Director’s Message

Times change, people change, conditions change but our Gospel message remains the same. We are reminded in scripture and in song that ‘all are welcome in this place’, this place being our 201 Catholic schools and administrative offices.

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is truly blessed with the quality and abundance of talent among the educators, support staff, senior staff, administrators who work in partnership with parents, school councils, parishes and our community to create a nurturing and challenging learning environment for our students.

The Director’s Annual Report provides me with an opportunity to review the highlights and the many accomplishments of our students, staff and trustees in light of our theme over the last three years:

- *We are Partners in Catholic Education*
- *A Fellowship of Inspiration and Unending Dedication*
- *Stewards of the Enduring Gifts Amidst Changing Realities*
- *A Community of Leaders – Leaders in Building Community*

I am pleased to be the WE of the partners in Catholic Education. I am extremely proud of what WE do and that WE are well positioned for the opportunities that are being presented to us.

The Board concluded its year-long celebration of the Board’s 50th anniversary with a culminating Mass at the Ricoh Centre. The 50th anniversary was so successful because of the work of many, truly a community of leaders working together to build community. The passing of Dr. Edmund Nelligan, the Board’s first Director of Education, could not help but reinforce for all of us in leadership roles, the responsibility WE all have to ensure that the enduring gifts of Catholic education are nurtured and protected for future generations to celebrate.

I offer my sincerest congratulations and thanks to our entire Toronto Catholic District School Board community for playing such a major role in our continued revitalization and rejuvenation, all of which contribute to our students’ academic and spiritual development.

Thank you for your partnership in Catholic education, your inspiration and unending dedication, your stewardship of this enduring gift and your leadership in building community and Bethlehem.

I am confident that our Board can look forward to another promising school year as we continue building on our accomplishments.

Tom Donovan, Director of Education
A Community of Faith

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is a community of faith, and as such, our schools incorporate prayer, meditation, formal religious education and community service into the daily lives of our students.

Celebrating Pope John Paul II’s 25th anniversary

The Toronto Catholic District School Board joined Catholics around the world in celebrating the 25th anniversary of Pope John Paul II’s pontificate in a number of ways, including a prayer service held on October 16th at the Catholic Education Centre.

Through the initiative of TCDSB’s Religious Education/Family Life Department, students were invited to create congratulatory cards and greetings for the Pope’s 25 years of spiritual leadership and service. The cards, letters and booklets were displayed in the atrium at the Catholic Education Centre throughout the week of October 14th. The entire collection has been forwarded to the Vatican.

Beatification of Mother Teresa

Mother Teresa Catholic Secondary School celebrated the beatification of its patron, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, with a special mass and reception on October 20th. Representatives from the Sisters of Charity were presented with a special gift—a piece of original artwork—created by a student at the school.

The school has been renamed Blessed Mother Teresa Catholic School in keeping with the beatification of Mother Teresa.

We believe...We celebrate...We continue the journey...

The Board concluded its year-long celebration of the 50th anniversary of its incorporation with a culminating Mass celebrated by his Eminence Aloysius Cardinal Ambrozic at the Ricoh Centre on Sunday, May 2, 2004. The special event “We Believe...We Celebrate...We Continue the Journey...” involved students, parents, staff, trustees, dignitaries and members of Toronto’s Catholic community.

Each participating school created a banner, which was presented during the procession at the celebration’s opening ceremonies.

“In a school community formed by Catholic beliefs and traditions, our Mission is to educate students to their full potential.”
Students and school communities throughout the Board put their faith into action every day through their participation in activities that support the neediest members of our own community here in Toronto, as well as those in other countries. Among the countless acts of charity that took place in 2003-2004 were:

**Students raise funds to help recovering classmate**

The voices of grade 6 students from St. Malachy Catholic School were featured in a special performance of 'The Song of Mark', a play based upon the gospel of Mark. Proceeds from ticket sales were used to benefit a fellow student who is battling leukemia, and was in hospital following a bone marrow transplant.

**No More Needles! No More Fingerpokes!**

During the months of May and June, over 6,000 TCDSB students and staff have been walking from the east to the west in the ‘Kids Walk to Cure Diabetes’ event in support of Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

St. Ambrose Catholic School was the first TCDSB school to host a Kids Walk to Cure Diabetes. Last year 18 TCDSB schools hosted Kids Walk to Cure Diabetes and Skipping to Cure Diabetes events, bake and book sales and dress down days raising an overwhelming $90,000.

**Holly Jones Spirit Award established**

The Board has established a Holly Jones Spirit Award in memory of Holly, who was a student at both St. Luigi and St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Schools. The Award, established in collaboration with Holly's family, will be given to grade 5 students in TCDSB schools who are held in high esteem within their school community.

**St. Anselm receives award for fundraising efforts**

St. Anselm Catholic School raised more than $10,500 in the Run for the Cure for the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation. The school received its fourth consecutive award for being the school that raised the most money during the event.

**Students helping communities in Togo**

Staff and students from across the TCDSB, under the leadership of Prince of Peace Catholic School and St. René Goupil Catholic School, have launched fundraising and awareness campaigns around the plight of children living in the West African country of Togo.

Thanks to a variety of fundraising events, tons of textbooks, medical supplies, clothing, school supplies, blankets, furniture, toys, computers, tools, building materials, etc. were shipped to Africa.

**First Annual Locks of Hope**

Students at Bishop Allen Academy, have worked on the Circle of Hope and the Festival of Hope, two initiatives aimed at raising funds for cancer research. Senior students Amanda and Margaret spearheaded the 'Locks of Hope' initiative, which saw 20 young women from within the school and surrounding Catholic elementary schools donate a minimum of 8 inches of hair to associations that make wigs for cancer patients.
Anchored in Hope

Toronto Catholic students promote safer schools

Students from 32 TCDSB secondary schools are participating in the Empowered Student Partnerships (ESP) campaign that encourages students to tackle issues within their own school community, and foster safer school environments.

St. Joseph's Morrow Park Catholic Secondary School organized the Board's annual Model United Nations Conference—CSUNA (Catholic Schools United Nations Assembly), which was held at the Catholic Education Centre. The three-day conference is a forum in which more than 500 secondary schools students are given the opportunity to voice their opinions on world issues and become global citizens by participating in intense debates. CSUNA emulates the structure, procedures, and policies of the UN, providing students with insight into how the organization operates.

Kristopher's Walk

Students at Bishop Marrocco/Thomas Merton Catholic Secondary School greeted Kristopher Knowles (far right) to Toronto in February. Kristopher launched a 200-city walking tour across Canada to raise awareness of, and funds for, organ transplants. Minister of Education Gerard Kennedy (left) and Principal Russell Coleman (centre) welcomed Kristopher.

Project Peace: Building Safer Schools

The Toronto Catholic District School Board declared the week of March 29th to April 2nd as Project Peace: Building Safer Schools Week.

A variety of events were held across the board, with students participating in activities to heighten awareness around issues pertaining to school safety.
In this year...

TCDSB mourns loss of first Director of Education

The Toronto Catholic District School Board mourned the loss of its first Director of Education, Dr. B. Edmund Nelligan, who passed away March 8, 2004.

Dr. Nelligan first joined the Metropolitan Separate School Board (now TCDSB) in 1965 as its chief executive office and served the Board until 1983. He was a strong and determined leader whose first priority was always the children in our schools. He was instrumental in broadening the curriculum to include family life education, daily French instruction from grade 1, instrumental music, heritage languages (now international languages) and outdoor education, as well as the introduction and expansion of services for children with special needs.

History of Catholic education in the City of Toronto documented

The TCDSB has undertaken the task of documenting the history of Catholic education in the City of Toronto. This history will give recognition to all those who have contributed to the development of the strong publicly funded Catholic school system that exists today.

The author of the history will be Dr. Robert T. Dixon, who is a recognized author and legal consultant on Catholic schools in the province of Ontario. An advisory group will work with Dr. Dixon, with the goal of completing the history sometime during the 2005 calendar year.

TCDSB rallies behind Louise Russo and her family

In the spring, the Board established the Louise Russo and Family Fund, to support Mrs. Russo after the tragic random shooting that has left the devoted mother and active member of the TCDSB community in a wheelchair.

Cards, letters and messages of hope have come from staff, students and parents throughout the Board and the extended communities. The Board has launched a web page to provide an opportunity for everyone within the TCDSB Catholic and extended communities to send a message to Louise and her family. (see www.tcdsb.org, then Louise Russo)

The Board has established a trust fund to assist the Russo family through these difficult times. Our unions, parent councils, parishes, trustees and individual students, staff, parents and members of the community at large have generously come forward with donations. The Board has raised in excess of $156,000 and the hope is that the donations will continue throughout the year. Anyone wishing to assist can send a donation to the TCDSB-Russo Family Fund.

Partners in Literacy and Numeracy

Josyf Cardinal Slipyj Catholic School (JCS) received grants of $11,000 from the Ukrainian Credit Union Limited, and $3,000 from Western Union Canada, in support of the school's 'Partners in Literacy and Numeracy Program'. The donations were used to fund a new computer wing for the JCS library and to purchase both English and Ukrainian books.

School renamed to reflect beatification of namesake

The Board has approved the renaming of John XXIII Catholic School to Blessed John XXIII Catholic School. John XXIII, for whom the school was named, was beatified by Pope John Paul II recently.
New Initiatives

TCDSB launches 12 summer literacy camps

The Board held 12 summer camps from June 28 to July 23, 2004 for students in grades 1 to 6. Operating daily from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., the camps focussed on literacy, numeracy, physical education, computers and visual arts.

The camps provided an opportunity for students to continue to build basic skills, while at the same time enjoying the company of their peers through a variety of stimulating activities and special outings. The camps also provided an opportunity for secondary school students to earn co-operative education credits and earn volunteer hours.

The camps were located at: Blessed John XXIII, Christ the King, Holy Spirit. Monsignor John Corrigan, Santa Maria, St. Columba, St. Dunstan, St. Francis de Sales, St. Jerome, St. Joseph, St. Rita and St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Schools.

Full-day kindergarten program piloted

The TCDSB announced plans to offer full-day kindergarten for senior kindergarten students starting in the Fall of 2004. The pilot project is made possible through additional Learning Opportunities Grants provided to the Board.

The full-day program will focus on improved literacy and numeracy, oral language and social skills development. Resources and supports for parents are also being funded through the additional Grant money provided.

Beginning September 2004, the pilot program will be made available at seven school sites: Blessed Margherita of Citta Di Castello, St. Augustine, St. Boniface, St. Dorothy, St. Luigi, St. Theresa and St. Thomas More Catholic Schools.

Jobs for Youth program

Through Tropicana Community Services Organization and the City of Toronto, TCDSB hired 27 students this summer from the Malvern, St. Jamestown and Jane/Finch neighbourhoods. The “Jobs for Youth” program provides meaningful work experience for students in our communities.

New overseas credit course approved

The Board, in partnership with Centro Scuola, developed a one-semester Catholic residential secondary school credit program in Italy to be offered beginning in the 2004 - 2005 school year. The new course is to be offered at no cost to the Board.

Back to School Safely program

The Toronto Catholic District School Board with its coterminous partner presented a “Back to School Safely” program that introduces parents and students to school bus safety and resources.

The programs were held at different shopping malls in Toronto. Buster the Bus provided an interactive presentation on School Bus Safety. Elmer the Safety elephant, school bus operators, and Board transportation staff were on hand to answer questions with regard to school bussing in the City of Toronto.
Celebrating Milestones in Catholic Education

School anniversaries

The TCDSB has a rich and diverse history, steeped in Catholic tradition. Celebrating milestones in 2003-2004 were:

150TH ANNIVERSARY
St. Joseph College

140TH ANNIVERSARY
St. Joseph

60TH ANNIVERSARY
Holy Cross

50TH ANNIVERSARY
Our Lady of Peace
St. Ambrose
St. Gabriel

40TH ANNIVERSARY
Madonna
St. Agatha
St. Jerome
St. Raymond

30TH ANNIVERSARY
Dante Alighieri

25TH ANNIVERSARY
Don Bosco
Father Serra
St. Luke
St. Sebastian
St. Simon

Top Scholar

Toronto Catholic District School Board’s 2003-2004 top graduating students

Michael Di Tommaso from Chaminade College Catholic Secondary School in North York has achieved 99.50 per cent, the highest average of all Grade 12 graduating students within the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) for the 2003-2004 academic year.

Michael Di Tommaso earned 100 per cent in Biology, in Calculus, in Chemistry, in Music and in Theology, and 97 in Canadian Law. These top marks earned him the University of Toronto Scholar’s Scholarship, the St. Michael’s College Foundation Admission Scholarship, the Governor General's Academic Medal, as well as Chaminade’s General Excellence Award and School Scholarship. Mr. Di Tommaso will be studying Molecular Genetics and Microbiology at the University of Toronto with a future career as a Forensic Scientist in Biology. In addition to his academic achievements, Michael Di Tommaso pursued studies in music, played the Trombone/Euphonium in the school band and was involved in the Chaminade Outdoors Club and Environmental Club in maintaining the fish hatchery, and in the Black Creek Restoration and Black Creek Erosion projects. He has been a volunteer with the Developing Countries Farm Radio Network helping create information packages for third world countries. Mr. Di Tommaso holds the rank of Corporal in the Canadian Forces Army Reserves, and is a member of the Army Reserve Military Band—the Governor General’s Horse Guards.

Wojciech Gryc from Brebeuf College Catholic Secondary School in North York and David Ruggiero from Michael Power/St. Joseph Catholic Secondary School in Etobicoke, tied for the second highest overall average with 99.17%.

Top students from other municipalities within Toronto

Angela Huang, Scarborough’s Top Student, graduated from Cardinal Newman Catholic Secondary School with a 97.00 per cent average.

Christine Le from Loretto College Catholic Secondary School is the former City of Toronto’s Top Student with a 96.00 per cent average.

Hehbert Usana from Archbishop Romero Catholic Secondary School is the top graduating student for the former Borough of York with a 95.00 per cent average.
‘A Tribute to Our TCDSB Community’, the Board’ special awards event held on October 29, 2003 and on May 27, 2004 recognized the outstanding achievements of more than 400 TCDSB students and staff, as well as members of the community.

Celebrating Student and Staff Achievements

In honour of his 25th anniversary as Pontiff, and in recognition of the impact World Youth Day has had on Catholic education in the City of Toronto, His Holiness Pope John Paul II was recognized with the 2003-2004 TCDSB Award of Merit. Reverend Thomas Rosica, C.B.S., Chief Executive Officer of Salt and Light Catholic Media Foundation and former National Director and Chief Executive Officer of World Youth Day 2002, received the 2002 TCDSB Award of Merit.

The Board also recognized former TCDSB students with the Alumni Award.

October recipients included:

Marilyn Bell DiLascio, the first person to swim Lake Ontario and former student at Loretto College Catholic School
Michael Burgess, recording artist and actor and former student at St. Michael Choir Catholic School
Kevin Hearn, keyboardist and guitarist for the Barenaked Ladies and former student at St. Michael Choir Catholic School
Reverend Thomas McKillop, former pastor at St. John Chrystostom, Holy Name and St. Mark Parishes, former Director of the Catholic Youth Organization, founder of Youth Corps, and former student at St. Helen Catholic School, De La Salle College and St. Michael’s College School.

May recipients included:

Dr. Robert Birgeneau, physicist, researcher, President of the University of Toronto, and former student at Corpus Christi and St. Helen Catholic Schools, St. Michael’s College (MSSB).
Carol Charles, reporter and video/journalist with CFTO, member of the Canadian Association of Black Journalists, and former student at St. Joseph Catholic Secondary School.
Craig Kielburger, writer, founder of Free the Children, Nobel Prize Nominee, and former student at Mary Ward Catholic Secondary School.
Kathleen O’Neill, Executive Vice-President, Personal and Commercial Development and Head of Small Business Banking, BMO Bank of Montreal, former student at Loretto College Catholic School.

The TCDSB presented the TCDSB Student Achievement Award to a number of students who have excelled either academically, physically, spiritually or socially at the provincial, national or international level.

TCDSB Certificates of Appreciation were presented to students, parents and staff in recognition of their contribution to TCDSB schools and Catholic education in the City of Toronto.

Community recipients included:

Jean Carberry, for her dedicated years of service as member of the TCDSB Special Education Advisory Committee.
Trustee Catherine LeBlanc-Miller, recipient of the Gold Medal for Excellence in Race Relations.
More successes...

**Ashif Jaffer Award for Excellence in Special Education Support**

*Recipients:*

- **Marisa Rolfe**, Child and Youth Worker at Father Serra Catholic School for her efforts in successfully integrating special education classes into the regular classroom and in extra-curricular activities.
- **Franca LiPreti**, Special Education Teacher at Blessed Margherita of Citta Di Castello Catholic School, for her work with the special education staff and with regular classroom teachers to coordinate programming for special needs students who are integrated into the regular class full time.
- **Rui Soares**, volunteer at St. Mary Catholic Secondary School, for his dedication as a volunteer at St. Mary’s for the past 10 years and for his role as teacher’s assistant in the classroom as well as in both the adaptive and regular physical education program.

**Father Andrew Cuschieri Award**

*Recipients:*

- **Alexandra Canzonieri** and **Jessica Iannuzziello**, students at St. Gabriel Catholic School for showing initiative in raising money to support cancer research in memory of a friend’s mother.
- **Michael Murphy**, student at St. Jude Catholic School, who risked his life to save a friend from the frigid waters of the Humber River.
- **Jonathan Santos**, student at Holy Name Catholic School, who showed patience and understanding in mentoring a fellow special needs student.

**Sister Mary Hamilton Award for Exceptional Students**

- **Shane Francis**, student at Senator O’Connor College School for being a source of inspiration to others and demonstrating leadership skills, a sense of justice and fair play in his volunteer work at the school.
- **Luciano Marino**, student at St. Patrick Catholic Secondary School in recognition of leadership skills demonstrated in his volunteer work at Bridgepoint Health Centre as well as at Providence Centre.
- **Brian Mark Smeikle**, student at Holy Child Catholic School for his excellent work ethic and strong organization skills demonstrated in his volunteer work at school.
Celebration of Exemplary Practices

The Toronto Catholic District School Board recognizes innovative and creative programs and projects at local schools with the TCDSB Exemplary Practice Award. The recipients of the 2003-2004 Exemplary Practice Awards are:

Ward 1  Monsignor Percy Johnson Catholic Secondary School
“Empowered Student Partnerships”

Ward 2  St. Gregory Catholic School
“St. Gregory Book Clubs for Grades 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8”

Ward 3  St. Francis Xavier Catholic School
“Going Beyond...Our Message to Our Community”

Ward 4  St. Jerome Catholic School
“Building a Catholic Community at St. Jerome and Beyond”

Ward 5  Dante Alighieri Academy Catholic School
“Dante Drama Club and Enriched Drama in partnership with Soulpepper Theatre Company, Sears Ontario Drama Festival”

Ward 6  Archbishop Romero Catholic Secondary School
“The York Mathematics Professional learning Network at Archbishop Romero”
Celebration of Exemplary Practices

The Toronto Catholic District School Board recognizes innovative and creative programs and projects at local schools with the TCDSB Exemplary Practice Award. The recipients of the 2003-2004 Exemplary Practice Awards are:

Ward 7  Precious Blood Catholic School
“Early Intervention Reading Skills and Computer Skills Development”

Ward 8  Francis Libermann Catholic Secondary School
“Personal Fitness Activities: Leadership Through Sport”

Ward 9  St. Anselm Catholic School
“The Parent Block Handbook”

Ward 10  St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School
“Candlelight Breakfast”

Ward 11  St. Joseph Catholic School
“St. Joseph’s Chicken Soup for the Soul Program”

Ward 12  Neil McNeil Catholic Secondary School
“Student Leadership Lab and Training Program”
On May 6, 2004 for the first time ever, the TDCAA and TCSAA collaborated to host a joint event celebrating athletic excellence in the TCDSB. The highlights of the event included presentation of the Victor Angelosante Award and Peter Beach Award, as well as the unveiling of the “Celebrating Athletic Excellence” athletic alumni plaque.

The Toronto Catholic District School Board, the Toronto Catholic Schools Athletic Association (TCSAA) and the Toronto District Colleges Athletic Association (TDCAA) hosted the Celebrating Athletic Excellence gala on May 6th.

The event combined the annual TCSAA AND TDCAA Coaches’ Recognition Dinners with the presentation of the TCDSB Sports Alumni Award to more than 20 former elementary and secondary school students who have represented Canada in international athletic competitions or competed at the highest level of professional athletics. Peter Fonseca, former Olympic marathoner and MPP in Mississauga, spoke on behalf of more than 150 eligible TCDSB alumni professional athletes.

Bryan Bonser was awarded the Victor Angelosante Award and Paul Forbes received the Pete Beach Award.

TCSAA Regional Coaches Award Winners:
North: Jim McLeod, St. Agnes
East: Ralph Cacace, St. Edmund Campion

TCDSB’s Shining Stars
The first annual TCDSB Shining Stars Special Day was held at St. Basil-the-Great Catholic Secondary School on June 1st.

This special endeavour brought together 120 staff, 60 volunteer students from St. Basil, more than 30 community representatives and special guests and 125 elementary school students from North York schools, who have special needs.

These students participated in a variety of activities and adapted events during their Play Day/Mini-Olympics. This endeavour proved to be a memorable and invaluable experience building camaraderie and inclusiveness within the TCDSB community.
Celebrating Community Partnerships

Board enters into new partnership agreements

The Board will enter into a three-year Level One agreement with Dell Canada Inc. for a Strategic Outsourcing Partnership Development Program, which is designed to provide the students, teachers, parents, staff and trustees and their families with quality computer products and services at discounted rates, sources of additional education and revenue for the TCDSB.

The Board is entering into a two-year renewable agreement with Bell Mobility with respect to the proposed Partnership Development Wireless Communication Program.

The partnership with the Toronto Argonauts Football Club will provide for discounted tickets to all regular home games at the Skydome, the opportunity to be part of the club’s Huddle-Up Anti-Bullying Program and an ongoing contribution of revenue based on participation and attendance levels by the community of the TCDSB.

The Board has also approved the continuation of its school-business relationship with Wild Water Kingdom for the 2004 season with respect to the proposed Partnership Development Amusement and Recreation Program.

Details of these partnerships, as well as others previously approved by the Board, can be viewed on the Board’s website at www.tcdsb.org, see Partnership Development.

Student leadership program launched

Father John Redmond Catholic Secondary School has launched a specialized program focusing on student leadership. The credit course on Leadership and Peer Support uses student-centered learning opportunities in all classes, stronger connections with local community service organizations and a recognition program for students exemplifying leadership values.

The school also launched its new four-year leadership program in the Fall. The program includes three courses: ‘Leadership and Peer Support’, ‘Canadian and International Law’ and ‘World Issues’. Participating students will also be required to complete at least one level of the Duke of Edinburg's Awards, demonstrate leadership in at least one school-based activity each year, and develop a comprehensive student portfolio.

Courage to Teach/Courage to Lead Conference

Teachers, principals and vice-principals had the opportunity to attend the Courage to Teach/Courage to Lead Conference, a retreat program based on the work of the America educator, Parker J. Palmer. Retreat opportunities will also be offered for support staff on a pilot basis during the year.

The Center for Teacher Formation in Washington State developed a renewal process, which uses a ‘formation approach’ to personal and professional development as a means to help educators to rediscover or reconfirm a sense of their vocation.

Mike Saver (TCDSB), one of two Canadians and the first educators from a Catholic school context to be trained as facilitators, was able to bring the program to our Board. The Board, is one of only two Canadian locations authorized to offer the Courage retreat, and will soon be supporting Courage retreats in other Catholic school boards in Ontario, as well as for other educational and community groups throughout the province and beyond.

Credit courses outside Canada

The Board continued to offer Continuing Education March Break Credit Courses Outside Canada. Italian, Classical Civilization and World History credit courses in Italy will be offered during the March Break 2004 at no cost to the Board. Overseas credit courses have been offered by the Board since 1991.
Special Visitors

Minister visits summer training session

Teachers gathered at St. Robert Catholic School in August for a summer training session in mathematics lead by Michelle Hennessey and Monica Rohel. Trustee Cicogna and Minister of Education Gerard Kennedy were on hand to observe the session. The training sessions in literacy and numeracy support Ministry and TCDSB initiatives to improve student learning in the early grades.

Minister makes announcement at St. James

Minister of Education Gerard Kennedy visited St. James Catholic School at the end of June to make an announcement regarding lower class sizes in the primary grades, and the appointment of lead teachers for literacy and numeracy in each school. While at St. James, the Minister joined in on an exercise of ‘making words’.

Stop, Drop and Read Event

Minister of Education Gerard Kennedy visited Holy Family Catholic School during Education Week. The Minister read a story to students at the Stop, Drop and Read Event to promote literacy.

Lithuanian Cardinal visits school

Staff and students at Our Lady of Peace Catholic School welcomed His Eminence Audrys Juozas Cardinal Backis, Archbishop of Vilnius to their school on November 29, 2003. Cardinal Backis was treated to a Lithuanian musical performance and presented with a graphic/painting and signed yearbook.

Excellence in Teaching Award

Premier Dalton McGuinty and Education Minister Gerard Kennedy visited Bishop Marrocco/Thomas Merton Catholic Secondary School to announce the Excellence in Teaching Awards, to recognize the efforts of Ontario’s teachers.

ESP Awards

Lorretto Abbey was among the many winners in this year’s ESP (Empowered Student Partnerships) Awards. Mayor David Miller was on hand to congratulate the winners and to speak to students.
Curriculum-Based Online Store

Archbishop Romero Catholic Secondary School has recently launched a new and exciting e-store called Rshoppe. This new online store was conceived and developed by Business Studies teacher Michelle Presotto and her Entrepreneurship and Marketing classes over the last couple of years.

The students in these two classes have been responsible for the research, product sourcing, product development, branding, and logistical organization of the store. Grounded in business theory, the store has provided a context through which students have brought to life and applied key business concepts in a real business setting.

The web site (www.rshoppe.org) was designed with the input of the students and is continually evolving as students address the changing needs and wants of their market. This curriculum-based e-store will bring the realities of retailing and of electronic commerce into the 21st century for the students involved in a very relevant manner.

Rshoppe’s primary focus is to serve its own students and the surrounding community. Products are developed with the urban youth market in mind and focus on quality, price, and lifestyle.

The products offered at Rshoppe currently include variously coloured carry cases, hats, scarves and athletic wear (including hooded sweats and straight, flared and athletic pants to complete the casual urban look).

TCDSB celebrates Black History Month

TCDSB schools held numerous activities throughout February in commemoration of Black History Month. These are but some of the activities:

Madonna Catholic Secondary School students visit the Director of Education to show off traditional clothing they created for Black History Month.

Our Lady of Victory welcomes Dr. Bryan Walls, the great-grandson of John Freeman Walls, a refugee slave who arrived in the Windsor area in 1846 through the Underground Railroad. Dr. Walls published “The Road That Leads to Somewhere”, a historical novel based on the Walls’ family history and has produced a resource kit for use in schools.
Grade 9 students show continued improvement in mathematics

TCDSB’s grade 9 students have demonstrated a steady improvement in their results on the EQAO grade 9 assessment of Mathematics over the past three years.

In academic programs there has been a 21% increase in the number of students achieving at Level 3, with 58% of students achieving Level 3 or higher.

The results for students in applied programs have also improved over the same period, with 16% of students achieving Level 3 or above.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 9 Mathematics</th>
<th>Percentage of students in levels 3 &amp; 4 (Method 1)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic</td>
<td>37% 52% 58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applied</td>
<td>7% 12% 17%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The group of students who underwent the grade 9 mathematics assessment in 2002-2003, is the first group of grade 9 students who also participated in the grade 6 assessment of reading, writing and mathematics three years earlier.

Comparison of results: 2000 grade 6 and 2003 grade 9

<table>
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<tr>
<th>2000 grade 6</th>
<th>2003 grade 9</th>
<th>2003 grade 9</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applied</td>
<td>academic</td>
<td>academic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of students at levels 3 and 4</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grade 3 students continue to meet the provincial standards in reading, writing and mathematics.

Forty-nine percent of grade 3 students performed at levels 3 and 4 in reading, compared to the provincial average of 50%. In writing, the results were 58%, exceeding the provincial average of 55%. In mathematics 54% of TCDSB students met the provincial standard.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Grade 3 – percentage of students in levels 3 &amp; 4 (Method 1)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
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For grade 6 students, 57% performed at levels 3 and 4 in reading compared to the provincial average of 56%. In writing, 58% met the provincial standard, while in mathematics, 51% performed at levels 3 and 4.

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<th>Grade 6 – percentage of students in levels 3 &amp; 4 (Method 1)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
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Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

Sixty-eight percent of students who were eligible to write the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) successfully completed the test. This is an 8% increase in achievement compared to results from the previous year. In addition 406 TCDSB students fulfilled the requirement through the OSSLT.

continued on page 13...
Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

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<th>February 2002</th>
<th>October 2002</th>
<th>October 2003</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Passed both Reading</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and Writing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passed Reading only</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passed Writing only</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not pass Reading</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or Writing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The improvement in the results over the three-year period can be credited to the Board’s continued focus on literacy and numeracy beginning in the early grades and continuing through to the end of secondary school, and the annual improvement plans that are developed by our schools and by the Board as a whole.

The Board continues to offer the Balanced Literacy, Literacy in the Middle Grades, Lifelong Literacy and Fifth Block programs, and has introduced the Success for All (formerly the Students-at-Risk) initiative.

Across the Board

Success for All conference

The Board launched its Students At-Risk initiative at the “Success for All” Conference on October 30th and 31st in Toronto. The three hundred and ten participants included 75 registrants representing 25 different school boards across the province.

The two-day conference showcased programs and supports for students who are at risk of not graduating. The goal is to improve achievement and life changes for all students through improved literacy, improved numeracy and programming for workplace-destined students.

The conference was spearheaded by Harry Murphy, superintendent of education, and Board-appointed leader for the Students At-Risk initiative.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

Board uses additional funding to increase language acquisition

Staffing levels have been increased in selected schools beginning February 2, 2004, and resource allocations have been provided for textbooks and learning supplies in efforts to increase language acquisition and written proficiency in English for students who are new to Canada. Funding for these initiatives has been provided through the English as a Second Language (ESL) Grant Incremental Funding of $1,305,855 allocated to the Board by the Ministry of Education. Resources and staffing have been allocated based upon ESL student enrolment.

Learning opportunities grants enhance student achievement and outcome

The incremental Learning Opportunities Grant, totalling $12,931,975, announced by the Ministry of Education in December 2003 has enabled the Board to enhance programs and services for students in areas where the additional supports are most needed.

The additional funding has been used to expand professional learning centres (job embedded professional development), Fifth Block (early intervention program), Junior Literacy Intervention, additional staffing (psychology, social work, special education), Math specialists, concept of full-day kindergarten, parenting programs and summer camp opportunities in selected Focus schools.
**Around the Board**

**Community provides input into Board budget**

Community consultations regarding the Board’s 2004-2005 budget were held in February/March 2004. Schools held local consultation meetings with parents, and five larger regional meetings were also held for all stakeholders in Catholic education.

**Community use of schools**

Minister of Education Gerard Kennedy and Minister of Tourism and Recreation Jim Bradley announced the increased funding for community use of schools at St. Bruno Catholic School. TCDSB signed an agreement with the Ministries, which will enable the Board to access approximately $825,000 to offset the costs of permits.

**Negotiations update**

The arbitrator’s ruling with respect to salary increases for TCDSB’s 3,600 elementary teachers was announced on August 19th, 2003. The ruling respects the budget of the Toronto Catholic District School Board for the budget year and recognized the Board’s inability to meet the teachers’ union demand for a 10% increase.

The Board took immediate steps to provide its elementary teachers with a 3% increase retroactive to September 1, 2002, a 3% increase effective September 2003 and an increase in benefits effective March 2004. The ruling however, also included a 2% increase in salaries effective August 31, 2004, which combined with the full cost of benefits, leaves the Board with a $6 million shortfall for the school year commencing September 2004 at current levels of funding.

The ruling brought the maximum Catholic elementary teacher’s salary from $70,003 to $75,752 by the end of the contract agreement on August 31, 2004.

Full details of the arbitrator’s ruling are available on the Board’s website at www.tcdsb.org.

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**Site acquisitions**

The Toronto Catholic District School Board has acquired five schools from the Toronto District School Board. With the purchase agreement, TCDSB now owns Father Serra (formerly Green Meadows), Monsignor Percy Johnson (formerly Heatherbrae), Blessed Margherita of Citta Di Castello (formerly Spenvalley), St. Conrad (formerly Roding) and Sts. Cosmas and Damian (formerly Danesbury). The Board has also acquired playground space at St. Kevin Catholic School (formerly Gooderham). The five schools were previously leased from TDSB.

**Breaking new ground**

A groundbreaking ceremony was held in January to mark the start of construction of a new facility at Senator O’Connor College School in North York. Among the many special guests and dignitaries on hand for the milestone event were: Director of Education Tom Donovan, Local Trustee Angela Kennedy, City Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong and Father Paul Zimmer, Pastor of Annunciation Church.

**Celebrating milestones**

The Board recently celebrated the blessing and openings of St. Robert Catholic School’s new building and the addition to St. Nicholas of Bari Catholic School. Staff and students at Brebeuf College began the new year with a new school building and Our Lady of Fatima opened the new school year in its new facility on St. Clair Avenue East.
The Board of Trustees approved the 2003-2004 Revised Budget totalling $762.57 million.

The Board approved the 2003-2004 Pupil Accommodation Grant for the School Renewal Program in the total amount of $14.0 million.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Millions $</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teachers Elem</td>
<td>236.99</td>
<td>31.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teachers Sec</td>
<td>128.56</td>
<td>16.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Operations</td>
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<td>Capital</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Paraprofessionals</td>
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<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principals</td>
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<td>3.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Textbooks</td>
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</tr>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin &amp; Governance</td>
<td>19.90</td>
<td>2.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>In School Admin.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supply Teachers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice Principals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher Consultants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computers</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Development</td>
<td>1.38</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>762.57</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Board of Trustees 2003 - 2004

Twelve elected trustees provide a governance function for the Toronto Catholic District School Board. They set policies, priorities, programs and budget, and represent the broader community.

Each year one secondary school student is selected to serve on the Board as a Student Trustee. Kyle Iannuzzi, from Father Henry Carr, was the Student Trustee for the 2003 - 2004 school year and Danylo Korbabic, from St. Michael Choir, is the Student Trustee for the 2004 - 2005 school year.

Community use of schools

For information about permits, please call 416-222-8282, ext 4370, or visit the permits website at http://permits.tcdsb.org/facilities/

Toronto Catholic District School Board profile

Total number of students 93,724
Elementary Students 64,815
Secondary Students 28,909
Teachers 5,504
Support/Academic Staff 2,197
 Principals/Vice- Principals 316
 Administration & Governance 203
 Total number of schools 201
 Elementary Schools 168
 Secondary Schools 31
 Combined Schools  2
 (Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts & St. Michael Choir School)

*Staffing and enrolment figures are based on full-time equivalency

Board and committee meetings

The public is always welcome to attend Committee and Board meetings. Public sessions of all meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre, 80 Sheppard Avenue East. Board meetings are generally held on the third Thursday of each month.

Anyone wishing to address a Board Committee should register with the office of the recording secretary at 416-222-8282, ext 2293.

This annual report was produced by the Communications Department