

Your Trustee's Report

REPRESENTING:

Elementary Schools:

Annunciation	Canadian Martyrs
Holy Cross	Holy Name
St. Aloysius	St. Bernadette
St. Brigid	St. Catherine
St. Denis	St. Isaac Jogues
St. John	St. Joseph

Superintendent: Bernice Brand

Secondary Schools:

Notre Dame	Senator O'Connor
St. Patrick	Msgr. Fraser College (Curzon)

Superintendents: Michael O'Keefe, Colleen French

Parishes:

Annunciation	Canadian Martyrs
Corpus Christi	Holy Cross
Holy Name	St. Ann
St. Brigid	St. Catherine
St. John	St. Joseph



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SPRING 2002

Message from your Trustee

Happy Spring to All!

May I say that it has been a great pleasure and privilege to work with such a dedicated, committed group of people. We are fortunate to have superintendents, principals, teachers and support staff that care so much for our children. I am very thankful to have their support as I perform my duties as your trustee.

I especially would like to recognize the efforts of the parent members of the School Accommodation Review Area Committees for their hours of dedicated service over the last few months. I would like to thank the members of the local transition teams for taking on such a challenging task. I would like to congratulate the members of each of the Catholic School Advisory Councils; your efforts often go unnoticed but you are the pillars and support structures of our schools and therefore of our Catholic school system.

Many challenges lie ahead of us during the remainder of this school year. The time is now to focus on how we can protect and preserve our Catholic school system in Toronto.

Many of us are feeling bitter and disappointed with the outcome of the recent accommodation review process within the Toronto Catholic District School Board. In Ward 11 St. Bernadette and St Aloysius Catholic Schools will close in June 2002. In my opinion, we are experiencing the erosion of the Catholic school system. It is time for us to unite and to decide what is most important for us. How important is it for a Catholic school to be near the parish church? How important is it for the parish priest to take an active role in the life of the school? How important is it for sacramental preparation to be a cooperative joint collaborative experience shared by home church and school?

Whose job is it to ensure that Catholic schools survive and thrive? Is it the Archdiocese of Toronto, the parents, the school board, the teachers,

the parish community, the Catholic trustees? It is my view that every single member of the Catholic Church must begin to play a bigger role; each one of us needs to find a way to make a bigger impact.

If there is true merit in Catholic education, it should not be difficult to articulate it, discuss it and do some concrete things to cement it. I will advocate for policy changes where necessary and work with the Board to forge stronger and more meaningful dialogue with the Archdiocese. I will be vigilant to recognize when a threat to our Catholic school system presents itself.

This School Accommodation Review process focusing on location, facility and programming improvements has generated a huge amount of community consultation, and has provided us with an opportunity to pause and reflect on the impact of school closure on our Catholic community. I think that the preservation of community schools is paramount. I believe that it is time to forge a stronger relationship among parish, home and school.

The time is now to foster a closer working relationship with the Archdiocese of Toronto to ensure its full support of our Catholic schools. The time is now to advertise and promote our Catholic schools to the world. The time is now for parents to be involved in every aspect of their children's education. We must stand together to ensure a bright future for our children so they can continue to be educated in Catholic schools.

To each and every student, I wish you well in your studies. I hope your school life is happy and that you are enjoying many successful moments. I hope that you are able to make a difference in someone else's life every day just like Jesus did.

Your Trustee's Report

School Year Calendar for 2002

Good Friday
March 29, 2002
Easter Monday
April 1, 2002

Victoria Day
May 20, 2002

School Year Ends
June 28, 2002

Construction projects move ahead

Work will begin on a number of new school facilities over the next six months. Our Lady of Sorrows should be completed some time in 2002. Construction will begin on Our Lady of Fatima, St. Anthony and St. Timothy before the end of the summer. Late this spring, we should see the start of construction of a new school for All Saints, as well as an addition/renovations at St. Jane Frances and St. Nicholas of Bari. Work should also begin in the fall or winter on new facilities for Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Robert, Father John Redmond, Francis Libermann, Loretto College, Immaculate Conception, Senator O'Connor and Brebeuf College.

In addition to these capital projects, the Board is also moving ahead with approximately \$69.9 million worth of renovations, additions and new schools as a result of the School Accommodation Review process. This will include a replacement facility for Monsignor Percy Johnson and Father Henry Carr, as well as renewal work, alterations, additions and facility improvements at 28 school sites.

Transition process for closing schools

I would encourage parents and staff in closing schools to address any concerns they may have around the transition process to their local school principal. In addition, the Board has appointed Mike Sullivan as project coordinator for implementation. The Local School Transition Committees will be discussing a variety of activities that will be initiated between the closing and receiving schools to ease the transition process for students, and to make them feel welcome in their new communities.

Toronto welcomes youth

Toronto's Catholic secondary students will be participating in World Youth Day 2002 next July. TCDSB school facilities will be offered as temporary residences for pilgrims (and their chaperones) during this special event. The entire Catholic community is urged to participate, and to support, this wonderful opportunity to nurture the spiritual well-being of our young people. The Board has designated \$50,000 from Economic Development initiatives to support WYD2002 activities within our own school Board.

Chaplaincy Program review

A committee will be reviewing the various aspects of the role of Chaplain and Chaplaincy team leader within the TCDSB. The committee is expected to report back to the Board later this year.

Ward 11 Milestones

- Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School celebrated 60th anniversary in October.
- Canadian Martyrs Catholic School marked its 50th anniversary this fall.
- Congratulations to Steven Carreira, a student from St. Patrick Catholic Secondary School for being selected as one of 17 youth participating in the recent "Bridging the Solitudes Project" last year. The Board presented Steven with a Student Achievement Award last May.
- St. Brigid Catholic Church celebrated its 75th anniversary recently.
- Congratulations to St. Patrick Catholic Secondary School for its TCDSB Exemplary Practice Award in recognition of their Adapted Physical Education Program for non-challenged, multiple handicapped and developmentally delayed athletes.



- Congratulations to St. John Catholic School for raising more than \$1,700 to help the homeless during their Toque Tuesday fundraiser.



- Congratulations to Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School for their TDCAA Senior Girls' B Volleyball Championship.



Shared transportation

The Board continues to work closely with the Toronto District School Board to explore shared school bus transportation. A sharing arrangement for special education buses in the former city of North York, in place since 1997, saves TCDSB approximately \$150,000 per year.

This September, the Board is sharing Special Education transportation in the former city of Scarborough as well, with savings of approximately \$180,000 annually. Discussions continue around further expansion of coterminous transportation for the 2002-2003 school year.

Exceptional circumstance transportation

Exceptional circumstance transportation may be provided to students residing within 1.5 km and attending the closest elementary Catholic school when space is available on an existing special education bus, when timing will allow, and at no additional cost to the Board. Parents must apply each year through their child's school for exceptional circumstance transportation. Please be aware that the availability of exceptional circumstance transportation may change from one year to the next.

Medical transportation

Under the Board's current policy, home to school transportation may be provided to elementary level pupils who are certified by a medical practitioner to be temporarily, or permanently, physically disabled.

Continued emphasis on literacy

TCDSB continues to focus on system-wide literacy as one of its major priorities for the upcoming school year. Recent initiatives in that area include:

- A one-day conference in support of the struggling intermediate reader (last winter);
- Reading workshops for teachers in grades 4-8;
- EQAO workshops for grades 3 and 6 teachers and writing in-service for secondary teachers (Spring 2001);
- Literacy information sessions for elementary principals and cross-curricular literacy preparation for grade 10 test of reading and writing for grade 9 teachers (June 2001);
- Grade 7 and 8 summer school literacy program;
- Training to administer the grade 10 literacy test for principals and teachers and literacy workshops in various schools (Fall 2001).

Grade 3 and grade 6 assessment available on the Board website

Results from the 2001 EQAO assessment of grade 3 and grade 6 are available on the Board's website at www.tcdsb.org (see "assessment/testing" or visit the individual school pages within the "schools" section).

Balanced Literacy and Fifth Block— Innovative approaches to learning

The Balanced Literacy approach has been successfully integrated into the primary school curriculum over the last four years. This approach reflects four main approaches to teaching reading, focuses on skills and strategy acquisition, addresses varying student needs and learning styles using four blocks that are interconnected and support each other.

The Board supports the Balanced Literacy initiative by focusing resources in five areas:

- substantial, detailed, and ongoing in-service training to all Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3 teachers
- a large variety of current professional resources to all Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3 teachers (connected to the in-service training)
- ongoing support, mentoring, and consultation to all teachers implementing Balanced Literacy
- a very large collection of appropriately levelled classroom reading materials for each classroom (each classroom received more than \$2,000 worth of student reading materials)
- detailed assessment materials and training in how to program using assessment information

For students requiring more intensive support, the Board also introduced Fifth Block, a short-term intervention component within Balanced Literacy, and successfully melded Balanced Literacy with its extended-day International Languages Program.

Board approves new International Languages Protocol

The Board has approved a preliminary protocol for assessing the viability of the International Languages Extended Day Program at the local level. The new protocol includes:

- Schools that offer the Extended Day program shall survey the community to conduct a needs assessment of the program every three years or sooner if the Board views it necessary.
- Requests for surveys will come to the Director of Education from the school's CSAC through the local Superintendent.
- The school community will be made aware that they can make a delegation before the Board of Trustees with respect to this request outlining the rationale for the request.
- While the CSAC may initiate the process at any time, the report to the Board of Trustees will be submitted annually, no later than March of any given year.

The results of the survey will be compiled and any changes to the languages offered or continued viability of the program would take effect the next September.



Toronto Catholic District School Board

SYSTEM PRIORITIES 2001-2002

OUR CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

- Catholic leadership responsibility: *System leaders as creators of climates based on growth, trust, and accountability and as models of life-giving respect and care*
- Communication enhancement: *Improve two-way communication at the local level*
- Staff morale/wellness (spiritual, physical, social) focus: *Enhance the quality of the working and learning environment within the TCDSB*

LITERACY

- Primary objective: *Every student in our system will become an effective communicator*
- One year objective: *We will move 10% of our student population from level 2 to level 3 on our EQAO literacy results*
- Two year objective: *We will increase student literacy, Board-wide, by 10% over two years*

Your Trustee's Report

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. 6634

Permits

416-222-8282,
ext. 2104/2474

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

Board takes action in response to EQAO grade 9 mathematics results

The Board has approved an extensive action plan in response to the grade 9 EQAO mathematics test results. These include that the Curriculum and Accountability Department will:

- Use a variety of models to in-service teachers and administrators on the changes needed in instruction and assessment.
- Provide specific in-service for new teachers without existing mathematics qualifications to build the specialized skills needed for intermediate mathematics instruction.
- Provide additional intermediate resources.
- Develop strategies to ensure that grade 8 students are selecting the appropriate grade 9 mathematics courses.
- Investigate the impact of non-semestering on student performance in mathematics.
- Continue to pursue additional qualification courses for intermediate staff.
- Review and expand implementation of locally developed mathematics course in grade 9.
- Require all secondary schools to ensure that parts of the grade 9 EQAO assessment in mathematics are included as part of the student's summative assessment.
- Establish curriculum-writing projects to develop additional resources for teachers:
 1. Sample assessments with examples of student work.
 2. Curriculum planning guides for grade 7-9 applied course.
 3. Curriculum resources for a revised locally developed grade 9 mathematics program.
 4. Resource guide for principals to assist with assessment and evaluation of the mathematics program.
- Expand after-school and summer remedial programs for intermediate students.
- Provide strategies to support the development of local expertise in mathematics.
- Explore best practices of schools.

Registration Reminder

Registration continues throughout the TCDSB. Contact the Catholic school nearest you for more information, or call 416-222-8282, ext. 5314. Parents interested in French immersion, are invited to attend an information meeting on March 26th at 7 p.m. at St. John Catholic School, 780 Kingston Road (east Toronto). For information about other schools offering French immersion, call 416-222-8282, ext. 2540.

Initiatives in Special Education

The Board last year established a website for the Special Education Advisory Committee. It can be found on the website at www.tcdsb.org/special%20%education/default.htm. Information about SEAC meetings, a guide to Special Education, as well as upcoming special events/-conferences that pertain to Special Education, are highlighted on that site.

New programs that were initiated in 2001 include:

- Hospital for Sick Children PHAST program, now offered in 18 satellite classrooms
- Arrowsmith programming in five elementary schools;
- Creation of Kindergarten Language classes in all quadrants of the city;
- Expansion of Kindergarten Intervention Needs Development (KIND) program for youngsters exhibiting behavioural difficulties;
- Creation of autism resource teams to assist teachers and parents in accommodating students' needs;
- Implementation of innovative technology (Kurzweil Program) in 10 secondary schools as an accepted Ministry of Education accommodation for Grade 10 Literacy Test;
- Partnership with the Learning Disability Association of Ontario to pilot an Early Intervention Strategy begins this year in four schools;
- A parent information morning regarding Special Education programs and services.

TCDSB is seeking new ways to boost enrollment

The Board recognizes that closing schools is not the preferred solution to our financial problems, and that while we had to approve the closure of some facilities in order to access some additional capital funds, we also need to generate new revenue by attracting new students to the Board.

The Board is working closely with the Archdiocese of Toronto to explore how we might be able to work together to ensure that more Catholic children attend Catholic schools. At the same time, a marketing committee, composed of staff from across the Board, including principals from elementary and secondary schools is also exploring new ways to promote our schools and our school board.