



# Trustee Barbara Poplawski

**REPRESENTING:**

*Elementary Schools:*

Holy Family	James Culhan
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
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*Superintendents:*

Rory McGuckin  
 Dr. Jim Saraco,  
 Colleen Tovey-Shackleton

*Parishes:*

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



## Barbara Poplawski

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 Toronto Catholic  
 District School Board  
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Winter 2010

### Message from Your Trustee

It has been an eventful year filled with both challenges and celebrations for our school communities and for us as a Catholic school system. As the Board continues under Ministry Supervision, I remain available to my ratepayers and constituents and can be contacted by phone, e-mail or in person to address any concerns or questions you may have.

I had the pleasure of attending, together with over 4,000 of our students, staff and guests, the 25 Anniversary of the Peace Gardens at Nathan Phillips Square on September 29. It was fitting that Justin Trudeau, MP, was the Keynote Speaker. It was his father, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, who lit the flame in the Peace Garden 25 years ago. This event launched the Peace Ambassador programme in our schools, calling us to spread the word of "PEACE" both in our schools, our homes and in our communities. In his speech, Mr. Trudeau said our students "are the leaders of 'TODAY'". So true.

I extend a special thanks to our parish partners who provide the spiritual leadership and guidance for our students and their families. A continued thank you to parents who entrust their children to the TCDSB and all those who contribute so much to our school communities.

Peace and blessings,

*Barbara Poplawski*

*Below: St. Mary's and BM/TM students pose with Justin Trudeau, MP, Archbishop Thomas Collins and Mrs. Setsuko Thurlow, Hiroshima survivor, at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Peace Garden at, Nathan Phillips Square.*



### Angel Foundation for Learning

Fun Walk May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – Sunday  
 Keep this date open.

[www.angelfoundationforlearning.org](http://www.angelfoundationforlearning.org)

*Below: Bishop Marrocco/Thomas Merton Catholic Secondary School band with Dr. Rozbicki, Music Teacher, delighted the audience at the Peace Garden celebration.*





## Our Mission:

In a school community formed by Catholic beliefs and traditions, our Mission is to educate students to their full potential

My thanks to our CSAC Chairs who contribute countless hours on behalf of all of our children:

Antonia Planta,  
Holy Family  
Katherine O'Meara,  
James Culnan  
Sharlene McDevitt-deSa,  
St. Anthony  
Lorianne Zeppieri,  
St. Cecilia  
Richard Didier,  
St. Helen  
Zona Beckles,  
St. James  
Mr. Halabar,  
St. Josaphat  
Krystyne Klimek  
Carvalho, St. Luigi  
Jane Wong-Ferris,  
St. Pius X  
Elisabeth Tavares &  
Angelita Garcia, St. Rita  
Rita Borges,  
St. Sebastian  
Karen Gliosca & Debra  
McNevin,  
St. Vincent de Paul  
Melissa Santagato,  
Bishop Marrocco/Thomas  
Merton  
Maria DeAngelis & Maria  
Medeiros,  
St. Mary Secondary

## Your Trustee's Report—Barbara Poplawski

### Shoes for Haiti

The St. Josaphat Student Council participated in the "Me to We" concert in the fall of 2009. While listening to the speakers and watching the videos, the students and their grade 8 teacher were moved by the poverty in different parts of the world. They decided they wanted to help the children of Haiti who had to walk for miles to gather water - either bare-footed or by wearing plastic water bottles on their feet. St. Josaphat students collected 'gently used' shoes for the Haiti children.

Donations for Haiti continue to grow as there are many more planned charitable activities, as an outcome of the Board's Virtue of the Month for February, which is "Love". Through works of charity, students are reminded to let their actions be guided by the idea that God says we should love one another as He has loved us. It is this month that Catholic students, with their families, parishes and schools begin the liturgical season of Lent in preparation for the holiest of seasons: the Easter Season.

The TCDSB community pulled together to send much-needed assistance to Haiti after the devastating earthquake. Raising in excess of \$230,000, school communities are continuing to raise funds and make donations to assist those impacted by this disaster. With the earthquake in Chile, other desperate needs arise.

There are a number of ways the Catholic community can help out. For further details, go to our website at: [www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org) and click on "Catholic Community" for information on our Haiti relief efforts.

### St. Cecilia Donates to St. Francis Table

Students and staff at St. Cecilia Catholic School conducted a "Halloween for Hunger" food drive. They were inspired to do something for the community after participating in 'Me to We'. Over 400 items were donated to St. Francis Table.

'Me to We', shortened to 'We Day', was created in 2007 to celebrate the power of young people to change the lives of others. This event features a series of inspirational and motivational speeches by prominent leaders and entertainers. Each TCDSB school group that attends commits to follow a year long program for change, both locally and globally.

Congratulations to all the staff and students working to make the world a friendlier place to be.

### Our Ward 10 CPIC Representative



CPIC Ward 10 rep, Rita Borges, with St Sebastian Principal, Vince Tanzini.

Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (CPIC) will be holding elections in each TCDSB Ward in May. Please check the Board's website for more information.

### Exchange Teacher comes to St. Cecilia

Anne Sophie Comte is on an exchange with a staff member from St. Cecilia Catholic School. She comes from Lausanne Switzerland and is teaching grade 3/4 French Immersion. She has exchanged her position with Letizia Macri who is teaching in Lausanne. The school is learning all about Switzerland, the differences in teaching practice, customs and how their school operates. For instance, did you know that in Switzerland the school has a caretaker that lives in? His wife is in charge of washing and ironing staff room tea towels and other light housekeeping. Some of Anne Sophie's colleagues came to visit on their term break recently. Students are buddied up as pen pals. This exchange is enriching learning for students and staff alike!

### 2010 Garfield Weston Awards for Excellence in Education

The Ministry of Education's student results data for 2,742 schools is thoroughly analyzed by the Fraser Institute. Fraser goes beyond the school ranks in the report card, and celebrates stories of individual schools from all levels of academic achievement for their improvement, consistency or determination.

Out of 2,742 Ontario schools, 81 have been selected as 'Schools of Distinction'. Congratulations to the staff and students at Holy Family, St. Helen, St. James and St Sebastian for being recognised for 'Determination of Academic Achievement' and to St Pius X in the 'Overall Academic Achievement' Category. The accomplishments of the school teams will be celebrated at the memorable awards celebration on March 23, 2010. Great job!



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

Trustee  
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## Marrocco/Merton teacher conducts BM/TM Choir performs at Living Arts Centre

The BM/TM choir, under the direction of their teacher, Ms Alexandra Haninec, performed at the Mississauga Living Arts Centre with the Celebrity Symphony Orchestra. The sold out concert, "Polish Rhapsody", heard the BM/TM choir singing in Polish! The BM/TM choir is now fund raising to go to the Vienna Music Festival.

The Arts School @ Marrocco houses a comprehensive secondary school arts program, including Drama, Music, Film, Dance and BM/TM also offers the Fast Forward Construction programme. Check out their website

BM/TM is putting on a 'Just Docs' training day for teachers K – 12 at Centennial College on March 11.

Check the dynamic BM/TM website for more information [www.marroccomerton.com](http://www.marroccomerton.com).



*BM/TM Choir at the Living Arts Centre*

## January Award Winners at St. Luigi

Each month, St. Luigi Catholic School recognizes students who exemplify the Virtue of the Month. January's virtue was courage. Congratulations to our "courageous" students at St. Luigi.



*Virtue of the Month Award winners at St. Luigi Catholic School*

## Music! Not Mischief Program at St. Mary Secondary

Many young students dream of becoming a rock star and *Music! Not Mischief* allows them to experience the possibility. This innovative music program engages young people in guitar lessons. The program is delivered by Officers from the Toronto Police Services 14 Division. Every week, on Wednesday morning, the officers come together with a selected group of young students to jam with them. The idea behind the program is to link police officers with at-risk youth to help them understand and deconstruct their life challenges through the universal language of music. In May, three students will represent St. Mary at a rock concert in the school, backed up by rock band Tracenine.



## Appropriate Dress Code

It is the intent of the Toronto Catholic District School Board to revise the Dress Code for Pupils Policy S.S.07 to coincide with the implementation of an Appropriate Dress Code in all of our elementary schools by September 2011. The Appropriate Dress Code consists of any combination of white and navy blue garments (e.g. plain white top, navy blue bottom or, navy blue top and bottom, no denim). There are already a number of elementary schools poised to implement this new dress code. No changes are requested of the 50 schools that currently have an Appropriate or Uniform Dress Code.

There will be many opportunities for parents to discuss and assist in planning how the new dress code may best move forward in our elementary schools. Your feedback and participation in discussions and planning for the implementation of the dress code is important to us. Parents are encouraged to speak to their school principal and/or their Chair of the Catholic School Advisory Council.

Information is posted on the Board's website at: <http://www.tcdsb.org/csac/dresscode.htm>



## Check Your School Support

Roman Catholic parents, ratepayers and members of the Eastern Rite in union with the See of Rome, must declare their support for Catholic schools. Separate school support is used:

- to cast a vote in the election of separate school trustees in municipal elections;
- as an indicator the government can use to determine overall support for, and strength of, the publicly funded Catholic school system in Ontario;
- for tracking demographic trends for educational planning purposes.

Homeowners can check their most recent Assessment Notice from MPAC, or call the Voter Registration Department for confirmation.

Although tenants do not receive a Property Assessment Notice, they still direct school support for the area of the home or the apartment they occupy. Tenants should contact the Voter Registration Department by phone at 416-222-8282 ext 2446 or 2283 or email to [sandra.vitale@tcdsb.org](mailto:sandra.vitale@tcdsb.org) to confirm direction of their school support.

*The future of Catholic Education depends on all of us!*

Trustee

Barbara Poplawski

## Bill 157 Legislation

The Ministry of Education introduced a bill that made changes to the Education Act. Bill 157, known as *"Keeping our Kids Safe at School"*. Sustaining safe and caring schools is a priority for Ontario and the Toronto Catholic District School Board.

The Toronto Catholic District School Board has updated the Code of Conduct to respond to the changes in the Education Act. As of February 2010, the Code of Conduct includes, duty to respond, duty to report, supports for students, and delegation of the Principal's authority. All school community members share these new responsibilities to keep schools safe.

As of February 1st, 2010, all schools in Ontario must have a process in place to:

- *respond* to comments and behaviours that affect the climate of the school,
- *report* in writing to the Principal behaviours and activities that may lead to a suspension or expulsion,
- *support* victims of bullying,
- *assist* parents with explanations on protocols,
- *delegate* Principal duties to Vice Principals and teachers in the absence of the principal.

More detailed questions about the legislation are answered on our website at: <http://www.tcdsb.org/Safe%20Schools/>

## Full Day Learning

The Toronto Catholic District School Board welcomes the Province of Ontario's announcement of the implementation of full-day learning (or Early Learning Program--ELP) for children in junior and senior kindergarten beginning in September 2010. Full-day learning is expected to be fully implemented by the 2015-2016 school year.

For the first year of the program, the Province is funding full-day learning spaces for approximately 35,000 children across Ontario. The Province reports that we will receive funding for approximately 61 full-day kindergarten classrooms across the system, serving a little more than 1,500 students. The following schools in my Ward will have Full Day Learning this coming September: Holy Family, James Culnan and St. Anthony Catholic Schools. St. Luigi Catholic School piloted a full-day Senior Kindergarten, which will continue next year. The Board has put forward St. Pius X C.S. for consideration in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of implementation.

## Budget

The 2009-2010 budget of \$910,524,613 reflects the Board's Focused Delivery approach to achieve effective, efficient and equitable programs and services while better meeting the needs of all students. The budget focuses on supporting priorities such as improved student achievement, smaller class sizes and additional resources to support teaching and learning.

The multi-year plan allows for the elimination of the accumulated deficit over the next two years, with a small projected surplus by the end of 2010-2011 of approximately \$2 million.

## Official Opening of New Parenting And Family Literacy Centre at St. Helen's

A new Parenting and Family Literacy Centre opened at St. Helen Catholic School on November 18<sup>th</sup>.



*Enjoying the St. Helen's Centre*

Parenting and Family Literacy Centres are school based programs where parents/caregivers and children, from birth to six years of age, participate in play-based activities that focus on the development of early literacy and numeracy skills. Key program goals include fostering positive parent-child interactions and optimal child development, offering a family literacy program that develops early literacy and numeracy skills, increasing parent's knowledge, involvement and comfort with schools, helping with transition to school and early identification of children with special needs.

The St. Helen PFLC is located at 1196 College Street and is open Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

## Ward 10 Family of Schools Meeting

**Please keep this date open:**

When? Wednesday, March 24, 7 – 9 p.m.

Where? Bishop Marrocco/Thomas Merton