



Catholic School Board News



April 2010

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Lenten Message

The theme of the Holy Father's message for Lent 2010 was "The justice of God has been manifested through faith in Jesus Christ. We see this theme often in our schools. And not simply through our individual and collective response to natural disasters or local needs, but as an inherent and authentic environment created by caring faculty and staff and responsive students, undergoing an extremely important process of faith formation. This is the very nature of Catholic education. On behalf of myself, my family and the entire board of trustees, I wish you and your family the fullness of God's blessing during this Lenten season.

Budget News

We have started the process for our 2010-11 budget and, as has been our practice in the past, will be inviting members of our community, parents/guardians and other interested stakeholders to a public meeting where we will outline the issues, process and pressures we face as a board and provide opportunities for your input, whether online or by appearing in person before the board. The public meeting will take place in May and we will communicate through letters home with students and postings on the board website. We will also be sending email invitations through our *eCommunity* information service. If you would like more information on this, contact our Communications & Community Relations Dept. at (905) 890-0708, ext. 24278.

Transportation News

Since September 2009, the transportation consortium that operates transportation services for our school board (Student Transportation of Peel Region, or STOPR) has been using a new Ministry of Education-approved software tool to measure transportation eligibility for students. The new system will impact eligibility for transportation for a limited number of students starting in September 2010. Some students who have been eligible under the current measurement tool will be ineligible and a number of previously ineligible students will be eligible. Parents and Guardians of affected students will be notified in April. Transportation issues like this are no longer under the jurisdiction of trustees; rather, they fall under the purview of STOPR. In this regard, concerns or inquiries should be directed to STOPR and can be done so through the office of the Manager of Transportation at (905) 890-0708, ext. 23219.

Amendments to the Education Act

Recent amendments to the Education Act through the Student Achievement and School Board Governance Act, 2009 clarify what is expected from school boards, trustees, board chairs and directors of education to support improved student achievement. For more information, visit the Ministry of Education website at www.edu.gov.on.ca

Haiti Fundraising

The response by Dufferin-Peel students and staff to the Haiti earthquake disaster relief was outstanding. In a short span of three weeks, more than \$293,000 was raised through schools through various fundraising events. This does not include individual staff donations. The bulk of contributions was channeled through ShareLife to Caritas Internationalis, which was one of the organizations that the Federal government matched dollar for dollar, giving our efforts an even greater impact.

Strategic Plan

Parents/Guardians may recall the Strategic System Review that was undertaken by the board two years ago. The system review involved surveys, and focus groups. The review indicated overwhelming support for the Catholic nature of our schools and is being used to assist us in setting goals and objectives for the future.

The board has just approved the adoption of a strategic plan document which will be distributed to the system and our community in the near future.

As always, I welcome your comments and concerns. Please feel free to contact me by phone or email.

God Bless.

Joyce Anderson



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