



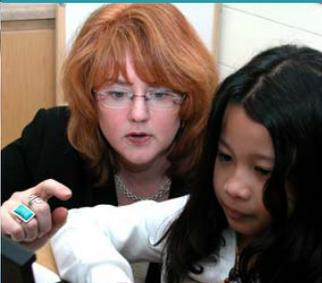
2012  
2013

# YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD Director's Annual Report



## Shared Vision

**“We are a Catholic Learning Community of collaborative partners, called to serve one another by being committed to and accountable for quality learning by all, with Jesus as our inspiration.”**





2012  
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# YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD Director's Annual Report



## Director's Message



It is with great pleasure that I present to you the York Catholic District School Board's Director's Annual Report for the 2012-2013 school year.

This is my first Annual Report for the Board as Director of Education and I am proud of the accomplishments, highlighted in this report, that showcase the distinct and unique Catholic learning environments that we provide for our students.

The Catholic school system is rooted in Catholic teachings which promote caring communities, the dignity of all persons and social justice. Our system is not a duplicate of other school systems, but rather teaches a curriculum enhanced by Gospel values so students develop into well-rounded citizens who have the opportunity to grow spiritually, intellectually, physically and socially. As a Catholic school board we are proud to be a part of a strong and rich heritage.

Guided by our Shared Vision, we have continued our progress in meeting key targets are set out in our multi-year strategic direction priorities: Quality Learning by All, Catholic Faith, Community and Culture, Safe and Caring Schools and Leveraged Use of Resources and Facility Excellence.

We've worked hard over the years to become one of the top-performing school board in Ontario which is once again reflected in our 2012-2013 EQAO scores which consistently outpace the provincial average year after year.

Our Gospel values permeate everything we do as a Board. We have provided opportunities for staff and students to develop and deepen their faith. In addition, our dedication to social justice, charitable fundraising and responsible fiscal management of our resources continue to be top priorities for York Catholic.

Pope Benedict XVI declared October 2012 – November 2013, as the Year of Faith. It was a time for Catholics, worldwide, to rediscover and share the gift of faith, which helps us to persevere and move forward through life with the knowledge that we are loved and supported by God. Thanks to a collaborative framework that includes all of our staff, in and out of the classroom, trustees, parents, parishes and community partners, York Catholic continues to nurture and develop students across York Region to be lifelong learners and faith-filled leaders of tomorrow.

I am proud of our accomplishments during the 2012-2013 school year and I know by building on our strengths we can ensure that Catholic education will continue to be vibrant into the future.

Yours in Catholic education,

**Patricia Preston**

Director of Education, York Catholic District School Board



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# YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD Director's Annual Report



## Chair's Message



The past school year was an exciting and inspiring year for the York Catholic District School Board. We oversaw a smooth transition at the very top of our organization as Susan LaRosa retired as Director of Education after 15 years, and Patricia Preston, former Associate Director, took over the reins. With this change in leadership, came new and innovative ideas that will allow York Catholic to continue as one of the top- performing school boards in the province.

Trustees were extremely busy in 2012-13, reaching out to the community, and consulting with parents, families and Catholic School Council members on an unprecedented scale. After many hours of thoughtful consideration and lengthy debates, the Board voted to introduce an elementary school standardized dress code, as well as an implementation and opt-out process for it. I would once again like to thank parents and guardians, school administrators, staff and students, for sharing their input, for participating in the process, and for working together through its implementation process.

The 2012-13 school year also saw its share of financial pressures and labour turmoil in the province of Ontario. Despite these set-backs, our teachers, support staff, administrators, unions, professional associations and trustees demonstrated their collaborative spirit and dedication to education, by keeping students at the forefront and ensuring minimal disruption for our York Catholic families. Our Board is committed to providing a holistic education, where student learning goes beyond the mandated curriculum. At York Catholic we are proud to include a wide-range of extra-curricular activities, parent workshops and informative events, and opportunities for students to learn about and practice Gospel values in our programming.

In fact, much of the success of our schools can be attributed to the collaborative home-school-parish relationship. By working together, we can help all students reach their full potential and become faith-filled, resilient individuals, who are prepared to meet life's challenges and succeed.

I thank our many partners in education: parents and families; local parishes and the Archdiocese of Toronto; all levels of government; and our community partners for their contributions to York Catholic.

Finally, I commend my fellow trustees for their professionalism, dedication to our Catholic schools, and all they do for the students, families and constituents in York Region. It has been a pleasure working together so that we can continue to give the gift of Catholic education to many generations of students to come.

### **Elizabeth Crowe**

Chair of the Board

York Catholic District School Board



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# YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD Director's Annual Report



## About the York Catholic District School Board

The York Catholic District School Board provides Catholic educational programming to over 55,000 students in Kindergarten to Grade 12, as well as, general interest and language courses for the public through its Continuing Education Department. It operates 103 schools located throughout the Regional Municipality of York, which is comprised of nine municipalities: Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, Markham, Newmarket, Richmond Hill, Township of King, Vaughan, and Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The York Catholic District School Board is consistently ranked as one of the top-performing school boards in all of Ontario. It is governed by 10 publicly-elected trustees, and has over 6,000 staff, making it one of the region's largest employers.

Number of Academic/Teaching Staff (excluding principals, vice-principals): **3841**

- Number of Principals and Vice-Principals: **183**
- Number of Non-Teaching/Support Staff: **2090**
- Number of Trustees: **10**
- Number of Residents in District: **1,118,931**
- Number of Households in District: **336,334**
- Population Growth in District from previous year: **+21,885**

### Top Languages in District

- English
- Chinese Languages (including Cantonese and Mandarin)
- Italian
- Russian
- Persian (Farsi)

### Top Languages spoken by students:

- English
- Chinese (including Cantonese and Mandarin)
- Filipino (Tagalog)
- Spanish
- Russian





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# YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD Director's Annual Report



## Board of Trustees



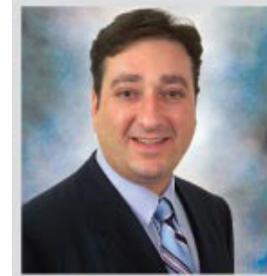
**Elizabeth Crowe**  
Chair  
Aurora/King/Whitchurch-Stouffville



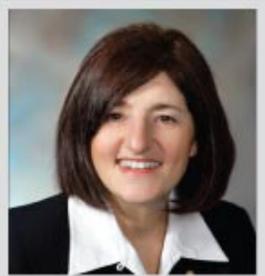
**Theresa McNicol**  
Vice-Chair  
East Gwillimbury/Georgina/Newmarket



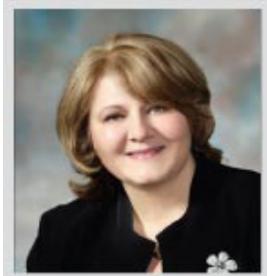
**Teresa Ciaravella**  
Trustee  
Vaughan (Maple/Kleinburg)



**Dino Giuliani**  
Trustee  
Vaughan (Woodbridge, Area 2, Ward 2)



**Maria Carnovale**  
Trustee  
Vaughan (Woodbridge, Area, Ward 3)



**Cathy Ferlisi**  
Trustee  
Vaughan (Thornhill/Concord)



**Marlene Mogado**  
Trustee  
Markham (Milliken/Markham/Unionville)



**Carol Cotton**  
Trustee  
Markham (Thornhill/Unionville)



**Ann Stong**  
Trustee  
Richmond Hill



**Dominic Mazzotta**  
Trustee  
Richmond Hill



**Michael Pallotto**  
Junior Student Trustee



**Kara Waites**  
Senior Student Trustee



## Strategic Priorities

York Catholic priorities have remained constant for the last five years:

1

### Quality Learning by All

Strategy: Each year we will reach and exceed our targets in literacy, numeracy, Programs & Pathways

2

### Catholic Faith Community and Culture

Strategy: Each school is a respectful and inclusive Catholic learning community

3

### Safe and Caring Schools

Strategy: Each school is a safe and compassionate learning environment

4

### Stewardship of Resources

Strategy: Each dollar is leveraged to achieve our learning targets

5

### Facility Excellence

Strategy: Each school is a secure, clean, and optimally functional learning community



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# YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD Director's Annual Report



## Quality Learning by All

### Literacy

Numeracy

Programs & Pathways

Full Day Kindergarten

French Immersion

First Nations, Metis and Inuit

2012/2013 EQAO Results

### Literacy

The Board's literacy pillar focuses on enhancing the opportunities provided for students to improve their reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing and representing skills across all curriculum and subject areas. At the end of the 2012-2013 school year, there were noted improvements in learning skills, credit accumulation and the five-year graduation rate. High student performance was observed on the primary and junior division assessments of reading and writing, as well as the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). Students with special education needs demonstrated improvement from the previous year on the primary and junior assessments of reading and writing, and maintained their level of performance on the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test.





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# YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD Director's Annual Report



## Quality Learning by All

Literacy

### Numeracy

Programs & Pathways

Full Day Kindergarten

French Immersion

First Nations, Metis and Inuit

2012/2013 EQAO Results

### Numeracy

The Board's numeracy pillar focuses on enhancing the opportunities provided for students to improve their problem-solving; reasoning and proving; reflecting; selecting tools and computational strategies; connecting; representing; and communicating across all curriculum and subject areas. Successful application of the mathematics skills and achievement of the related curriculum expectations empowers all learners to be successful in the workplace and in daily life as effective communicators and collaborative contributors.

For the 2012-2013 school year, the Board saw improvement in mathematics achievement for students in the Grade 9 academic program, and consistent performance above the provincial standard in the primary and junior grades. The performance of students continues to reflect their hard work, and the tremendous support of their parents, as well as the dedication of staff and the effectiveness of the strategies implemented. Mathematics will continue to be a key focus of the 2013-2014 Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement, Faith Development and Well-Being.





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# YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD Director's Annual Report



## Quality Learning by All

Literacy

Numeracy

### Programs & Pathways

Full Day Kindergarten

French Immersion

First Nations, Metis and Inuit

2012/2013 EQAO Results

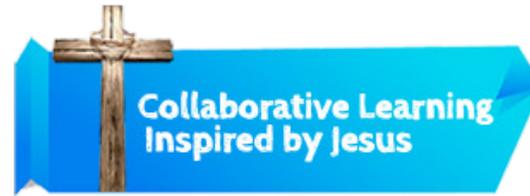
### Programs & Pathways

The Programs and Pathways pillar helps enable students to make successful transitions - from grade to grade, and to life after high school. As a Board, the Programs and Pathways' goal is to enable students to apply knowledge of their gifts, interests and abilities, and make appropriate decisions about post-secondary educational possibilities and career opportunities.

Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM) are Ministry-approved specialized programs that help Grade 11 and 12 students to focus their learning on a specific economic sector while meeting the requirements to graduate from secondary school. It also helps in their transition after graduation to post-secondary study, apprenticeship training, or the workplace. In 2011-2012, the Board offered 16 SHSM programs at 13 secondary schools. In 2012-2013, it offered 18 programs in sectors ranging from Health and Wellness to Information and Communication Technology.

Other initiatives and programs that fall under the Programs and Pathways pillar include: guidance and career education; experiential learning; co-op opportunities; dual credit courses; the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program; School-Within-A-College program; and e-learning opportunities.





# Quality Learning by All

Literacy

Numeracy

Programs & Pathways

## Full Day Kindergarten

French Immersion

First Nations, Metis and Inuit

2012/2013 EQAO Results

### Full Day Kindergarten

The 2012-2013 school year was the third year of implementation of the Full Day Kindergarten Program. The program expanded from 19 to 40 schools with a total of 144 Full Day Kindergarten classes across York Catholic. A series of meetings with Principals were held to ensure a smooth transition into the program, where principals whose schools had already implemented the Full Day Kindergarten program shared their successes and challenges with principals introducing the program for 2012-13. Educator teams, consisting of a certified teacher and a registered early childhood educator continued to work together to provide the best possible start to the Board's youngest learners on their path to a lifetime of learning.





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# YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD Director's Annual Report



Collaborative Learning  
Inspired by Jesus

## Quality Learning by All

Literacy

Numeracy

Programs & Pathways

Full Day Kindergarten

**French Immersion**

First Nations, Metis and Inuit

2012/2013 EQAO Results

### French Immersion

The French Immersion program is now in its fourth year of implementation and expansion continues as three more sites were added in September 2012. In 2012-13, York Catholic had a total of 43 French Immersion classes, at the following eight sites:

- Christ the King Catholic Elementary School in Richmond Hill
- Immaculate Conception Catholic Elementary School in Woodbridge
- Our Lady of Peace Catholic Elementary School in Maple
- St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School in Thornhill
- St. Brendan Catholic Elementary School in Stouffville
- St. Edward Catholic Elementary School in Markham
- St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Elementary School in Newmarket
- St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School in Aurora





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# YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD Director's Annual Report



## Quality Learning by All

Literacy

Numeracy

Programs & Pathways

Full Day Kindergarten

French Immersion

### First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI)

2012/2013 EQAO Results

### First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI)

The York Catholic District School Board's First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) Committee continues to lead the areas of focus for the FNMI initiatives each year. Its membership has grown to include First Nation and Métis students to ensure their voices are heard when discussing Board initiatives. The Board also has a FNMI student representative on the York Secondary Catholic Presidents Council who works diligently to promote the FNMI perspective amongst the student body.



Resources that profile the FNMI perspective, with accompanying lessons are available in each elementary school library. At the secondary level, the Board offers Native Studies courses in three high schools, including a course which offers a March Break trip to Peru highlighting the global Aboriginal perspective. This course is available to any interested students within York Catholic secondary schools.

The Métis Nation of Ontario continues to offer parental engagement sessions to parents and students identifying post-secondary pathways, as well as, possible financial support that is available.



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# YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD Director's Annual Report

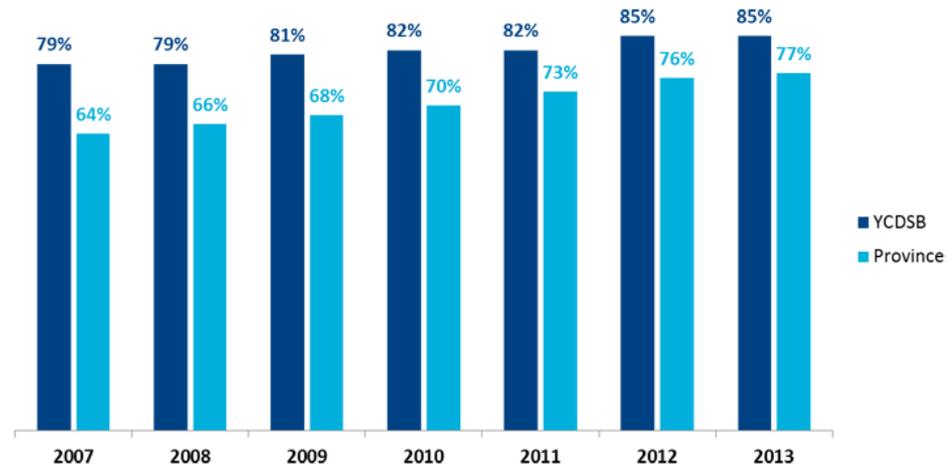


## Quality Learning by All

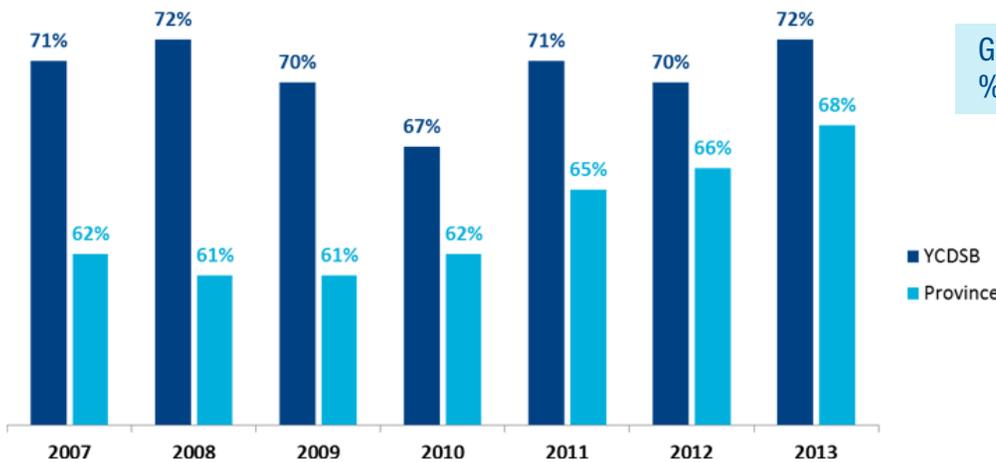
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Programs & Pathways
- Full Day Kindergarten
- French Immersion
- First Nations, Metis and Inuit

### 2012/2013 EQAO Results

#### 2012/2013 EQAO Results



Grade 3 Assessment of Writing  
% of Students at Levels 3 and 4



Grade 3 Assessment of Reading  
% of Students at Levels 3 and 4



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2013

# YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD Director's Annual Report

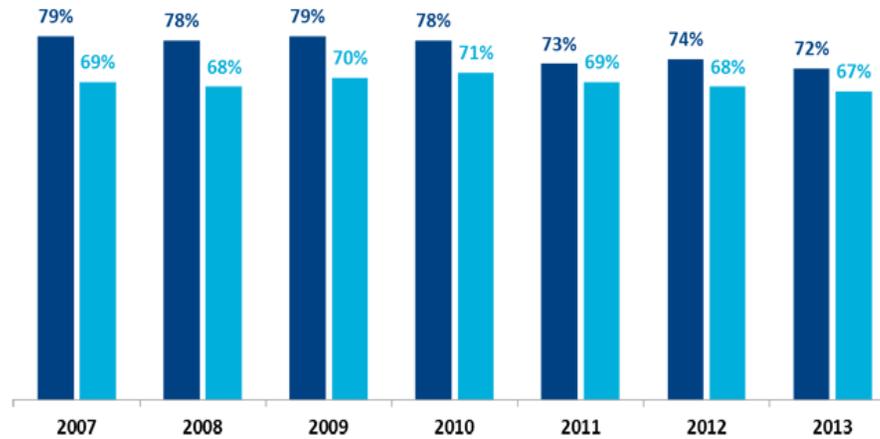


## Quality Learning by All

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Programs & Pathways
- Full Day Kindergarten
- French Immersion
- First Nations, Metis and Inuit

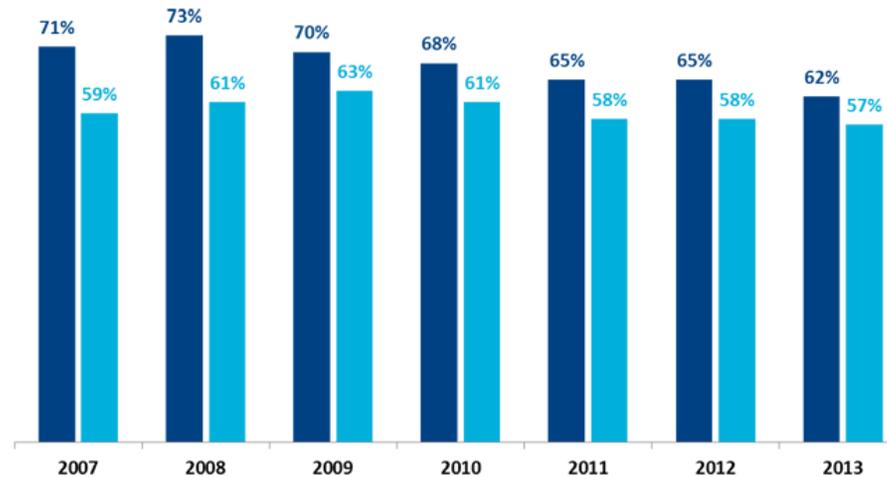
### 2012/2013 EQAO Results

#### 2012/2013 EQAO Results



Grade 3 Assessment of Mathematics  
% of Students at Levels 3 and 4

■ YCDSB  
■ Province



Grade 6 Assessment of Mathematics  
% of Students at Levels 3 and 4

■ YCDSB  
■ Province



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2013

# YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD Director's Annual Report

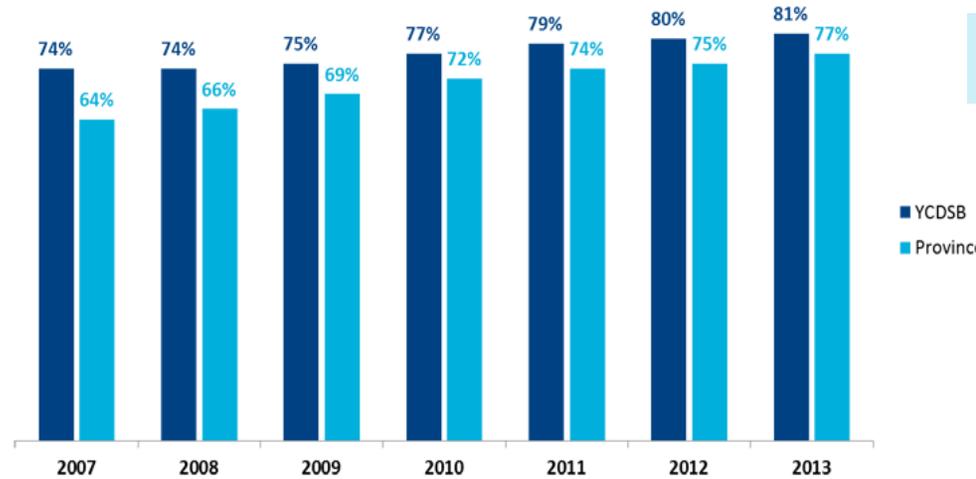


## Quality Learning by All

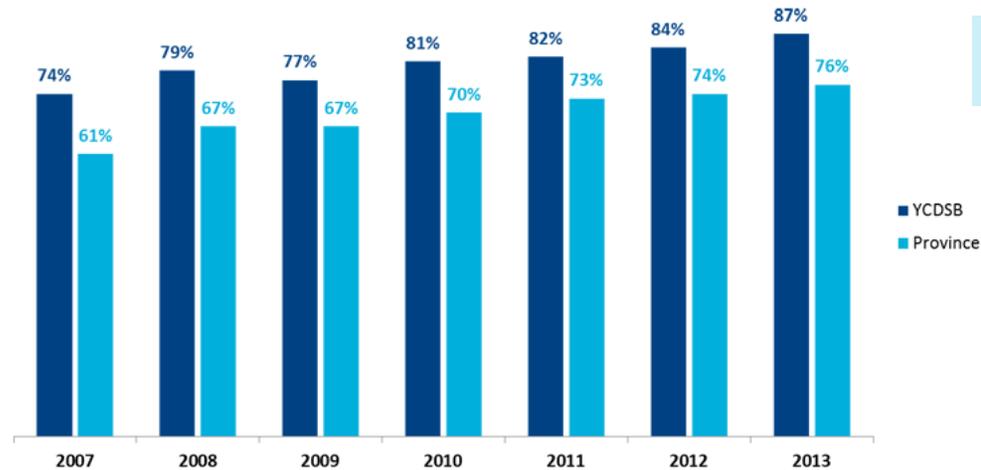
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Programs & Pathways
- Full Day Kindergarten
- French Immersion
- First Nations, Metis and Inuit

### 2012/2013 EQAO Results

#### 2012/2013 EQAO Results



Grade 6 Assessment of Reading  
% of Students at Levels 3 and 4



Grade 6 Assessment of Writing  
% of Students at Levels 3 and 4



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# YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD Director's Annual Report

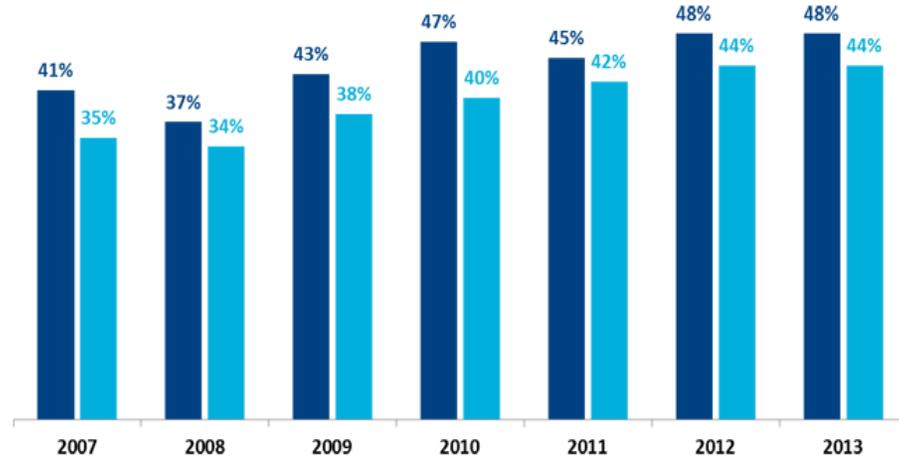


## Quality Learning by All

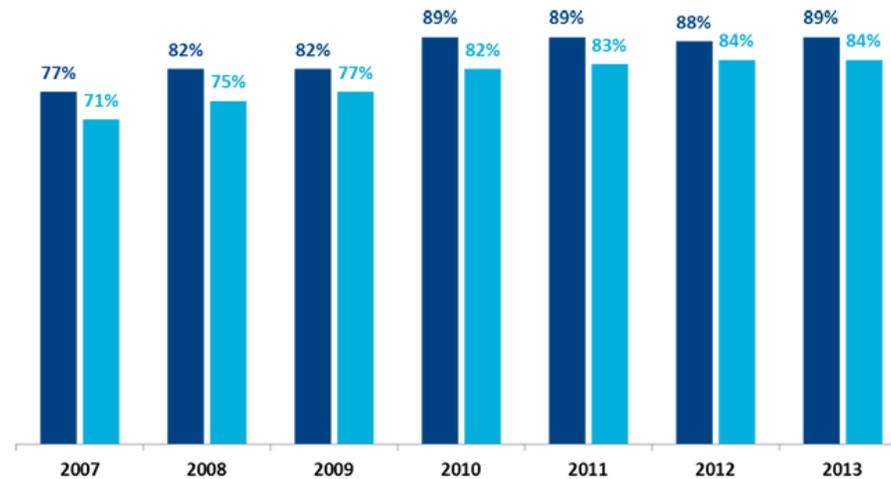
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Programs & Pathways
- Full Day Kindergarten
- French Immersion
- First Nations, Metis and Inuit

### 2012/2013 EQAO Results

#### 2012/2013 EQAO Results



Grade 9 Assessment of Math. Applied  
% of Students at Levels 3 and 4



Grade 9 Assessment of Math. Academic  
% of Students at Levels 3 and 4



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# YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD Director's Annual Report

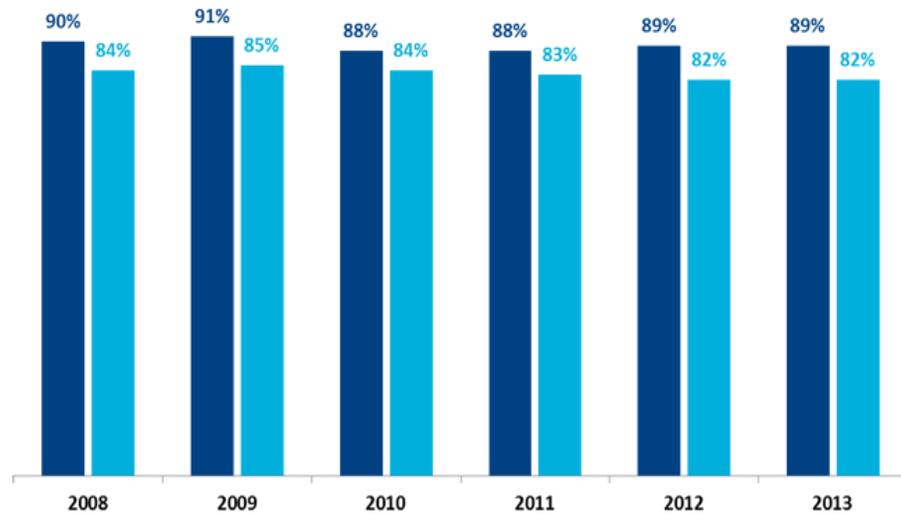


## Quality Learning by All

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Programs & Pathways
- Full Day Kindergarten
- French Immersion
- First Nations, Metis and Inuit

### 2012/2013 EQAO Results

### 2012/2013 EQAO Results



Grade 10 OSSLT  
First Time Eligible

■ YCDSB  
■ Province



# Catholic Faith, Community and Culture

## Canonization Celebration of St. Kateri Tekakwitha

Luke 4:18 Social Justice Conference

Community and Parent Engagement

Fundraising and Outreach

Solemn Blessings and Official School Openings

York Catholic has showed continued progress under the Catholic Faith, Community and Culture pillar. Through enhanced opportunities students demonstrate knowledge of the faith, sense of belonging, stewardship, student engagement and well-being within safe, respectful, equitable and inclusive learning environments to realize the principles of Catholic social teachings.

### Canonization Celebration of St. Kateri Tekakwitha

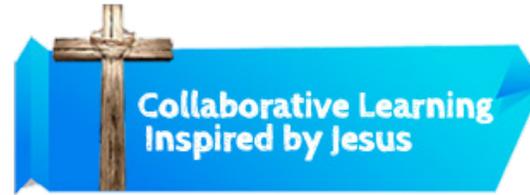
On October 21st, parents, students, teachers, superintendents and community members joined together to celebrate the first Aboriginal saint in Canada, St. Kateri Tekakwitha at Mary Lake Retreat Centre in King City. The event began with a celebration of the Eucharist, followed by a traditional First Nations luncheon, student participation in Aboriginal art activities and a traditional Aboriginal dance. Students from St. Kateri Tekakwitha school also created posters to celebrate their saint's canonization. The event was a great success with approximately 150 people in attendance representing many of the York Catholic schools. The week-long celebration also included a Skype chat for students with His Eminence Cardinal Thomas Collins and various Aboriginal art, storytelling and history workshops for students.





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# YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD Director's Annual Report



## Catholic Faith, Community and Culture

Canonization Celebration  
of St. Kateri Tekakwitha

### Luke 4:18 Social Justice Conference

Community and Parent  
Engagement

Fundraising and Outreach

Solemn Blessings and Official  
School Openings

### Luke 4:18 Social Justice Conference

On May 8, 2013, York Catholic held its first-ever Luke 4:18 Social Justice Conference. The conference included approximately 200 students in Grades 6, 7, and 8 from 42 elementary schools across York Region, as well as, 21 high school student leaders and almost 50 teacher-facilitators from across the Board.

Students embraced this empowering, faith-filled, learning experience, to explore what we need to do as a community to build a just society. The day showcased all the marvellous works hosted by 43 Luke 4:18 committees in elementary schools throughout the board. In addition, students had many opportunities to learn about a variety of social justice issues by listening to both the keynote speaker, Saneliso Moyo (current law student and former YCDSB graduate), as well as a panel of YCDSB teachers who have led student groups on outreach educational excursions or participated in outreach programs themselves. In keeping with the philosophy of Luke 4:18 committees, students also had an opportunity to breakout into smaller groups where they participated in workshops themed around the concept of 'faith in action' to enhance their understanding of critical issues in our society. One of the more popular workshops was one in which students assembled health kits for Free the Children charity.





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# YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD Director's Annual Report



## Catholic Faith, Community and Culture

Canonization Celebration  
of St. Kateri Tekakwitha

Luke 4:18 Social Justice  
Conference

### Community and Parent Engagement

Fundraising and Outreach

Solemn Blessings and Official  
School Openings

### Community and Parent Engagement

The York Catholic District School Board is proud to work with parents and guardians to deliver information and services that support student achievement and well-being.

The Board works with the York Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (YCPIC) to better understand the needs and challenges families face, so that relevant resources can be offered throughout the school system. The YCPIC acts as an advisory body to the Board, promotes parent engagement, and assists and supports Catholic School Councils (CSC).



During the 2012-13 school year, the YCPIC focused on strategizing and planning ways to increase support for parents, CSCs, and schools. It hosted an orientation workshop for CSC chairs and co-chairs, as well as in-service sessions for councils.

Through its regular meetings, YCPIC provided direction and feedback on issues like, fundraising in schools and CSC policy reviews. It also helped coordinate presentations for school principals about parent engagement, the role of the YCPIC and how it can assist school communities.

Promotional material about YCPIC, the importance of parent engagement, and tips on how parents can better support their children in school was distributed to parents of Junior Kindergarten and Grade 9 students, and will continue to be distributed annually. All YCDSB schools also received copies of the Building Parent Engagement Toolkit that was developed by CODE (The Council of Ontario Directors of Education), which provided school administration and staff with a wide-array of tactics and resources to facilitate relationships with parents and guardians.

Parents at schools throughout York Catholic continued to support school initiatives and students learning, and YCDSB sincerely thanks its parent community for this.



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# YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD Director's Annual Report



## Catholic Faith, Community and Culture

Canonization Celebration  
of St. Kateri Tekakwitha

Luke 4:18 Social Justice  
Conference

Community and Parent  
Engagement

### Fundraising and Outreach

Solemn Blessings and Official  
School Openings

### Fundraising and Outreach

York Catholic school communities are known for their strong passion and dedication to helping others. Every year, York Catholic schools raise money for ShareLife, the Terry Fox Foundation and Free the Children. During the 2012-2013 school year, staff and students raised \$127,000 for ShareLife and four of our schools were placed on ShareLife's 2013 Top Ten List, which ranks the top Toronto-area school fundraising totals for the charity within the Archdiocese of Toronto:

- St. Elizabeth Catholic High School
- St. Michael Catholic Academy
- St. Raphael the Archangel CES
- St. Stephen CES



In support of the Terry Fox Foundation, York Catholic schools raised \$222,643.00 to support cancer research and four of our secondary schools made the 'Top 50 Ontario Terry Fox Fundraisers of 2012' list.

- St. Joan of Arc CHS – ranked 6th
- St. Robert CHS – ranked 8th
- St. Theresa of Lisieux CHS – ranked 19th
- St. Augustine CHS – ranked 20th

York Catholic also raised \$29,492.28 for Free the Children.



# Catholic Faith, Community and Culture

Canonization Celebration  
of St. Kateri Tekakwitha

Luke 4:18 Social Justice  
Conference

Community and Parent  
Engagement

Fundraising and Outreach

**Solemn Blessings and  
Official School Openings**

## Solemn Blessings and Official School Openings

Official school openings help to strengthen the ties between the home, school and parish by bringing families, students, school staff, parishes and the entire school community together to celebrate the opening of a new school. In the 2012-2013 school year, York Catholic officially blessed and opened two new schools: St. Michael the Archangel CES in Woodbridge, and St. Brendan CES in Stouffville. Their Solemn School Blessing and Official Openings were held and hundreds of members from their respective communities helped mark the milestone occasions. St. Michael Catholic Academy in Thornhill and Holy Name CES in King City also held a Solemn School Blessing and Official Opening to mark their brand new replacement school facilities. In Markham, San Lorenzo Ruiz CES and St. Julia Billiard CES held addition Blessing ceremonies to mark each school's expansion.





## Safe and Caring Schools

### Desire for Change

[School Climate Surveys](#)

[Pledge to End Bullying](#)

[Leadership Links](#)

The York Catholic District School Board believes that safe, caring and inclusive Catholic schools and school communities are fundamental for creating and maintaining healthy learning and working environments. Creating a positive school climate, with a safe, welcoming and inclusive learning and teaching environment is vital to student success. Respect for self and others, accepting accountability and responsibility for one's own actions, acting as a person formed in the Catholic traditions, and the promotion of self-discipline are cornerstones of this belief.

### Desire for Change

On November 22nd 2012, the Board held its third annual Desire for Change symposium, highlighting the importance of treating everyone justly and equally. All sixteen of our high schools sent delegate representatives to the symposium. The symposium, which was themed around the idea that, "hate hurts ... love is louder," featured a 'coach talk' session, where brave students shared their personal stories around bullying from various perspectives and what they would do differently if they were given the chance to do things 'over again.'

Schools also had an opportunity to showcase anti-bullying videos made by its students. The videos were critiqued and provided students with an opportunity to further discuss how they can prevent bullying. These videos were then shared with all of the high schools to profile the importance of equity and inclusion in the way we live our lives.





# Safe and Caring Schools

Desire for Change

## School Climate Surveys

Pledge to End Bullying

Leadership Links

### School Climate Surveys

Last year, York Catholic conducted a second school climate survey (the first was in 2010-2011) with students in Grades 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, and 12. Student participation in elementary Grades 4, 6 and 7 was 94% and in secondary Grades 9-12 at 47%. Student perceptions, and feedback, were collected on overall School Climate (learning environment, inclusion, safety, engagement & caring adults); Transitions & Pathways (secondary only); Bullying & School Discipline; Drugs / Substance Use (secondary only); and, Student Mental Health & Well Being. The Board will use the results to develop, implement and monitor equity and inclusive education policies to support student achievement; identify barriers or bias; and help students develop into highly-skilled, knowledgeable, and caring citizens.





## Safe and Caring Schools

Desire for Change

School Climate Surveys

**Pledge to End Bullying**

Leadership Links

### **Pledge to End Bullying**

During the 2012-2013 school year, the Board partnered with CTV Two to produce a 30 second public service commercial to raise awareness about bullying. Entitled, "The Pledge," the commercial was part of an interactive anti-bullying campaign that leveraged the power of television, the Internet and social media to engage communities in discussions about bullying, while providing resources for anti-bullying education. The anti-bullying commercial featured York Catholic students pledging to stand up against bullying and ran on CTV Two from March to June 2013.

Participation in this initiative was well-aligned with York Catholic's many safe school and anti-bullying initiatives. All York Catholic schools are engaged in some form of bullying prevention activity such as classroom discussions, guest speakers, poster and video contests, class murals, and class and school pledges.





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# YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD Director's Annual Report



## Safe and Caring Schools

Desire for Change

School Climate Surveys

Pledge to End Bullying

**Leadership Links**

### Leadership Links

Over 150 Grade 6, 7 and 8 students from across the school board participated in the 7th Annual Leadership Links conference at Jean Vanier CHS.

The York Secondary Catholic Presidents' Council (YSCPC) and leaders from all 16 high schools in the York Catholic District School Board spent countless hours preparing for and organizing the day to spread the message of youth leadership.

Leadership Links is a YSCPC and student-led initiative that aims to inspire intermediate students to be a "spark" through school and community involvement now and in their futures.

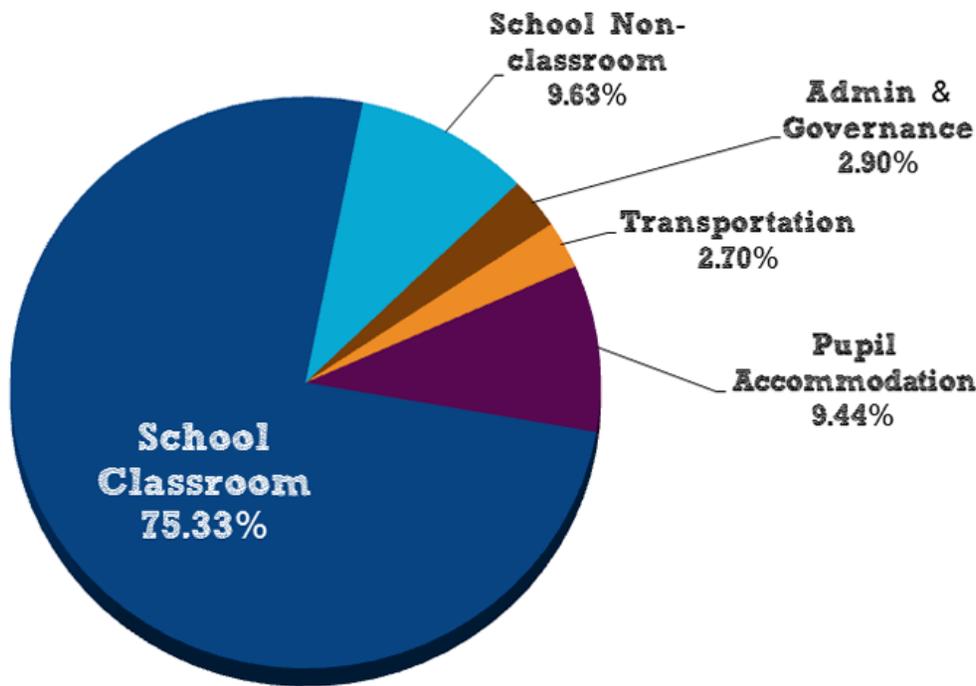
Each year, the workshops and keynote speakers expand on a theme that the participants will take back with them to apply within their own school. This year's theme was, "The Winner Within" and it highlighted the idea that everyone is a winner. It allowed students to reflect on past experiences, and learn how to handle new and unfamiliar experiences in their lives. Students learned that by taking a negative situation and turning it into something positive that it could be rewarding and fulfilling, not only in their own lives, but also in the lives of others.





# Stewardship of Resources

## Operating Expenditures 2012-2013 Year-End Report Expenditures by Function



School Classroom	409,642,506	75.33%
School Non-classroom	52,390,200	9.63%
Admin & Governance	15,759,816	2.90%
Pupil Transportation	14,699,690	2.70%
Pupil Accommodation	<u>51,323,661</u>	<u>9.44%</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>543,815,873</u></b>	<b><u>100.00%</u></b>

Note: The above does not include new pupil places, facility renewal, debt charges, or other Ministry year-end reporting requirements (eg. PSAB, school finances, etc.)



2012  
2013

# YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD Director's Annual Report



## Facility Excellence

### Energy Conservation and Environmental Initiatives

The York Catholic District School Board encourages leveraging the use of technology in a student-centered, teacher-supportive, learning context to increase energy conservation and green technology awareness. Through its Environmental and Office Services Department, it provides leadership in the areas of energy management and conservation, waste management and recycling, and office services. The department works as a collaborative environmental advisor to support other departments and schools in informed governance, and to safeguard and enhance the Board's physical plant and infrastructure.

In the 2012-13 school year, the Board introduced a Lunchtime Electricity Demand Reduction Challenge, as part of its Energy Champion Awareness Program in all elementary schools. Using real-time electricity data, a report is generated comparing the average electricity demand from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. with the average electricity demand from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for each individual elementary school. The results are posted on TV monitors at each participating school with a graphical representation of the 20 schools with the largest reduction in electricity demand during lunchtime, so students and staff can visually understand how their school compares. The results are updated daily and information and tips are also posted on the screen, so students and staff will be encouraged to find new ways to decrease electricity demand. While some energy conservation is achieved through this initiative, the main goal is to promote conservation awareness – something students, teachers and staff can bring home and use throughout their lives.



For York Catholic secondary schools, the Environmental and Office Services Department launched a Twitter initiative in 2012-13, where high school environmental clubs/teams receive notifications if their school is using too much energy. This program enables students and their staff advisors to act as leaders within their school community by bringing energy management and conservation to the forefront when needed, and giving students the opportunity to find appropriate solutions to address energy use at their school.

In 2012-2013, the Board, through a partnership with a solar developer, received approval from the Ontario Power Authority to install 25 solar photo voltaic (PV) systems at 25 schools, through its Feed-in Tariff Program. Once combined, the approximately 2,130 kW of electricity generated will be fed to the Ontario electricity grid. Construction of these systems is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2014.

