



## 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).**

# Trustee's Newsletter

**Angela Kennedy**  
Trustee Ward 11  
Vice-Chair of the Board  
City Wards - 29, 30, 31, 32, 34



## Best Start Programs... Together for Children



Last year the board entered into an agreement with the City of Toronto to implement the 'Best Starts Program'.

The Best Starts program is a joint municipal-provincial-federal program to increase day care spaces in under serviced communities. The Board was very fortunate to get almost half of the new program spaces in the city compared to the much larger Toronto public school board.

Chosen schools to implement the Best Starts program are provided funding to renovate classrooms to ensure compliance with day care facility standards.

The best starts daycare program provides a two fold benefit. For our local communities, it provides day care opportunities for working families and for our schools, in school day care can assist in sustaining and growing student enrollment.

St Joseph Catholic School is ward 11's Best Start site, for more information please contact me or visit [www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org).

## Primary Class Sizes...

When the current Liberal provincial government took power, one of their election platforms was to 'lower class sizes' for primary grades. Experts suggest that the class size caps ensure that students have more access to the teacher and can get more individual attention compared to typically larger class sizes - thinking that our Board endorses. As we move through the implementation phase, the Board discovered a problem, in many of our small schools, classroom space came at a premium.

We no longer have any extra classrooms in many of our buildings taking into account specialized rooms for music, French and other special needs programs. The Board has calculated we will require up to 20 additional portables across the school System directly related to the class size cap.

*Two problems:* The ministry only pays for the teachers (we are already short funded 7K per teacher), not portables and more importantly, portables are not welcome additions to our schools. Portables have a bad reputation for being around for decades taking up valuable play area space, have long-term health hazards and are not an ideal teaching space (separated from the school, have rudimentary heating/cooling systems and lack computer connectivity).

As a Board we will continue to find innovative solutions to our capital needs and lobby the government to fully fund their new initiatives

## Ontario March of Dimes

The TCDSB has partnered with Ontario March of Dimes to develop and deliver a program called "Kids Can Make a Difference". This program will be available to students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6 and will engender a new appreciation for the contributions that children with disabilities can make to our world. The initiative will be launched September 2006 in five elementary schools.

In my view our students will enthusiastically embrace this opportunity once they are given the chance. Each local school is required to make their own decision.

The project is strongly endorsed by the Special Education Advisory Committee of our Board and by the Board of Trustees.

## Provincial Funding Formula

The average daily enrolment in a school required by Ministry of Education regulation to be eligible for funding to staff the following positions:

### **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL\***

Principal: 364 students

Vice principal: 1333 students

Teacher Librarian: 769 students

School Secretary: 272 students

### **SECONDARY SCHOOL\*\***

Principal: 909 students

Vice Principal: 666 students

Teacher Librarian: 909 students

School Secretary: 188 students

\*106 of the Board's 168 elementary schools have less than 364 students

\*\*25 of the Board's 33 secondary schools have less than 909 students.

## Registered as a Catholic?

Under the current education funding model, Catholic ratepayers no longer need to declare themselves as separate school supporters in order to ensure that the Toronto Catholic District School Board receives a share of available per pupil funds.

However, being registered as a Catholic School supporter is important as it determines the following:

- The number of supporters in the school district, along with student population, determines the number of trustees assigned to the district by government regulations.
- It is a public record of the breadth of support for Catholic schools.
- It supports boards' population projections, which affect distribution of funds for school repairs and new buildings.
- Should authority to tax be returned to local school boards in future, a complete assessment base would be critical.
- Since school support data banks are one of the indicators the government can use to determine overall support for, and strength of, the publicly funded Catholic school system in Ontario, the more supporters registered the better.
- Catholic ratepayers must also declare themselves to be Catholic and separate electors for electoral purposes. A Roman Catholic who is not registered as a separate school supporter/elector would not be allowed to cast a vote in the election of separate school trustees in municipal elections.

The cost to you the homeowner/taxpayer is zero, however, the net benefit to Catholic Education and registered Catholic counts within the province is intangible.

The Application for Direction of School Support are available for

your convenience to download and print online at: [www.tcdsb.org/schoolsupport/ASSESSMENT%20FORM.pdf](http://www.tcdsb.org/schoolsupport/ASSESSMENT%20FORM.pdf)

Even if you do not own your home and are a tenant, you entitled to be recognized as a Catholic school supporter at your residence.

Since your landlord fills out the government forms on behalf of all residents and in most cases, everybody will be listed as Public school supporter. Lease forms can be found at [www.tcdsb.org/schoolsupport/LEASE%20FORM.pdf](http://www.tcdsb.org/schoolsupport/LEASE%20FORM.pdf)

Property Assessment Notice 2005  
- for the 2006 tax year

Roll Number: 19 0000 / F4-09 000076

Municipality: CITY OF TORONTO

Location and Property Description: Frontage, Depth, Area

This is not a tax bill. Please retain this Property Assessment Notice.

Shown below is the current assessed value of your property based on the January 1, 2005 valuation date. This assessed value will be used by your municipality to calculate your 2006 property taxes.

CURRENT	Assessed Value	School Support Designation
Property Classification: Residential Taxable: Full	\$	English-Separate

Shown below is your property's previous assessed value as of June 30, 2003, used by your municipality to calculate 2005 taxes.

PREVIOUS	Assessed Value
	\$

Please see insert for more information.

School Support Designation Information found here - from your Property Assessment Notice.

## Capital Planning Sessions...

The Ministry's action plan for "Good Places to Learn: Renewing Ontario Schools" is recognition that program needs should drive facility planning. To that effect, the Ministry of Education requires the Board to periodically submit a long-term capital plan.

The revised version of the Capital Plan requires community consultation before it is finally compiled and presented to the Board of Trustees for approval. Our Board is no stranger to capital plan needs, as represented from the long list of delegations requesting facility improvements at our monthly Administrative and Corporate services committee. Our Board is faced with issues of declining enrollment, aging facilities and programming shortfalls. Board staff will be presenting and soliciting feedback from parents and ratepayers in two phases with six sessions across the city.

**PHASE I: COMMUNITY EDUCATION & INFORMATION & PHASE II: CONSULTATION** - Dates to be Scheduled in the Fall of 2006, please contact for more information or check the board web site at [www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org).



Contact Information for: Trustee Angela Kennedy  
Toronto Catholic District School Board  
Catholic Education Centre  
80 Sheppard Ave. East  
Toronto, Ontario, M2N 6E8  
**Telephone/Fax:** (416) 512-6406  
**E-mail:** [angelakennedy.kennedy@tcdsb.org](mailto:angelakennedy.kennedy@tcdsb.org)  
**Board Website:** [www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org)

## TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOLBOARD: STATS

### Students:

Elementary - 59,255  
Secondary - 28,195  
Share compared to TDSB  
25.6% and 24.3% respectively

### Staff:

Teachers: 5,699  
Support/Academic Staff: 2,771  
Principals/Vice-Principals: 307  
Administration: 223

Elementary Schools: 168 Secondary Schools: 30 : Joint: 3