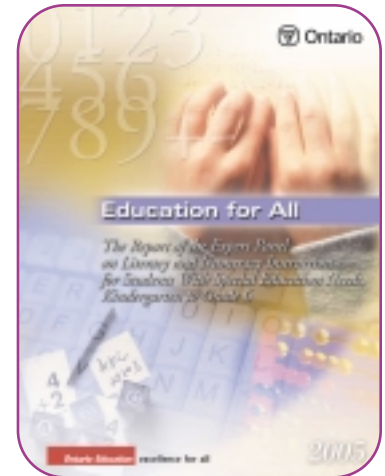


Essential for Some, Good for All: Education for All Expert Panel

In the fall of 2005 the Ministry of Education released Education for All : The Report of the Expert Panel on Literacy and Numeracy Instruction for Students with Special Education Needs :Kindergarten to Grade 6. This resource was written by a panel of 21 experts in the field. It was constructed on the foundations of its' predecessor expert panels in Early Reading (2003), Early Math (2003) , Literacy Grades 4 to 6 (2004) and Mathematics 4 to 6 (2004).

Current statistics confirm that most students with special needs spend at least 50 percent of their instructional day in a regular classroom, being taught by regular classroom teachers. For this reason, the panel created this document to support the instructional practices of classroom teachers. The panel was established to recommend practices, based on research, that would allow Ontario's teachers to improve and reinforce effective instruction of reading, writing, oral communication, and mathematics to students from Kindergarten to Grade 6 who have special needs.



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The report is developed around six guiding principles. These principles compose the key themes of the report. They are:

1. All students can succeed
2. Universal Design and differentiated instruction are effective and interconnected means of meeting the learning or productivity needs of any group of students.
3. Successful instructional practices are founded on evidence based research, tempered by experience.
4. Classroom teachers are the key educators for a child's literacy and numeracy development
5. Each child has his/her own unique patterns of learning
6. Classroom teachers need the support of the larger community to create a learning environment that supports students with special education needs.

The document outlines a three tiered instructional framework to support inclusion and facilitate "education for all". One core principle outlines the concept of universal design for learning , the second core principle is differentiated instruction and the third is a foundational principle of instruction informed by multidisciplinary assessment practices.

The application of these three instructional frameworks to facilitate "education for all" are being embedded in the ongoing Primary and Junior Literacy and Numeracy initiatives across the board.

The full document can be viewed on the Ministry of Education website at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/reports/speced/panel/index.html>

A Celebration of a long Association : Dr Tom Lofft

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board community has benefited from the expertise of Dr Tom Lofft as Consulting Psychiatrist for over twenty-five years. In May Dr Lofft announced his intention to retire and in June we gathered to celebrate his career. Board and School level Special Services personnel, administrators and teachers joined Director Michael Bator and Associate Director John Watts to honor Dr Lofft's long association with the Board. His commitment to the students and families of Dufferin-Peel CDSB were celebrated and his contribution to the community were acknowledged.

As befitting a Dr Lofft Consultation Case Conference, the last word should go to the good doctor. In a letter to the Board Chief Psychologist Debra Lean, Dr Lofft conveyed, " his gratitude to Social Work, Speech and Language and Child Care Work for their caring professional help. Finally I must convey my profound admiration for the principals, teachers and academic support staff, who have always had the interests of the children at heart and in mind, and have always taught me many things."



An Author in our Midst

Nancy McHardy : Acting Chief Social Worker

Rose Vetere's article, Serendipity in Social Work, has been published on the web site for the Canadian Association of Social Workers. The article describes the innovative DP Donations Unlimited which assists the families of our students in crisis. Rose was instrumental in gathering the partners within Dufferin-Peel CDSB to create DP Donations Unlimited. Rose's description of DP Donations Unlimited in Serendipity in Social Work is a moving tribute as to how an organization such as Dufferin-Peel can swiftly come together and provide much needed assistance. She pays tribute to the staff members who donate, the information technology specialist who supports the project, staff resources who assist and the school Social Workers who coordinate meeting the instrumental needs of the families.

Michael Bator, Director of Education for Dufferin-Peel CDSB responded that, "So many of our people are ambassadors for Dufferin Peel on behalf of our students and families. This is another example of how social workers are an integral part of our social safety net in collaboration with other employees and community members. We are very proud of Rose and all those who come together to make our community one that is livable, workable and caring."

A Chief Reason To Celebrate

Nancy McHardy : Acting Chief Social Worker

Sharing faith is really the essence of the spiritual narrative

Glenn Carley, Chief Social Worker on sabbatical, has had an article published in the Canadian Association of Social Work Fall 2005 journal which is the official on-line publication of the CASW. The article is called **An Influence of Spiritual Narrative in Community Work** which captures Glenn's work in the 1990's, strengthening the faith based links in community to support systemic interventions with families in need. In Glenn's opening statement he invites the reader, "into the conversation and observance of an alternative framework used to approach community intervention...A narrative approach demystifies the processes of spirituality and social work and enables us to see the inherent connectivity between faith-based and non-faith-based organizations, services and people within a defined field of change."

A Collaboration of Talents in a Common Cause

On December the 7th and 8th, teachers from the Needs Moderate and Severe Classes, Planning for Independence classes, Communication classes and Academic Resource Department Heads gathered at St Francis Xavier Parish Hall to receive copies of Resources to Support the Spiritual Growth of All Students. This resource-in-progress was developed by personnel with Board, Family or School responsibilities from both elementary and secondary panels. This grass roots venture has been a two year collaboration between members of the Special Education Department and the Religious Education Department and was co-chaired by Mary Gilkinson, Itinerant Teacher for PDD/ASD and Dan Reidy, Religious Education/Family Life Consultant.



Monica Forbom, Board Special Education Consultant, facilitated the agenda for the full day in-services. The teachers gathered together in prayer and reflection led by Dan Reidy and Margie Gillis Religious Education/Family Life Consultants. Mary Gilkinson, gave an overview of the genesis of the project and gave credit to the multiple contributors. Terry Poirier, School Support Program ASD Consultant demonstrated the electronic Clicker 4 resources that will complement the hard copy resource. Jill Devlin, Speech and Language Pathologist, demonstrated assistive communication technology. Donna Rukavina and Jaye Carr both Itinerant Teachers for Students with Physical/Medical Needs reviewed the hardware from the Assistive Technology initiative while Monica Forbom reviewed the status of the software.

Mary Gilkinson spoke for all when she said that, "The opportunity to work with the dedicated people from Religion and Special Education in developing a spiritual resource for students with special needs, has been a wonderful experience. While our common vision propelled us forward, the thoughts of these exceptional students and their hard working teachers and support staff never left our minds. We are all grateful to be able to assist these students in continuing to actualize their deep-rooted spirituality." Dan Reidy elaborated on that sentiment noting that, "The resource responds to teachers' deeply held belief that all students, regardless of their perceived abilities, have spiritual yearnings and the capacity to grow spiritually towards a deeper, stronger relationship with God. We have faith that scripture and the sacraments can transform all of God's children, no matter how exceptional their learning needs."

Planning for Independence Teachers form a Subject Council

Frances Jacques: Principal ESL/FSL/Program Department

We are pleased to announce that Planning for Independence teachers have been successful in their request to form their own Subject Council!

The PIP Subject Council will invite a member from each Secondary PIP Program to meet on a regular basis to discuss issues related specifically to PIP programming. This will allow PIP teachers to share best practices and address challenges that respond to the needs of their very unique clientele. The council's very enthusiastic co-chairs, Karen Stock from John Cabot S.S. and Annette Braine from Our Lady of Mount Carmel S.S. have already made plans to provide some excellent opportunities for discussion and professional development for our PIP teachers. The Program and Special Education departments are very pleased to support this excellent initiative.

Following the Cardinal Rules: Commitment and Dedication

*Tamika Bunting, Ruby Bolognese, Maureen McLoughlin : Teachers Cardinal Newman
Anna Cicione: ERW Cardinal Newman*



Left to Right : Shammar Lewis, Selviya Zemokhol
and Michael Botchway

Hats off to Michael Botchway , Selviya Zemokhol and Shammar Lewis , all students at Cardinal Newman Elementary School, for their outstanding contribution to the school production of Annie Junior. Michael and Selviya were active members of the STOMP team; making rhythmic music with brooms, trash cans and poles. Shammar added his voice to the 60 member primary/junior choir.

Involvement in the production required commitment and dedication. All three students worked collaboratively and cooperatively with staff and fellow students, often giving of their free time to attend daily practices and rehearsals. Michael, Selviya and Shammar are true examples of dedicated and hard working team players and at show time all 'rose to the occasion' to help make our play a huge success.

EDGO-TAGO Conference

Karen Higgins-Biss , Teacher of Self Contained Gifted

On Friday, October 21st, 2005, several teachers who work with gifted learners in self-contained classrooms within our Board participated in a conference offered by EDGO-TAGO (Educators of the Gifted in Ontario – The Association for the Gifted in Ontario). This gathering of educators and other interested individuals was conducted at the Toronto Catholic District School Board and focused on enrichment. The keynote address was delivered by D.D. Mollin, the Canadian Director of Journeys in Film Canada, a non-profit organization, that offers films and lesson plans linked to geography and history curriculum expectations with the goal of encouraging cross-cultural understanding as well as providing opportunities for deconstruction of media. The workshops included a wide variety of organizations and individuals. Among other topics, participants discovered Concepts to Creating through the Inventors' Alliance presentation, the importance of holistic education, ways to enhance concentration and promote behavioral change from a Family Advocate, and the availability of alternative medical careers. Teachers were encouraged to access the resources of organizations such as the sponsor, EDGO-TAGO, and the Association of Bright Children (www.abcontario.ca), and to register our students in competitions such as Destination Imagination, a problem-solving workshop that will be conducted next spring. Several publishers offered catalogues and many resources specifically geared to gifted learners. This conference also encouraged networking amongst the participants who came from boards across Ontario.

An Interesting Web Site

Education Network of Ontario (ENO) Curriculum Resources <http://curriculum.enoreo.on.ca>

Curriculumlinks is ENO's web-based resource in support of Ontario curriculum. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of links, but rather a continually growing directory of relevant curriculum resources with descriptions of their applications in the classroom.

In the area of Special Education, Curriculumlinks provides direct links to web sites supporting the exceptionalities of Learning Disabilities, Behaviour, Physical, Autism and Communication Disorders.

TEACCH the Children Well

Cherie Rahkola :
**Board Special
Education Consultant**

Dufferin-Peel CDSB hosted seven neighbouring boards in a TEACCH inservice this past August 2005 at St Marcellinus Secondary School. TEACCH is an acronym for Treatment and Education of Autistic Related Communication Handicapped Children. It is a division of the University of North Carolina. The three day invitational professional development was facilitated by Dr. Roger Cox Director of Training at Division TEACCH University of North Carolina and Susan Boswell, a TEACCH Instructor at the University. Sixty participants were sponsored by their home boards including Dufferin-Peel CDSB, Thames Valley DSB, Upper Grand DSB, St Clair CDSB, Peel DSB, Avon Maitland DSB, York Region DSB and Durham DSB to participate in the hands-on workshop.

Discussion focused on applying structured teaching strategies as well as expressive communication, behaviour management, and leisure and social skill development.

As a parting appreciation gift, Roger Cox and Susan Boswell were presented with an original framed drawing by a young Dufferin-Peel artist living with Autism. Oliver Macaraeg is a Grade 4 student at John XXIII.



February is Psychology Month in Canada

Debra Lean : Chief Psychologist

The Psychology Department at Dufferin-Peel invites you to join with them in February to celebrate the second annual Psychology Month in Canada. As we did last year the psychology department in Dufferin-Peel would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the current issues we feel are important.

Our theme for February is "Psychology is for Everyone". Through collaboration with teachers, parents and the community, our goal is to enhance both social/emotional needs and academic learning to support a seamless school/home/community system for each child.

School psychology staff can provide a variety of services to fulfill this goal including prevention and early intervention strategies, counseling and treatment, consultation, assessment and diagnosis, and in-services for educators and parents.

To celebrate Psychology Month, we are again distributing fact sheets of interest to everyone. The topics we have highlighted this year are:

- Eating Disorders: Prevention is Worth Every Ounce
- What's in a Name? Dealing with Teasing and Name-Calling
- Helping Students to "Stay the Course": Preventing School Dropout
- Full Steam Ahead on Self-Esteem

Look for the four fact sheets that will be sent by e-mail each week in February. You can also access the fact sheets in the Bulletin Index of the Dufferin-Peel CDSB Psychology Department web page at <http://www.dpccsb.org/psych/>



Joe Sax Activity Festival

Patrick Cahill Special Education Resource Teacher St Catherine of Siena



Max Palmer from St Francis of Assisi salutes the event.

Iona Secondary School hosted the Joe Sax Activity Festival in June 2005. Special needs students from 15 elementary schools in the Mississauga South Family participated in activities that were modified according to their abilities. Events included an obstacle course, javelin throw, soccer kick, and hockey shoot out. Grade 12 Senior Phys Ed. students from Iona - under the direction of Chris Kane, Head of Physical Education Department - acted as marshals and coaches at each of the activity stations.

Participating students each received a pin from Iona, dog tags with the name of the event engraved on the back, and a t-shirt with a picture of Joe Sax on the front. The day was named in honour of Joe - runner, coach and Iona teacher. A five-time Canadian champion on the track, and former record-holder in the 3000m steeplechase, Joe represented Canada at 15 international events, and made headlines by finishing third in his first ever marathon. Sadly, Joe passed away in November 2004.

One of the day's highlights was an appearance by Jerry Tonello, Assistant Coach for Canada's Olympic gold-medal winning National Men's Wheelchair Basketball Team. Jerry spoke about the importance of emphasizing the skills and talents that each of us has been given, and setting goals with a focus on what you can achieve, not what limits you.

Patrick Cahill, one of the organizers of the event, said, "This event was a great way for students with special needs to get the opportunity to wear their school athletic jersey and have a very successful, positive experience with sports."

Behaviour "Talks"

Behaviour is a form of communication. That was the essential message shared with the elementary Education Resource Workers at the recent ERW Early Release initiatives held at St Joseph Parish Hall and St Marguerite d'Youville S.S. The presentation was facilitated by Dufferin-Peel CDSB Boardwide Speech and Language Pathologists: Diana Lockett, Amanda Lumini and Jill Devlin along with the Erinoak School Support Program ASD Consultants; Kurt Denny, Fiona D'Silva, Dina Jalali-Elster, Jackie Stone and Liz Mitchell.



The elementary ERWs left with a greater understanding of the communication characteristics of students with ASD and were exposed to some proactive strategies to support communication. The audience was challenged not only to define behaviours but to identify their function. Data collection was encouraged to identify the behaviour chain articulated as ABC: antecedent, related to behaviour, related to consequence. The participants were empowered to use that data to plan for proactive strategies.

Participants were greeted by Dufferin-Peel Educational Resource Workers Association President Celia Webster, Vice President Sharron Sulston and Treasurer Diane Kossel along with their respective Dufferin-Peel Family Special Education Consultant. These professional development sessions are a result of an ongoing partnership between the Special Education Department, the DPERWA and Family of School Superintendents. The next series are currently being planned for Elementary and Secondary ERWs in April.



Special Education Handbook Released

Taking a child he placed him in their midst and putting his arms around him, he said to them. "Whoever receives a child such as this in my name, receives me ; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the one who sent me."

Mark 9 : 36-37

The 1986 Dufferin-Peel Roman Catholic Separate School Board Special Education Handbook has been updated. A Handbook Committee reviewed and revised the Special Education Handbook to reflect current Ministry of Education directives and appropriate board practice, procedure and policy. The committee, working from Fall 2002 to Fall 2005, reviewed numerous drafts of the handbook with input from a wide variety of key stakeholders. The committee included representation from a wide variety of groups including: teachers, administrators, special service staff, association representatives and consultants. The committee worked to review, develop and implement recommendations to align the board resource with other appropriate resources including family of schools special education guides. A pilot version was reviewed by five elementary schools and five secondary schools.



In the spring and fall of 2005, the Special Education Department was proud to release the Special Education Handbook through a series of Family based in-services. Each school received three copies of the handbook. It has proven to be a valuable resource to the system.

Especially Yours ... For the Reading

Finding Ben : A Mother's Journey Through the Maze of Asperger's

by *Barbara LaSalle*

McGraw-Hill ISBN 0-07-143194-2

Barbara LaSalle's first son, Ben, seemed to be an extraordinarily gifted child. For the first few years of his life, he amazed his Kindergarten teacher mother and entertainment lawyer father with his brilliance and creativity, speaking in full sentences before age one and reading competently by age two. Yet alongside this boy's amazing abilities was a social aloofness and a fear of change. For years, Barbara searched for a diagnosis for her son, who, unbeknownst to her, was living with Aspergers Syndrome- the "little grownup" disorder- a neurological condition considered a high-functioning form of autism.

In this frank, emotionally written account, Barbara LaSalle shares her personal experience of parenting a child with a neurological disorder. It paints a powerfully honest portrait of how a mother's love can turn into bitterness at having to raise a child with special needs and how, by opening herself to the wisdom of others, she can at last learn to love her child, and herself , unconditionally.

Finding Ben builds awareness of a neurological disorder while telling the profound story of one mother's personal journey from frustration and resentment to love and acceptance.

Editor's Note : Have you read a great book lately that portrays individuals living with special needs? Why not tell us about it? Reviews are generally 100-200 words. Teacher- Librarians are always welcome!

St. Martin's School Community Gets Involved!

*Siobhan Brereton : Planning for Independence
Teacher St Martin S.S.*

Carlos Paua is currently a grade 11 student in the PIP program at St. Martin S.S. Carlos has Autism Spectrum Disorder. When his mother informed the staff that Carlos was to embark on his first "Walk for Autism Research" the staff and students saw an opportunity to assist him. A raffle was organized (with items donated by his family) and his PIP classmates went from class to class, not only selling raffle tickets, but also educating staff and students about Autism Spectrum Disorder and Carlos' needs in particular.

St. Martin School also dedicated the proceeds of one of their dress down days to this worthy cause. As a result of the combined effort of his family, friends and the St. Martin's community, Carlos' successfully raised \$1 600.00!!!

We are very proud of Carlos' accomplishment...he walked the entire 4.2 km. trail on May 15, 2005. We are also looking forward to our involvement in next year's walk.



PD for Staff serving ASD

Cherie Rahkola : Board Special Education Consultant



SSP/ASD and PDD/ASD Team 2005

Front Row : Diana Lockett; Fiona D'Silva; Kim Ball;
Helen Lavado; Wendy Reid-Purcell

Middle Row : Mary Gilkinson; Richard Gough; Maria Bonaccorso; Bruce Mayer; Cherie Rahkola; Dina Jalali-Elster; Kurt Denny; Heather Kidd

Back Row: Terry Poirier; Liz Mitchell; Morley Lapp;
Peter Thomas; Jackie Stone

Dufferin-Peel staff recently attended a four part Autism series presented by the School Support Program for Autism Spectrum Disorder (SSP/ASD) Consultants in conjunction with the Dufferin Peel ASD/PDD staff. The four part series were offered in various locations in the North and South regions of the Board in November and December. Registration was open to all Dufferin-Peel staff working with a student with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

Through their participation in this after-school initiative Dufferin-Peel staff received an overview of Autism Spectrum Disorders; necessary visual strategies for the classroom; the ABCs of Behaviour; and an introduction to the Boardmaker Software.

Catherine Fowler an Educational Resource Worker at St Rita shared, "The presentation of the material, the inter-active features of the program as well as the information binder for each participant makes this course very worthwhile! I've enjoyed breaking up into small groups and just brainstorming. It's been very interactive and well worth my evenings..... I highly recommend this course."