“In a school community formed by Catholic beliefs and traditions, our Mission is to educate students to their full potential.”
I am very pleased to present this report to our Board of Trustees, our parents, our parish and school communities, and to the Ministry of Education. It is a review of the tremendous accomplishments at the Toronto Catholic District School Board during the 2005-2006 academic year and a reminder that by working together as a team, our system provides the quality of Catholic education our students deserve and expect.

The 2005-2006 school year has been a busy and productive one for students, staff and trustees of the TCDSB. We have successfully implemented new and innovative initiatives that are geared to supporting students to reach their full potential. We also continued to expand some of our current programs that focus on literacy and numeracy, on special education and on Student Success.

Throughout the past year, our Board has successfully responded to the many challenges it has faced, including many Ministry announcements on student achievement, class size reductions, parental involvement, healthy schools, and changes in provincial education funding. The Board has accomplished a great deal, despite limited financial resources.

It was a difficult budget year for the TCDSB. The Board is facing a $34M shortfall for the upcoming academic year. We have had several meetings with Ministry staff during the summer, and pointed out that the funding formula is flawed and that the level of funding is inadequate to meet our legislated mandate to provide essential programs and services. The Board has been given an extension to submit a balanced budget and will be looking at community consultation for input on budget issues.

Despite the challenges, staff has responded to the call to Catholic leadership. I commend all staff for their commitment, professionalism and passion for the preservation of the quality of Catholic education in the TCDSB. Their dedication is clearly evident in the work that they do on behalf of our students. The many student accomplishments highlighted at the Board Special Awards Events and in this report are a reflection of their leadership.

As a Catholic school system, we must be ever vigilant to preserve our Catholic uniqueness. As a system we are committed to staying the course in the year ahead with renewed commitment during another challenging and I’m sure successful year.

Kevin Kobus
Director of Education
Celebrating the Spirit of Community

Students “pinch their pennies”

Last September, students in the grade 3/4 class at St. Leo Catholic School set out to help their community and their parish. They started a Penny Collection. Each class had a special “Penny Jar” in its classroom. Not only were students donating their pennies, but so were teachers, office staff, caretaker and school volunteers. They baked cookies, cakes and other tasty treats and held a bake sale for the Church. At the final Mass of the school year, the class presented Father Sultana with a cheque for $1,300 to be used to meet the many needs of the parishioners and the community.

Pop tabs for wheelchairs!

The Cardinal Léger Catholic School Ecology Club collected another 1,500 pounds of pop tabs, due to the efforts of the TCDSB. Wabash Alloys, a local recycler, generously donated its services and purchased the pop tabs at market value. Once again, the Club was able to assist with the purchase of another wheelchair. Pop tabs prove that insignificant things can become substantial and profitable.

Drive to help Guatemalan rural schools

St. Edmund Campion and St. Thomas More Catholic Schools and the Saturday Spanish groups at Pope John Paul II Catholic Secondary School generously donated 14.5 large storage containers of new school supplies to needy students in Guatemala. A portion is being sent to a rural school in Honduras and to an inner-city school in Lima, Peru. Mrs. Romero, who teaches at the three contributing centres, is volunteer coordinator of the educational project of the Canadian Central American Relief Effort. She provides training workshops to rural Guatemalan teachers, which are aimed at ways of increasing the country’s literacy rate. The classrooms they are assisting are made up of approximately 80 students of all ages and one teacher. The high poverty rate means that most school communities simply go without basic school supplies.

Funds for Philippine mudslide victims

Students from St. Anselm Catholic School presented a cheque in the amount of $890 to Jose Saavedra Jr., President of the Leytena Association of Ontario (LAO). Funds were earmarked for victims of the recent mudslide in the Philippines. Students raised these funds through a “Toonie Or More Day” as well as a book sale by the grade 2 students.

Cookies for Kandahar

Staff, students and parents at St. Elizabeth Catholic School baked cookies for the brother of a staff member, who was serving in Afghanistan. Special arrangements were made to send 10 tins of chocolate chip, oatmeal raisin and chocolate-raisin cookies to Kandahar. All students participated and cards and letters were sent to the troops as well. The school’s Advisory Council paid for the baking supplies and postage.

SCHOOL ANNIVERSARIES

50th Anniversary
St. Bernard
St. Maria Goretti

20th Anniversary
Blessed Mother Teresa
Mary Ward

Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major Components</th>
<th>Amount ($000)</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct School Related Exp.</td>
<td>790,96</td>
<td>39.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin &amp; Governance</td>
<td>34,81</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuing Education</td>
<td>20,13</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>845,90</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Revised budget estimates

The Board has approved the revised budget estimates in the amount of $845,901,693. The budget estimates can be found on the TCDSB website at www.tcdsb.org (see budget and finance on the homepage).
Building for the Future

Schoolyard Improvement Projects completed at:
- Blessed Mother Teresa (sports complex)
- Senhor Santo Cristo (primary playground)
- St. Antoine Daniel (primary playground)
- St. Charles (playground)
- St. Fidelis (JK/SK playground)
- St. Joseph (playground)
- St. Mary (primary playground)
- St. Matthias (JK/SK playground)

Major Building Projects
- Immaculate Conception Catholic School’s new facility opened in September 2005
- Loretto College School moved into its new facility during the 2005 school year
- Senator O’Connor College School staff and students moved into the new facility in September 2005
- St. Anthony Catholic School moved into its new facility on April 24th
- Francis Libermann Catholic High School’s new addition has been completed
- Father John Redmond Catholic Secondary School and Regional Arts Centre’s new facility opened in September 2006 (below)

New construction
- Father Henry Carr Catholic Secondary School held its groundbreaking on May 18th for extensive renovations and addition to the original building, which should be completed in mid 2007
- James Cardinal McGuigan Catholic High School began construction on a new addition and renovations, which are expected to be completed in 2007
- Msgr. Percy Johnson Catholic High School replacement of existing building with new modern facility began in February and should be completed for September 2007

Barrels of school supplies
- Students and staff at St. Martha Catholic School have sent two barrels packed with school supplies to the Salisbury Primary School on the island of Dominica. The Dominican school has utilized the supplies to promote literacy at the school and host a “book day”. The school’s donation was in the island’s newspaper “The Chronicle”, which included a photograph of a sign acknowledging St. Martha’s donation.

Holy Cows! Video presentation
- Salt and Light TV’s documentary called ‘Holy Cows!’ details the work students and parishes in Toronto are doing to help provide funds to build schools and to buy cows for Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Uganda. For Ugandans, cows are central to their life and culture. Two hundred dollars will buy a cow, a cow that will provide the basic needs of life - milk, meat and fertilizer - for the parishes in Uganda. The video is a testament to Father Massey Lombardi’s vision to get hundreds of cows for Uganda. It is also a tribute to the students of St. Wilfrid and St. Jerome Catholic Schools who through various fund-raisers helped make this vision a reality.

Funds for victims of Hurricane Katrina
- Many TCDSB schools raised funds for regions devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Student fundraising efforts include:
  - Grade 8 students from St. Dominic Savio Catholic School seized the opportunity to give a presentation on Hurricane Katrina for their entire school community. Taking advantage of a large gathering of parents, staff and students at the school’s opening barbeque and...
In partnership with Campaign 2000, students launched School2School, a national campaign endorsed by Make Poverty History to show schools how to raise awareness about global poverty. The School2School project successfully engaged five other high schools in Ontario and New Brunswick to run similar events.

Our Kids Our Future will be launching a Make Poverty History school banner campaign, which involves sending a 10-foot Make Poverty History banner to various schools across Canada for students and staff to sign. Schools interested in starting up a Make Poverty History event, or want to sign the banner, can find more information at http://www.school2school.net.

Emergency room and trauma procedures

Students from Father Redmond Catholic Secondary School participated in an Emergency Room Procedures and Trauma Injuries presentation at William Osler Etobicoke General Hospital, organized through “Think First... P.A.R.T.Y. Later”.

This program is based at Sunnybrook Hospital. Paramedics with Advanced Emergency Care gave a demonstration of how trauma victims are transported to hospital. “Think First... P.A.R.T.Y. Later” has organized two trauma unit visits this year at St. Michael’s Hospital and at the William Osler Health Centre in Etobicoke for our students.

Expect the unexpected

Students in grade 3 at Christ the King Catholic School participated in a Canadian Red Cross disaster preparedness program for children. Designed to coincide with International Day for Disaster Reduction, students talked about what to do in an emergency such as a severe snow storm or a power outage and learned about the benefits and dangers of natural elements like water, fire, sun and snow.

Our Kids Our Future

Ever since the United Nations declared October 17 as International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, Our Kids Our Future, a social justice group at Mary Ward Catholic Secondary School that engages youth in addressing child poverty in Canada, decided to take action and raise awareness about ending poverty worldwide. By lunch on the 17th, Mary Ward was draped in white, the official colour of the International Make Poverty History campaign. Our Kids Our Future members encouraged students and staff to sign over 500 official Make Poverty History post cards that were sent to then Prime Minister Paul Martin, asking him to commit to the goals of the Make Poverty History campaign.

Sweatshop Free Uniform Purchasing Policy

The Board has established a new Sweatshop Free Uniform Purchasing Policy, stating that “In keeping with its commitment to reflect Christian values to abide by the Social Teaching of the Church and with its own Mission and Vision Statement, the Toronto Catholic District School Board is committed to promote, advance and protect the just cause of the poor and the marginalized.” The policy has been established to ensure that any agreement to purchase from, or to issue an exclusive license agreement with a supplier of school apparel (school and physical education uniforms) includes assurances prior to the execution of any school apparel contract that the apparel was and will continue, for the life of the contract, to be produced in keeping with the provisions and procurement requirements of the Suppliers Fair Labour Practices Agreement. A supplier must sign the Suppliers Fair Labour Practices agreement before any TCDSB school will place any orders. The policy includes a requirement of full public disclosure and third party monitoring. The Board is entering into a two-year pilot to join with other Catholic boards in Ontario to contract with the Workers’ Rights Consortium to monitor fair labour practices in factories. The policy in its entirety is posted on the Board’s website at www.tcdsb.org (see policies).

Anaphylaxis Policy

The Board has approved Policy S.M.15 dealing with Anaphylaxis. It is the policy of TCDSB to create allergen-aware environments in its schools and workplaces. In order to protect the health and safety of students and staff, the TCDSB developed regulations and administrative procedures which comply with Sabrina’s Law 2005, S.O.2005 Chapter 7. The policy in its entirety is posted on the Board’s website at www.tcdsb.org (see policies).

Name change for school

The Board has approved a name change for Father John Redmond. After consultation with the community, and to better reflect the school’s new regional arts program, the school will be called Father John Redmond Catholic Secondary School and Regional Arts Centre.
New Initiatives

Tutoring program for Spanish students
The TCDSB in partnership with Working Women Community Centre has launched a pilot project to offer one-on-one or small group tutoring to students of Spanish descent. The program operates throughout the school year at St. Raymond Catholic School and is supported by Lazos Peruanos, the Youth Group associated with the Advisory Committee to the Consulate of Peru, formed by University graduate and undergraduate Peruvian students from University of Toronto and York University. This is in addition to the Homework Club/Tutoring Program being offered at Centro Bienvenidos, TCDSB’s Spanish Resource Centre. Both programs are free of charge and are available to all Spanish speaking students in Toronto’s Catholic schools.

TCDSB schools twinning with Nunavut schools
The Nunavut Twinning Project, which was initiated by Lieutenant Governor James Bartleman, involves the pairing of Toronto Catholic schools with Nunavut schools towards a common goal of developing an appreciation and respect for different cultures through the arts, music and athletics.

The Board launched the initiative by holding Arctic Games at St. Michael’s College School Dome on February 22nd.

Over 500 Catholic elementary school students gathered under the dome to participate in traditional Inuit games such as “Blanket Toss” and “Snow Shoe Relay”. A group of Inuit performers performed the ancient art of throat singing, drumming and demonstrated a few traditional sports.

The Arctic Games was also an opportunity to help provide the Catholic Missions in Canada with the funds necessary to pursue their missionary work.

Best Start Child Care Initiative
The Best Start Plan’s document lays out the vision and the framework for the planning and delivery of child and family services in the City of Toronto. It provides the platform for future advocacy for a comprehensive and equitable system of integrated, inclusive and high quality services for children aged 0 – 12. The Board supports ‘The Best Start Plan – Toronto Vision for Children’ document and participated in the official launch of this plan on May 18th, 2006.

The City of Toronto has selected 43 school sites for Best Start Centres, which would serve kindergarten aged students in the City. According to the Best Start Plan Status Report, it is anticipated that the expansion of child care in TCDSB schools will have a positive impact on enrolment. However, in order to accommodate the child care expansion in those TCDSB schools approved in Phase 1, many of those schools will require the placement of portables on site and the relocation of existing students in order to make available the required first floor classroom space for the child care.

Permanent accommodation needs of those schools and displaced students will be included in the Long Term Accommodation Plan and the Ministry of Education will be asked to fund permanent additions at these schools.

The Human Robot Project: The Mask
The 4th annual “The Human Robot Project: The Mask” competition was held at the Ontario Science Centre. This is a collaborative venture among Cardinal Newman Catholic School’s Technological Studies Department, the Board’s Technological Studies Department and the grade 8 classes at Our Lady of Fatima, St. Agatha, St. Boniface, St. Maria Goretti, Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Joachim, St. Nicholas, St. Dunstan and St. Albert Catholic Schools.

2005-2006 Top Graduating Students
Erin Fitzgerald from Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts 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 2005-2006 academic year.

She has been accepted at the University of Toronto and plans to study International Law with a view to working in the United Nations upon graduation.

Innovation in Education

One team member then has to travel through a maze wearing the mask while the partner provides remote control signals giving directions to move through the maze, step over obstacles and pick up objects. The final score is based on the time each team takes to traverse the maze as well as any penalties assigned for touching the maze walls, etc.

All-female robotics team
Notre Dame High School students participated in the Sumorobotics Challenge at the Ontario College of Art and Design. The teams constructed and entered three robots in the lightweight division. Robots battle to push each other off a 6 ft. elevated diameter ring. The students were the only female competitors in this competition and “Sleepier”, one of the robots, placed 4th in the lightweight division.
ESP Initiatives

Three Madonna Catholic Secondary School students, through their MQuest course (mentoring strategies), and with guidance from their teacher, and research assistance from one of the school’s ESP co-ordinators, have designed an interactive workshop that they hope will empower younger students to better deal with bullies and bullying behaviour. Elementary school students will be asked to script different conflict situations, act them out and film them. They will then discuss the strategies and alternative solutions to dealing with conflicts and bullying.

Success for All Action Plan

The 2005-2006 action plan for the Board’s Student Success Program is intended to improve student achievement, increase retention and graduation rates, and prepare students to make seamless transitions from elementary to secondary school and secondary school to life after secondary school. The Board received $2.7 million for the 2005-2006 school year to fund the Literacy, Numeracy, Program Pathways, and Community Caring, Catholicity and Culture Initiatives.

A Cappella Services

The Board has approved a pilot project to introduce A Cappella Services for Young Women in three of its schools. The program is funded through the Board’s Success for All allocation for the 2005-2006 school year. A Cappella is an intervention program designed to reach young women who are apt to drop out of high school before graduation. A Cappella will be offered on a pilot basis at Notre Dame, St. Mary and St. Patrick Catholic Secondary Schools.

Floor Tennis Program

Forty TCDSB schools will benefit from the Floor Tennis Program initiated through $25,000 in funding provided by the Mayor’s Community Safety Program. The schools are located in areas that have been identified as lacking adequate community programs. Most are in Scarborough, North Etobicoke and parts of North York. The program will include a “coach to coach” clinic for the participating schools at the Rexall Centre and a visit to each school by Tennis Canada and the Ontario Tennis Association to introduce the program. The program, which can be incorporated into existing school programs, or be provided as an after-school program, began in early 2006.

K-6 Learning Improvement Plan

The TCDSB 2005-2006 K-6 Learning Improvement Plan provides the framework of strategies to support our 168 elementary schools in developing individual School Learning Plans. These plans are responsive to their local assessment data and focus on the specific strategies that will support improving student learning and achievement in grades kindergarten to 6. Each principal reviews and re-focuses the School Learning Plan, which are submitted to area superintendents.

Community Use of Schools Initiative

The Board has entered into a renewal of the Community Recreation and Use of Schools Agreement established by the Ministry of Health Promotion for the term September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2006. The agreement provides for the following schools to be opened up for after-school use at no cost to groups defined as not-for-profit under Category B and B1 within the TCDSB’s Permit Policy B.R.05: St. Angela (or St. Dorothy), Santa Maria, St. James, St. Florence, St. Jean de Brebeuf, St. Gabriel Lalemant and St. Thomas More Catholic Schools.
OSSLT Annual Assessment

Eighty-one per cent of first-time eligible Toronto Catholic District School Board students were successful on the 2006 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test. A total of 6,480 first-time eligible students participated in the annual assessment. Their results show a 3 per cent improvement over the previous assessment period.

Over the past four years, students in the TCDSB have improved considerably relative to the province. We are also encouraged by the results on the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course where over 85% of our students are also meeting with success. The results are indicative of the additional resources and the many literacy initiatives that have been put in place to support student learning.

One of the most dramatic improvements is in the results shown by 14 schools supported by Ministry Learning Opportunities Grants, where most of the schools experienced improved results, some with as much as 17 per cent increases.

Turnaround Teams Program

The Turnaround Teams Program is part of the government’s literacy and numeracy strategy. The initiative has been launched to provide a wide variety of strategies and resources aimed at increasing the number of students who reach the provincial standard on province-wide testing to 75 percent by 2006. The Turnaround Teams Program focuses on closing the achievement gap. It is intended to provide tailored support for schools, move more students to the provincial standard in literacy and reduce the achievement gap between low-performing students and high-performing students.

The Turnaround Teams work directly with schools and boards to identify needs and develop strategies, and to provide resources to help students reach higher levels of literacy. Through diagnostic visits and onsite teacher and administrative support, schools involved have an opportunity to celebrate their progress and set goals that will allow them to continue to build capacity that will allow students to reach their potential. Participating schools receive on-going and direct Ministry supports and funding of approximately $100,000 a year for the three-year program to be used for the purchase of literacy resources and to provide professional development for staff.

St. Anthony Catholic School was one of the 15 schools selected to take part in the initial three-year pilot project. The initiative grew to include 43 schools, and by 2005 was expanded to 100 Ontario schools. St. Francis de Sales Catholic School joined the initiative in 2004 and St. Bruno Catholic School in 2005.

The pilot schools, which included St. Anthony, showed improvement in the Grade 3 EQAO reading assessment by an average increase of 37% (2004). St. Francis de Sales students showed an improvement in their first year and remained stable in the second year of the project. At St. Bruno the number of grade 3 reading at level 3 and/or 4 went from 16% in 2004-2005 to 60% (2005-2006).

OSSLT Results Over Time:

Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Toronto Catholic District School Board</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Empowered Student Partnership

At the ESP Showcase event Senator O’Connor College School was presented with The Chief of Police Award, the 2006 ESP “On Screen” Award and grade 12 student Kudzi Goromonzi received a Student MVP award.

The goal of the program is to prevent students from starting to smoke and to support students who wish to quit. Students launched the program in January with many activities during National Non-Smoking week. Students also supported the “Golden hands across Ontario” initiative. They wrote Smoke-Free messages on golden hands - a project that was carried out across the province.

ESP Awards

Father Henry Carr Catholic Secondary School was the only school among the five recipients to receive the Mayor’s Community Safety Award. A $2,500 award is given in recognition of projects that promote the safety of neighbourhoods and communities.

Carr was recognized for bringing together under the umbrella of ESP three leadership groups: the Student Council, Carr Cru Leadership and Violence Intervention Prevention to promote anti-bullying and anti-violence programs in the school community.
Celebrating our Partnerships

Instant makeover

Parents, students and staff participated in an instant makeover for St. Marcellus Catholic School on September 30, 2005. The makeover involved planting, painting and beautifying the front of the school. With the aid of their local Home Depot store and its employees, “Team Depot” instantly rejuvenated and revitalized the school’s property for the benefit of the entire community.

Entrepreneurial venture wins award

Students and staff at St. Henry Catholic School received a BMO Financial Group National Student Innovation Award. The Entrepreneurial Adventure program is sponsored by the Learning Partnership and BMO Financial group.

Olympic Spirit Leadership Program

Mayor David Miller poses with students at the Toronto Sport Leadership Program 2006 Reception at Olympic Spirit. TCDSB student Christa Quan-Vie from Msgr. Percy Johnson Catholic High School was among the speakers at the event.

This program celebrates the achievements of 40 at-risk students who participated in a program sponsored by the City of Toronto and the Toronto Community Foundation. These students received credentials in life guarding, basketball and soccer and will be given employment as well.

EQAO Provincial Assessment

Students across the Toronto Catholic District School Board have made tremendous gains in literacy and numeracy in recent years, with the latest EQAO assessment results showing improvements of between 3 and 10 per cent over the previous year. Board gains are consistently above the provincial gains for the same time period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TCDSB Students Achieving at Levels 3 and 4</th>
<th>2004-2005</th>
<th>2005-2006</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade 3 Reading</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 3 Writing</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 3 Mathematics</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 6 Reading</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 6 Writing</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 6 Mathematics</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 9 Mathematics (academic)</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 9 Mathematics (applied)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are a number of initiatives supporting TCDSB System Priorities, implemented by teachers working in professional learning communities, which have contributed to the consistent gains made by students over the past five years, and most dramatically in the past year.

Improvements in Grades 3 and 6 Reading, Writing and Mathematics and in Grade 9 Mathematics are due in large part to an ongoing series of intensive professional development opportunities to build teacher capacity. Focusing on the implementation of the Ministry of Education Expert Panel Reports, these in-services addressed both effective instructional strategies and assessment for instruction. Presentations were provided for superintendents, principals and parents.

Other initiatives include the Fifth Block program, an early intervention program, aimed at struggling readers in grades 1 and 2. This early intervention program is available in 96 schools across the Board.

Improvements are also noted when comparing the results from the cohort of students who wrote the grade 3 assessment three years ago to the results from the 2005-2006 grade 6 assessments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TCDSB Cohort Comparison</th>
<th>TCDSB Grade 3 Students 2002-2003</th>
<th>TCDSB Grade 6 Students 2005-2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>59%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Active Schools

Walk to School Day

Staff, students and parents from St. Michael’s Catholic School, along with Board officials and special guest Jim Watson, Minister of Health Promotion walked the route to school to mark Walk to School Day 2005. The event focuses on health and fitness.

Energizers get boost from S’Cool Life Fund

St. John Catholic School’s “Energizers” have been promoting healthy and active lifestyles among staff and students. Born out of the TCDSB’s Health Action Team initiative, the Energizers coordinated happy snack days and other health oriented activities, which included the creation of a St. John Community Cookbook. The school’s grade 7 students have also led whole-school exercise sessions at regular intervals throughout the school year. The school’s focus on health and physical activity was recognized with a grant for $2,500 through the S’Cool Life Fund, which focuses on promoting opportunities for students to experience activities that make school life exciting, interesting and most importantly fun.

Physical education activities

All principals, health and physical education department heads and athletic representatives were in-serviced on physical activity action planning. Since that time 112 TCDSB schools have joined the Health Action Team initiative. The team’s goal is to identify health issues impacting on students and to develop plans to address those issues through enhanced physical education opportunities and nutrition programming.

Professional Learning Centres in Health and Physical Education were established in four regional schools to design and deliver a wide range of learning opportunities for TCDSB teachers in the area of Health and Physical Education. In the past few years, $800,000 was spent board-wide to obtain equipment and resources required for the delivery of quality programs.

More Successes...

Bishop Allen Academy is among the five winners in the PEACE (Public Education and Crime Eradication) video competition. Toronto Police Service will be using the video as part of its presentations in schools and in the community.

Holy Family Catholic School was among three schools nominated for the “Academic Achievement in Excess of Expectations” award at the Garfield Weston Awards celebration. The award is in recognition of school teams whose skill, hard work, perseverance and enthusiasm have contributed significantly to their students’ academic performance. Holy Family ranked in the top 1% of all schools in Ontario based on its standardized testing results for the past four years and parents’ average education indicator values.

African Heritage Month Celebration

- Out of the Past, into the Future

On February 24th, 17 students from James Cardinal McGuigan Catholic High School were invited by the African-Canadian Excellent Students to be recipients of Certificates of Excellence.

These are students who have achieved an average of 80-95% in their 2005-2006 grade report. The students were greeted by various staff from Share newspaper, several African Canadian dignitaries, Mr. & Mrs. Winston Clarke, promoter of the event, Toronto Mayor David Miller, John Tory, leader of the opposition in the Ontario Legislature, and parents and relatives. Students who received awards were frequently referred to as “future leaders”.

Celebrating our Partnerships

Immaculate Conception Catholic School celebrated the solemn blessing and official opening if its new building on December 4th. The new facility opened in September 2005.

Senator O’Connor College School staff and students moved into the new facility in 2005 and held its solemn blessing and official opening on April 23rd.

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School moved to its new facility in 2005 and held its solemn blessing and official opening on May 13, 2006.

St. Anthony Catholic School moved into its new facility on April 24th. The building will be official blessed on June 13th, 2007 the feast day of St. Anthony.

Immaculate Conception - In honour of the occasion, students were ceramic blue sashes and a medal of the Immaculate Conception.
Tribute to TCDSB Community

Celebrating student and staff achievements

The TCDSB celebrated outstanding achievements of more than 300 students, staff, volunteers and members of the community at its Fall and Spring Special Awards Events.

The TCDSB Award of Merit, the highest honour bestowed by the Board, was given to:

- Reverend John Kiesling, Pastor at St. Joan of Arc Parish
- Fintan Kilbride, former TCDSB teacher
- Reverend Massey Lombardi, Pastor at St. Wilfrid’s Parish
- Noel P. Martin, former Director of Education
- Reverend Vito Marziliano, Pastor at All Saints Parish
- Reverend Phil Smith, Pastor at St. Roch’s Parish

The Board also recognized former TCDSB students, who have distinguished themselves through their careers or accomplishments with the Alumni Award:

- Michael Guerriere, Doctor of Medicine, a graduate of Annunciation Catholic School and Neil McNeil High School
- Philip Horgan, Civil and Commercial Litigation Lawyer, St. Bonaventure and Brebeuf College School Alumnus
- Marc Kielburger, Chief Executive Director of Free the Children, Brebeuf College School Alumnus

The TCDSB Student Achievement Award was presented to students who have excelled at the provincial, national or international level.

TCDSB Certificates of Appreciation were presented to staff, students and community members in recognition of their contribution to TCDSB schools and Catholic education.

- Ashif Jaffer Award for Excellence in Special Education Support
  - Melissa Ferreira, Education Assistant, D’Arcy McGee Catholic School
  - Zita Pooran, Education Assistant, Mary Ward Catholic Secondary School

- Father Andrew Cuschieri Award in recognition of a humanitarian act towards another human being.
  - Amber Cohen, St. Andrew Catholic School
  - Kira LeBlanc, St. Louis Catholic School

- Sister Mary Hamilton Award for Exceptional Students
  - Philip Rice, Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts

Educators honoured

Mary-Jane Jones, principal at Pope Paul VI Catholic School, has been named one of ‘Canada’s Outstanding Principals’ for 2006 by the Learning Partnership. She was among the 30 school administrators selected from across Canada for this honour. The award acknowledges the extraordinary contributions made by each principal to the students and local community in helping to ensure quality education for Canada’s young people.

Arthur Bifis, principal of St. Pius X Catholic School, was presented with the Toronto Catholic Principals and Vice-principals Association’s ‘Leader in Catholic Education Award’. The award recognizes individuals who symbolize dedication in the education of young people and the provision of a supportive environment conducive to learning, as well as for their service in the wider community.

Gretchen Schuler, principal at St. Ursula Catholic School, received the 2006 ‘Award for Toronto Elementary Principal of the Year’ from the Catholic Principals Council of Ontario. She was recognized for demonstrating leadership ability and for her tireless efforts on behalf of her colleagues to help all find purpose and effectiveness in Catholic education in times of constant change.

Ralph Peter, Coordinator of Religious Education/Family Life was presented with the Fr. Angus McDougall Award for excellence in Family Life Education, which recognizes his many accomplishments in the areas of curriculum development, implementation and support, as well as his pastoral presence and vision for Family Life Education.

Bob Giza, science teacher at Chaminade College School, has been named ‘Sigma Xi Science Teacher of the Year’. The Scientific Research Society established this award to recognize outstanding, innovative and creative teaching of science or mathematics in secondary schools.

Gabriel Ayyavoo, science teacher at Francis Libermann Catholic High School, received an award from the American Association for the Advancement of Science, for his lesson ‘Being a Scientist for a Day: Analyzing and Reporting Environmental Stress’, which focuses on inspiring students to be ecologically minded.

The Special Education staff of Mary Ward Catholic Secondary School was recognized by Community Living Toronto at an awards assembly on the evening of October 24th, 2005. The staff was happy to accept the 7th Annual Award for Inclusive Education, a testament to Mary Ward’s belief in and implementation of inclusive pedagogical practices.

School accomplishments

St. Monica Catholic School’s grade 6 class won the RBC Canadian Olympic School Program Grand Prize consisting of a $2,500 sports kit. The students earned their prize by writing news articles based on the results of the Winter Olympic Games in Turin. The class was selected as one of the eight grand prize winners across Canada.

continued...
Tribute to TCDSB Community

The TCDSB celebrated outstanding achievements of more than 300 students, staff, volunteers and members of the community at its Fall and Spring Special Awards Events.

The TCDSB Award of Merit, the highest honour bestowed by the Board, was given to:
- Reverend John Kiesling, Pastor at St. Joan of Arc Parish
- Fintan Kilbride, former TCDSB teacher
- Reverend Massey Lombardi, Pastor at St. Wilfrid’s Parish
- Noel P. Martin, former Director of Education
- Reverend Vito Marziliano, Pastor at All Saints Parish
- Reverend Phil Smith, Pastor at St. Roch’s Parish

The Board also recognized former TCDSB students, who have distinguished themselves through their careers or accomplishments with the Alumni Award:
- Michael Guerriere, Doctor of Medicine, a graduate of Annunciation Catholic School and Neil McNeil High School
- Philip Horgan, Civil and Commercial Litigation Lawyer, St. Bonaventure and Brebeuf College School Alumnus
- Marc Kielburger, Chief Executive Director of Free the Children, Brebeuf College School Alumnus

The TCDSB Student Achievement Award was presented to students who have excelled at the provincial, national or international level.

TCDSB Certificates of Appreciation were presented to staff, students and community members in recognition of their contribution to TCDSB schools and Catholic education.

Ashif Jaffer Award for Excellence in Special Education Support
- Melissa Ferreira, Education Assistant, D’Arcy McGee Catholic School
- Zita Pooran, Education Assistant, Mary Ward Catholic Secondary School

Father Andrew Cusciemer Award in recognition of a humanitarian act towards another human being.
- Amber Cohen, St. Andrew Catholic School
- Kira LeBlanc, St. Louis Catholic School

Sister Mary Hamilton Award for Exceptional Students
- Philip Rice, Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts

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Active Schools

Walk to School Day

Staff, students and parents from St. Michael's Catholic School, along with Board officials and special guest Jim Watson, Minister of Health Promotion walked the route to school to mark Walk to School Day 2005. The event focuses on health and fitness.

Energizers get boost from S'Cool Life Fund

St. John Catholic School’s “Energizers” have been promoting healthy and active lifestyles among staff and students. Born out of the TCDSB’s Health Action Team initiative, the Energizers coordinated healthy snack days and other health oriented activities, which included the creation of a St. John Community Cookbook. The school’s grade 7 students have also led whole-school exercise sessions at regular intervals throughout the school year. The school’s focus on health and physical activity was recognized with a grant for $2,500 through the S’Cool Life Fund, which focuses on promoting opportunities for students to experience activities that make school life exciting, interesting and most importantly fun.

Physical education activities

All principals, health and physical education department heads and athletic representatives were in-serviced on physical activity action planning. Since that time 112 TCDSB schools have joined the Health Action Team initiative. The team’s goal is to identify health issues impacting on students and to develop plans to address those issues through enhanced physical education opportunities and nutrition programming.

Professional Learning Centres in Health and Physical Education were established in four regional schools to design and deliver a wide range of learning opportunities for TCDSB teachers in the area of Health and Physical Education. In the past few years, $800,000 was spent board-wide to obtain equipment and resources required for the delivery of quality programs.

More Successes...

Bishop Allen Academy is among the five winners in the PEACE (Public Education and Crime Eradication) video competition. Toronto Police Service will be using the video as part of its presentations in schools and in the community.

Holy Family Catholic School was among three schools nominated for the “Academic Achievement in Excess of Expectations” award at the Garfield Weston Awards celebration. The award is in recognition of school teams whose skill, hard work, perseverance and enthusiasm have contributed significantly to their students’ academic performance. Holy Family ranked in the top 1% of all schools in Ontario based on its standardized testing results for the past four years and parents’ average education indicator values.

African Heritage Month Celebration - Out of the Past, into the Future

On February 24th, 17 students from James Cardinal McGuigan Catholic High School were invited by the African-Canadian Excellent Students to be recipients of Certificates of Excellence. These are students who have achieved an average of 80-95% in their 2005-2006 grade report. The students were greeted by various staff from Share newspaper, several African Canadian dignitaries, Mr. & Mrs. Winston Clarke, promoter of the event, Toronto Mayor David Miller, John Tory, leader of the opposition in the Ontario Legislature, and parents and relatives. Students who received awards were frequently referred to as “future leaders”.

Official Openings and Solemn Blessings

Immaculate Conception Catholic School celebrated the solemn blessing and official opening of its new building on December 4th. The new facility opened in September 2005.

Senator O’Connor College School staff and students moved into the new facility in 2005 and held its solemn blessing and official opening on April 23rd.

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School moved to its new facility in 2005 and held its solemn blessing and official opening on May 13, 2006.

St. Anthony Catholic School moved into its new facility on April 24th. The building will be official blessed on June 13th, 2007 the feast day of St. Anthony.

Celebrating our Partnerships

African Heritage Month Celebration

- Out of the Past, into the Future

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Celebrating our Partnerships

Instant makeover

Parents, students and staff participated in an instant makeover for St. Marcellus Catholic School on September 30, 2005. The makeover involved planting, painting and beautifying the front of the school. With the aid of their local Home Depot store and its employees, “Team Depot” instantly rejuvenated and revitalized the school’s property for the benefit of the entire community.

Entrepreneurial venture wins award

Students and staff at St. Henry Catholic School received a BMO Financial Group National Student Innovation Award. The Entrepreneurial Adventure program is sponsored by the Learning Partnership and BMO Financial group.

Olympic Spirit Leadership Program

Mayor David Miller poses with students at the Toronto Sport Leadership Program 2006 Reception at Olympic Spirit. TCDSB student Christa Quan-Vie from Msgr. Percy Johnson Catholic High School was among the speakers at the event.

This program celebrates the achievements of 40 at-risk students who participated in a program sponsored by the City of Toronto and the Toronto Community Foundation. These students received credentials in life guarding, basketball and soccer and will be given employment as well.

EQAO Provincial Assessment

Students across the Toronto Catholic District School Board have made tremendous gains in literacy and numeracy in recent years, with the latest EQAO assessment results showing improvements of between 3 and 10 per cent over the previous year. Board gains are consistently above the provincial gains for the same time period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TCDSB Students Achieving at Levels 3 and 4</th>
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<tr>
<td>TCDSB Grade 3 Students 2002-2003</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 3 Reading</td>
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<td>Grade 3 Writing</td>
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<td>Grade 3 Mathematics</td>
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<td>Grade 6 Reading</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 6 Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 6 Mathematics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 9 Mathematics (academic)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 9 Mathematics (applied)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

There are a number of initiatives supporting TCDSB System Priorities, implemented by teachers working in professional learning communities, which have contributed to the consistent gains made by students over the past five years, and most dramatically in the past year.

Improvements in Grades 3 and 6 Reading, Writing and Mathematics and in Grade 9 Mathematics are due in large part to an ongoing series of intensive professional development opportunities to build teacher capacity. Focusing on the implementation of the Ministry of Education Expert Panel Reports, these in-services addressed both effective instructional strategies and assessment for instruction. Presentations were provided for superintendents, principals and parents.

Other initiatives include the Fifth Block program, an early intervention program, aimed at struggling readers in grades 1 and 2. This early intervention program is available in 96 schools across the Board.

Improvements are also noted when comparing the results from the cohort of students who wrote the grade 3 assessment three years ago to the results from the 2005-2006 grade 6 assessments.

TCDSB Cohort Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TCDSB Grade 3 Students 2002-2003</th>
<th>TCDSB Grade 6 Students 2005-2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>54%</td>
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</table>
OSSLT Annual Assessment

Eighty-one per cent of first-time eligible Toronto Catholic District School Board students were successful on the 2006 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test. A total of 6,480 first-time eligible students participated in the annual assessment. Their results show a 3 per cent improvement over the previous assessment period.

Over the past four years, students in the TCDSB have improved considerably relative to the province. We are also encouraged by the results on the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course where over 85% of our students are also meeting success. The results are indicative of the additional resources and the many literacy initiatives that have been put in place to support student learning.

One of the most dramatic improvements is in the results shown by 14 schools supported by Ministry Learning Opportunities Grants, where most of the schools experienced improved results, some with as much as 17 per cent increases.

Turnaround Teams Program

The Turnaround Teams Program is part of the government’s literacy and numeracy strategy. The initiative has been launched to provide a wide variety of strategies and resources aimed at increasing the number of students who reach the provincial standard on province-wide testing to 75 percent by 2008. The Turnaround Teams Program focuses on closing the achievement gap. It is intended to provide tailored support for schools, move more students to the provincial standard in literacy and reduce the achievement gap between low-performing students and high-performing students.

The Turnaround Teams work directly with schools and boards to identify needs and develop strategies, and to provide resources to help students reach higher levels of literacy. Through diagnostic visits and onsite teacher and administrative support, schools involved have an opportunity to celebrate their progress and set goals that will allow them to continue to build capacity that will allow students to reach their potential. Participating schools receive on-going and direct Ministry supports and funding of approximately $100,000 a year for the three-year program to be used for the purchase of literacy resources and to provide professional development for staff.

St. Anthony Catholic School was one of the 15 schools selected to take part in the initial three-year pilot project. The initiative grew to include 43 schools, and by 2005 was expanded to 100 Ontario schools. St. Francis de Sales Catholic School joined the initiative in 2004 and St. Bruno Catholic School in 2005.

The pilot schools, which included St. Anthony, showed improvement in the Grade 3 EQAO reading assessment by an average increase of 37% (2004). St. Francis de Sales students showed an improvement in their first year and remained stable in the second year of the project. At St. Bruno the number of grade 3 reading at level 3 and/or 4 went from 16 % in 2004-2005 to 60 % (2005-2006).

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The 2005-2006 action plan for the Board’s Student Success Program is intended to improve student achievement, increase retention and graduation rates, and prepare students to make seamless transitions from elementary to secondary school and secondary school to life after secondary school. The Board received $2.7 million for the 2005-2006 school year to fund the Literacy, Numeracy, Program Pathways, and Community Caring, Catholicity and Culture initiatives.

A Cappella Services
The Board has approved a pilot project to introduce A Cappella Services for Young Women in three of its schools. The program is funded through the Board’s Success for All allocation for the 2005-2006 school year. A Cappella is an intervention program designed to reach young women who are apt to drop out of high school before graduation. A Cappella will be offered on a pilot basis at Notre Dame, St. Mary and St. Patrick Catholic Secondary Schools.

The entire group will get a sense of what a bully is and how the one being bullied feels. They will also delve into the nature of bullies and the reasons for their behaviour. The girls visited the grade 6 classes of the elementary schools in their school community. Students involved in the Loretto College School Compassion project developed strategies on various activities to help increase awareness and reduce female bullying/aggression throughout neighbouring elementary schools. The Loretto College ESP committee has visited approximately 10 elementary schools. They will continue presenting the “Compassion is Always in Fashion” assembly to inner-city feeder schools.

During the assembly the students are presented with facts, effects and consequences of female bullying/aggression as well as skits describing relational and cyber-bullying. One of the highlights of the assembly is the “Give Peace a Dance Project”.

The Board has entered into a renewal of the Community Recreation and Use of Schools Agreement established by the Ministry of Health Promotion for the term September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2006. The agreement provides for the following schools to be opened up for after-school use at no cost to groups defined as not-for-profit under Category B and B1 within the TCDSB’s Permit Policy B.R.05: St. Angela (or St. Dorothy), Santa Maria, St. James, St. Florence, St. Jean de Brebeuf, St. Gabriel Lalemant and St. Thomas More Catholic Schools.
Over 500 Catholic elementary school students gathered under the dome to participate in traditional Inuit games such as “Blanket Toss” and “Snow Shoe Relay”. A group of Inuit performers performed the ancient art of throat singing, drumming and demonstrated a few traditional sports.

The Arctic Games was also an opportunity to help provide the Catholic Missions in Canada with the funds necessary to pursue their missionary work.

**Best Start Child Care Initiative**

The Best Start Plan’s document lays out the vision and the framework for the planning and delivery of child and family services in the City of Toronto. It provides the platform for future advocacy for a comprehensive and equitable system of integrated, inclusive and high quality services for children aged 0 – 12. The Board supports ‘The Best Start Plan – Toronto Vision for Children’ document and participated in the official launch of this plan on May 18th, 2006.

The City of Toronto has selected 43 school sites for Best Start Centres, which would serve kindergarten aged students in the City. According to the Best Start Plan Status Report, it is anticipated that the expansion of child care in TCDSB schools will have a positive impact on enrollment. However, in order to accommodate the child care expansion in those TCDSB schools approved in Phase 1, many of those schools will require the placement of portables on site and the relocation of existing students in order to make available the required first floor classroom space for the child care.

Permanent accommodation needs of those schools and displaced students will be included in the Long Term Accommodation Plan and the Ministry of Education will be asked to fund permanent additions at these schools.

**The Human Robot Project: The Mask**

The 4th annual “The Human Robot Project: The Mask” competition was held at the Ontario Science Centre. This is a collaborative venture among Cardinal Newman Catholic School’s Technological Studies Department, the Board’s Technological Studies Department and the grade 8 classes at Our Lady of Fatima, St. Agatha, St. Boniface, St. Maria Goretti, Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Joachim, St. Nicholas, St. Dunstan and St. Albert Catholic Schools.

The Mask activity touches upon a wide range of the grade 8 curriculum. Each elementary school visited the Cardinal Newman Robotics Lab for a half-day to complete the electrical circuit for the Mask. Newman students provided the technological expertise and guidance in areas of electronics and electrical circuitry as well as the principles of robotics remote control. The task was to design and build a remote control toy mask.

One team member then has to travel through a maze wearing the mask while the partner provides remote control signals giving directions to move through the maze, step over obstacles and pick up objects. The final score is based on the time each team takes to traverse the maze as well as any penalties assigned for touching the maze walls, etc.

**All-female robotics team**

Notre Dame High School students participated in the Sumorobots Challenge at the Ontario College of Art and Design. The teams constructed and entered three robots in the lightweight division. Robots battle to push each other off a 6 ft. elevated diameter ring. The students were the only female competitors in this competition and “Sleeper”, one of the robots, placed 4th in the lightweight division.

**2005-2006 Top Graduating Students**

Erin Fitzgerald from Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts 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 2005-2006 academic year.

She has been accepted at the University of Toronto and plans to study International Law with a view to working in the United Nations upon graduation.
In partnership with Campaign 2000, students launched School2School, a national campaign endorsed by Make Poverty History to show schools how to raise awareness about global poverty. The School2School project successfully engaged five other high schools in Ontario and New Brunswick to run similar events.

Our Kids Our Future will be launching a Make Poverty History school banner campaign, which involves sending a 10-foot Make Poverty History banner to various schools across Canada for students and staff to sign. Schools interested in starting up a Make Poverty History event, or want to sign the banner, can find more information at http://www.school2school.net.

Emergency room and trauma procedures

Students from Father Redmond Catholic Secondary School participated in an Emergency Room Procedures and Trauma Injuries presentation at William Osler Etobicoke General Hospital, organized through “Think First… P.A.R.T.Y. Later”.

This program is based at Sunnybrook Hospital. Paramedics with Advanced Emergency Care gave a demonstration of how trauma victims are transported to hospital. “Think First… P.A.R.T.Y. Later” has organized two trauma unit visits this year at St. Michael’s Hospital and at the William Osler Health Centre in Etobicoke for our students.

The Board has approved Policy S.M.15 on Anaphylaxis dealing with Anaphylaxis. It is the policy of TCDSB to create allergen-aware environments in its schools and workplaces. In order to protect the health and safety of students and staff, the TCDSB developed regulations and administrative procedures which comply with Sabrina’s Law 2005, S.O.2005 Chapter 7. The policy in its entirety is posted on the Board’s website at www.tcdsb.org (see policies).

Students in grade 3 at Christ the King Catholic School participated in a Canadian Red Cross disaster preparedness program for children. Designed to coincide with International Day for Disaster Reduction, students talked about what to do in an emergency such as a severe snow storm or a power outage and learned about the benefits and dangers of natural elements like water, fire, sun and snow.

Expect the unexpected

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Our Kids Our Future

Ever since the United Nations declared October 17 as International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, Our Kids Our Future, a social justice group at Mary Ward Catholic Secondary School that engages youth in addressing child poverty in Canada, decided to take action and raise awareness about ending poverty worldwide. By lunch on the 17th, Mary Ward was draped in white, the official colour of the International Make Poverty History campaign. Our Kids Our Future members encouraged students and staff to sign over 500 official Make Poverty History post cards that were sent to then Prime Minister Paul Martin, asking him to commit to the goals of the Make Poverty History campaign.

Sweatshop Free Uniform Purchasing Policy

The Board has established a new Sweatshop Free Uniform Purchasing Policy, stating that “In keeping with its commitment to reflect Christian values to abide by the Social Teaching of the Church and with its own Mission and Vision Statement, the Toronto Catholic District School Board is committed to promote, advance and protect the just cause of the poor and the marginalized.” The policy has been established to ensure that any agreement to purchase from, or to issue an exclusive license agreement with a supplier of school apparel (school and physical education uniforms) includes assurances prior to the execution of any school apparel contract that the apparel was and will continue, for the life of the contract, to be produced in keeping with the provisions and procurement requirements of the Suppliers Fair Labour Practices Agreement. A supplier must sign the Suppliers Fair Labour Practices agreement before any TCDSB school will place any orders. The policy includes a requirement of full public disclosure and third party monitoring. The Board is entering into a two-year pilot to join with other Catholic boards in Ontario to contract with the Workers’ Rights Consortium to monitor fair labour practices in factories. The policy in its entirety is posted on the Board’s website at www.tcdsb.org (see policies).

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Name change for school

The Board has approved a name change for Father John Redmond. After consultation with the community, and to better reflect the school’s new regional arts program, the school will be called Father John Redmond Catholic Secondary School and Regional Arts Centre.
**Building for the Future**

**Schoolyard Improvement Projects completed at:**
- Blessed Mother Teresa (sports complex)
- Senhor Santo Cristo (primary playground)
- St. Antoine Daniel (primary playground)
- St. Charles (playground)
- St. Fidelis (JK/SK playground)
- St. Joseph (playground)
- St. Mary (primary playground)
- St. Matthias (JK/SK playground)

**Major Building Projects**
- Immaculate Conception Catholic School's new facility opened in September 2005
- Loretto College School moved into its new facility during the 2005 school year
- Senator O’Connor College School staff and students moved into the new facility in September 2005
- St. Anthony Catholic School moved into its new facility on April 24th
- Francis Liber mann Catholic High School's new addition has been completed
- Father John Redmond Catholic Secondary School and Regional Arts Centre's new facility opened in September 2006 (below)

**New construction**
- Father Henry Carr Catholic Secondary School held its groundbreaking on May 18th for extensive renovations and addition to the original building, which should be completed in mid 2007
- James Cardinal McGuigan Catholic High School began construction on a new addition and renovations, which are expected to be completed in 2007
- Msgr. Percy Johnson Catholic High School replacement of existing building with new modern facility began in February and should be completed for September 2007

**Barrels of school supplies**
Students and staff at St. Martha Catholic School have sent two barrels packed with school supplies to the Salisbury Primary School on the island of Dominica. The Dominican school has utilized the supplies to promote literacy at the school and host a "book day". The school's donation was in the island's newspaper "The Chronicle", which included a photograph of a sign acknowledging St. Martha's donation.

**Holy Cows! Video presentation**
Salt and Light TV's documentary called 'Holy Cows!' details the work students and parishes in Toronto are doing to help provide funds to build schools and to buy cows for Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Uganda. For Ugandans, cows are central to their life and culture. Two hundred dollars will buy a cow, a cow that will provide the basic needs of life - milk, meat and fertilizer - for the parishes in Uganda. The video is a testament to Father Massery Lombard's vision to get hundreds of cows for Uganda. It is also a tribute to the students of St. Wilfrid and St. Jerome Catholic Schools who through various fund-raisers helped make this vision a reality.

**Funds for victims of Hurricane Katrina**
Many TCDSB schools raised funds for regions devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Student fundraising efforts include:
- Grade 8 students from St. Dominic Savio Catholic School seized the opportunity to give a presentation on Hurricane Katrina for their entire school community. Taking advantage of a large gathering of parents, staff and students at the school's opening barbeque and

**Curriculum Night**
Students at Blessed Mother Teresa Catholic Secondary School have been taking full advantage of the Habitat for Humanity site at the corner of McLevin Ave. and Neilson Road. Teachers and students were actively involved in the building of the last two units of homes. Approximately 150 students, with their teacher supervisors, have had the opportunity to don a hard helmet, work boots and gloves, and help build a home for a needy family.
Celebrating the Spirit of Community

Students “pinch their pennies”

Last September, students in the grade 3/4 class at St. Leo Catholic School set out to help their community and their parish. They started a Penny Collection. Each class had a special “Penny Jar” in its classroom. Not only were students donating their pennies, but so were teachers, office staff, caretaker and school volunteers. They baked cookies, cakes and other tasty treats and held a bake sale for the Church. At the final Mass of the school year, the class presented Father Sultana with a cheque for $1,300 to be used to meet the many needs of the parishioners and the community.

Pop tabs for wheelchairs!

The Cardinal Léger Catholic School Ecology Club collected another 1,500 pounds of pop tabs, due to the efforts of the TCDSB. Wabash Alloys, a local recycler, generously donated its services and purchased the pop tabs at market value. Once again, the Club was able to assist with the purchase of another wheelchair. Pop tabs prove that insignificant things can become substantial and profitable.

Drive to help Guatemalan rural schools

St. Edmund Campion and St. Thomas More Catholic Schools and the Saturday Spanish groups at Pope John Paul II Catholic Secondary School generously donated 14.5 large storage containers of new school supplies to needy students in Guatemala. A portion is being sent to a rural school in Honduras and to an inner-city school in Lima, Peru. Mrs. Romero, who teaches at the three contributing centres, is volunteer coordinator of the educational project of the Canadian Central American Relief Effort. She provides training workshops to rural Guatemalan teachers, which are aimed at ways of increasing the country’s literacy rate. The classrooms they are assisting are made up of approximately 60 students of all ages and one teacher. The high poverty rate means that most school communities simply go without basic school supplies.

Funds for Philippine mudslide victims

Students from St. Anselm Catholic School presented a cheque in the amount of $890 to Jose Saavedra Jr., President of the Leytena Association of Ontario (LAO). Funds were earmarked for victims of the recent mudslide in the Philippines. Students raised these funds through a “Toonie Or More Day” as well as a book sale by the grade 2 students.

Cookies for Kandahar

Staff, students and parents at St. Elizabeth Catholic School baked cookies for the brother of a staff member, who was serving in Afghanistan. Special arrangements were made to send 10 tins of chocolate chip, oatmeal raisin and chocolate-raisin cookies to Kandahar. All students participated and cards and letters were sent to the troops as well. The school’s Advisory Council paid for the baking supplies and postage.

Budget

The Board has approved the revised budget estimates in the amount of $845,901,693. The budget estimates can be found on the TCDSB website at www.tcdsb.org (see budget and finance on the homepage).
Board of Trustees
2005 - 2006

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.

Director's Message

I am very pleased to present this report to our Board of Trustees, our parents, our parish and school communities, and to the Ministry of Education. It is a review of the tremendous accomplishments at the Toronto Catholic District School Board during the 2005-2006 academic year and a reminder that by working together as a team, our system provides the quality of Catholic education our students deserve and expect.

The 2005-2006 school year has been a busy and productive one for students, staff and trustees of the TCDSB. We have successfully implemented new and innovative initiatives that are geared to supporting students to reach their full potential. We also continued to expand some of our current programs that focus on literacy and numeracy, on special education and on Student Success.

Throughout the past year, our Board has successfully responded to the many challenges it has faced, including many Ministry announcements on student achievement, class size reductions, parental involvement, healthy schools, and changes in provincial education funding. The Board has accomplished a great deal, despite limited financial resources.

It was a difficult budget year for the TCDSB. The Board is facing a $34M shortfall for the upcoming academic year. We have had several meetings with Ministry staff during the summer, and pointed out that the funding formula is flawed and that the level of funding is inadequate to meet our legislated mandate to provide essential programs and services. The Board has been given an extension to submit a balanced budget and will be looking at community consultation for input on budget issues.

Despite the challenges, staff has responded to the call to Catholic leadership. I commend all staff for their commitment, professionalism and passion for the preservation of our Catholic uniqueness. As a system we are committed to staying the course in the year ahead with renewed commitment during another challenging and I’m sure successful year.

Kevin Kobus
Director of Education

Toronto Catholic District School Board profile

Total number of students  87,450
Elementary students  59,250
Secondary students  28,190
Teachers  5,699
Support/Academic Staff  2,771
Principals/Vice-Principals  307
Administration & Governance  223
Total number of schools  201
Elementary schools  168
Secondary schools  31
Combined schools  2

*Staffing figures are based on full-time equivalency. Enrolment is based on Average Daily Enrolment.

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. A schedule of Board and Committee meetings, as well as agendas and minutes from public meetings, are posted on the website at www.tcdsb.org. Anyone wishing to address a Board Committee should register with the office of the recording secretary at 416-222-8282, ext 2293.

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/

This annual report was produced by the Communications Department

Kevin Kobus
Director of Education

For more information about Catholic education in Toronto and for additional copies of this 2005-2006 Director’s Annual Report, please call the Communications Department, Toronto Catholic District School Board, 80 Sheppard Avenue East, at 416-222-8282, ext. 5314 Fax: 416-229-5342 E-mail: commdept@tcdsb.org or visit our website at: www.tcdsb.org
Priority | Nurturing Our Catholic Community  
Goals | 
Faith Development: To create and celebrate Catholic community where all proclaim the Good News of the Gospel and where Catholic beliefs are modelled and integrated into the whole learning experience.  
Safe, Inclusive and Healthy Learning Environment: To enhance the quality of the working and learning experience through improving schools and workplaces so that they contribute to positive health and respectful relationships.  
Increasing Enrolment and Retention in Grades JK-12: To support and implement a variety of local and system initiatives that actively enhance the school profile and promote the benefits of Catholic education.

Priority | Improving Student Learning and Achievement  
Goals | 
Literacy: To improve the overall level of students’ literacy skills by enhancing their reading and writing proficiency through an interdisciplinary approach.  
Numeracy: To improve the overall level of students’ Mathematical literacy skills through problem solving experiences that involve the application and communication of concepts in Mathematics.  
Success for All: To improve opportunities for all our students to achieve their desired destinations through a variety of programs, supports, assessment strategies and pathways (apprenticeship, college, community living, university and the workplace).

Priority | Building Capacity to Lead and Learn  
Goals | 
Empowering Catholic Leadership: To develop and support Catholic Educational Leaders who are energizing, caring, visionary, student-focused and collaborative role models in building a Catholic professional learning community.  
Professional Development: To provide job-embedded professional development that focuses on broadening the range of skills, practices and attitudes needed to create sustainable improvement and better results.
“In a school community formed by Catholic beliefs and traditions, our Mission is to educate students to their full potential.”