Dear Parents, Caregivers, Guardians and Community Members,

The month of September was very busy at OLW, as I am certain most of you have noticed. We had a very successful 50th Anniversary Celebration mass and reception which started our new school year on a positive and upbeat note. My sincere gratitude is extended to all who have helped us make this golden anniversary a success. We had a perfect blend of past and present staff members, administrators, school superintendents and family members (graduates, parents and children) who were actively involved and participated in the festivities; thus, showing and proving that we are not only a community of friendship but also a welcoming and inclusive Christian family.

To attempt to name every one who contributed to the success of this celebratory day and in fact to the success OLW presently enjoys would be an impossible task – but this is a solid example of the nature of our community, a community where everyone is indeed an active member of our large family and who takes at heart what OLW does and represents.

Memorabilia and souvenirs for our 50th Anniversary: the September item is a Souvenir Halo Mug. Order yours as soon as possible as we are only producing a limited number of each of these items. The mug is on sale one last time during this month. A new Memorabilia and souvenir/gift item will become available next month. Order forms are available through Mlle. Chahine.

Our enrolment has steadily increased again this year ... we have more than 375 students in our school. In order to respect Ministry Caps in the Primary Division and to honour our contractual obligations, we have received one additional staffing allocation.

Our grade 1 classes will be now under 20 students each. We thank our superintendent, Anthony Petitti, and the senior management team at TCDSB for their support and understanding in sustaining the integrity of our excellent and unique early French Immersion programme.

As we move into October, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your attendance at our first CSAC meeting and at the Curriculum Night. Your support is very much appreciated. It is a blessing to continue to be able to work for and with you … à la prochaine!

Speech for 50th Anniversary OLW  
September 12, 2009 – School Gym

Good afternoon everyone,

On behalf of the CSAC, I would like to congratulate everyone who has been a part of Our Lady of Wisdom over the past 50 years.

I have been a part of the school community since my eldest child entered the school fifteen years ago. At that time, there were approximately 200 students in the school. The school board was continuously threatening to shut us down. A very active CSAC and school community developed and implemented a plan to increase enrolment. As we can all see in our school yard there are three portables that have been placed there in order to accommodate the additional students that have come to Our Lady of Wisdom.

Our Lady of Wisdom, in the eyes of many, is a great success story. Our Lady of Wisdom is the only single stream French Immersion school in the board. In addition to that, past parents of our school were instrumental in starting the ACE After-school and now, Before-school Program and the “Friends of Our Lady of Wisdom” until recently. This added to our unique features.

Over the last fifty years, there have been many CSAC or previously known as PTA Chairs, including myself. I would like to acknowledge our present Chair, Mrs. Colleen Spilar. Colleen and I have had the opportunity to work together to ensure that our Parents and Students receive the very best that a school can offer.

In life there are good times and bad times. Our Lady of Wisdom has had its share of both. Everyone must remember that in order to achieve greatness one must overcome many obstacles.

I would like to say a special Thank-you to all the Teachers, Secretarial Staff, Caretakers, Principals, other members of the staff and of course, Mrs. Audrey Shirley, who have dedicated their lives to Education and our children. Last but not least, to the devoted parents who have volunteered their time and efforts to the success of CSAC.

Without all of your contributions we would not have made it here today.

Mrs. N. Adamo,  
CSAC Co-Chair 2009-2010
This year, we will be celebrating our school masses at the church of the Annunciation. These masses will be held as we come together as a Catholic School Community in the company of our two other sister schools, Annunciation and St. Isaac Jogues. Our Thanksgiving mass will be on Thursday, October 8th at 10:00 am. Parents are welcome.

A Thanksgiving Prayer

As we approach this season,
We thank You, gracious Lord
For harvests truly bountiful
And every rich reward.
We thank You for the blessings
Inherited this year,
For love of friends and family
And all of those held dear.
We’re solemnly reflecting
Upon Your tender love,
Your hand of grace and mercy
Extended from above.

As we approach this season,
Dear Lord, we pray that we
May realize Your mercies
And give our praise to You.

Georgia B. Adams

WORD

2009-2010

“In the beginning was the Word”
John 1:1

Year One of the Nurturing Our Catholic Community Initiative focuses on Ministry of the Word.
This focus invites the TCDSB community to consider creative and intentional ways for Sacred Scripture, the Word of God, to have a place of prominence in the faith life of the school community.

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.”
Colossians 3:16

Using a three-year cycle, the TCDSB community is invited to deepen their understanding of the ministries of Word, Worship and Witness as a means of nurturing our local Catholic communities by building on the existing Virtue of the Month initiative and the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations:

Year One: Ministry of the Word
An invitation to the TCDSB community to consider creative and intentional ways for the “Word of God” in sacred scripture, especially the message of the Gospel, to have a place of prominence in the life of the faith community.

During the year, 2009-2010, the focus will be on Ministry of the Word, with an invitation to the TCDSB community to consider creative and intentional ways for the “Word of God” in sacred scripture, especially the message of the Gospel, to have a place of prominence in the life of the faith community.

Year two’s focus is on Ministry of Worship, with an opportunity to highlight the liturgical life of the local community. The liturgical seasons of the Church are emphasized and celebrated. In the third year, the focus shifts to Ministry of Witness, encouraging the community to highlight the social justice teachings of the Catholic Church through outreach initiatives.

SCHOOL EFFECTIVENESS FRAMEWORK

EQAO
OLW students continue to do very well on the test and to bring results with high scores. Congratulations to all. Kindly check the attached data.

Noon Hour Expectations
All students are reminded to:
- Be Respectful
  Sit while eating
  Use inside voices
  Keep hands to self
- Be Responsible
  Put garbage in proper containers
- Be Caring
  Listen to classroom helpers
  Include others
- Be Safe
  Ask before leaving

We would also like to extend a warm thank you to our student Noon Hour Helpers who support our younger students during lunch. A job well done!!

PARENT COUNCIL NEWS

Catholic School Advisory Council 2009-2010

Our second meeting for the year is being held this month. Please join us as we discuss and propose future activities that will assist our students in maximizing their education potential while at Our Lady of Wisdom. Our upcoming CSAC meeting is on Wednesday, October 21, at 6:30 pm in the Library. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at all of our future meetings.

Members of the Council 2009-2010
Chair:
Colleen Spilar
Co-chair:
Nina Adamo
Treasurer:
Mary Kutarna
Secretary:
Malisa Reffo
Parent Volunteer Coordinator:
Open
Fundraiser & Special Events Coordinator:
Michelle Spooner
Pizza Lunches Coordinator:
Ann Marie Robertson
Non-Teaching Representative:
Audrey Shirley/Juanillo Coloma

UPCOMING CSAC Meetings
(T) September 15, 2009
(W) October 21, 2009
(W) November 18, 2009
(T) January 19, 2010
(F) February 5, 2010 – Family Fun Night
SCHOOL CALENDAR
2009-2010

Thanksgiving Day:
October 12, 2009

P.A. Day – Assessment & Evaluation:
November 13, 2009

Parent-Teacher Conferences:
December 4, 2009

Christmas Break:
December 21, 2009 to January 1, 2010

Family Day:
February 15, 2010

Parent-Teacher Conferences:
March 5, 2010

Mid-Winter / March Break:
March 15 to March 19, 2010

Good Friday:
April 2, 2010

Easter Monday:
April 5, 2010

Victoria Day:
May 24, 2010

Last Day of Classes:
June 29, 2010

P.A. Day – Provincial Education Priorities:
June 30, 2010

SCHOOL CALENDAR
2009-2010

Thanksgiving Day:
October 12, 2009

P.A. Day – Assessment & Evaluation:
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Victoria Day:
May 24, 2010

Last Day of Classes:
June 29, 2010

P.A. Day – Provincial Education Priorities:
June 30, 2010

WELLNESS: SAFE, CARING & HEALTHY SCHOOL

* HEALTHY CHOICES -
* HEALTHY EATING HABITS
We encourage families and parents to ensure that healthy baked goods are sent to school for our bake sales.

Kindly follow the suggestions that are being sent home with your child. Thank you.

* SWIM to Survive -
Our Grade 4 students are enrolled in the Swim To Survive program and will be having their three sessions starting this month (please check attached calendar).

* VISITORS to the School*
In our efforts to continue in maintaining a safe environment for your child, it is apparent that some parents are not abiding by the rule of reporting to the office. Staff have reported that some parents enter the school premises and do not report to the office, making their way directly to the classroom, whether in the main building or in the portables. We remind you once again that you are to report directly to the office upon your arrival on school property. The office staff will be pleased to assist you as classroom disruptions are to be kept to a minimum during the course of the school day. Please remember that staff members may not always be available to meet with you unexpectedly. A scheduled appointment is suggested. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this matter.

*Safe School Dismissal at the end of each day*  
Please keep up with the good habits! Parents and caregivers are kindly reminded that our G1 to G8 students are dismissed from the side door (East exit) into the school yard where they can wait, meet with and be picked up by family members. Teacher supervision is provided until 3:45 pm. At 3:45 pm a bell rings and the teacher in charge invites the remaining students to re-enter the building and to sit in front of the main office (until such a time when their ride arrives). This is not a new procedure and it has been in effect for quite some time. Please ensure that it is followed. For more details you may refer to our Family & Student Handbook, section 5.4 on page 12 and the OLW Communiqué, issue 01.

Hallowe’en Parade
From the web site of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:

Hallowe’en Rooted in Religious Celebration - According to Sister Maureen Shaughnessy, Assistant Secretary for Catechesis and Leadership Formation for the U.S. Bishops’ Department of Education, “Hallowe’en gives us the opportunity to help people of all ages reconnect with the Christian understanding of this very popular holiday. Originally this day was celebrated by the Celts in England and Ireland as the end of their year. On that day they remembered all those who had died during the past year.” As Christians and as Catholics we celebrate this day as the eve of All Saints, and in fact, many parishes and Catholic schools use this opportunity to
have young people connect to the lives of saints - their own name saints or patronal saints connected to their parishes or ethnic backgrounds. It provides a time for storytelling, dressing up and celebrating.

We will have a JK to G3 costume parade beginning around 9:30 am.

As you begin planning your child’s costume please keep in mind that students are not permitted to wear costumes to school that promote violence (e.g., masks that drip fake blood). Also, we ask that students do not bring any objects that could be associated with violence (e.g., weapons like fake knives, swords, guns etc.)

Additional information will be sent home shortly.

OLW Sports

Boys Soccer:
On Tuesday September 22, 2009 the grade 6 – 8 boy’s soccer team played in a tournament at Wexford Park. We were placed in a tough group with the larger schools. Our first game was a decisive win over St. Maria Goretti. Unfortunately we lost a well played close game against Precious Blood. Our boys completed the tournament with two more losses but they never gave up against strong competition.

We would like to thank Mrs. Chimbo for helping to drive the team to the tournament.

Girls Soccer:
On Thursday, September 24, 2009 the girl’s soccer team played in a tournament at Ellesmere Reservoir. The girls started strong with big wins over St. Barbara and St. Ursula. The final game was against the other undefeated team Cardinal Leger. The winner would win the pennant and go on to the divisional meet. Both teams played well. It was an enjoyable game to watch. In the end Leger beat our girls.

We would like to thank Mary, a family friend of the Sacco family, for helping to drive the team to the tournament.

Upcoming Events:
The next intramural event on the calendar is intermediate volleyball. The tournaments will be held in November. All grade 7 and 8 students will be invited to come out and develop their skills during the lunch-time try outs.

S. Conley, K. Evans, G. Ross

SCHOOL LIBRARY Program

In September 2009, we received additional funds, about $2000+ (on top and above the funds received last May and June), from the Ministry of Education to continue to replenish and improve our library holdings. A list of our new acquisitions will be made available in the upcoming months.

CSAC STUDENT PIZZA LUNCHES

Please find below the dates for the CSAC STUDENT PIZZA LUNCHES for this academic year:

Tuesday, October 6, 2009
Tuesday, October 27, 2009
Tuesday, November 17, 2009
Tuesday, December, 8, 2009
Tuesday, January 12, 2010
Tuesday, February 2, 2010
Tuesday, February 23, 2010
Tuesday, March 9, 2010
Tuesday, March 30, 2010
Tuesday, April 20, 2010
Tuesday, May 11, 2010
Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Early in the month of September important information along with the necessary forms have been sent home for the ordering of the pizza lunches.

Words of Wisdom

“Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.”

—Albert Camus
Nobel Prize-winning French writer

Our Lady of Wisdom Catholic School - Centre for early French Immersion learning - 10 Japonica Road, Toronto (Scarborough), ON M1R 4R7 Telephone: (416) 393-5739 Fax: (416) 393-5434 - Administrative Assistant: Harlan D’Souza - Head Custodian: Juanillo Coloma - Superintendent: Anthony Pettit, OCT (416) 222-6282 ext. 2370. - Trustees: John Del Grande at (416) 512-3407 - Parish: Annunciation Church 3 Combermere Drive, North York, Ontario M3A 2W4 (416) 445-1760

Enrolment: 380 - Hours of Operation: 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. – Lunch Hours: 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. – Lunch Supervision: Audrey Shirley

Principal: J. E. Stépanian, OCT
Parent Volunteers are an integral part of our school community.

Parents who would like to spend some rewarding and exciting time supervising and helping our youngsters during the school day, kindly leave your name and phone number with Mrs. D’Souza.

For more details, please refer to our Handbook for Family & Student section 7.16 found on page 32.

Thank you.

from the Toronto Police Service
Parking Enforcement Unit
http://www.toronto.ca/transportation/parking/regulations.htm

SCHOOL SAFETY
Drivers in school areas can be serious traffic hazards to students.
ARE YOU PART OF THE PROBLEM... or PART OF THE SOLUTION?

PROBLEMS
Disobeying No Parking/No Stopping and NO Standing Signs
Double parking
Making "U" turns
Backing up to turn around
Blocking driveways
Passing school buses while lights are flashing
Disobeying School Crossing Guards

SOLUTIONS
Park a block away and "walk a block"
Car pool
Obey all signs
Obey School Crossing Guards

Definitions
PARKING
The standing of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, except when standing for the purpose of, while actually engaged in, the loading or unloading of merchandise or passengers.

STANDING
The halting of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, except for the purpose of, and while actually engaged in, receiving or discharging passengers.

STOPPING
The halting of a vehicle, even momentarily, whether occupied or not, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic, or in compliance with the directions of a constable or other police officer, or of a traffic control sign or signal.

SCHOOL PHOTOS DAY
at OLW
is
Wednesday, October 7,
Gym (Lifetouch’s)

All students are required to be in full uniform/dress code.
Thank you.
RESULTS FOR ALL STUDENTS AT OR ABOVE THE PROVINCIAL STANDARD (LEVELS 3 AND 4) OVER TIME

Percentage of Students: Grade 3

Reading

Writing

Mathematics

SCHOOL

BOARD

PROVINCE

Total Number of Grade 3 Students

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<tr>
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<td>6 501</td>
<td>6 243</td>
<td>6 305</td>
<td>5 960</td>
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<tr>
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<td>132 782</td>
<td>131 012</td>
<td>128 660</td>
<td>125 481</td>
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RESULTS FOR ALL STUDENTS AT OR ABOVE THE PROVINCIAL STANDARD (LEVELS 3 AND 4) OVER TIME

Percentage of Students: Grade 6

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<th>Board</th>
<th>Province</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reading</strong></td>
<td>87/52/57</td>
<td>58/61/66</td>
<td>63/64/66</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Writing</strong></td>
<td>93/72/70</td>
<td>58/65/69</td>
<td>59/61/67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mathematics</strong></td>
<td>90/86/67</td>
<td>54/58/59</td>
<td>60/61/63</td>
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Total Number of Grade 6 Students

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<td>23</td>
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<td>7 029</td>
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<td>6 702</td>
<td>6 756</td>
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<td>145 901</td>
<td>140 420</td>
<td>136 076</td>
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September 17, 2009
Welcome to the 2009-2010 School Year

The TCDSB welcomed Mr. Richard Alway as Ministry Supervisor, replacing Norbert Hartmann and Norm Forma effective August 27th, 2009. Mr. Alway brings a wealth of knowledge from a wide spectrum of experiences in education, the Catholic community, the Arts, Canadian heritage and volunteer work. He retired last year from the position of President of the University of St. Michael’s College, University of Toronto, after serving there for 18 years.

Supervision is not intended to be a replacement for good governance. A good governance model is rational, functional and based on principles that should be embedded in a Catholic school system. It is the Supervisor’s goal to ensure that parents end up with a stronger relationship with their elected officials and improved input and decision-making processes.

With the appointment of the Supervisor came the announcement that Angela Kennedy, Toronto Catholic District School Board Trustee for Ward 11, would assume the role of Chair and Ann Andrachuk, Trustee for Ward 2 would assume the role of Vice-Chair. The Chair’s role is to assist Mr. Alway in developing the structures that will ensure trustees have a more productive and effective role. She will lead trustees in providing constructive advice on how to build a strong code of conduct, foster positive relationships with the Director of Education and senior staff, which are based on respect and a shared vision for student achievement, and focus on strengthening partnerships with parents in the education of students.

Clarifying Roles

The Role of the Supervisor: Richard Alway will be working with trustees, parents, staff and the broader community to establish a new governance model that refocuses the role of TCDSB trustees to support increased student achievement, good governance and financial stability. The Supervisor is committed to ensure that parents end up with a stronger relationship with their elected officials and improved input and decision-making processes.

The Role of Your Trustees: Although they have no formal decision-making powers, Trustees continue to attend Board and Committee meetings, and continue to serve on Committees such as the Special Education Advisory Committee and the Race and Ethnic Relations Multiculturalism Committee. They also continue to meet with their constituents, to attend meetings and special events at schools within their individual wards, and most importantly to advocate on their behalf. Your local Trustee is still responsible for bringing to the attention of the Supervisor the concerns and issues of your school communities.

Budget Consultation

The Toronto Catholic District School Board’s 2009-2010 budget as approved by the Supervision Team in June 2009 is $910,524,613. The approved budget reflects the Board’s Focused Delivery approach to achieve effective, efficient and equitable programs and services while better meeting the needs of all students. The budget focuses on supporting priorities such as improved student achievement, smaller class sizes and additional resources to support teaching and learning. The multi-year plan allows for the elimination of the accumulated deficit over the next two years, with a small projected surplus by the end of 2010-2011 of approximately $2 million. The Board will be seeking input from parents and Catholic stakeholders as to how best to allocate the projected surplus for the benefit of students.

### Budget Consultation

<table>
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<th>2009-10</th>
<th>2010-11</th>
<th>2011-12</th>
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<td>Revenue</td>
<td>918,340</td>
<td>915,506</td>
<td>921,365</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expense</td>
<td>910,524</td>
<td>915,068</td>
<td>920,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Year Surplus/(Deficit)</td>
<td>7,817</td>
<td>4,441</td>
<td>1,254</td>
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<td>Prior Year Accumulated Surplus/(Deficit)</td>
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<td>(2,374)</td>
<td>2,066</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accumulated Surplus/(Deficit)</td>
<td>(2,374)</td>
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Included in the 2009-2010 budget is: $642.4 million for classroom instruction (teachers, computers, textbooks and supplies, professionals and paraprofessionals and teacher assistants), $224.5 million for in school administration, teacher consultants and coordinators school operations, continuing education and transportation. Approximately $40.5 million is for capital expenditures including new pupil places and school renewal.

The Board is committed to wide-ranging consultation, meaningful involvement of stakeholders, as well as sufficient time and opportunity for dialogue and reflection. The consultation process to seek input into the 2010-2011 budget will begin in November 2009. An overview of the budget and an outline of the proposed consultation process will be one of the many topics covered at this year’s CSAC conference on November 14th. It is expected that local consultation meetings will be held throughout the city to enable more parents and members of the community to participate. In addition, there will be opportunities for individuals or groups to submit their ideas in written format, or to appear at an upcoming Board meeting as a delegation to verbally present their ideas to the Ministry Supervisor.

Watch for more information in the Director’s Bulletin, your school’s newsletter, your local newspaper, or on the homepage of the board’s website at www.tcdsb.org.

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**Toronto Catholic District School Board Trustees 2009-2010**

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<tr>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>Trustee Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Sal Piccininni</td>
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<td>John Del Grande</td>
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<td>Mary Ann Robillard</td>
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<td>Catherine LeBlanc-Miller</td>
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<td>Barbara Poplawski</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Angela Kennedy</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Paul John Crawford</td>
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**Student Trustees**

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<tr>
<th>Ward</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Connor Rollit</td>
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<td>Ann Perron, Director of Education</td>
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Nurturing Our Catholic Community Through Word, Worship and Witness

Student, parent and staff representatives from across the Toronto Catholic District School Board were first invited to join in celebrating the launch of “Nurturing Our Catholic Community Through Word, Worship and Witness” last spring. This special event was the launch of a three-year initiative focusing on enriching the faith experience of students, parents and staff in TCDSB schools and workplaces. The Board was pleased to welcome Archbishop Thomas Collins, who delivered a keynote address reflecting on “Nurturing Our Catholic Community Through Word, Worship and Witness”.

A prayer was introduced at the April 15th event, which was then used during Catholic Education Week, with every school in the system invited to pray this ‘Catholic Education Prayer’ on May 4th at 11 a.m.

Using a three-year cycle, the TCDSB community will be invited to deepen their understanding of the ministries of Word, Worship and Witness as a means of nurturing our local Catholic communities by building on the existing Virtue of the Month initiative and the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations:

- **Year One: Ministry of the Word**: An invitation to the TCDSB community to consider creative and intentional ways for the “Word of God” in sacred scripture, especially the message of the Gospel, to have a place of prominence in the life of the faith community.

- **Year Two: Ministry of Worship**: An opportunity to highlight the liturgical life of the local community. The liturgical seasons of the Church are emphasized and celebrated.

- **Year Three: Ministry of Witness**: Encourages the community to highlight the social justice teachings of the Catholic Church through outreach initiatives.

For more information about this initiative, including our ongoing Virtues of the Month, please visit our board’s website at [http://www.tcdsb.org/nurturingourcatholiccommunity.htm](http://www.tcdsb.org/nurturingourcatholiccommunity.htm).

**TCDSB Strategic Renewal Process**

You may already be aware that the Board is moving forward with a Strategic Renewal process, which will assist us in achieving our system priorities:

- Nurturing Our Catholic Community
- Improving Student Learning and Achievement and
- Building Capacity to Lead and Learn

A Strategic Renewal Committee, chaired by Ann Perron, the Director of Education, is coordinating the strategic renewal process. Over the next 24 months it will lead us through a re-examination of our programs, services and supports to ensure that they all contribute to our mission.

In developing the strategic renewal plan, the Supervision Team has requested the Committee to focus on three major themes:

- realigning our administrative and political structures with best practices and statutory requirements.
- refocusing our programs and services to better support the achievement and well being of our students
- reinvesting in programs, services and supports required to restore TCDSB to its role as leader and innovator in the Catholic education community.

The first Progress Report is available on the Board’s website [http://www.tcdsb.org/Strategic%20Renewal/Progress%20Report.pdf](http://www.tcdsb.org/Strategic%20Renewal/Progress%20Report.pdf).

If you wish to provide some feedback on the process, or the progress report, please contact: [strategic.renewal@tcdsb.org](mailto:strategic.renewal@tcdsb.org)
TCDSB Secondary Schools Open Houses

Grade 8 students and their parents/guardians are invited to attend open houses at TCDSB secondary schools this fall to learn more about the various programs, services and activities that are offered, to tour the facilities and to meet with staff and other parents. Open houses start as early as October 17th. For dates, times and locations, please visit the board’s website at http://www.tcdsb.org/schools/openhouses.htm.

Response to H1N1

Toronto Public Health remains the local authority on health matters, and as such, the Board continues to take direction from them with respect to H1N1. The Board’s Pandemic Plan has been in place since April 27, 2009, and will remain in place as long as needed. We continue to advocate basic infection control measures recommended by health authorities:

- wash your hands frequently and thoroughly
- cover your cough/sneeze
- stay home if you are ill
- consult a physician if necessary if you have symptoms of influenza

The Board implemented additional cleaning measures last spring, which remained in place throughout the summer, and which will continue this fall. The Facilities Department arranged to provide a one hour refresher training to all custodians on custodial cleaning and disinfection procedures prior to the start of classes this year. The Board’s supplier of custodial chemicals was on hand to demonstrate the use of the hospital grade disinfectant used in TCDSB schools.

For Information:
- Toronto Public Health 416-338-7600
- Telehealth Ontario 1-866-797-0000
- TCDSB Occupational Health and Safety Department—
- Corrado Maltese, Manager 416-222-8282 ext. 2665.
- www.tcdsb.org

Staying in Touch

Director’s Voice

New this year, Director of Education Ann Perron has launched a regular webcast to update the TCDSB community about news and information that impact on our board and our schools. You can find the latest webcast on the home page of our website at www.tcdsb.org.

E-News@tcdsb.org

The Board introduced this free email subscription news service as a way for parents, staff and members of the community to receive regular updates from the Board. To subscribe, please visit the board’s website at www.tcdsb.org and click on the E-News icon on the left-hand side of the page.

24-Hour Information Line

When you call 416-222-8282 ext. 2873, you can receive period recorded messages to update you on what is happening around the Board. This phone line is also used to deliver urgent messages such as school closures or bus cancellations in the event of inclement weather.

Recent Highlights

Student Achievement Continues to Improve

Toronto Catholic District School Board students in grades 3, 6 and 9 continue to show improvement in provincial testing of reading, writing and mathematics.

“We are very pleased with the latest results and the continued improvement that we have seen over time,” says TCDSB Chair Angela Kennedy. “The year to year positive results are a reflection of the strong support of our parents and the commitment of staff in our Catholic schools.”

In Grade 9 math, the scores in the academic level have increased from 61% to 76% over the past five years; 4% in the last year. Gains have also been made over time at the applied level, increasing from 20% to 34% over the same five year period, with a 6% gain in the past year alone. In both academic and applied programs, the pace of improvement exceeds that of the Province.

For Grade 3, the number of students performing at or above the provincial standard, during the past five years has increased from 55% to 62% in reading, 63% to 72% in writing and from 61% to 72% in mathematics. In reading, for the past two years, results for TCDSB remain higher than the Province. In writing, TCDSB results remain consistently higher than the Province. In mathematics, for the first time in five years, TCDSB results exceed those of the Province.

For Grade 6, the results from the past five years show similar gains, with student scores increasing from 58% to 66% in reading, 58% to 71% in writing and from 54% to 62% in mathematics. In reading, over the past five years, there has been a steady improvement in TCDSB scores. In writing, results for TCDSB students remain higher than those of the Province. In mathematics, the gap with the Province has been significantly reduced.

EQAO Achievement – 2008-2009 (% of Students at Levels 3/4)

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Results for males and females have continued on an upward trend in most areas. English Language Learners have shown significant gains across all assessments and the scores for students with special needs have improved steadily.

“The achievement of our students is reflective of our ongoing system priorities for the year: Nurturing Our Catholic Community in a faith-filled environment where improving student learning and student achievement is an important goal,” says Director of Education Ann Perron. “We are proud of all of the accomplishments of our students, and we will continue to align our resources to support individual students and build our capacity to lead and learn.”

The latest school results are posted on the board’s website: http://www.tcdsb.org/assessment/default.htm.

New Parenting/Family Literacy Centres Open

TCDSB is pleased to announce the opening of three new Parenting and Family Literacy Centres at Holy Spirit, St. Helen and St. Leo. PFLCs are school based programs where parents/caregivers and children, birth to 6 years of age, participate in play-based activities that focus on the development of early literacy and numeracy skills. Key program goals include:
• Fostering positive parent/child interactions and optimal child development
• Developing early literacy and numeracy skills
• Increasing knowledge, involvement and comfort with schools
• Helping with transition to school
• Early identification of special needs

The centres provide opportunities for shared reading, learning through play, sharing of music, physical activity, borrowing reading materials and accessing community information and resources.

TCDSB Parenting/Family Literacy Centres
- Blessed John XXIII Catholic School
- Holy Spirit Catholic School
- Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School
- Pope Paul VI Catholic School
- St. Angela Catholic School
- St. Barbara Catholic School
- St. Aidan Catholic School
- St. Barnabas Catholic School
- St. Charles Garnier Catholic School
- St. Francis de Sales Catholic School
- St. Dorothy Catholic School
- St. Helen Catholic School
- St. Leo Catholic School
- St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Catholic School
- St. Rose of Lima Catholic School
- St. Wilfrid Catholic School

Information: [http://www.tcdsb.org/parents/parentingcentres.htm](http://www.tcdsb.org/parents/parentingcentres.htm)

Enrolment Higher than Projected

The Board has reported an increase of 676.25 pupils (full time equivalent) in comparison to enrolment projections for 2009-2010. The total preliminary FTE enrolment in late September was 86,398.38. This increase in enrolment should have a positive impact on the Board’s overall budget as government funding is partially driven by total enrolment.

Celebrating Our Students

We have countless opportunities to celebrate the achievements of our students and our school communities throughout the year. We are pleased to acknowledge these achievements at the annual Exemplary Practice Awards and the annual Awards Night where we pay tribute to students, staff and partners in Catholic education for their accomplishments. We are pleased to share with you just two of the many success stories we have heard about recently.

2008-2009 Top Graduating Students

Jana Cmorejova from Bishop Allen Academy in Etobicoke achieved 100 percent, the highest average of all Grade 12 graduating students within the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) for the 2008-2009 academic year. Jana earned 100 percent in Religion, Psychology, Calculus and Vectors, Mathematics of Data Management, Advanced Functions and Biology (4 of these courses were at the Advanced Placement level).

McMaster University has given Jana a $3,000 entrance scholarship where she will be studying Health Sciences in the fall. As a future career, she wishes to be in the field of Medical Research with a focus on Neuroscience.

Ania Ochocinski placed 2nd overall within the TCDSB, earning an average of 99.83 percent. A graduate of Bishop Allen Academy, Ania is set to attend Queen’s University for the Concurrent Education program. She hopes to teach in the Arts at the Junior/Intermediate level. Ania was awarded a $5,000 entrance scholarship and a $1,975 Janet and Thomson McLaughlin Award from Queen’s University.

Olga Paprotska, also a graduate of Bishop Allen Academy, is the third place overall top student for the TCDSB. Olga earned an average of 99.33 percent, a close third to the top two students. Olga belonged to the school’s choir for three years and SCOPE (Students Concerned about Oppression of People and the Environment). She also volunteered at many school activities.

Adam Craig of Brebeuf College School is the top graduating student in North York with an average of 98.5. Gabrielle Fournier of St. Joseph’s College School is the top graduating student in the former City of Toronto. Leroy Gonsalves-Prabhu from Pope John Paul II Catholic Secondary school is the top graduating student in Scarborough with a final overall average of 97.33. The top student of York is David Castro, a graduate of Archbishop Romero Catholic Secondary School with an average of 95.17.

Music Bursary Winner

Alexander Lucas Artale of Chaminade College School is the recipient of the Barry Diemert Music Bursary 2008-2009. He has been a part of the St. Fidelis Church Band, the Chaminade Concert Band, the York Symphony Orchestra and most recently he has become a member of the RCM Percussion Ensemble. Not only does he have a tremendous appreciation for music himself but he also seeks opportunities to share this appreciation with younger students through tutoring and mentoring.

During his four years at Chaminade he excelled academically maintaining a 90 percent average. In recognition of his talents and gifts he has been awarded the Music Award, the Computer Science Award, the Academic Excellence Award, the Canadian Mathematics Competition Medal and Certificate of Distinction. He has performed in religious celebrations and school plays.

Inspired by his teacher, Alex Voros, Alexander wishes to become an accomplished musician inspiring other students and performing with passion and enthusiasm. His acceptance into the Faculty of Music at the University of Toronto will ensure that Alexander will have many opportunities to perform with equally talented musicians.

Administered by The Angel Foundation for Learning, the Barry Diemert Music Bursary is presented annually to a successful graduate of the Toronto Catholic District School Board wishing to pursue music education at a university, college or other post-secondary music program. The bursary provides financial support in the amount of $2,500 towards post-secondary education. More information about the Foundation and the bursary is available at [www.angelfoundationforlearning.org](http://www.angelfoundationforlearning.org).