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.

Toronto Catholic District School Board profile

Total number of students 99,171
Elementary Students 68,542
Secondary Students 30,629
Teachers 5,600
Support/Academic Staff 2,160
Principals/Vice- Principals 315
Administration & Governance 203
Total number of schools 202
Elementary Schools 169
Secondary Schools 31
Combined Schools 2

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

Board of Trustees

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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.

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/

All Board policies relating to the Safe Schools Act, 2000 are available on the Board's website at www.tcdsb.org under the icon for policies.

TRUSTEES 2002 – 2003

Wards
1. Mark Stefanini
2. Rose Andrachuk
3. Joseph Caremole, Chair
4. Oliver Carroll
5. Joshua Colle
6. Christine Nusziali, Honorary Treasurer
7. Michael Del Grande
8. Mary Ann Robillard, Vice-Chair
9. Catherine LeBlanc-Miller
10. Barbara Poplawski
11. Angela Kennedy
12. Paul John Crawford
Milo Silva, Student Trustee

Director’s Message

Catholic education in the City of Toronto has a rich history of over 150 years. Our religious orders paved the road and provided all of us with a solid foundation of academic excellence and Catholic traditions. They faced many challenges and overcame them through their faith and perseverance. Today we continue to learn from their accomplishments and dedication.

We have much to celebrate. As we reflect on our heritage, we recognize that our success as a school board depends upon our faith that guides us, and the quality of Catholic education that we provide to our diverse, multicultural and multilingual student population.

On April 2, 1953, our Board was incorporated as the Metropolitan Separate School Board. Fifty years later on April 2, 2003, we continue to believe in, and celebrate, our Catholic traditions. This day now becomes a new cornerstone as we continue to build the next 50 years of Catholic education as the Toronto Catholic District School Board.

Tom Donovan, Director of Education

For more information about Catholic education in Toronto and for additional copies of this 2002-2003 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

This annual report was produced by the Communications Department.

April 2, 1953 – April 2, 2003

Celebrating our 50th anniversary since our incorporation as the Metropolitan Separate School Board now the Toronto Catholic District School Board.

Inside School Walls

Maria, Grade 12, Cardinal Newman Catholic Secondary School

Community... Equals one and all
Prayer... Keeps cold mornings warm
Religion... Opens up the world
Classrooms... Inspire every soul
Friendships... Forged in colorful halls
Hardships... Overcome with smiles
Lessons... Learned inside our hearts
Help... Given by those who care
Imagination... Discovers mysteries of earth

And so we embark on our journeys of faith

A complete report on the Board’s 50th anniversary celebrations can be found on pages 8 and 9.
A variety of special events were planned to celebrate this milestone throughout the year, including a gala reception, a Mass at St. Michael’s Cathedral and the creation of a commemorative book highlighting original essays, poetry and artwork created by TCDSB students. For all the details, see pages 8 and 9 of this report.

Memorial tribute to student
St. Luigi Catholic School created a memorial garden in remembrance of Holly Jones whose tragic death has touched the lives of the Toronto Catholic District School Board community.
During the dedication of the garden, students explained the symbolic meaning of the bench, rock, stepping-stones and plants. The Holly Jones Trust Fund has been established to support the family of Holly Jones.

TCDSB celebrates World Youth Day volunteers
On October 24, 2002 the Board hosted a Mass celebrated by His Eminence Aloysius Cardinal Ambrozic followed by a reception to thank World Youth Day volunteers from the TCDSB for their contribution.
During World Youth Day 2002, more than 35,000 pilgrims were accommodated in 140 TCDSB schools. The hosting, supervision and distribution of meals was carried out by approximately 1,700 enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers from among the Board’s staff, student and parent community.

Sowing "Seeds of Peace"
Students from across the TCDSB gathered at the Catholic Education Centre for a special prayer service to launch ‘Planting Seeds of Peace’ on Holy Thursday. An initiative of the Board’s Religious Education and Social Work Departments, the project’s goal was to unite school communities in prayer for peace, and to raise funds for humanitarian aid for the people of Iraq. The money was used to purchase medicine, drinking water, blankets and food, and will be channelled through ShareLife and Caritas, an international Catholic relief agency.

The Board of Trustees approved the 2002-2003 Revised Budget totalling $681.62 million.
The Board approved the 2002-2003 Pupil Accommodation Grant for the School Renewal Program in the total amount of $12.5 million.
New beginnings

The Toronto Catholic District School Board entered a building phase in 2002-2003. After making some difficult decisions with respect to school closures, funds were finally available to proceed with some much needed construction and renovation projects, including new facilities for: All Saints, Brebeuf College, Loretto College, Father John Redmond, Father Henry Carr, Immaculate Conception, Msgr. Percy Johnson, Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Lourdes, Our Lady of Victory, Senator O’Connor, St. Anthony, St. Jane Frances and St. Timothy, and upgrades to Bishop Allen, Canadian Martyrs, Dante Alighieri, Francis Libermann, Holy Cross, James Cardinal McGuigan, St. Francis of Assisi and St. Nicholas of Bari.

Supporting Easter Seals

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School surpassed its original goal of $1,000 in their Easter Seals Penny Power campaign. The students succeeded in raising more than $1,500, making the school’s donation the largest single donation received during the campaign.

Tuna Tuesday

The tuna drive at St. Elizabeth Catholic School was the single greatest donation of tuna that the Food Bank received through the drive at Cloverdale Mall. The school continued in the same spirit by charging a can of tuna as admission to its annual Christmas concert. The students received a digital camera and photocopier as prizes and were featured on CITYtv.

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 2002-2003 were:

- **Help for school in Uganda**
  - As part of their Halloween activities, students at St. Eugene Catholic School collected money to support Père Achte School in Fort Portal, Uganda. The school had hosted pilgrims from Uganda during World Day 2002. The Catholic School Advisory Council is matching the students’ donation.

- **Nelson Mandela Toonie Day**
  - TCDSB elementary and secondary schools participated in a system-wide Nelson Mandela Toonie Day fundraiser, and raised $28,023.27 to support the Nelson Mandela Children’s Fund. As part of the learning process, students were engaged in many curriculum and school-community initiatives ranging from social justice issues to the commemoration of African Heritage Month. The Board will continue the Nelson Mandela Toonie Day project as part of its 2003-2004 system-wide initiatives.

- **Tuna Tuesday**
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- **Student council shows it cares**
  - Michael Power/St. Joseph Catholic Secondary School again turned its attention to the issue of child worker exploitation with its annual “Free the Children” Docudrama. The fundraiser helped to subsidize the construction of a school in Esteli, Nicaragua.

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- **Father Henry Carr student recognized for helping refugees**
  - Milad Francies, an OAC student at Father Henry Carr Catholic Secondary School (west campus), received the Senpo Sugihara Humanitarian Award from the Canadian Jewish Congress and the National Association of Japanese Canadians in recognition of her efforts on behalf of Iraqi refugees in Turkey.

- **Teens to Teens club**
  - Close to 80 students from Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School in east Toronto belong to “From Teens To Teens”, the largest official club at the school. During the winter, members of the club knitted numerous scarves, mittens and toques for teens at Covenant House. In the spring, they turned their talents to the creation of bags and purses.
Students pitch in for the environment

Staff and students at Archbishop Romeo Catholic Secondary School marked Earth Day 2003 by focusing on clean up and naturalization projects around Black Creek, Lavendar Creek and their own school grounds. The students are members of the Romero Environment and Community Helpers (REACH), which has dedicated itself to environmental clean-up and raising awareness around environmental issues. The group was a runner up in the Canadian Environment Awards ‘Green Team Challenge’.

TCDSB students’ works published in anti-racism anthology

The creative works of 26 TCDSB students is featured in the anti-racism anthology: “Young Voices on Racism”. The compilation published by the Human Rights and Race Relations Centre of Toronto, features essays and poems by: Emanuella Enenajor and Tiffany Tsun from St. Joseph Morrow Park, Lara Thompson, Alex Duarte Laudon and Amanda Malenica from St. Clement, Lutchelle D. Volcy from Pope John Paul II, Peter Bowen and Rabiah Claxton from St. Augustine, Andrew Bilardo and Alexandra Reda from Sts. Cosmas and Damian, Lisa Hortley, Nizam Yar Khan, Danielle Davis, Antonette Lakor-Asare, Tolu Quadri and Marsha H. from Mother Teresa, Denise Ann Williams from St. Joseph College, Marilyn Kusi-Achampong from Archbishop Romero, Nicola Wysockiby and Amanda Chachel from Transfiguration of Our Lord, Marta Wolde Michael and Elisa Colonna from Immaculate Conception, Jessica Fafara from St. Antoine Daniel, Rochelle Alizado, Natasha Britts and Gretchen Rebano from St. Timothy, and Huong Nguyen from Don Bosco.

Students face challenges of the new millennium

TCDSB hosted its 5th annual conference for secondary school gifted students. The conference brought together more than 800 students from across the Greater Toronto Area to learn more about the challenges of our global village.

Environment club continues its focus on Black Creek restoration

Chaminade College held its 6th annual Black Creek Duck Race to raise environmental awareness in the community. Proceeds from the fundraiser support the Black Creek Restoration Project, which includes the restocking of Atlantic Salmon and Brown Trout into the Creek, and the creation of the Chaminade Trail.

Students meet Queen Elizabeth II

A small group of students from across the TCDSB were among the thousands of people who welcomed Queen Elizabeth II to the National Trade Centre in October for the ‘Festival of Ontario’ in celebration of her 50th anniversary on the throne. Among those who spoke to the Queen was a group from Holy Child Catholic School.

Students Heard

The Board’s response to recommendations from Student Trustee Conference

The Board has responded to recommendations coming from the 2002 Student Trustee Conference “Voices that Challenge”, which made specific recommendations around such matters as student uniforms, health and safety, student leadership and concerns around the double cohort. The Board has made efforts to address these concerns through a wide range of initiatives, including:

- A final dress code policy was approved by the Board in October 2002
- Students have been invited to participate in the development of the School Safety Audit
- In order to meet the needs of students applying for universities/college/work placement/apprenticeship programs and/or scholarships, every school was provided with additional guidance support in October and November based on the grade 12/OAC enrolment in the school
- In October 2002, the Board affirmed its support of student leadership initiatives by officially recognizing the Catholic Student Leadership Impact Team (CSLIT) as the collective voice of students in the TCDSB. The Student Trustee for each school year (CSLIT) as the official channel for communications from CSLIT to the Board
- In a survey of secondary schools, all principals responded that their students are actively involved in grade 8 recruitment through such initiatives as Open Houses, information sessions, tours of school facilities, hosting of athletic events, outreach programs and volunteer programs.
Across the Board

Toronto’s Catholic schools continue to show improvement in mathematics and literacy

The Toronto Catholic District School Board has seen an overall improvement in school by school results in the latest round of EQAO assessments in both grade 9 mathematics, and grade 3 and grade 6 reading, writing and mathematics. The most notable improvement was seen in grade 9 mathematics results, where there has been an increase of 15 per cent in the number of academic students performing at levels 3 and 4 (using Method 1).

Grade 9—Mathematics—Percentage of Students in Levels 3 & 4 (Method 1)

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>TCDSB</th>
<th>Ontario</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>55%</td>
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</tbody>
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For grade 6 students, there has been a 1 per cent increase in reading scores, while writing scores remain unchanged and mathematics scores have dropped by 1 per cent.

The most notable improvement was seen in grade 9 mathematics results, where there has been an increase of 15 per cent in the number of academic students performing at levels 3 and 4 (using Method 1).

Grade 6—Percentage of Students in Levels 3 & 4 (Method 1)

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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This is the second time that the same cohort of students took part in both the grade 3 and grade 6 EQAO assessments.

The results in reading show a 13% increase in the number of grade 6 students achieving at levels 3 and 4 when compared with their grade 3 assessment results from 1999.

Percentage of Students in Levels 3 & 4 (Method 1)

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<th></th>
<th>TCDSB</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gr. 3</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gr. 6</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Board’s ongoing commitment to literacy as a system priority, combined with its Balanced Literacy, Literacy in the Middle Grades, Lifelong Literacy and Fifth Block programs are being credited for the continued improvement in student literacy levels.

New Initiatives

Launch of Centre for Performing Excellence and Innovation

In January 2003, the Centre for Performing Excellence and Innovation, a leadership development centre for administrators, was launched. This initiative will ensure the growth and future of our Catholic schools, as well as provide an opportunity for the sharing of ideas and exemplary practices. The goal is to be innovative, proactive and responsive in supporting student achievement, staff learning and organizational effectiveness.

Students At-Risk board leader to be appointed

The Board approved the appointment of a Board leader for the ‘Students At-Risk’ initiative. The Board leader will coordinate strategies supporting ‘Students At-Risk’ and develop and implement ‘Student At-Risk’ plans. The leader will also be responsible for the coordination of existing programs and the introduction of the new Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course for the 2003-2004 academic year. Students who have not passed the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test after a second attempt will be eligible for the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course.

Horizons for Teachers

In December 2002, 15 teachers from 11 schools were selected to attend the Horizons for Teachers workshop at the Durham Catholic District School Board. The week-long workshop provided the teachers an opportunity to reflect on the changing nature of education, and explore and pursue new ideas and practices.

School safety program

Nine TCDSB secondary schools are participating in a campaign that challenges students across the city to take initiative and promote safe schools to reduce youth violence. The ‘Empowered Students Partnerships’ (E.S.P) is a student-led partnership between the Toronto Police Service, the Canadian Safe School Network, ProAction, the City of Toronto, the Toronto Catholic District School Board and Toronto District School Board.

‘Students At the Max’ program

St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic School also launched a new curriculum focus, with arts based programming to enhance the learning experience for students. The arts are being used as communication tools to impart the curriculum, and students will be enabled to communicate their knowledge through the arts.

In partnership with Mary Ward and with Toronto Catholic District School Board, resource staff assistance, staff and students will be able to access expertise, materials and facilities necessary to fully integrate arts into the curriculum.

The ‘Arts to the Max’ program invites grades 6, 7 and 8 students from St. Maximilian Kolbe to spend the morning at Mary Ward to attend one class each in drama and visual arts. Students in the primary and junior grades are invited to afternoon sessions in art and drama.

Robotics challenge

Schools across the city will be participating in a robotics challenge organized by Cardinal Newman Catholic Secondary School in Scarborough. Students and staff from four participating schools were introduced to the skills that are required in the new emerging field of robotics and electronic technology through this initiative. The focus is on the development of individual problem-solving skills in order to build remote control mechanisms that allow the students to maneuver around a series of obstacles.
International Languages gala

TCDSB officials, representatives from among the various levels of government and diplomatic communities, sponsors and supporters of the program gathered together at a gala evening to celebrate the success of the Board’s Saturday International Languages program. The evening featured dance and musical performances and a variety of food representing the cultural diversity of the Board and the City of Toronto.

First annual business fair

St. Basil-the-Great College School’s entrepreneurship students hosted the school’s first annual business fair on December 10 through 12th, 2002 to market, promote, and sell products to the school community. Students conducted market research, developed business plans, worked on budgets, e-commerce, advertising, sales forecasting and legal aspects of starting and operating a business venture. Some products were better received than others, but all of the students agreed that this was a great practical learning opportunity. Proceeds from the fair were donated to a Christmas charity.

Global issues addressed

Two secondary schools hosted United Nations Assemblies last year—Chaminade College and St. Joseph Morrow Park. The forums provided students with opportunities to debate global issues with respect to economics, social and human rights and security. The Catholic Student United Nations Assembly held in November attracted approximately 500 students from Catholic schools across the City of Toronto. CHAMUN 2003, held at Metro Hall in April 2003, attracted hundreds of participants from across the province.

Bullyproofing website launched

TCDSB launched a new resource for staff, students and parents: a website on bullyproofing. Developed by the Board’s Peace Initiatives Committee, the website is a tool to support the many conflict resolution and peacekeeping efforts in our classrooms and schoolyards.

Recognition for race relations efforts

The Human Rights and Race Relations Centre honoured Kirk Mark, Coordinator of Race and Ethnic Relations, Multiculturalism, Toronto Catholic District School Board, with a gold medal in recognition for outstanding work in race relations. Several TCDSB students also receive awards for their winning submissions in the 2002 essay contest “What Role I Can Play in Stopping Racism in School”.

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Students “go outside the box”

Students from across the Board participated in “Go Outside the Box”, a joint initiative of TCDSB, Toronto Public Health, Toronto Parks and Recreation, Toronto Culture, Toronto Public Library, Toronto Zoo and the Toronto District School Board.

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Celebrating student & staff achievements

‘A Tribute to Our TCDSB Community’, the Board special awards event held on November 12, 2002 recognized the outstanding achievements of more than 200 TCDSB students and staff, as well as members of the community.

The recipients of the TCDSB Award of Merit were Father Thomas Rosica, c.s.b., Chief Executive Officer and National Director of World Youth Day 2002 and Marie Bracken, president of the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education and chair of the Catholic School Advisory Council at St. Cecilia Catholic School.

This year’s Alumni Award recipient was Most Reverend John A. Boissonneau, Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto, Vicar for Christian Education, Chairman of the Archdiocesan World Youth Day 2002 Committee, and graduate of Neil McNeil Catholic Secondary School.

Students from across the Board were presented with the TCDSB Student Achievement Award for their outstanding achievements either academically, physically, spiritually or socially at the provincial, national or international level.

TCDSB Certificates of Appreciation were presented to students, parents and staff to acknowledge service and contributions to the Board.

Staff who were honoured for their achievements were: Edward Moroney, recipient for the Queen’s Golden Jubilee Medal in recognition of his work in the music industry; Tom Oliveri, who was selected as Head Coach for the Ontario Boys’ 17 and under Basketball Squad; Linda Dominick-Laurie, Rosanne Moroney, recipient for the Queen’s Golden Jubilee Medal for their volunteer service with Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School, were recognized by the Board with a Certificate of Appreciation.

More successes...

Senator O’Connor Catholic Secondary School and Monsignor Percy Johnson Catholic Secondary School both received awards for their involvement in the Empowered Student Partnerships Program (ESP). O’Connor’s ESP committee won the Police Chief’s Award, and Juliana Lombardi, a guidance counsellor at the school, was recognized with the Staff Advisor Award.

Melanie Ratnam from Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School was awarded a Canadian Merit Scholarship. Melanie earned an average of 90.4%, while also completing a mentorship under Professor Ivy at the University of Toronto in the research of epilepsy. She is also a gold medal winner at the Toronto Science Fair.

Francis Libermann Catholic Secondary School was named best overall in the category of electronic newspapers in this year’s Toronto Staff High School Newspaper Awards. Mary Ward Catholic Secondary School took first prize for best volunteer publication.

St. John Catholic School recently received the Golden Toque Award in recognition of its support of the ‘Toque Tuesday’ campaign initiated by ‘Raising the Roof’, an organization dedicated to finding long-term solutions to homelessness.

The Toronto Catholic District School Board received an award in recognition of its support of the Toronto Heart Health Partnership. The Board received a framed certificate of appreciation for its integral contributions to the establishment, implementation and sustainability of heart health programming across the City of Toronto.

Community recipients recognized

Patricia and Jack White, long-time residents of North York and recipients of the Queen’s Golden Jubilee Medal for their volunteer service with Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School, were recognized by the Board with a Certificate of Appreciation.

School anniversaries

The TCDSB has a rich and diverse history, steeped in Catholic tradition. Celebrating milestones in 2002-2003 were:

100th ANNIVERSARY
Holy Family Catholic School

75th ANNIVERSARY
Loretto Abbey Catholic Secondary School

50th ANNIVERSARY
St. Theresa Shriners Catholic School

40th ANNIVERSARY
St. Theresa Shriners Catholic School

30th ANNIVERSARY
Cardinal Newman

25th ANNIVERSARY
St. Camillo de Lellis Catholic School

Celebrating Milestones in Catholic Education

Top Scholar

Toronto Catholic District School Board’s 2002-2003 top graduating students

David Nguyen from Pope John Paul II Catholic Secondary School in Scarborough has achieved 99.17 per cent, the highest average of all Grade 12 and Ontario Academic Credit (OAC) graduating students within the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) for the 2002-2003 academic year.

David Nguyen earned 100 per cent in Biology and in Physics, 99 in Chemistry, in Calculus and in Finite Mathematics, and 98 in Algebra. These top marks earned him the University of Toronto Scholar’s Scholarship, the Ting Sum Tang Memorial Entrance Scholarship, a Miller Thomson Scholarship, as well as the Governor General’s Award and an Outstanding Canadian Youth Award. Mr. Nguyen will be studying Life Sciences at the University of Toronto.

In addition to his academic achievements, David Nguyen pursued studies in piano, played the saxophone in the school band and in the Jazz band and was involved in the school’s Social Justice Club trip to Cuernavaca, Mexico. He has been a volunteer with Youth Assisting Youth and World Youth Day and travelled to Guyana as a volunteer with Youth Challenge International.

Two students tied for the second highest overall average with 98.83%. The students are Eva Knifed from Pope John Paul II Catholic Secondary School and Maria Sagan from Cardinal Newman Catholic Secondary School, both in Scarborough.

Eva Knifed earned 100 per cent in Philosophy, in Biology and in Chemistry. 98 in Physics and in Calculus, and 97 in Geometry. She has been awarded a Miller Thomson Scholarship, and an entrance scholarship to the University of Toronto, where she will study Life Sciences with a future degree in Neuro-Science. Ms. Knifed is fluent in four languages. She was editor of the French Language School Newspaper, member of the Debating Society, and participated in Model United Nations Student Conferences and in the Science Olympics at York University. Her volunteer work includes tutoring, Science Outreach Camps at the University of Toronto and fundraising initiatives with Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Toronto.

Maria Sagan earned 100 per cent in Philosophy and in Biology. 99 percent in English-Literary and Critical Theory. 98 per cent in English. She has been awarded the Award of Distinction, York University’s most prestigious entrance scholarship. During her secondary school years, Maria Sagan was a student of a five-year Visual Arts Program at the Art Gallery of Ontario where she has had many of her sculptures and paintings on display, volunteered as a tutor at her school and at the Gallery School, served on the Cedarbrae Library Youth Advisory Board and participated in the University of Toronto Mentorship Program in Rehabilitation Sciences at Faculty of Medicine.
The Board celebrated the 50th anniversary of its incorporation as a Catholic school board in Toronto with a variety of special events. These included a gala event on April 2nd, the unveiling of an anniversary banner on April 16th, a celebratory Mass on April 28th, the release of a commemorative book entitled 'We Believe... We Celebrate' and 'A Moment in Time' on April 30th.

Anniversary gala held at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel to launch the year-long anniversary celebrations.

Current Director of Education Tom Donovan greets the first Director of Education for the Metropolitan Separate School Board, B. Edmund Nelligan.

Commemorative banner was unveiled in the TCDSB boardroom at the regular monthly meeting of the Board on April 16th.

Staff and students across the TCDSB gathered in in their respective schools and offices to mark 'A Moment in Time'

Replica of 1950s-style classroom with a history lesson re-enactment by Francis Libermann Catholic Secondary School students and staff.

Director of Education Tom Donovan and Trustees Rose Andrichuk and Angela Kennedy cutting the anniversary cake.

A Special Place
Fiona, Grade 8, St. Timothy Catholic School

A place full of laughter
A place full of joy
A place for any
Girl or boy
A place to learn
A new lesson each day
A place where God
Reveals the right way.

Here we grow
Together as one
Here we learn
While having fun
Here we play
In sun or snow
Here we are taught
There is much to know.
Each day we come
To develop our minds
Each day we come
And hear the bell chime
Each day we come
To enhance what we know
Each day we come
To our second home.
Having our friends
Standing by our sides
Making our teachers
A part of our lives
Helping each other
In all we do
Forgiving and forgetting
The old and new.
We cherish this place
And all it holds
We cherish this place
That keeps out the cold
We cherish this place
And abide by its rules
We cherish this place
St. Timothy’s School!

Education in a Catholic School
Monica, Grade 7; Teri-Kim, Grade 7; Jana, Grade 8; Kalesha, Grade 8 and Victoria, Grade 8, Precious Blood Catholic School.

Jesus once said, “Where three or more are gathered in my name, there am I in their midst.” Being Catholic is important to us because our faith teaches us to be a better person on the inside. Our Catholic religion is a part of us, a part of who we are, and a part of what we believe. We are very fortunate to be in a Catholic school where being a Catholic has an important meaning. Going to a Catholic school helps us to practise our faith each day.

Being a part of the Toronto Catholic District School Board Community is more than just taking part of what it offers; it means contributing to it as well as receiving. We have attended Catholic schools and are grateful for having experienced the kindred spirit that runs through this family of Christians. Because of the valuable Catholic education that the TCDSB offers us, we have learned what is most important to us: following God’s plan in our everyday actions; knowing right from wrong, knowing the meaning of respect and actually respecting.

Our school, Precious Blood Catholic School is a family community, which makes students feel safe and secure. The school has helped many children over the years and tries to make sure that students are provided with an education that they will be using throughout high school, college, and university. We have many different athletic teams and extra curricular work.

When children are born, their parents start them on a path of faith development. Our school continues the journey and it is our teachers’ mission to educate students to their full potential. In our school, teachers attempt to meet the individual needs of all of our students. The children are educated in an environment that is Catholic, safe and welcoming for students of all backgrounds and cultures.

Attending a TCDSB school has assisted us in building our Christian foundation. A Catholic school is more than just a group of people in one place: it is our home away from home.

We congratulate the TCDSB for fifty years of Catholic education. We are appreciative of all that it has done and given to us.