

The Year of St. Paul

Our schools joined the Archdiocese of Toronto in celebrating the Year of St. Paul. Pope Benedict XVI declared a year dedicated to St. Paul to celebrate the bi-millennial anniversary of his birth. The Pauline year extended from June 2008 to June 2009. Each school received a St. Paul candle, as well as special resources for celebration, including a selection of prayers.

Barbara Coloroso Inspires Catholic School Council Members

At the 8th Annual Catholic School Council Conference, popular author Barbara Coloroso wowed the audience with her inspiring advice on nurturing respectful, caring children. Attendees also enjoyed a number of helpful workshops on topics including running effective council meetings and family literacy and numeracy.

Report Focuses on Effective Strategies at York Catholic

The Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat published its case study report focusing on effective strategies at our York Catholic District School Board. The report notes that "The York Catholic District School Board is committed to continually improving its schools, creating an environment where innovation and improvement are built into daily activities."

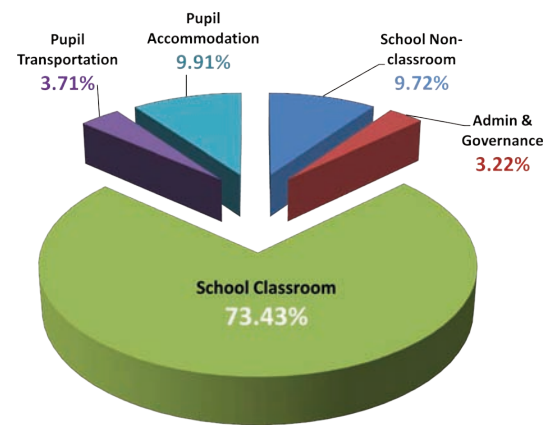
Lieutenant Governor Visits

In January 2009, the Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario addressed York Catholic principals. His Honour spoke about growing up with polio and post-polio syndrome and how some of his favourite teachers helped to guide him on a path to success.

Susan LaRosa Receives Champion of Education Award

In May 2009, Director of Education Susan LaRosa received the 2009 Champion of Public Education Award from The Learning Partnership. The tribute recognized Director LaRosa's strong visionary leadership and her outstanding contribution to education in Ontario.

Budget



2008-2009 Budget		
School Classroom	\$341,272,089	73.43%
School Non-classroom	\$45,168,417	9.72%
Admin & Governance	\$14,974,955	3.22%
Pupil Transportation	\$17,257,590	3.71%
Pupil Accommodation	\$46,069,279	9.91%
TOTAL	\$464,742,330	100.00%

YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

2008
2009 | Board of Trustees

- Elizabeth Crowe, Chair (Aurora/King/Whitchurch-Stouffville)
- Carol Cotton, Vice-Chair (Markham)
- Theresa McNicol (East Gwillimbury/Georgina/Newmarket)
- Marlene Mogado (Markham)
- Ann Stong (Richmond Hill)
- Mike Rizzi (Richmond Hill)
- Teresa Ciaravella (Vaughan)
- Dino Giuliani (Vaughan)
- Micheal Carnovale (Vaughan)
- Victor Schiralli (Vaughan)
- Clemence Emmanuel (Student Trustee)
- Cassandra Curcio (Student Trustee)



Facts at a Glance	
Elementary students	37,668
Secondary students	18,072
Total	55,740
Instructional staff	3,895
Non-instructional staff	1,800
Elementary schools	83
Secondary schools	13
Total	96

SUPPORT OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



Please check your property tax bill to ensure your support is directed to the English Catholic school board. It's a great way to deliver a powerful message to the government about the strong level of support for publicly funded Catholic education in Ontario.

- The property tax rate for both Catholic and public school supporters is exactly the same.
- Regardless if you rent or own, you can declare yourself as a Catholic school supporter.
- Grandparents, and those without children, can also declare themselves as Catholic school supporters.
- Every time you move, your tax support automatically defaults to public school support. Catholics need to re-register as Catholic school supporters.



Verify your support by calling the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation at 1-866-296-6722.

For additional copies of this publication, please contact the Communications Department at: communications@ycdsb.ca or 905-713-1211, ext. 3020.

This document is printed on recycled paper and is Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Certified.



Director's Annual Report



2008
2009 | YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Collaborative Learning Inspired by Jesus



Postcard

York Catholic students visit the Vatican.

York Catholic students have audience with Pope

“On Friday morning, we woke up at 4:30 a.m. to head off to the Vatican. Once we arrived, you could feel the anticipation growing at the prospect of meeting Pope Benedict XVI. There was a sense of undeniable exhilaration in the air as the guards began to take their rightful places awaiting the arrival of our Holy Father. As soon as Pope Benedict XVI crossed the stage, cheers from the crowd prevailed. We received a blessing and heard his message of love. We were all deeply moved by such a profound experience.”



Angela Rotundo-Vergura, Administrator
York Catholic Centro Scuola Canadian Academy in Italy

The year 2008-09 marked the fifth successful year of the York Catholic Centro Scuola Canadian Academy in Italy. York Catholic students earn Ontario credits while studying for a semester abroad, experiencing the rich culture and traditions of Italy.

Director's Message



Director of Education
Susan LaRosa

The York Catholic District School Board has so much to be proud of and I am honoured to be part of it.

Our York Catholic students continue to be top performers in provincial tests; an unprecedented number of our student athletes medaled at this year's OFSAA championships; our students took top awards in the York Region Sci-Tech Fair, and also at the Skills Canada Ontario Provincial Competition.

At the system level, enrolment continues to grow; we welcomed a record 350 parents and school administrators to our 8th Annual Catholic School Council Conference; we launched a new Board website; we began the process of reintroducing French Immersion into our schools; and we ratified four-year collective agreements with all of our employee groups.

As Catholic communities, our schools also continue to demonstrate their Christian spirit of generosity by fundraising to help those in need, including raising over \$120,000 for ShareLife through the various school campaigns and employee donations; over \$20,000 for the Terry Fox Foundation; and over \$50,000 to support the victims of the earthquake in Italy.

Our Catholic School Board recognizes the unique gifts of every child. At the heart of our Catholic school system is a curriculum that is made distinctive by faith, by integrating the teachings of Jesus Christ into all aspects of school life.

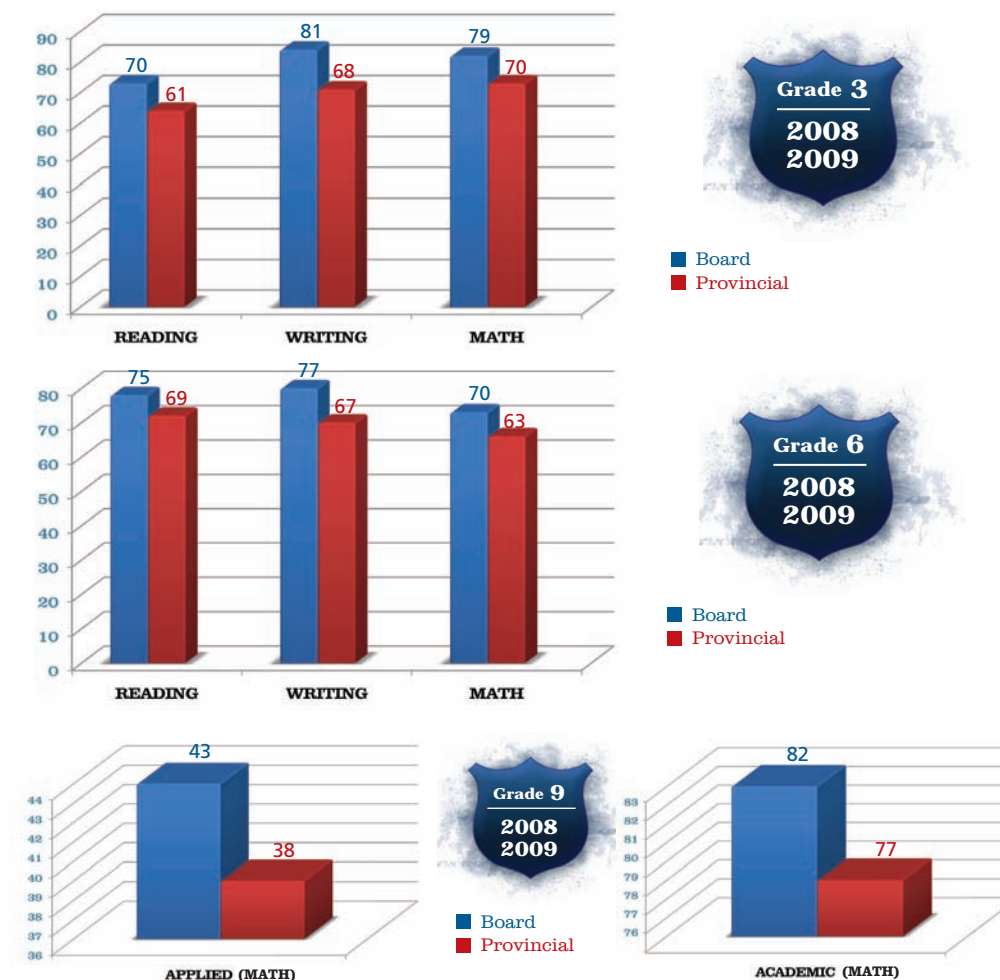
We can achieve incredible things when we all work together in support of Catholic education. Catholic education is partnership between the home, school and parish and I continue to be grateful to our partners for your participation and for your commitment.

eqao results show York Catholic students are among province's top performers

Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) standardized test results show York Catholic students continue to be among the top performers in the province. York Catholic Grade 3 students improved on already high scores in both writing and math and Grade 6 students showed improvement in reading.

Additionally, the Grade 9 mathematics assessment results show significant gains among students in the applied program, while students in the academic program maintained an already strong success rate.

A comparison of nine years of Grade 3 and 6 EQAO results demonstrates a significant upward trend in all categories (reading, writing and math) at York Catholic. These most recent results are from tests administered during the 2008-09 school year.



Additional statistics including: comparative EQAO data, demographics, graduation data, as well as information about the status of the Board's equity and inclusive education policies, are available as an addendum to this Director's Annual Report online at www.yedsb.ca.

Curriculum

EQUITY AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

We were pleased to begin implementing the Ministry of Education's new Equity and Inclusive Education strategy. Boards across the province are engaged in a four-year process to review policies and procedures in order to identify and remove any unintended bias or barriers. The goal of the strategy is to ensure that each school has a school climate that fosters and promotes equity, inclusive education and diversity.

DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION

We continued our journey to implement Differentiated Instruction as a key strategy to ensure that all students have opportunities to learn and to demonstrate their learning in varied ways. During the September PA Day, teachers reflected on effective teaching strategies and the best ways to match instruction/assessment strategies with their students' learning needs.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SERIES

Professional learning for staff centred on critical literacy and media skills development. Our students have greater access to information than ever in this multi-modal and interconnected world. To prepare students for success in jobs of the future, many of which don't exist today, we must emphasize higher order thinking skills and the ability to think critically about the information they access daily.

ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT

The annual Faith Day for staff is an opportunity for adult faith reflection and renewal when we celebrate the distinctiveness and importance of our Catholic schools. We continue to offer teachers courses in Religious Education, and over 300 teachers attend these courses annually. Adult Faith Ambassadors in each school assist with the planning of school and area events that promote the spiritual growth of staff.

CHAPLAINCY GUIDELINES

We introduced an updated version of our chaplaincy guidelines document. The document presents the vocation, ministry and role of the secondary school chaplaincy teams.

FIRST NATIONS, METIS AND INUIT (FNMI) FRAMEWORK

We worked closely with the Ministry of Education and leaders from the Aboriginal community to celebrate the achievements of First Nations, Metis and Inuit populations. A York Catholic steering committee was struck and families were asked to "self-identify" so that we can get their input into strategies and ensure that we offer appropriate curriculum supports in this important area of our history and culture.

SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR (SHSM)

An SHSM (Red Seal) designation on a diploma indicates that the student has focused his/her high school experience on a specific career path and has successfully completed all key program components, including taking an approved "bundle" of courses, getting real-life experience at a co-operative education placement, and earning industry-recognized certifications. We look forward to expanding this program to many of our secondary schools in the future.



Collaborative Learning Inspired by Jesus

2008-2009 Director's Annual Report