



**Orillia Pupil Accommodation Review
2008/2009**

September 10, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian,

On November 5, 2008, the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board approved the formation of a Pupil Accommodation Review Committee (PAC) for the following Orillia area schools: Notre Dame, Foley Catholic, Monsignor Lee, Guardian Angels and St. Bernard's.

A Pupil Accommodation Review (PAR) is a formal process, following Ministry of Education guidelines, which helps to evaluate and review how we accommodate students in our schools. This process helps us with accommodation planning so that we can best meet the needs of students and parents now and in the future. The mandate of the PAC was to study, report and make recommendations on accommodation options regarding the group of Orillia area schools.

Following extensive research, discussion and public input throughout the PAR process, the PAC presented a finalized *School Valuation Report with Recommendations* to the Director of Education on May 20, 2009. This report also went to the Board for information. A *Staff Report* was presented to the Board on Wednesday, June 24, 2009.

In addition and according to the Ministry Guidelines, there will be an opportunity for the public to provide further comments directly to the Board regarding the *Staff Report* and the *School Valuation Report*, on October 5, 2009. If you are interested in presenting your comments at this special board meeting, you may follow the delegation process. Please submit a request for a delegation in writing to the Director of Education no later than 4 p.m. on September 28, 2009. For further information on making a delegation, please contact Mary Fairhead, Coordinator of Trustee Services at 722-3555 ext. 388 or e-mail mfairhead@smcdsb.on.ca.

Following this Board Meeting to receive public input, staff will prepare a follow-up report to the Board, on October 14, 2009, in response to the presentations made by the public. The follow-up report from staff will be released publicly and will be posted on the Board's website at www.smcdsb.on.ca. Look for this report after October 14, 2009.

On June 12, 2009, the Ministry of Education advised the Board that \$12.4 million dollars in capital funding has been allocated to respond to the recommendations and decision coming from this Pupil Accommodation Review.

The Board will make its final decision regarding the schools' accommodation recommendations in consideration of the PAC Report, Staff's Report, Staff's Follow-up Report, public input and Ministry funding announcements. This will happen at a Board meeting on November 25, 2009. The community will be notified of the Board's accommodation decision after that date.

We would like to thank all the parents, students and committee members who provided valuable input throughout this process.

Yours truly,

Darren Schmidt
Superintendent of Schools - Elementary