

Trustee Barbara Poplawski



Barbara Poplawski Trustee, Ward 10

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SPRING 2006

Message from your Trustee

As the year draws to a close, we reflect on the wonderful accomplishments of the home, the school and the parishes working together. We all share a common purpose, to provide our young people with the services, programs, facilities and staff support they require to achieve spiritual, academic, physical, social and emotional success.

This time of year provides us with an excellent opportunity to be thankful for our publicly funded Catholic schools in Ontario. A big thank you for the ongoing efforts of our staff in our schools, our parents, and our parish communities. You make our schools great places to be.

Thank you to the many volunteers who give unselfishly on CSACs, and in many other areas. Committing your time, talent and energy to benefit our students is much appreciated.

Congratulations to all of our students for your accomplishments during the school year.

Wishing everyone a very happy, safe, comfortable summer. I really look forward to working with you all again next year.

God Bless,

Barbara Poplawski



Attention Students!

*Do you have an amazing teacher?
Is there one teacher that had a great impact on your life?*

If so e-mail me and nominate a Terrific Teacher to be featured in my newsletter. Just write your name, school name, address, your teacher's name and the reasons for your nomination, and send it to: barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org.

Student Performance Bill Introduced at St. Luigi Catholic School

Former Minister of Education Gerard Kennedy visited St. Luigi Catholic School on March 2nd to announce the introduction of the Student Performance Bill. Among the various components of the bill were plans to add two professional activity days to the school year calendar, enhance the role of the student trustee, increase supports for first-year teachers and improve trustee honorariums. Since that visit, Mr. Kennedy resigned and has been replaced by Sandra Pupatello.



Principal Vito Malfara, Trustee Barbara Poplawski, Former Minister Kennedy, Chair Oliver Carroll, Student Trustee Ashley Pereira, Director Kevin Kobus, Nathan Lachowsky, president of OSTA, Superintendent Angela Gauthier and Vice-Principal Cristina Fernandes.



The Former Minister signs in as St. Luigi students look on.



Trustee Poplawski highlights Ward 10

Ward 10 Schools

Elementary Schools

Holy Family
James Culnan
St. Anthony
St. Cecilia
St. Helen
St. James
St. Josaphat
St. Luigi
St. Pius X
St. Rita
St. Sebastian
St. Vincent de Paul

Secondary Schools

Bishop Marrocco/Thomas
Merton
St. Mary

Superintendents:

Paul Crawford
Angela Gauthier
Jim Saraco

Parishes:

Holy Family
St. Anthony
St. Casimir
St. Cecilia
St. Helen
St. James
St. Joan of Arc
St. Josaphat
St. Mary's Polish
St. Pius X
St. Sebastian
St. Vincent de Paul



Ontario Gets Creative with Keeping Students in School

Turning 16 is an exciting time because it means being able to get a driver's license. But according to pending legislation, Ontario high school students who drop out will not be given this privilege.

The province has proposed delaying drivers' licenses to students who drop out until they are 18. This new rule is part of the Ontario government plan: the 'Ontario Student Strategy' to increase graduation rates in high schools. Through this strategy, which includes curriculum changes and expansion of co-op programs, the Ontario government hopes to achieve higher high school graduation rates and reduce the number of students who drop out in the next five years.

In 2004-2005 only 71% of eligible students graduated. By 2010 the Ontario government hopes to increase that rate to 85 per cent. This new rule will not come into effect until the "Student Success Strategy" is fully implemented.

Students comment on pending legislation:



Shawn Bettencourt

Vanessa Heras

Shawn Bettencourt, Grade 11, BMTM

"Yes it is an effective plan to keep students in school, because teenagers want the right to drive and in order to get the right to drive they have to be enrolled in school. I think it will work because it will give teenagers some initiative to stay in school. This plan would keep me in school, because I would not want to be 18, out of school, and with no car, while all my other friends are able to drive."

Vanessa Heras, Grade 11, BMTM

"No, I do not believe that it is an effective plan to keep students in school mainly because I think the government is taking away students' freedoms from driving if they drop out before they are 18."

James Culnan supports children

James Culnan Catholic School raised more than \$600 during its Christmas raffle, with all proceeds going to support the work of the Catholic Children's Aid Society.

ESP Flag Presentation

On January 17th, students at St. Mary's presented Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair with an Empowered Student Partnership flag designed and produced by the ESP team at the school. On hand for the special event were Toronto Mayor David Miller and a host of Board officials.



Trustee Barbara Poplawski, Mayor David Miller, CSAC Chair Maria Caires, Police Chief William Blair, and St. Mary Principal Adrian Della Mora.



St. Mary students bring in the flag.

New building for St. Anthony

There was much excitement as students from St. Anthony officially moved into their new facility for the first time in April. A small ceremony which included the blessing of a statue of St. Anthony took place at that time. The official blessing and opening of the school is scheduled for the 2006-2007 school year. I look forward to the celebration.

Principal Recognized by Peers

Special congratulations to Art Biffis, principal at St. Pius X Catholic School for being recognized by the Toronto Catholic Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association with the Leader in Catholic Education Award. Art retires this June and we wish him well.



Awards Night Highlights

TCDSB was proud to present more than 190 awards and certificates of appreciation to staff, students and parents for their outstanding achievements at a special awards event held on May 29th. Among the recipients were:



Eoghan Bracken-Murphy from St. Cecilia, member of the Toronto West U14A Boys' Volleyball Team which won the Rochester Can-Am Tournament.



Holy Family Catholic School (Principal Ernie McGuire, centre) for being among the three schools nominated for academic achievement in excess of expectations from the Garfield Weston Awards.



St. Pius X Catholic School placed in the top 1% out of 2,825 Ontario schools. Principal Art Biffis and Vice-Principal Gabrielle Benedek, centre.



Giovanna Milne-Allan, teacher at St. Anthony Catholic School, whose published poem "What My Arms Can Carry" was part of a series of original drama broadcasts by CBC Radio.



Grace Vieira, a parent volunteer at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School, who has donated her time to support the JK/SK class for the past four years. She is also a lunchroom supervisor and the treasurer of the school's CSAC.

Welcome to New Administrators

A number of Ward 10 schools will receive new principals and vice-principals this fall. I thank all the outgoing administrators for their commitment over recent years, and extend a warm welcome to the following: Catherine Cicero, new principal at St. Cecilia, Krystyna Schneider, new principal at St. Vincent de Paul, Gabrielle Benedek, new principal at St. Pius X.

St. Cecilia Fun Fair

The highlight of the fair held on June 16th was the unveiling of a mural done by artist Melisa Fauceglia. On hand for the unveiling were: Principal Glenn Cary, Superintendent Angela Gauthier, Arturo Gonzalez, Liz Solarski, Trustee Barbara Poplawski and the artist (see below).



Students cool their heels in the former "fishing pond" at the end of the fair.

Arturo Gonzalez, in the spirit of the Fun Fair.



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 Access 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





School Year Calendar 2006-2007

Number of PA Days
4

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

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TCDSB Arctic Games

On Wednesday, February 22nd, over 500 Catholic elementary school students gathered under the dome at St. Michael's College School to participate in the first TCDSB Arctic Games. Students played "kid-friendly" versions of traditional Inuit games such as "Blanket Toss" and "Snow Shoe Relay". The Games introduced students to new ways of testing their agility and skill in a spirit of cooperation, while providing a colourful, lively experience for athletes and observers alike. A group of Inuit performers performed the ancient art of throat singing, drumming and even demonstrated a few traditional sports.

Special guests included the Lieutenant Governor Ontario James Bartleman, City Councillor Joe Mihevc, Toronto Argonaut Mike Palmer. Terry Young, Principal at Inukshuk High School in Iqaluit and his wife, Barb Young, Adrian Fernandes, who both teach at the school. Tina Molinari and Father Sebastian Groleau from Catholic Missions in Canada were also on hand as the event was also a fundraiser for the Missions. Rounding out this list of notable attendees was TCDSB Artist-in-Residence, Linda Mackey (who presented His Honour with one of her paintings).

This special event officially launched the Board's Twinning Initiative with schools in the Nunavut region. Toronto schools will pair up with schools in Nunavut to learn about their daily lives, art, music and culture. The Nunavut Twinning Initiative promotes the development of respect and appreciation for different cultures.

St. Rita Catholic School is one of the schools participating in the twinning project this year.



Pictured at left with Ms. Mackey's painting entitled "Follow Your Dreams": (Front Row--Lieutenant Governor Bartleman with TCDSB Artist in Residence Linda Mackey and the Nunavut singers; Back Row--Deputy Director Les Nemes, Director of Education Kevin Kobus, Board Chair Oliver Carroll, Catholic School Trustees Catherine LeBlanc-Miller, Mary Cicogna and Barbara Poplawski.



MTCEF Fun Walk

I was pleased to participate in the 5km walk in early May to raise funds to support the students in our schools. The walk was a huge success. Break-fast programs are among the many worthwhile services supported by the annual walk, which raised \$14,000 this year.



Bishop Marrocco/Thomas Merton presented the impressive world premier of the musical "Monte Cristo", written and scored by Andrew Malette, directed by Sean Gorman and produced by Darcy Gallager. The students were terrific!



Andrew Rozbicki, music teacher at BMTM recently received the OISE/UoFT Outstanding Associate Teacher Award. With him is principal Maria Pereira.



I had the pleasure of attending St. Mary's production of "Little Shop of Horrors", which featured top notch acting, dancing and singing.