In a school community formed by Catholic beliefs and traditions, our Mission is to educate students to their full potential.”
Director’s Message

As I begin my tenure as Director of Education for the Toronto Catholic District School Board, it is my pleasure to present this report to the Ministry of Education, to our Board of Trustees, and to our school communities. Having spent 25 years as a teacher and administrator with this Board, it is great to be back after an absence of eight years.

As the newly appointed Director, it is a privilege and a pleasure to be leading a Board that has established a solid foundation of excellence.

The preparation of this annual report provided me with an opportunity to review the highlights and many accomplishments of the students and staff in our school communities. Our achievements are a function of system partners - trustees, senior staff, principals and vice-principals, teachers, support staff, school councils, parents, parish and our community - working together for the benefit of our students. I want these individuals to feel proud of the school system that they have helped to build.

We are guided by the Board’s priorities, which are to nurture our Catholic community, to improve student learning and achievement and to build capacity to lead and learn. In our various roles in Catholic education we are called upon to provide a caring, safe learning environment for our students so that they will achieve success to their full potential.

As a Catholic school system, we will continue to face challenges. There are some who will continue to question our right to exist. However, by working together in an atmosphere of trust and respect, I am confident that TCDSB is up to the challenge. Our collective efforts will result in a revitalized school system for our students, parents and staff.

This past year has been a year of transition. In February, the Board said good-bye to retiring Director Tom Donovan with thanks for his contributions to Catholic education. Under Tom’s tenure, the Board focused its energies on recruitment and retention of quality staff, enhanced programming initiatives for our students, and increased opportunities for professional development through new professional learning centres. The Board continued to emphasize literacy and numeracy as system priorities, and our students are clearly benefiting from the many resources that have been channelled into this area.

To bridge the gap, Noel P. Martin generously came out of retirement to lead the Board as Director of Education from February to July 2005. We thank him for his leadership through this transitional phase. The positive messages he sent to everyone made them feel affirmed.

I look forward to the 2005-2006 academic year and the opportunity to work with all partners in Catholic education in the best interest of our students and to build on our partnerships to create new success stories in the coming year.

Kevin Kobus
Director of Education
A Community of Faith

Celebration of the life and legacy of Pope John Paul II

The Toronto Catholic District School Board joined the world in mourning the passing of the Catholic Church’s spiritual leader Pope John Paul II. A scholar, prolific writer and eloquent communicator, Pope John Paul II has served as Pontiff since 1978.

Through the initiative of TCDSB’s Religious Education/Family Life Department, schools were provided with resource kits, including prayers and readings for the repose of the soul of Pope John Paul II. Toronto’s Catholic schools organized and participated in a variety of special events to mourn the loss of His Holiness Pope John Paul II and celebrate his life and legacy throughout the week of April 8th. One staff and one student from each school, along with representatives from TCDSB’s administrative offices, joined in a TCDSB Community Commemorative Mass in the auditorium at Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts.

TCDSB welcomes new Pope

On April 19th the mourning turned to celebration as the Board welcomed His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI as the new leader of the Catholic Church.

Toronto’s Catholic schools have been enriched by the spiritual leadership and guidance provided by the Church. TCDSB takes great pride in the partnership that continues to thrive among our parishes, our parents and our schools.

Anniversary of Peace Garden celebrated

Over 21 faith communities came together to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Peace Garden on September 19, 2004. The Peace Garden at the Toronto City Hall is a monument to the nuclear horror that engulfed Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. It is also a reminder of how critically important it is for us to live in peace and harmony with tolerance and mutual respect. Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau turned the sod to begin construction of the Peace Garden and Queen Elizabeth II dedicated the garden. On September 14, 1984, Pope John Paul II lit the eternal peace flame from an ember that Fr. Massey Lombardi (St. Wilfrid) carried from the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park in Japan and poured water into the pool that was taken from the river that flows through Nagasaki.

Many TCDSB secondary students were involved in the festivities and multi-faith prayer celebration. Madonna students and staff challenged everyone in the making of origami paper peace cranes and shared ESP (Empowered Student Partnerships) information.
Staff and students at Bishop Marrocco/Thomas Merton Catholic Secondary School proudly announced the official launch of the CD “Lending a Hand”. A CD signing was held at the school on May 6th, the last day of Catholic Education Week. With an inspirational message focusing on friendship and helping others, the CD is being sold for $10, with proceeds going to support the school’s breakfast program, as well as a new scholarship fund for BMTM students.

In operation since 1999, the God Squad is comprised of Michael Power/St. Joseph High School students who dedicate one Saturday every month to Street Patrol. Street Patrol is a two-hour walk through the streets, parks, and shelters of the downtown core, ministering to the poor. The group meets at Nathan Phillips Square at 3:00 p.m.

During the Patrol, students are encouraged to not only give food and drink to the homeless, but also to show that they care by spending a few minutes of their time exchanging words and laughter with those less fortunate. The God Squad’s objective is to find God both in ourselves and in others, and to discover that little gifts of kindness can go a long way.

The 2004-2005 school year was very successful. An average of 60 students participated in the Street Patrols.

Other high school leader-representatives are welcome to join the experience and learn first hand about the God Squad’s Street Patrol. Please contact Lucio Abbruzzese at MPSJ for details: lucio.abbruzzese@tcdsb.org.
Two hundred secondary school students embark on day of service

Two hundred TCDSB secondary school students gathered in the atrium at the Catholic Education Centre on October 14th as they began their Day of Service to the community.

An annual initiative of ShareLife, the event attracted student volunteers from across the Toronto Catholic District School Board. The students spent the day helping out at placements such as soup kitchens, retirement homes and shelters. The day concluded with a prayer vigil beginning at the Peace Garden in Nathan Phillips Square and ending at St. Michael’s Cathedral for a closing liturgy.

More than $190,000 for tsunami relief efforts

The Toronto Catholic District School Board has partnered with ShareLife to raise funds for regions devastated by the tsunami. TCDSB schools have raised $190,916.96 for ShareLife’s relief efforts in southeast Asia. These funds will be matched by the Canadian Government. Students fundraising efforts include:

- classes collected coins to fill an aquarium
- raffles, bake sales, pyjama parties and hot chocolate sales
- “Buy Your Lunch at School Day”
- collecting items such as tents, toiletries, clothing, flashlights and batteries and school supplies to support relief agencies.
- Toonie day for Tsunami Relief, proceeds from pizza lunch.
- Loonies for Love, blue ribbon campaign

Schools also held paraliturgies and students decorated the school gym with murals and cards to express their sadness and their prayers for those impacted by the tragedy.
Michael Power/St. Joseph continues to make a difference

Since 1999, Michael Power/St. Joseph High School’s chapter of Free the Children has raised enough money to build schools in Nicaragua, Sierra Leone, and currently Kenya.

These schools are being built so that Third World children can learn, rather than have their lives taken away from them.

The goal is to raise awareness of child-worker exploitation, and to build as many schools as possible in the areas of the world most in need.

Free the Children is run entirely by students, under the supervision of Mr. Abbruzzese. Written and produced by MPSJ students, the Docudrama demonstrates different scenarios, which children all over the world are faced with every day of their lives.

It is presented to the school community as a fundraiser in the school auditorium.

This year’s Docudrama was presented for the school’s Theology classes on October 15th, with an Evening Performance for the general public on October 16th. The FTC leaders this year are Grade 12 students, Dayna Chellew and Carolyn Malloch.

By all accounts, the Docudrama this year was outstanding! Students heard inspirational first-hand stories by Student Council President Wanda O’Brien, who went to Kenya over the summer to help build schools for FTC.

Now in its 6th year, MPSJ-FTC shows all the signs of an organization where teenagers are truly making a difference!

Bishop Allen hosts dinner to raise funds for community project in Botswana

Bishop Allen Academy hosted its second annual IRIE international dinner in support of the Bona Lesedi Community Project in Botswana, Africa for the orphans living there. Children living in Botswana dream of a better life: a life with clean clothes, food and water, medicine and a stable home. Many of these orphaned children have limited access to education as their caregivers cannot afford the cost of schools. A group of students and teachers from Bishop Allen Academy are hoping to instil hope in the lives of these children and their families.

The school raised more than $4000 for the children of Riverton, Jamaica.

St. Denis food drive

Students helped to pack the non-perishable food items that were collected during St. Denis Catholic School’s annual food drive.
Kristopher Knowles completes cross-Canada walk

On December 16, 2004, Kristopher Knowles completed his cross-Canada walk to raise awareness of, and funds for organ donation. Accompanied by Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts students, Kristopher was greeted by throngs of well-wishers from the Toronto Catholic District School Board.

Top fundraiser in Kids Walk to Cure Diabetes

The Toronto Catholic District School Board has been recognized by the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation with the Top Fundraising School Board in Canada Award. Eighteen TCDSB schools hosted Kids Walk to Cure Diabetes events with a number of schools also hosting Skipping to Cure Diabetes events, bake and book sales, and dress down days raising over $90,000. The money will be donated to JDRF funded research at the Hospital for Sick Children.

Building Bridges 2005

Senator O’Connor College School hosted ‘Building Bridges 2005’ at the North York Civic Centre. The day-long conference, organized by the school’s ESP committee, welcomed grade 8 students from neighbouring elementary schools. The conference was an introduction to the Empowered Student Partnerships Program and featured workshops on issues such as substance abuse, smoking cessation, theft and vandalism, and healthy relationships.

ESP empowers students to actively participate in safety projects across the city, to stand up against relationship violence, to take action and promote a safe school environment and create best practices for making schools safe.

Students promote positive living through ESP program

Father Henry Carr Catholic Secondary School piloted a new ESP (Empowered Student Partnership) program to promote positive living through the arts. “New Generation Outreach” utilizes the arts to respond to issues such as gangs, youth violence, teen pregnancy and the consequences of making wrong decisions. The program is being spearheaded by Sgt. Bill Russell, Toronto Police Services.

This new program will give rise to a new student leadership group that will move forward with presentations to students in their own school, as well as in neighbouring elementary schools. These student leaders will use the arts to encourage students to stop the violence.

The school already has a very active and effective ESP program. Recently Father Henry Carr received a $1,000 grant from Toronto Public Health for their Party in the Right Spirit initiative, which focuses on reducing substance abuse.
Catholic Student Leadership Impact Team

On June 13th, student members of the Catholic Student Leadership Impact Team (CSLIT) from Loretto Abbey, St. Michael’s Choir School, St. Patrick, Bishop Allen and St. Joseph’s College had an opportunity to see and speak with Louise Arbour, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Mayor’s Community Safety Award

Students and staff from St. Charles Garnier visited Toronto City Hall on May 18th to receive the Mayor’s Community Safety Award.

Huddle Up Against Bullying

The Toronto Argonauts’ defensive-back Chuck Winters has already visited Pope John Paul II Catholic Secondary School as part of the “Huddle Up Against Bullying” program on two occasions.

Mr. Winters conducted two presentations on bullying, with the focus of the visit being on strategies to prevent bullying among students. The final visit was on Tuesday, April 26th which featured six or seven Toronto Argonaut players tipping off in a basketball game against a team from Pope John Paul II, comprised of students and teachers.

Staff meet sponsored child

A year ago, the TCDSB’s Information Technology Departments (Technical Services and Computer Services) sponsored a boy from Peru and a girl from Sri Lanka through World Vision. Luis, who is a 2-1/2-year old boy from Huaraz, Peru, met one of his sponsors, Leo Ysla-Chee, an IT Tech, this past summer when he visited his homeland.

Gifts and money were donated by department staff, as well as others in the Board, and Leo donated a mattress, food, books and sheep.
Active Schools

Canadian School Sport Week

The Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA) and Michael Power/St. Joseph High School launched Canadian School Sport Week which ran from October 18th through to the 23rd, consisting of daily activities, recognizing coaches, officials, fans, athletes and sponsors of school sports.

Active 2010 Challenge

More than half of the 3,000 students attending the Active 2010 Challenge at Skydome were from Toronto’s Catholic schools. Presented by Sporting Life in association with the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, the Provincial Sport Organizations Council of Ontario, the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations and many others, the event provided opportunities for students to test their fitness levels. Activities included a 40-metre sprint, 60 second box jump, standing long jump, push-ups and the t-test.

Students get up and running

Nick Biagini, founder of the St. Bernard Roadrunners, as new vice-principal at St. Jude Catholic School has started up the St. Jude Roadrunners to focus staff and students on fun and fitness. The Roadrunners, under the supervision of staff members, ran two to four kilometres each week in an effort to maintain physical fitness and promote a love for the sport of cross-country. Students ran four times each week and can select three times during the school day in which to complete their run. During the winter months, the students ran a route mapped out within the school. Each runner received “The Greatest Achievement Award” and an exclusive t-shirt for their participation in the club. Students were also recognized for their accomplishments over the school’s public address system. If a school record is broken, the student is awarded a “Golden Shoe Plaque”.

Students walk across Canada

Annunciation Catholic School in North York launched its annual fundraiser, “Walk Across Canada” on October 14th. The event is meant to raise money for school initiatives as well as to promote fitness among the students. Parents and staff joined students of all ages for the walk. Staff and students attempted to collectively walk the distance from eastern Canada to British Columbia.

TCDSB participates in Toronto’s “20-Minute Make-Over”

Schools and administrative offices across the Board participated in the City of Toronto’s 20-minute makeover on April 22nd. At right, students from St. Mary’s Catholic Secondary School pitch in to clean up the park and the neighbourhood surrounding the downtown school.

Textbooks no longer used in the current curriculum were sorted and packed to assist a school in Grenada destroyed by a fall hurricane. With the assistance of TCDSB staff like Louise Barker, of Health and Safety, science students sorted and collected chemicals for transport while Charles Chen, Technical Support Staff, helped coordinate the collection of obsolete computer hardware, used batteries and toner cartridges.
The community carried all items to the TCDSB trucks which transported them to the warehouse for distribution. Simultaneously classrooms and staff work areas were scoured and resources sorted in a collaborative effort.

At the conclusion of this concerted activity everyone gathered on the field to participate in Out of the Box lead by Student Council and mascot Jade.

Caretaking staff adjusted their schedules to provide additional support. Joe Scorano, Head Caretaker, and colleague, Emilito Corrales, joined the Student Council and Valerie De Rose of FDR Catering by barbequing hotdogs and burgers for the celebratory BBQ. Surplus food was later donated to a local shelter.

Frank Verre, SJMP science teacher continued the energy with his Grade 12 students, planting trees on Cummer Street with the Toronto Rotary Club.

On Thursday April 21st Neil McNeil students planted eleven oak trees in the front of the school and three maple trees on the back property. They were able to achieve this succession planting through a generous donation from the T. D. Friends of the Environment Foundation and with the technical support of Sheridan Nurseries who gave of their time and expertise to ensure the trees were properly planted. While this succession planting coincided with Earth Day activities, it is in fact the culmination of a three year beautification project at the school which included the replanting of the gardens, the planting of trees at the back and the front of the school, and the painting of the wrought iron fence which surrounds the property. This project has given the students a renewed appreciation of the green space that surrounds the school and the role the environment plays in their lives.
Tribute to TCDSB Community

Celebrating Student and Staff Achievements

**TCDSB Award of Merit**, which recognizes outstanding contributions to the Toronto Catholic District School Board and to Catholic Education was presented to **Donald E. Clune**, former Trustee and Chair of the Board, **Charles E. Arsenault** and **Jean-Guy Saint-Yves**, former Trustees and Chairs of the MSSB French Language Section, and **Chris Cromien**, former Deputy Director of Education.

**TCDSB Alumni Award** is presented to former TCDSB students, who are active in the Catholic community and who have distinguished themselves in their careers or accomplishments.

*October recipients included:*

- **John Derringer**, Q107 radio personality and Toronto Sun columnist, and former student at Blessed Sacrament Catholic School and St. Michael College School.
- **John McDermott**, tenor, solo artist, founding member of the Irish Tenors and former student at St. Michael's Choir Catholic School
- **Julian Wharton**, creative head of production and technology with TVOntario and former student at Annunciation Catholic School and Senator O'Connor College School
- **Rick Wharton**, actor, comedian, producer and writer and former student at Annunciation Catholic School and Senator O'Connor College School.

*May recipients included:*

- **Carleton Chambers**, sprinter, world gold medalist and record holder and former student at St. Augustine Catholic School
- **Merella Fernandez**, reporter/anchor for City TV and Global Pulse 24 and former student at St. Florence Catholic School and Pope John Paul II Catholic Secondary School.
- **Teresa Pavlinek**, actor, writer and former student at Francis Libermann Catholic High School.

**TCDSB Student Achievement Award** is presented to students who have excelled either academically, physically, spiritually or socially at the provincial, national or international level.
More successes...

**TCDSB Certificate of Appreciation** is presented to students, parents, community members and staff in recognition of their contribution to TCDSB schools and Catholic Education in Toronto.

*Community recipients included:*

- **Maria** and **Pasquale Pannunzio**, for their support and contribution to the St. Francis Xavier Catholic School Community and for giving students an opportunity to experience back-yard gardening.

- **Blanca Amaya, Carmella Cammisa** and **Mary Secord**, for their years of dedicated service to the St. Paul Breakfast Program

- **Marianne Lofranco**, for leading the Kiss ‘N Ride Program at St. Fidelis Catholic School.

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

- **Connie Shimko**, Special Education Teacher, Pope John Paul II Catholic Secondary School, for her efforts in integrating students with special needs into regular school events and in extra-curricular activities, and in ensuring that parents are part of the decision making and that the focus is always on the student.

**Sister Mary Hamilton Award for Exceptional Students**

- **Kevin Breen**, Francis Libermann Catholic High School, for his leadership skills demonstrated in his mentoring of students with special needs, his volunteer work at school as well as his sense of justice and fair play.

**Special Award**

The Toronto Police Service Street Crime Unit presented the Ontario Crime Control Commission’s Award of Excellence for Fighting Crime to **Juliana Lombardi**, Child and Youth Worker at Senator O’Connor College School for her work with the Empowered Student Partnerships (ESP) program in crime prevention, community outreach work, and the development of a safety awareness website.

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*The cast of Old Turtle, students from Notre Dame High School.*

*Monica Pollard and her son Kyle from St. Anthony Catholic School, for their relief efforts to support the people of Grenada.*
Celebration of Exemplary Practices

The Toronto Catholic District School Board recognizes innovative and creative programs and projects at local schools with the TCDSB Exemplary Practice Award. The recipients of the 2004-2005 Practice Awards are:

**Ward One**  
Father Henry Carr Catholic Secondary School  
“A Crusade to Success: Carr Learning Community”

**Ward Two**  
Bishop Allen Academy  
“Tales and Tiny Treasures Children’s Literature Writing Contest and Anthology”

**Ward Three**  
St. Matthew Catholic School  
“Success for All - Power Up Literacy Project”

**Ward Four**  
St. Raphael Catholic School  
“Entrepreneurial Adventure Program - Production of St. Raphael School Electronic Year Book”

**Ward Five**  
Dante Alighieri Academy  
“Environmental Studies and Technological Design”

**Ward Six**  
Archbishop Romero Catholic Secondary School  
“Rshoppe Online: An ‘e-Commerce’ Solution to Student Engagement and Workplace Preparation”
Celebration of Exemplary Practices

The Toronto Catholic District School Board recognizes innovative and creative programs and projects at local schools with the TCDSB Exemplary Practice Award. The recipients of the 2004-2005 Practice Awards are:

Ward Seven
Mary Ward Catholic Secondary School
“Mary Ward Catholic Secondary School Pathways Program”

Ward Eight
Francis Libermann Catholic High School
“Grade Eleven Medieval History Fair”

Ward Nine
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School
“Professional Learning Community”

Ward Ten
St. Luigi Catholic School
“PlayFair Teams” Engaging Students in Challenging Conceptions of Disability, Education and Social Justice”

Ward Eleven
St. Brigid Catholic School
“Boys’ Reading Club”

Ward Twelve
St. Boniface Catholic School
“Strengthening the Heartbeat”
Top Scholar

Toronto Catholic District School Board’s 2004-2005 Top Graduating Students

James Lau from Brebeuf College School in North York has achieved 98.83 per cent, the highest average of all Grade 12 graduating students within the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) for the 2004-2005 academic year.

James Lau earned 100 per cent in Financial Accounting and in Calculus, 99 per cent in Philosophy, in Computer and Information Science and in Physics, and 96 in Geometry. These top marks earned him the University of Toronto’s Faculty of Arts & Science Admission Award, the Victoria College Admission Scholarship, the Governor General’s Academic Medal, as well as T.H. Chan Memorial Chinese School Mathematics Award. Mr. Lau will be studying Life Sciences at the University of Toronto and plans to pursue a career in medicine.

In addition to his academic achievements, James Lau co-established his school’s Multi-cultural Club and the Brebeuf Diplomacy Club, played on the school’s Varsity Curling Team, and achieved 4th grade (blue belt) in Taekwondo. He has been a volunteer for four years with the Brebeuf Mathematics Peer Tutor Program. Mr. Lau immigrated to Toronto from Hong Kong in 1998.

Branden Gordon from Monsignor Percy Johnson Catholic High School in Etobicoke and Philip Dandolov from Neil McNeil High School in Scarborough, tied for the second highest overall average with 98.5%.

Top students from other municipalities within Toronto

Tatjana Ljaskevic from St. Patrick Catholic Secondary School is the former City of Toronto’s Top Student with a 97 per cent average.

Maria Lourdes Muscado from Archbishop Romero Catholic Secondary School is the top graduating student for the former Borough of York with a 95.67 per cent average.

Celebrating Milestones in Catholic Education

School Anniversaries

The TCDSB has a rich and diverse history, steeped in Catholic tradition. Celebrating milestones in 2004 - 2005 were:

150TH ANNIVERSARY
St. Mary (elementary)

50TH ANNIVERSARY
Precious Blood

45TH ANNIVERSARY
St. Joseph Morrow Park

40TH ANNIVERSARY
Annunciation
Chaminade

35TH ANNIVERSARY
St. Dorothy

30TH ANNIVERSARY
Father Henry Carr

25TH ANNIVERSARY
St. Michael

“In a school community formed by Catholic beliefs and traditions, our Mission is to educate students to their full potential.”
**In this year...**

**Dream Big: A Life Lesson with Tiger Woods**

At James Cardinal McGuigan twenty students attended this new and distinctive learning experience workshop. The Tiger Woods *Dream Big* program stresses the importance of character, integrity and hard work exemplified by Tiger Woods and uses him as a role model to help young people to set their own goals. This mentor focused program was led by experienced and positive volunteers from the business world who provide opportunities for students to imagine their future, to understand the commitment needed to reach their potential or ‘fulfill their dream’ and to understand the importance of personal achievement in building strong communities.

Workshop sessions focused on skills affirmation through a variety of activities designed to realize future possibilities through reinforcement of skills and identification of areas of growth. Students were encouraged to confirm their dreams and to define the role of a mentor through role-play activities, engaging others with diverse life experiences. Students were further encouraged to visualize their dreams and learn how to direct their future through a personal action plan.

**TCDSB continues to rally behind Louise Russo and her family**

The Toronto Catholic District School Board, last spring, established the Louise Russo and Family Fund, to support Ms. Russo after the tragic shooting that has left the devoted mother and active member of the TCDSB community in a wheelchair. To date, the Board has raised in excess of $173,500.00, and the hope is that the donations will continue. The Board encourages anyone wishing to make a donation, to do so at the: CIBC Branch, corner of Keele and Wilson, Account # 1421638, Transit 06622.

**CSA video conference**

The TCDSB succeeded in conducting a live video conference at Transfiguration of Our Lord Catholic School with the Canadian Space Agency (CSA). The internet connection allowed them to partake in activities live with the Canadian Space Agency on RADARSAT technology. To conduct the partnership, it took over two months of testing and preparation. The Tandberg 550 videoconference system provided amazing image quality, video and sound. This was an opportunity to share with and plan an effective and curriculum-relevant session to meet students needs.

Forty students from Transfiguration of Our Lord in the 6, 7, and 8 Congregated Gifted Program classes enjoyed a two-hour presentation on “Reading and Understanding Radar Images.” Mr. Stephane Cote, a scientist from the Canadian Space Agency, led students through an introduction to radars, reading radar images, applications to storm readings, and responded to questions. This is an amazing example of what the possibilities of technology can offer education.

**Enrolment action plan adopted by Board**

In an effort to boost enrolment in TCDSB schools, the Board moved forward with an enrolment action plan.

Other initiatives include a pilot marketing project with 22 elementary schools, forging stronger relationships between schools and parishes, and exploration of increasing the availability of daycare centres and after-school programs.

**Continuing Education Credit Courses available outside Canada**

The TCDSB has approved the overseas March Break 2005 to Italy and Italy/France and the Summer 2005 overseas credit program in Ireland, Ireland/England, Ireland/Scotland, Italy and Kenya. All Board costs are grant recoverable through the Continuing Education Department.
New Initiatives

Launch of Sector Advisory Committees

The Toronto Catholic District School Board provides a variety of programs and supports for students in grades 7 to 12 who are experiencing difficulty meeting graduation requirements. These programs and supports are centered in three key areas: literacy, numeracy and program pathways. The Board launched its Sector Advisory Committees, which consist of industry-wide senior leaders from each sector (construction, hospitality and transportation), appropriate government ministries, TCDSB officials and representatives from the Mayor of Toronto’s office. These committees will provide information regarding changing labour market needs, future developments and expectations in each sector, with a focus on supporting the Board’s efforts to ensure that curriculum remains relevant for students. The committees will also play a role in finding solutions to the continuous challenge presented by socio-economic factors, which may cause students to be at risk of not completing their formal education.

Fast Forward Program

The Toronto Catholic District School Board has launched it “Fast Forward Program”, which creates direct and relevant pathways through a set of pre-selected pathways for students who choose to enter the workplace directly from secondary school. The Fast Forward Program Pathways offer industry-recognized certification, which confirms for employers that the student has demonstrated the necessary skills for entrance into a specific field or industry.

During the 2004-2005 school year, TCDSB offered Fast Forward Program Pathways in three sectors: Construction (available at Archbishop Romero, Bishop Marrocco/Thomas Merton and St. Patrick), Hospitality and Tourism (offered at Don Bosco, James Cardinal McGuigan and Pope John Paul II) and Transportation (provided at Father Henry Carr, Jean Vanier and St. Mary).

The Program benefits students by providing them with opportunities to find greater success with their academics as they relate to their field of career interest, perform tasks and demonstrate skills related to specific occupations, develop positive relationships and connections with employers in the community, raise awareness of the variety of options available to them in the workplace and further develop literacy and numeracy skills.

Full-day Kindergarten program

The full-day Senior Kindergarten program currently offered in seven TCDSB schools will be continued and the program will be made available to all Senior Kindergarten students registered at the identified schools.

Inspiring the love of technology

Madonna Catholic Secondary School’s Technology Department introduced a new mentorship program titled MQuest. The purpose of this program is to share Madonna’s facilities, as well as the expertise of its teachers and students through hands-on workshops and on-going support. MQuest challenges students and stimulates interest in technology, science, mathematics and language arts. In November the school conducted a three-part Lego Robotics workshop for 32 grade 7 students from St. Raphael, which were led by Madonna students. In addition to facilitating robotics, the school planned to hold workshops in rocketry and animation. The program culminated in June with the M-Quest Blast, a day in which all participating schools came together to display their creations and compete in a variety of technological and scientific challenges.
New program eases transition for grade 9 students

Blessed Mother Teresa Catholic Secondary School has launched an extensive grade 9 program to ease the transition to secondary school.

The program is run by the senior members of “Titan Leadership Crew” under the guidance of Michael Consul. All grade 9s are placed into year-long Tribes (10-12 per Tribe), with three senior leaders assigned to each Tribe.

Senior leaders call their Tribe members before school starts to welcome them to the school community, remind them of the first day, tell them when and where all the tribes will be meeting, and to answer any of their questions. Tribes are all named after different brands of “chips” (ie. Doritos, Pringles), and in keeping with that theme, Tribe leaders greet their members and give them a bag of “their” brand of chips. Tribes earn points for various activities, competitions and model behaviour.

Day 1 of school is filled with special events for the grade 9s (guest speaker, interactive games, school tour, scavenger hunt, lunch). There is also an overnight retreat at Camp Olympia which includes social activities, workshops and a Tribe Olympics.

Tribes are responsible for social and academic follow-ups throughout the year (phone calls, mentoring, TAG, workshops, attending school events together, teaching proper study habits, academic monitoring, etc.) Prizes are awarded to Tribes who have earned the highest number of points throughout the year.

TCDSB receives award of distinction

CACE (Canadian Association of Communicators in Education) presented the Award of Distinction to the Toronto Catholic District School Board in recognition of its Welcome Postcard initiative.

The project, conceived in the 2003-2004 school year, involved personalized postcards being sent from each elementary school to new registrants during the summer months to welcome them to their new school community.

Roots of Empathy

On June 20, 2005, the TCDSB welcomed 16 babies to the Catholic Teachers Centre at the CEC. They gathered with their parents, instructors, classroom teachers, administrators and senior staff to celebrate the conclusion of a year long Pilot Program called Roots of Empathy.

Twenty-four elementary schools took part in the Pilot, which was coordinated by the Curriculum & Accountability Department. Through interaction with a baby and parent, students learned about growth and development of babies from the earliest stages of life.

One of the goals of the program is to heighten awareness of the need for empathy in all relationships. Studies show a marked decrease in bullying behaviour among students who have completed the Program.

Thanks to the support of The Roots of Empathy organization, the Program will be expanded to twenty more schools next year. Roots of Empathy is a poignant reminder of the work of Catholic education which is, in Jesus’ words, “Let the little children come to me.”
Special Visitors

Community Use of Schools

St. Gabriel Lalemant Catholic School hosted a visit from Hon. Jim Bradley, Minister of Tourism and Recreation, who was announcing an agreement between the Provincial Government and the Toronto Catholic District School Board to open up seven TCDSB schools for community use free of charge on weeknights.

City of Toronto and TCDSB Partnerships

Toronto Mayor David Miller attended the October meeting of the Administrative and Corporate Services Committee to make a presentation to the Board about continued cooperation and the development of further partnerships between the City and the Board.

Action plan to address safety in Ontario schools

Minister of Education Gerard Kennedy and Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services Monte Kwinter announced the formation of a special Safe Schools Action Team to implement new measures to protect students in Ontario schools. The announcement was made at Senator O’Connor College School on December 14th.

MPP goes back to school

The Honourable Gerard Kennedy, Minister of Education for the Government of Ontario, spent a day at St. Pius as part of the MPP “Back to School” initiative. He spent the day in various classrooms, engaged in a variety of learning activities. The day began with the formal announcement of library book funding, and a presentation of library books to principal Art Biffs.
Robert Munsch tour launch

Minister of Education Gerard Kennedy and Trustee Paul Crawford were on hand for the launch of the Robert Munsch school tour. Students at Our Lady of Fatima thoroughly enjoyed Mr. Munsch’s unique brand of storytelling.

Students meet Earl and Countess of Wessex

On June 7th, Michael Power/St. Joseph’s Free the Children Chapter was honoured to meet the Earl and Countess of Wessex (Edward and his wife, Sophie Rhys-Jones).

Primary Class size

Premier McGuinty and Minister of Education Gerard Kennedy visit a primary classroom at Holy Rosary Catholic School to make an announcement around the continuation of the reduction in primary class sizes.

Half-Pints challenge

Teachers from Pope Paul VI challenge Half Pints Basketball team recently.
Celebrating Community Partnerships

Ontario Science Centre Science School

For the past 13 years the TCDSB has had a unique partnership with the Science Centre School. Each semester 28 students from across the province compete for a place in the program.

Those students who are Catholic are registered as students at Senator O’Connor College School while they participate in the Science Centre School program. This science enrichment program allows students to prepare for three Grade 12 university courses in the areas of Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Calculus. Students are engaged in creative enrichment activities within the Science Centre and local community in addition to the challenging, imaginative, workshop-approach to science curriculum. Intensive communication and team-building exercises with like-minded peers, adds continual enrichment.

Students who might be interested in pursuing study at the Science Centre School may get information on the website www.ontariosciencecentre.ca under school trips.

Italian secondary school program

A partnership between TCDSB and Centro Scuola and Cultura Italiana offered 22 founding students, two teachers, a principal and support staff the opportunity to engage in a full semester of studies at Roseto degli Abruzzi in central Italy. The students and staff left Toronto on March 2 and returned in early June. Students studied Religion, Italian, English and an Interdisciplinary course which explored History of the Roman Civilization, Italy in the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, and Art and Music History. Excursions to Rome, Venice, Florence and the Amalfi Coast completed this exciting adventure.

TCDSB-Kababayan after-school partnership

“Learning while having fun”, was how the after-school program was described by a Grade 9 student of Bishop Marocco/Thomas Merton Catholic Secondary School, a new immigrant from the Philippines. The program was offered by the Kababayan (means: compatriot) Community Centre, in collaboration with TCDSB.

The study group was a year-long tutorial program for Grades 7-8, 9-12 in Mathematics, English and Science. The tutors were Filipino students from the University of Toronto, while the Coordinator was a social worker from the Kababayan Centre. The study group aimed at enriching the academic skills of the students and providing them with social skills, such as leadership, dealing with peer pressure, note taking ability. Students also had time to do their assignments and confer with the tutor on items or lessons that needed more explanation or reinforcement. The session ran once a week at Bishop Marocco/Thomas Merton, St. Maria Goretti and Jean Vanier.
Across the Board

Students show improvement over time

TCDSB students are showing slow but steady improvement over time in the EQAO (Education Quality and Accountability Office) assessment of grade 3 and grade 6 reading, writing and mathematics as well as grade 9 mathematics.

In the 2001-2002 assessment of reading, 48% of grade 3 students achieved the provincial standard. In 2004-2005, 58% of the grade 6 students (the same group who were in grade 3 in 2001-2002) achieved the provincial standard. When comparing the same two groups of students, the achievements in writing and mathematics remained consistent from 2001-2002 to 2004-2005.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2001-2002 Grade 3</th>
<th>2004-2005 Grade 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This same pattern can be seen when comparing the grade 6 students who were assessed in mathematics in 2001-2002, as they moved to grade 9 for the 2004-2005 assessment, with 61% of the grade 9 students achieving the provincial standard, as compared to 52% of the students in grade 6 three years earlier.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2001-2002 Grade 6</th>
<th>2004-2005 Grade 9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Individual school results are posted on the EQAO website at www.eqao.com.

TCDSB’s Literacy Test Results Show Improvement

The Board’s results on the October 2004 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test show that TCDSB students continue to improve in their overall literacy skills.

A total of 78% of first-time eligible students were successful on the assessment. This represents an increase of 6% in achievement compared with the results of the October 2003 results, when 72% of students successfully completed the test.

The Board continues to provide students a wide range of programs and services to support all students, with a particular emphasis on supporting students at risk, through its Success for All initiative.

Of the previously eligible TCDSB students 62% were successful in the October 2004 administration of the OSSLT. In addition 16% of previously eligible students have met graduation requirements by taking the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC).


Individual school and school board results for the October 2004 OSSLT are posted on the EQAO website at www.eqao.com

Official Openings and Solemn Blessings

All Saints Catholic School celebrated the opening of its new school facility with a solemn blessing ceremony on October 31st.

Brebeuf College School invited the community to attend the official opening and solemn blessing of the new school building on April 10th.

St. Timothy Catholic School held the solemn blessing and official opening of its new school facility on May 5th.

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School marked the official opening and blessing of the new school building on September 30th.

Our Lady of Victory Catholic School invited the community to attend the blessing of their new school building on April 17th.
Partnership between TCDSB and City of Toronto

Toronto City Council has endorsed a plan to enter into an exchange of services agreement between the City’s Parks and Recreation Division and the TCDSB.

The one-year revenue-neutral pilot project will see the City exchange daytime ice time in Toronto-operated rinks for space in TCDSB schools to be used for camps and recreation programs.

Breaking new ground at Father Redmond

Staff, students and dignitaries gathered at the Lakeshore Grounds on November 3rd for the groundbreaking ceremony to mark the start of construction of a new facility for Father John Redmond Catholic Secondary School.

Construction to begin at three TCDSB secondary schools

Construction of the new replacement school facility for Monsignor Percy Johnson on the present Kipling Avenue site is scheduled to begin in the Fall. The present school program will be relocated to the former Regina Pacis building situated on Norfinch Drive. Re-occupancy by the school in the new facility is scheduled for September 2007.

The former Marian Academy building will be added to and altered to accommodate the Father Henry Carr program. The current program will continue to be delivered at the school’s Kipling Avenue Campus. Construction is expected to being late in the Fall. Re-occupancy by the school in the improved facility is scheduled for September 2007.

The existing James Cardinal McGuigan building will be expanded and altered to accommodate the school’s educational needs. The current program will continue to be delivered on the existing site during construction. Re-occupancy by the school in the improved facility is scheduled for September 2007.

New Childcare Centres to open in seven Toronto Catholic schools

The Toronto Catholic District School Board at its meeting of the Administrative and Corporate Services Committee on June 2nd, approved new childcare centres at the following schools:

- Our Lady of Grace Catholic School, 121 Brimwood Boulevard, Scarborough
  YMCA of Greater Toronto, 416-984-8061
- St. Bruno Catholic School, 402 Melita Crescent, Toronto
  Mothercraft Early Years Centre, 416-920-4054, extension 103
- St. Dorothy Catholic School, 155 John Garland Boulevard, Etobicoke
  Learning Enrichment Foundation, 416-760-8550
- St. Helen Catholic School, 1196 College Street, Toronto, Growing Tykes Learning Centre, 416-430-7404
- St. Rene Goupil Catholic School, 44 Port Royal Trail, Scarborough
  Heritage Home Child Care Services, 416-754-8814
- St. Sylvester Catholic School, 260 Silver Springs Boulevard, Scarborough
  Family Day Care Services, 416-430-7404
- The Divine Infant Catholic School, 30 Ingleton Boulevard, Scarborough
  Family Day Care Services, 416-430-7404

The centres are expected to open in 2005 - 2006.
Board Highlights

Site acquisitions

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

Additional money for schools

The Trustees of the Toronto Catholic District School Board approved a total of $12.7 million in additional funding for a variety of classroom and school-related needs. Among the allocations are $5.4 million for the “Success for All” initiative, $4.95 million for science labs in secondary schools and $770,000 for summer camps. Earlier this year, the Board approved $600,000 for playground equipment and $4.6 million in textbooks and peripherals for schools. The Board also approved one-time allocation of $10,000 to each TCDSB secondary school and $5,000 to each TCDSB elementary school for a total of $1.175 million.

TCDSB playground equipment

The Board will divide the $1.1 million allocated for playground equipment and site preparations for 2004-2005 equally among trustee wards, and then allocate to individual schools within each trustee ward using the TCDSB playground eligibility criteria as a guideline with the final decision taken by the Director of Education in consultation with the trustee and staff.

TCDSB ratifies agreement with TSU

The Board has ratified a four-year agreement with Toronto’s Catholic Secondary School Teachers (TSU of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers’ Association. The teachers voted on the agreement on May 24th and 97% of the membership voted in favour of the agreement. The agreement provides for a four-year term ending August 31, 2008. The highlights of the agreement include reduced class size caps for academic and applied courses, reduced workloads, improvements to benefits, as well as salary increases of 10.6 percent over the four years.

Board ratifies settlement with TECT

The Toronto Catholic District School Board has ratified a four-year agreement with its elementary school teachers (TECT of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers’ Association. Both the Board and TECT held ratification votes on June 8th on the agreement ending August 31, 2008. Teachers voted 97.8% in favour of the contract. The highlights of the agreement include reduced class caps for grades 4 to 8, increased preparation time, improvements to benefits, as well as salary increases of 10.6 percent over the four years.

Ratification of agreement with Adult ESL Nursery Instructors

The Board has ratified the Memorandum of Settlement reached with CUPE Local 1328 effectively renewing the collective agreement covering the Adult ESL Nursery Instructor employee group for the period of January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2004. The new contract includes wage increases of 3% effective January 1, 2003 and 2.7% effective January 1, 2004.
**Direct School Related Exp.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Millions $</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teachers Elem</td>
<td>242.11</td>
<td>30.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers Sec</td>
<td>138.52</td>
<td>17.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Operations</td>
<td>72.93</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>64.60</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep-time/Dept.Heads</td>
<td>46.37</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Assistants</td>
<td>35.18</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textbooks</td>
<td>32.28</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraprofessionals</td>
<td>29.13</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principals</td>
<td>23.07</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin &amp; Governance</td>
<td>22.18</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuing Education</td>
<td>21.79</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>20.75</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In School Admin.</td>
<td>17.57</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supply Teachers</td>
<td>12.17</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice Principals</td>
<td>10.55</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computers</td>
<td>6.66</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Consultants</td>
<td>6.56</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Development</td>
<td>1.35</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>803.77</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Budget**

The Board has approved the revised budget estimates in the amount of $803,767,085. The budget estimates can be found on the TCDSB website at www.tcdsb.org (see budget and finance on the homepage).
Board of Trustees 2004 - 2005

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. Danylo Korbabicz, from St. Michael Choir School, was the Student Trustee for the 2004 - 2005 school year and Ashley Pereira from St. Joseph College School is the Student Trustee for the 2005 - 2006 school year.

This annual report was produced by the Communications Department.

For more information about Catholic education in Toronto and for additional copies of this 2004-2005 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

Toronto Catholic District School Board profile

Total number of students 87,450
   Elementary students 59,255
   Secondary students 28,195

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
   (Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts & St. Michael Choir School)

*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/