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**Welcome Back Message from the  
 Director of Education and Chair of the Board**

September, 2012



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Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

Welcome back!

We are pleased to be able to inform you that all 200 schools that make up the Toronto Catholic District School Board are open and ready to take students on another exciting year-long journey of learning and achievement.

In an unwavering effort to ensure stability for our student and parent community, the TCDSB was the first school board in Ontario to endorse and implement the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) reached between the Ontario Ministry of Education and the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association (OECTA). The courageous decision by our Trustees to adopt the framework agreement is based on the critical importance we place on minimizing uncertainty when it comes to the education of our students. As the largest Catholic school board in Ontario, we decided to take a leadership role that puts the needs of our students and parents first. The MOU ensures our classrooms will remain stable and nurturing learning environments, while saving the Board \$3.7 million in costs during tough economic times – funds that can now be used to enrich and support opportunities for students.

The summer was also an exciting one for Toronto Catholic on many other fronts. Our summer school programs were again very successful with high levels of enrolment. In July, we welcomed our first group of 40 students from Beijing, China. The Board's *Focus on Youth* program ran for the sixth consecutive year. Along with millions of Canadians, we watched with pride as our two TCDSB athletes competed at the 2012 London Olympics. We applaud the inspiring performances of Anastasiya Muntyanu and Anjelika Reznik who represented us so well as members of Canada's Rhythmic Gymnastics Team. Seeing our students in action on the biggest stage in the world was truly a golden moment to remember and cherish.



**Patrizia Bottoni**  
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September will see the Board embarking on a new three-year pastoral plan focusing on the theological virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity. This year, we will be emphasizing Faith as the foundation of our daily lives. Toronto Catholic schools have a proud history of inspiring students through curriculum that is rooted in Gospel values and informed by the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations. We are especially proud of our Board's inclusive learning community where we strive to educate students to grow in grace and knowledge and to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.

We will continue to align the Board's activities with the Multi-Year Strategic Plan. The TCDSB is committed to delivering effective, efficient and equitable programs and services that will continue to support high levels of student achievement. Investment in school facilities is a high priority and is being supported by an ambitious capital, renewal and maintenance plan to ensure our buildings are conducive to learning. It will be a busy and exciting time for several of our schools as they look forward to opening new additions or moving into new school buildings this year.

You are invited to visit our website often ([www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org)) to stay up-to-date on the Board's capital projects and for the latest news regarding our extensive offering of programs and services. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions. Contact information for the trustees is available at [www.tcdsb.org/board/trusteesoftheboard](http://www.tcdsb.org/board/trusteesoftheboard).

All of us – parents, teachers, support staff, students, and spiritual leaders – share a collective responsibility for making our schools places of excellence where the faith of our youth is nourished and where they are inspired to become good citizens in a global community. Thank you for your active support in helping our students realize their full potential.

On behalf of the Trustees of the Board and the Senior Team, we wish you a spiritually and academically successful year as we continue to move forward together.

Sincerely,



Bruce Rodrigues  
*Director of Education*



Ann Andrachuk  
*Chair of the Board*

cc. Board of Trustees