



# CENTRAL NEWS

## Message from Your Chair

Congratulations to all of you who have served as volunteers on your Catholic School Council in the past year and welcome to our new School Council members. Your Central Committee for Catholic School Councils held their final meeting in September. We were pleased to welcome to our table Nick Milanetti who is the Superintendent from Mississauga South Family of Schools and the superintendent who supports and works with CCCSC. As you know, Art Sheppard retired at the end of August and Mr. Milanetti has moved into Art's position of support to CCCSC. Nick brings to the CCCSC table many years of expertise as an educator with his latest experience as principal of St. Timothy's Catholic Elementary School.

We are also very pleased to welcome back to the fold, Sandi Ham, who is Mr. Milanetti's assistant and the secretary for CCCSC. Sandi worked with CCCSC a few years ago and brings her gifts of creativity and organization to the committee. In welcoming Sandi, we are sad to say goodbye to Pearl Amodeo who was the assistant to Art Sheppard and the secretary to CCCSC. Pearl was always such a great help not only to CCCSC but to all of our sub-committees and was an integral part of the development of the Handbook for Catholic School Councils as well as all the many In-Services for school councils. We wish Pearl and her family all the very best. She is still at the school board, so if you are visiting, make sure to say hello.

We were very pleased to welcome Dr. Kassam, Medical Officer of Health –Peel Region to our last meeting. Dr. Kassam addressed the results of the survey, which was conducted by Peel Health in the last school year. The results are very poignant. We would recommend that you read the summary report. The Student Health 2005 Report summarizes the results from the School Health Assessment Survey, the largest survey of health behaviours of children aged 12 to 19 years ever conducted in Canada. This survey was designed by Peel Health in collaboration with its partners in education, the Peel District School Board and the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. Data was collected from a sample of over 7,000 children in grades 7 to 12 during the spring and fall of 2004.

To learn more about the Student Health 2005 report, please visit the website at [www.peelregion.ca](http://www.peelregion.ca)

As well, Dufferin-Peel's Program Department returned to give us an update on Sustaining Quality Curriculum Awareness initiatives. This report encompasses all the new initiatives around new curriculum and training for teachers to meet the needs of the students to reach the required goals of student achievement in Dufferin-Peel. This is only one example of the kind of input and feedback we are able to provide through our CCCSC committee.

Thanks to those of you who have 'graduated' from your Catholic School Council. You have made a major impact on your school community by taking the steps to get involved. Our hats are off to you as a volunteer in Dufferin-Peel. Thank you for the donation of your time and your talent. I wish all of you the very best this year. I encourage you to attend our CCCSC meetings and in-services. You will not only learn more about best practices from school councils but you will have an opportunity to share your ideas with other members of Catholic School Councils.

May the good Lord always hold you in the palm of His hand.

*Sharon Hobin, Chair*

## Prayer

God of Wisdom, we thank you for all the gifts you have given us this year.

We praise you for giving us life, for saving us in Christ, and for choosing us to be your people. As we begin this school year, we voice our gratitude for the things you have done for us, and we praise you for all who have shared in the work of this school. We ask you to bless us in your love and give us refreshment and peace. We praise you, God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen

*(Blessings and Prayers for Home and Family, CCCB Publications, 2004)*

## From Nick Milanetti, Superintendent

Welcome back to the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board for another exciting school year. For those of you who are new to our group, we invite you to be part of our meetings and in-services offered throughout the year. A special thank you to all CCCSC members who may not be returning this year, your contribution was greatly valued and each of you put your thumbprint on the group through your participation and involvement.

I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to Mr. Art Sheppard for his contribution to CCCSC over the past several years. Art's hard work has made our schools a better learning environment for our students and his dedication and commitment to working with School Councils will always be remembered. We wish Art well as he begins this new phase in his life.

You, as parents, play an absolutely essential role in your children's educational success. Through CCCSC you will have a role in bringing back to your family of schools news, information, policies and procedures that pertain to our board. You must also set high expectations for your school and assist them in the task of educating our children. We welcome your involvement and support and I look forward to working with you through CCCSC this year.

Nick Milanetti, Superintendent

## A Big Thank You!

Sincere appreciation goes to the members of CCCSC for 2004-2005. You have represented your Family of Schools, your association or your organization well in that you have offered your time and talent to support the development and work of our Catholic School Councils. To those of you who have "graduated", we wish you the very best.

Thanks to our 2004-2005 CCCSC members:  
**Gabriel Ogundele, Krystyna Peever, Bruno Pasquantino, Mary Ann O'Mahoney, Bob**

**Tatarski, Alex, Szumilas, Tina Louise Gouveia, Helen Kelly, Clarence Clarke, Paula Marques-Pevidé, Terri Caroleo, Jim Kavanagh, Vernon Allen, Michael DeBraga, Rosemary Shields, Tanya Rafacz, Carmine Rossi, Roberta Zamadar, Ehretia O'Hearn, Kevin Stubbs, Sharon Hobin, Mario Pascucci, Peter Ferreira, Art Sheppard and Pearl Amodéo.** Thank you to our School Board Chair, **Arthur Peters** who attended most of our meetings.

## CCCSC Meeting Dates for 2005-2006

CCCSC meets on the first Thursday of each month except for November (10<sup>th</sup>). We meet at the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board offices on 40 Matheson Blvd in Mississauga (Hwy 10 and Matheson) in the Board Room, main level at 7:00. You will be notified if there are any changes to this plan. Everyone is always welcome. You will receive notices of meetings, agendas, and minutes through your courier and your principal's email.

## Review of CCCSC Goals

**Have you reviewed your goals from last year? Have you set goals for this year? We have and we will. The following is a list of goals set last year by the members of CCCSC with a summary of the things we have been able to accomplish. We will use this summary as a basis to set out new goals for 2005-2006.**

- To increase/improve communication between Catholic School Councils as well as the Dufferin-Peel Central Committee for Catholic School Councils. *CCCSC News to Councils, reports to CCCSC from Family Reps., working on web site, more information at in-services. Provision of templates to councils when needed.*
- To improve the timelines and methods of exchanging information with Catholic School Councils. *Timeline Calendar developed and introduced in the fall 2005. More notice was given to complete items –more turn around time. Information circulated through Family of School meetings. To address Annual Reports and School Survey.*
- To implement and facilitate the use of information technology to enhance communication. *Still working on this project. Will continue for 2005-2006. Design finished.*
- To implement the role of the Parish Representative on Catholic School Councils. *This project has been completed. Ongoing orientation is needed for new representatives as with all members of Catholic School Councils.*
- To continue to promote Catholicity through all committees, councils and established partners. *Promoted the use of "Catholic" in all of our documentation and communication in terms of councils. Promotion of liturgies and prayer at all of our meetings and in-services.*
- To effectively advocate for our Catholic education. *Ongoing and very active. Letters to the Minister of Education/supply of templates to Catholic School Councils to encourage advocacy. Committee members placed on ministry committees and several workshops to represent Dufferin-Peel.*
- To continue to encourage our partners to seek CCCSC input in Board initiatives, task forces, and committees. *Ongoing. Have places on SEAC and Catholic Partners. Continue to encourage various groups to present their projects, initiatives to CCCSC. Huge improvement in this area.*
- To continue to promote the use of the Catholic School Council Handbook. *Ongoing and never ending! To be used at all in-services. Handbook will be updated to reflect new timelines, updates, and policies. Sub committee will review.*
- To develop an orientation package and in-service for new CCCSC members. *Development of package as well as training package for CCCSC members and in-services*
- To develop a calendar of activities, events and submissions for Catholic School Councils. *Successfully developed and will be instituted in October 2005.*

## WEAVE

**WEAVE** is an acronym for *We Are Volunteers in Education*. This not only pertains to parents but anyone who is a volunteer in our Dufferin-Peel Schools. We are celebrating our bright, talented, generous, energetic (good-looking?) volunteers who give countless hours to our Catholic schools to help improve the learning environments for our students. WEAVE is a series of events this year to help members of Catholic School Councils, parents, staff and students learn more about the various aspects of being a volunteer in our schools. Look for our WEAVE flyers and take part in our in-services and seminars coming your way!

## SEAC NEWS

### Special Education Advisory Committee

We are a committee made up of several members including: trustees, superintendents, Special Education Department staff, principals, members at large and several associations. We have representatives from VOICE & Peel Parents of Hearing Impaired Children, Mississauga Community Living, Brampton/Caledon Community Living, Learning Disabilities Assoc, and Association for the Bright, Easter Seal Society, Epilepsy, and the Autism Society.

Through our monthly meetings, our primary role is to make recommendations to the board in respect of any matter affecting the establishment, development, and delivery of special education programs and services for exceptional students of the board. We participate in the board's annual review of its special education plan and more.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP** – In order to keep parents informed we ask that every Catholic school council include the following information in the school monthly newsletters.

Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Information available on our web site: <http://www.dpcdsb.org/seac/>

Special Education Newsletter “Especially Yours” is now available on line.

## **WELCOME TO HOLLAND**

**I am asked often to describe the experience of raising a child with a disability – to try to help people who have not shared that unique experience to understand it and to imagine how it would feel. It's like this...**

When you're going to have a baby, it's like planning a fabulous vacation trip – to Italy. You buy a bunch of guidebooks and make your wonderful plans....the Coliseum, Michelangelo's David, the gondolas in Venice. You may learn some handy phrase in Italian. It's all very exciting.

After months of eager anticipation, the day finally arrives. You pack your bags and off you go. Several hours later, the plane lands. The flight attendant comes in and says, “Welcome to Holland”. “Holland?!” you say. “What do you mean, Holland? I signed up for Italy! I'm supposed to be in Italy. All my life I've dreamed of going to Italy.” However, there has been a change in the flight plan. They have landed in Holland and there you must stay. The important thing is that they haven't taken you to a horrible, disgusting, filthy place full of pestilence, famine, and disease. It's just a different place.

So you must go out and buy a new guidebook and you must learn a whole new language. And you will meet a whole new group of people you would never have met. It's a just a different place. It's slower paced than Italy. Less flashy than Italy. But after you've been there for a while and you catch your breath,

you look around, and you begin to notice that Holland has windmills. Holland has tulips. Holland even has Rembrandts.

But everyone you know is busy coming and going from Italy, and are all bragging about what a wonderful time they had there. And for the rest of your life, you will say, “Yes, that’s where I was supposed to go. That’s what I planned.

The pain of that will never, ever go away because the loss of that dream is a very significant loss. But if you spend your life, moaning the fact that you didn’t get to Italy, you may never be free to enjoy the very special and the very lovely things about Holland.

By: Emily Pearl King

Cathy Turco  
SEAC Member at Large

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Roberta Zamadar who has been elected as our new Director to the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education. We thank most whole-heartedly, Ms. Tina Gouveia who has been our Director. Tina carried the issues and concerns to the OAPCE Board of Directors on our behalf and worked tirelessly with our committees. Good luck to Roberta and Tina in their new adventures.

## HEY!!!

Here are some things to look for in the next few months:

- **Calendar** for Catholic School Councils/School Council Timeline –use it and you will look like you are really smart.
- **WEAVE** flyer for November In-Services
- **WEAVE** flyer (a different one) with the information for In-Services and Speaker Night for the year.
- **Minutes** and goals from first CCCSC meeting on November 10<sup>th</sup>.
- **School Advocate** – a newspaper for School Councils. Great information and ideas for school councils. Use it. Our School Board pays for it. Two copies to each council.
- **Notices** for OAPCE meetings. Do you have an OAPCE rep. on your Catholic School Council?

## New Members to Catholic School Councils- After Elections

Catholic School Council elections are over. If you have people who missed the deadline and would like to be on your school council, a current member at your next meeting may nominate them. You will need a member to second this motion for this nomination and then the council votes. The additions of new members of councils, where there are vacancies (that means you have indicated a maximum number of members in your bylaws for example up to 15 parent members), can be completed as per your bylaws under the article titled “Vacancies”. If this is not addressed in your bylaws, it should be. People may join council throughout the year if there is an interest and there is a vacancy as per your bylaws. Good luck!

## Mass for Volunteers

Our Mass for Volunteers in our Dufferin-Peel Catholic Schools was an outstanding success. The Most Reverend John Boissonneau D.D. celebrated the Mass. The BEACON Family Singers shared their beautiful voices with us. They added to this emotional gathering to celebrate the talents and gifts of our volunteers. Our Associate Director of Education, John Watts brought a wonderful message of thanks to our volunteers on behalf of the school board. Thank you to Rev. Msgr. Terence F. D'Souza, Pastor, St. Francis Xavier Parish for providing the church for our Mass. Special thank you to our dedicated committee lead by Dr. Gabriel Ogunde. This was a new event for CCCSC. Congratulations to Dr. Ogunde for bringing the idea to CCCSC and working so hard to make it come to fruition. Thank you to our committee, Grace Williamson, MaryAnn O'Mahoney, Sandi Ham, Nick Milanetti, Clair Budziak, Dr. Gabriel Ogunde, and Sharon Hobin.

## CONTACT PATROL

The following are a few web sites which may be helpful resources for you.

Dufferin-Peel Web Site: [www.dpcdsb.org](http://www.dpcdsb.org)

OAPCE: [www.oapce.on.ca](http://www.oapce.on.ca)

Parent Voice in Education: [www.ontarioparentcouncil.org](http://www.ontarioparentcouncil.org)

Ontario Provincial Education Network: [minister@edu.gov.on.ca](mailto:minister@edu.gov.on.ca)

EQAO: [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com)

School Advocate: [www.school-advocate.ca](http://www.school-advocate.ca)

Peel Health: [www.region.peel.on.ca](http://www.region.peel.on.ca)

Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association: [www.ocsta.on.ca](http://www.ocsta.on.ca)

Gerard Kennedy, Minister of Education: Gerard [Kennedy@edu.gov.on.ca](mailto:Kennedy@edu.gov.on.ca)

People for Education, [www.peopleforeducation.com](http://www.peopleforeducation.com)

**Special thanks to Christina Tozer, parent, from All Saints Catholic Elementary and Loyola Catholic Secondary for her time and talent in the design of this newsletter.**

**“Loving God, inspire us each day to thank you every day for the gift of life you share with us. Teach us to accept our own limitations, and to develop all the abilities we have. Help us to be patient with ourselves and others, and to work together to make this a better world for all people.”**

*Blessings and Prayers for Home and Family.*