



WINDSOR-ESSEX CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Director's Annual Report to our Community - 2006

"Learning together in faith and service"

A Message from the Director of Education



I am grateful and humbled to be the Director of Education for the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board. This Board has a rich history of leadership in Catholic Education and I will do my utmost in working with all of our stakeholders to continue to promote the gift we have been given.

With over thirty years of experience in education with the previous Windsor Catholic District School Board and now the amalgamated Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board, I have developed many friendships with members of all of our various employee groups that make up our system. Through my visits to all of our schools, I see firsthand the commitment and dedication to students from all of these wonderful people.

I have been able to meet and speak with Bishop Ronald Fabbro and Bishop Anthony Daniels on an ongoing basis and wish to thank them for their continued support and encouragement.

We have a dedicated Board of Trustees that work with me and all of our stakeholders to provide the best that we can in support of our Catholic school system.

I am proud to be part of an outstanding team comprised of trustees, administration, clergy, teachers, support staff, students and parents. Catholic education is alive and well in Windsor and Essex County.



Joseph Berthiaume

Joseph Berthiaume
Director of Education

Academic Excellence

Commitment

Leadership



Communication... Reaching Out and Responding



With a view to improving internal and external communications, several successful new initiatives were implemented in 2006.

Significant progress was made on the refreshed website project. WECD SB personnel continued to work toward a March 2007 completion date.

A Key Communicators Network was established, with membership from each Catholic school. The key communicators shared good news from their schools and facilitated media stories. Good news from all schools was linked to the board's website to allow the general public access to the successes of our students and staff members.

The implementation of an online backpack allowed parents to access notes, forms and publications distributed from both their home school and the board office.

Immediately following each meeting of the Board of Trustees, a summary of the meeting was prepared and electronically circulated.

Community partners were welcomed into our schools and our administrative offices. Our students, staff and parents worked together to receive and provide assistance from area police and fire services, city and county administrators, health unit personnel and community service organizations.

Refreshed
Website
Project

Community
Partnership

Faith Development... Rooted in Christ



Our staff, students and parents continued to live the Gospel and to make a difference in the community of Windsor-Essex and in the world through their many acts of service and charity to those in need. Throughout the year, the hungry, those in need of clothing, shelter and comfort were supported by our school communities as they prayed, collected donations of food, clothing and money, and volunteered at numerous agencies and organizations.

Our journey in faith was enriched in September by the initiation of school pastoral visits by Auxiliary Bishop Daniels. The school communities continued to be blessed with the guidance and presence of our diocesan and religious order priests as together they celebrated liturgies, prayer services and prepared the students for sacraments. Our April professional development day saw our school communities and parish teams come together to celebrate our Catholic faith and plan coming events taking place throughout the liturgical year.

Retreats for our students provided further opportunities for peaceful reflection, prayer and community building. In October Bishop Fabbro and Bishop Daniels met with student leaders from all Catholic high schools to discuss the Pastoral Plan, to answer their questions and to celebrate the Eucharist.

Enhanced staff retreats facilitated personal and professional reflection and growth. Faith Day 2006 allowed our 2300 WECD SB staff members to gather together for prayer, a presentation from Fr. Tony Ricard, and a celebration of the Eucharist.

Making a
Difference

Journey in
Faith

Living the
Gospel

Student Achievement... A Successful Outcome for All



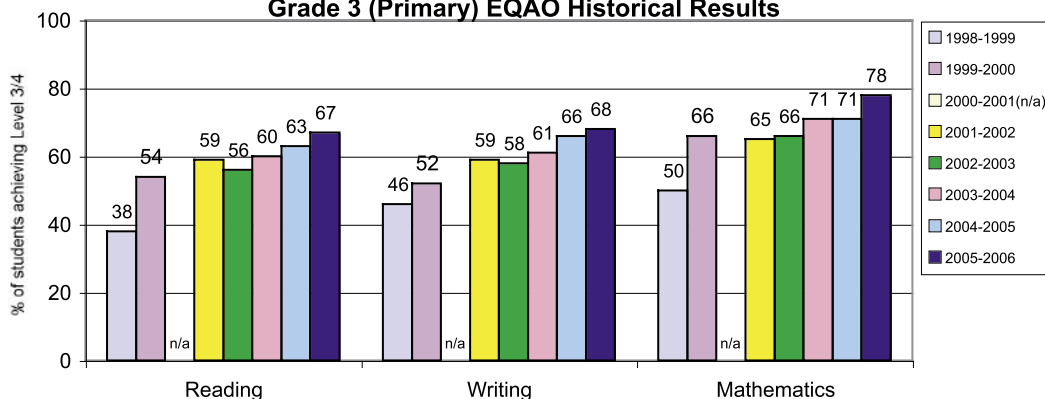
Sustaining a culture of excellence in student achievement continues to be a priority of the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board. The foundation for the Board's Improvement Plan is based on the collection of important information about each individual school and the progress of each of the students in the school. This ongoing collection and examination of information allows teachers to effectively plan and deliver lessons which will meet the needs of individual students and will measure the success of these methods. The school community uses this information to improve teaching and learning at the school level. This school based information is shared across elementary and secondary panels in each family of schools. This sharing contributes to improvement across the system.

In the spring and fall many grade eight students and grade nine students of promise participated in the Muskoka Woods Leadership Program. This experience promotes healthy active living, leadership development, personal growth and faith development and continues to be a key component of our commitment to encouraging the development of our students.

Student Success Teams in each of our secondary schools are working together with school staff, students and parents to help all students earn the credits necessary to graduate. All of our schools have seen an expansion of cooperative education opportunities for students to learn skills and gain experience from the workplace. An area of focus this past year has been ongoing collaboration between elementary and secondary teachers to support a smooth transition for students moving from Grade 8 to Grade 9.

Leadership Development

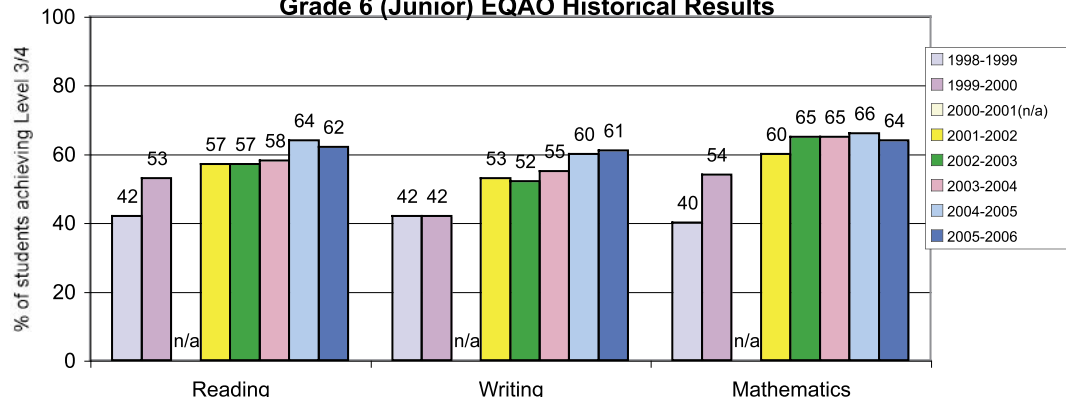
**Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board
Grade 3 (Primary) EQAO Historical Results**



Excellence in Student Achievement

Meeting Needs of Individuals

**Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board
Grade 6 (Junior) EQAO Historical Results**



Employee Development... Working Together to Improve



Ensuring our employees have the professional and personal support they require is paramount to the fulfillment of our mission, "we will strive, as a partnership of school, family and parish, to provide our students with a quality Catholic education rooted in Gospel teachings, enabling all to grow to their potential."

During the past year over 1100 staff members participated in the Summer Institute, a week of interactive presentations relevant to all aspects of education. Professional development days for the academic staff provided training and information about current and future local and provincial educational initiatives. Our employees demonstrated their commitment to ongoing development and growth as they embraced these initiatives.

*Professional
and Personal
Support*

Our New Teacher Induction Program was introduced and 86 new teaching staff received guidance from their peer mentors. This new initiative certainly assisted the new teachers with their transition into our Board.

*Embracing
Initiatives*

The Employee Wellness committee facilitated very successful seminars on topics relevant to the lives of employees and several community-building social gatherings. The support provided by these committee members is vital to our employees' understanding their value in our Catholic education system.

2006 Year in Review...

