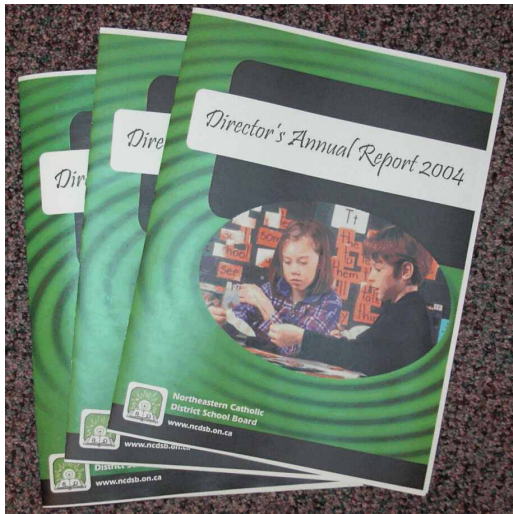


'LOVE OF CHILDREN' , 'PROFESSIONAL ATTITUDE' KEY TO SUCCESS



Director of Education Paul Toffanello is happy to present his first Director's Annual Report, which outlines the board's successes in terms of programming, professional development and new resources over the past year. The report was received by the Board at their public meeting on December 18, 2004.

Toffanello attributes the improvements to collaboration between everyone involved in Catholic education on a daily basis, and their genuine desire to provide the best learning environment for students. "Our dedicated Trustees, Teachers, Pastoral Care Workers, Educational Assistants, Child and Youth Workers, Custodians, Secretaries, Principals, Support Staff and Senior Administrators have achieved a level of teamwork unprecedented in this board. What underpins all of our efforts are the tenets that we hold fast to: a love of children, a professional attitude and most of all, our desire to serve as

disciples of Christ. In the end, what we all work toward and hope to achieve adds up to exactly what is embodied in our Mission Statement: Inspired by the mystery of Christ, we will guide our students on a journey of discovery that celebrates life."

Chair of the Board Colleen Landers is equally pleased to see our school communities become more vibrant each year with new programs and resources to help students succeed. "As a Board, we encourage our team of administrators to constantly seek new ways to improve learning for students," stated Landers. "It is under their leadership that we are able to devise new teaching approaches, implement new programs, enhance facilities, recruit quality educators, and accommodate the special needs of students, all while balancing a sound budget. It is no easy feat, but the Director's Annual Report is a testament to their ability to do just that."

The report details key achievements, professional development opportunities for teachers, special education initiatives, information technology advancements, contributions of Catholic School Councils and new Ministry funding. It also provides a brief overview of accomplishments in the human resources, physical plant and financial services departments.

Among the key focusses in 2004 was the implementation of the balanced literacy framework for primary grades, which involves a variety of reading and writing opportunities for children. To strengthen this approach throughout the year, teachers participated in workshops on Literacy Across the Curriculum, Later Literacy, the Think Literacy document, and the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test. Significant investments were made in classroom libraries to facilitate the use of literature circles. A literacy committee was formed and is developing a long range plan from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12. Even the new Video Conferencing Series for teachers has targeted this area, with topics such as "How to Focus and Motivate the Reluctant Reader" and "What Good Readers Do". The Board is indeed moving forward with tangible strategies that will help each and every student achieve.

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