enthusiastic volunteers were: Tina Giustizia, Dorothy Thomson, Nagwa Fedal, Grace Lubbock, Kareena Julien, Teresa Serapion and Ann Maharaj.



School Year Calendar 2008-2009

Elementary PA Day
December 5, 2008

Christmas Break
December 22, 2008
to
January 2, 2009

Elementary +
Secondary PA Day
February 13, 2009

Family Day
February 16, 2009

Elementary PA Day
March 13, 2009

Mid-Winter Break
March 16-20, 2009

Good Friday
April 10, 2009

Easter Monday
April 13, 2009

Victoria Day
May 18, 2009

Last day of classes for
elementary students
June 25, 2009

Elementary +
Secondary PA Day
June 26, 2009



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

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

Your Trustee's Report

Schools Going Green

The school yard greening project at St. Denis Catholic School is well under way. With the support, energy and determination of the children, families and staff, phase 1 was launched last spring with the creation of shady spots, highlighted by vines, trees and seating areas.

Congratulations to St. Denis and St. Brigid Catholic Schools for receiving their Eco-certification in recognition of their initiatives reduce, reuse and recycle, including rebound and litterless lunches.

Accommodation Review

The latest public meeting for the accommodation review area including Annunciation, Our Lady of Wisdom, Precious Blood, St. Isaac Jogues and St. Catherine was held October 1st to customize the school valuation framework. Further meetings will be held later this fall to develop recommendations that will be presented to the Board for consideration. The meetings to date have been very well attended and I look forward to the continued participation of our parent communities.

Reminder: Open House for Grade 8 Students:

October 29th at 7 p.m.

St. Patrick Catholic Secondary School
49 Felstead Avenue, Toronto, ON
416-393-5546

November 5th at 7 p.m.

Notre Dame High School
12 Malvern Avenue, Toronto, ON
416-393-5501

November 13th at 7 p.m.

Senator O'Connor College School
80 Rowena Drive, North York ON
416-393-5505

Invitation to Delegation Meetings

Agendas and Minutes from regular meetings are always posted on the board's website at www.tcdsb.org. The upcoming delegation nights

are scheduled for November 12th and December 10th. For information, or to register to speak at one of those meetings, please call the recording secretary at 416-222-8282 ext. 2293.

Launch of E-NEWS

In an effort to enhance ongoing communication with Catholic school supporters and members of its school communities, the Toronto Catholic District School Board is launching E-NEWS this fall. This electronic news service will provide regular email notifications of the latest news and special bulletins from, and about, Toronto Catholic schools. Anyone interested in receiving the latest news from the Board, is invited to visit the board's website at www.tcdsb.org and click on the E-NEWS logo on the homepage to activate their subscription.

Future plans for Closed Facilities

As many of you may recall, several schools in our ward have closed over the past decade. The former St. Aloysius site was sold to the French language school board in 2007. Plans to dispose of the Corpus Christi site on Edgewood Avenue and 50 Curzon Street (formerly St. Joseph elementary) are moving forward during the current school year. The former St. Ann site is to be disposed of in 2009-2010, while the sites of St. Bernadette and St. William are to be disposed of during the 2010-2011 school year.

Health Action Teams

Most schools in the board have active Health Action Teams (HAT) to develop and implement physical activity plans, student nutrition plans and/or additional plans that meet the health needs of their school communities. Teams focus on a number of areas including curriculum and Daily Physical Activity, linking with community partners to increase opportunities for physical activity, fostering a supportive social environment (prepare playground peer leaders who can assist in organizing recess games) and a healthy physical environment (safe equipment e.g. painted lines, novelty equipment, playground structures).

In Ward 11, the following schools already have teams in place: Annunciation, Canadian Martyrs, Notre Dame, Senator O'Connor, St. Catherine, St. Isaac Jogues, St. John's, St. Joseph and St. Patrick.