

From Your Catholic School Trustee
Sharon Hobin, Vice Chair
Trustee, Wards 2 & 8

I have had the opportunity to visit Iona in the last couple of weeks to meet with your new principal, Ms. Faraone and as ever, Iona is a vibrant school of which I am very proud. Special thanks to the teaching and support staff as well as your educational leaders Ms. Olivia Faraone, and vice principals Ms. Woloshyn and Mr. Tantalo. Dufferin-Peel is still considered a growth board but we are seeing decline in the south, east and west Mississauga. The good news is we are over projections in many of my elementary schools. So for the over 85,000 students and over 10,000 employees this has been a very good start to this school year. We are continuing to retain over 96% of our students from grade 8 to grade 9. And we are seeing a steady flow of students who are moving to the Catholic system which is recognition of the value of Catholic education.

One of our largest investments this year is in the hiring of a total of 37.5 qualified individuals to better service our identified students as Education Resource Workers. Our investments in school base resources for this September has been \$1.5 million for Science textbooks to support student achievement and \$2.0 million for text books for various subjects. All of these funds came from our accumulated surplus, as directed at the December 14, 2010 Board meeting, for expending this fall. In addition, we have launched our new Community Studies Project in Grades 7 and 10, which will provide students with an understanding and appreciation of this province and this region and the role Catholic Education has played in the development of our communities.

We are very blessed to have the support and help from our parishes. For Iona we have Father Scott at St. Christopher parish and Father Joseph at St. Francis of Assisi parish. We are very thankful to Father Scott and Father Joseph and their teams for their awesome leadership as our students and staff practice their Catholic faith. I am one of 11 people on the Board of Trustees for a school board with an \$830 million dollar operating budget as well as a capital budget which takes us to almost a billion dollars. We serve 413,000 Roman Catholic electors and that is why it is so important for you to make sure that your tax dollars are being sent to support Catholic education as opposed to the public board (default) as the government is always looking to see where the support for Catholic education is in terms of numbers of electors. Iona is a dynamic and vibrant school showing excellence in Math, English, Sciences and the Arts. Congratulations to those students who have made Honour Roll standing. I know how hard you had to work to accomplish this prestigious award. Thanks to your parents for their constant support. Parents and guardians, please come out to school council meetings. You will learn much information from these meetings. Special thanks to Mary Ellen Bench, your school council chair and all the council members for stepping up to the plate on behalf of Iona.

As your trustee I am always happy to take your calls. You may contact me at (905)301-1210 or you may email me at sharon.hobin@dpccsb.org. Just in case I do not get another opportunity, Merry Christmas and all the best for 2012! May the good Lord always hold you in the hollow of His hands.