

where in the world
can you find

a commitment to success?
a focus on quality?

caring people?





try your local
**public
school**



PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Report to the community 2002



Student Photo

Every time I visit a Peel public school, I see amazing things. Each one is a powerful and exciting place to learn and a point of pride for all of Peel.

Successful students. Caring staff. Strong program achievement. Creative learning choices. These factors are not limited to one site—they are common to all of our nearly 200 schools. As I spend time each week in schools, I see first-hand the tremendous effort of staff to help students achieve great things. The result is clear—our students do wondrous things on a daily basis. They are academically strong, and they demonstrate great leadership and care in serving our community. This report to the community provides a glimpse into our schools. So, for those looking for success, quality and caring—look close to home in your own public school.



Jim Grieve
Director of Education

www.peelschools.org



commitment to Success

To us, success is all about making sure each child has opportunities to learn and achieve. How do we do that? Through a wide range of innovative programs designed to meet the needs of individual students. Offering parents and students greater choice within public education. Events designed to give parents the tools they need to help their child learn. Activities that take learning beyond the classroom. A focus on making sure our own staff keep learning. How do we demonstrate our success? Well, provincial and national tests tell part of the story. So do the smiles on the faces of our students.

Peel board increases choice within public schools

This year, the board launched Creative Learning Choices—a project designed to increase the range and variety of choices that exist for parents and students. The board wanted to expand the variety of learning choices within the public school system, to encourage a culture of innovation and to enrich learning experiences for Peel students.



For more information about any of these programs or the process for having a new program approved through Creative Learning Choices, visit www.peelschools.org and look for the Creative Learning Choices icon on the home page or e-mail creative.learning@peelsb.com.

Award-winning learning events give students leadership opportunities

The Peel board hosts two award-winning learning events that give students a leadership role in dealing with significant real-world issues.

In March 2002, more than 250 students, representing 23 member nations, passed the following motion at the seventh annual Student Model United Nations: Be it resolved that all UN member nations provide citizens with access to health care information and services to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Another annual event, Learning about AIDS, featured Sue Johanson, host of the Sunday Night Sex Show. More than 250 students attended the workshop to learn how they can take a leadership role in organizing events at their school during AIDS Awareness Week.

For more information about the Student Model UN or Learning about AIDS, check out the "Student Stuff" section of the Peel board web site www.peelschools.org or call 905-890-1010 (or 1-800-668-1146) ext. 2817.

Internationally recognized Schools Attuned program comes to Peel board

The Peel board has become the first Schools Attuned training site outside the United States. This program is part of the All Kinds of Minds Institute headed by Dr. Mel Levine. It trains teachers, administrators and others who work with children to help students with learning differences.



Known as Canada Schools Attuned, the training program is offered through Success Path—The Learning Destination, an organization affiliated

with the Peel board. Success Path offers exciting, results-oriented professional development. It complements Peel board training and goes beyond to offer more training choices.

For more information, go to the board web site at www.peelschools.org.

The following programs are open to all students in Peel:

- An integrated arts program for middle school students—**QE Arts**, located at Queen Elizabeth Senior Public School, serves students in Mississauga, while **E Arts**, at Earncliffe Sr. Public School, serves Brampton and Caledon.
- **Teaching Tomorrow** is a career education program for high school students. Students attend class in an elementary school, then practice what they are learning in various classes.
- **Caring for the Future** is another career education program that operates in partnership with the William Osler Health Centre. Students attend class at the hospital for the one-semester program to learn about health care careers.
- The **House Building Program** at West Credit Secondary School offers a full-year construction co-op program, with support from business partners, to build a house from the foundation to landscaping.
- **School Online** lets high school students register online for core subjects such as English and math, as well as transfer courses to go through the applied and academic streams.
- The **International Baccalaureate** program, located at Turner Fenton Secondary School, can accommodate up to 100 students. It is part of an international organization with a common secondary curriculum and university entry credential.
- A new **strings** program at Port Credit Secondary School will be open to students across Peel region, beginning Sept. 2003.

It's easy to get information

You can get copies of any of our information materials in the following ways:

- your child's school has copies of most information materials
- visit our web site at www.peelschools.org
- call Communications at 905-890-1099 (or 1-800-668-1146) ext. 2809

Curriculum available

Every Peel school has a complete set of all curriculum in its library for parents and community members. All Peel curriculum is also available at the education centre. Call 905-890-1010 (or 1-800-668-1146) ext. 2583 for library hours.

Peel students count on extra help to boost literacy, numeracy skills



All across Peel, enthusiastic groups of students are spending their free time reading, writing and doing math—and loving it! The new Counting On You

program, offered by the board, provides students with a unique opportunity to improve their literacy and numeracy skills.

The program runs after school, in the evening or on weekends and offers up to 30 hours of remedial help in reading, writing and math. It's intended for students who may need extra support to meet the expectations of the new curriculum.

Funded by a grant from the Ministry of Education, Counting on You is offered at no cost to students. Students, parents and teachers have welcomed the program, because it helps prepare students for the provincially mandated grade 9 math test and the grade 10 literacy test. It also helps fill some of the learning gaps that have developed during the transition to the new curriculum.

In the summer, the board offered two summer camps:

- Camp I Can, a four-week camp for students going into grade 8. Students improved literacy and numeracy skills by exploring the outdoors and participating in sports and other team building activities.
- Math-e-motion, a five-day camp for students in grades 6 to 8. Students participated in math investigations of their own design. Focused on inquiry learning, students increased their understanding of the relationship between math and the real world.

For more information about Counting on You, call the Program Services department at 905-890-1010 (or 1-800-668-1146) ext. 2538. For more information about math-e-motion, go to www.math-e-motion.com.

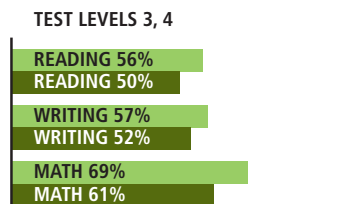
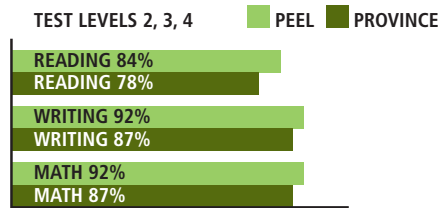
Peel students perform well on provincial, national tests

Each year, the provincial Education Quality and Accountability Office conducts tests of students in grades 3, 6, 9 and 10. And each year, Peel students scored at or above the provincial average on all test areas.

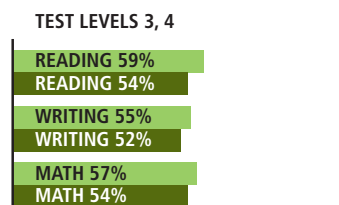
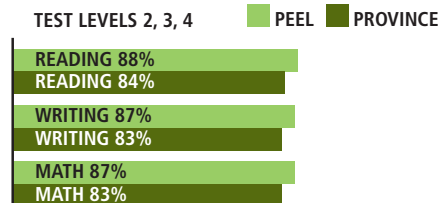
For the tests in grades 3, 6 and 9, EQAO rates student performance on a four-level scale, the same scale used in the Ontario curriculum. Level 1 is below standard and level 4 is above standard. Level 3 is the provincial standard—a score of level 3 means the student works independently, understands most of the required concepts and completes work with only a few minor errors or omissions. Level 2 work, which equates to a grade level of C, is approaching the provincial standard. Generally, level 2 achievement means the student has learned some of what is expected—and still has some more to learn.

These assessments are not standardized tests—they are tests of the provincial curriculum students are learning. Unlike a standardized test, a student's performance is not compared to that of other students—instead, students are scored on how well they perform the required skills expected in the grade and subject.

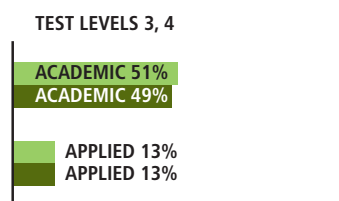
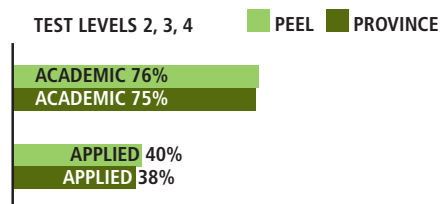
Overall, this is how grade 3 students performed during the 2000-01 testing:



Overall, this is how grade 6 students performed:



Overall, this is how grade 9 students performed:



Literacy test results show improvement

The results of the grade 10 literacy test showed significant improvement in student achievement over the previous year:

- 71 per cent of all grade 10 students passed the test in 2001-02, compared with 62 per cent the previous school year. This is two per cent higher than the provincial average of 69 per cent.

Students must pass the literacy test to receive their high school diploma.

The literacy test is not a standardized test, and it is not a test of basic literacy skills. Students pass or fail the test based on a standard set by EQAO. The requirement to pass this test is much higher than the normal pass mark in school.

Standardized tests show Peel students perform well on basic skills

The Peel board also conducts an annual standardized testing program. All grade 4 students are tested on the Canadian Achievement Test. This test measures students' basic skills in reading, spelling and math, and provides a picture of how Peel students compare to others across Canada. Peel students performed at or above the national average on all parts of the test. These scores are consistent with results over the past five years.

Results of the standardized testing program are expressed in percentiles. For example, the 60th percentile means that the student scored higher than 60 per cent of other students. A percentile score is not the same as percentage of correct answers. Here is how Peel students scored:

- 65th percentile in math concepts and applications, 59th percentile in math overall and 51st percentile in math computations
- 62nd percentile in spelling
- 59th percentile in overall reading, 56th in reading comprehension and 54th in vocabulary

The Peel board web site has extensive information about provincial test results—including results for each school. Go to www.peelschools.org and click on "EQAO Test Results." For the complete results of the standardized testing program, call Research and Evaluation at the Peel board, 905-890-1010 (or 1-800-668-1146) ext. 2610.

a focus on quality

Where do you find quality in public schools? In the awards our students and staff receive. In our balanced budget, despite a shortfall in provincial funding. In the completion of seven new schools this year. In successfully attracting 1,500 new teachers to work in Peel. In ISO certification for our custodial department.

Custodial services earns ISO registration

Peel custodial staff prepare more than 200 buildings to receive more than 130,000 students and 11,000 staff every school day. Over the years, the custodial services department has continually improved its standards to meet the needs of staff, students and the public. The board's next step was to embark on a new Quality Management System, which focuses on customer service to provide a clean and safe environment. Applying to be registered to ISO has confirmed the board's commitment to quality service. The International Organization for Standardization is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies. The board recently reached its goal by becoming the first school board in Canada whose custodial department has received ISO registration. The board's maintenance department is also ISO certified.

Top scholars head the class of 2002

Hoawei (Linda) Sun, a graduate of Glenforest Secondary School in Mississauga, was the Peel board's top scholar, with a 99 per cent average on her top six OAC courses. The board had 1,687 scholars—20 per cent more than the previous year.

Suzana Sales de Andrade, student at Turner Fenton Secondary School in Brampton, was one of only 35 students worldwide to receive a perfect score in the International Baccalaureate program. Brampton's top Ontario scholar, Yolanda Li, also graduated from Turner Fenton, with an average of 98.2 per cent.

Caledon's top Ontario scholar, Naomi Lutes, graduated from Mayfield Secondary School with an average of 95.7 per cent.

Peel board successfully attracts 1,500 new teachers

The Peel board hired 1,433 new teachers for the 2002-03 school year and more than 1,700 new teachers in 2001-02. A highly successful recruitment campaign—



Working Together—addressed the need to keep up with the increase in student enrolment and to replace those teachers who have retired.

The demand remains constant at the elementary and secondary levels especially for those occasional teachers with

additional qualifications, such as French, special education and technology. As one of the largest employers in Peel, the board also hires thousands of other staff each year.

For more information about how to apply for a job, go to www.peelschools.org and check out the "Work in Peel" section. The board also provides information on its hiring hotline 905-890-1010 (or 1-800-668-1146) ext. 2457 (teaching jobs) or ext. 3052 (business positions).

New schools open to meet unprecedented growth

Enrolment grew in Peel by about 4.4 per cent—or 6,000 students—in each of the last two years. That makes Peel one of the fastest-growing regions—compared to enrolment growth of only 0.4 per cent across the province.

The Peel board opened seven new schools in the 2001-02 school year—Allan Drive Middle, Bristol Road Middle, Cooksville Creek, Homestead, Larkspur, Levi Creek and Sherwood Mills. Another eight have opened in 2002-03—Burnt Elm, Churchill Meadows, David Leeder Middle, Derry West Village, Osprey Woods, Treeline, Whitehorn and Worthington.

Peel board balances budget, despite \$12.5 million in funding risks

The Peel board expenditure budget for 2002-03 is \$765 million, with a capital budget of \$55.2 million. The funding per student is about \$6,100. The budget was approved subject to two key risk areas where the board anticipates revenue from the Ministry of Education:

- The transportation grant is \$5 million less than expected costs. The Peel board buses about 33,500 students and receives \$178 per student per year from the funding formula to cover busing costs. Other boards receive significantly more per capita funding for transportation—for example, \$269 in York region and \$312 in Ottawa Carleton.
- Staff salaries and benefits will exceed Ministry of Education funding by \$5 to \$7.5 million, and there is no provision in the funding formula for salary increases.

The Peel board has also expressed concern about the cost of the special education audit process. In 2001-02, staff time to perform the required Ministry of Education audit process cost about \$2.8 million. Since 1998, the cost is \$4.3 million. Despite this added administrative burden, the Peel board continues to provide direct service to more than 13,500 special education students.

For more information about the Peel board budget, go to www.peelschools.org or contact your trustee.

Peel board improvement goals support student success

The Peel board has six main goals for the 2002-03 school year:

- encourage positive board/staff and school/community relationships
- set high expectations for achievement of students and staff, and measure the outcomes
- achieve equity for students and staff
- ensure students and staff have safe and appropriate places to learn and work
- use technology effectively with students and staff
- attract and retain a diverse staff of committed, dedicated and caring people



For a complete copy of the Peel board's goals and priorities for 2002-03, visit our web site at www.peelschools.org and go to "Get the Facts," or call Communications at 905-890-1010 (or 1-800-668-1146) ext. 2809.

Celebrations and special events honour the achievements of students and staff

Recognition for the outstanding achievements of students, staff and other members of the education community included the following:

- The board recognized 37 individuals with Awards of Excellence during Education Week for their outstanding contributions to public education in Peel. More than 240 individuals were honoured by schools and worksites with Awards of Distinction. Harold Brathwaite, retiring director of education, was the first recipient of the new Education Champion Award.
- Every year during Volunteer Appreciation Week, the board recognizes more than 100 community volunteers who have served Peel schools and the board for 10 or more years.
- Every June, the board recognizes the achievements of more than 100 students and teachers who won awards in national and provincial athletic, academic and music competitions.
- The Peel board received 41 national and international awards for communication excellence—including a national award from the International Association of Business Communicators for the board web site and an international APEX award for Sept. 11 communication.

The job of our schools is not only to teach the academic “basics,” but to help students become productive, caring members of society. We think about caring the same way we think about math, language or science—it’s impossible to imagine a school—or a school board—without it. We demonstrate that caring in many ways. By responding to the tragedy of September 11. By initiating programs aimed to improve acceptance of diversity and wellness. By supporting parents and the community.



caring people

Peel board offers tips to parents to support children dealing with the tragedy of Sept. 11

As the tragedy unfolded on Sept. 11, 2001, it was clear that Peel board staff, students and parents needed support. The Peel board provided that support in a number of ways:

- letters for all parents of Peel students, providing advice about how to help students and offering support to parents
- guidelines for teachers about how to deal with the issue in the classroom—including a teaching guide for using the learning program to help students cope with the tragedy
- guidelines for promoting racial tolerance



Through a campaign called “Helping our Neighbours,” Peel students and staff raised more than \$70,000 to assist victims of the tragedy. The board received hundreds of letters, expressing appreciation for its caring response to the tragedy.

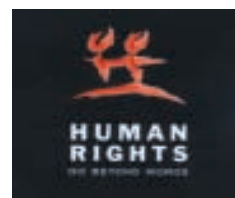
Similar support was provided by the board to schools and families on the first anniversary of Sept. 11. For more information or samples of the material, call Communications at 905-890-1010 (or 1-800-668-1147) ext. 2809.

Students take the lead as involved community citizens

Students are learning that they can make a difference and make their community a better place. Here are a few examples:

- Peel students raised more than \$180,000 for cancer research through Terry Fox runs, \$500,000 for Unicef and a half million dollars for Jump Rope for Heart.
- Staff and students raised more than \$250,000 for United Way in Peel.
- Victims of the earthquake in India benefited from a campaign by board students and staff that raised \$90,000.
- All high school students must complete 40 hours of volunteer service to graduate. For more information or to post a volunteer job on the Peel board web site, visit www.peelschools.org, go to “Student Staff” and click on the “Your Time Counts” icon.

Campaigns focus on human rights and equity



A new comprehensive campaign on human rights, entitled Go Beyond Words, aims to help people know their rights and fulfill their responsibilities under the board’s Human

Rights policy. By learning more about human rights, staff, students and the community can go beyond words to help achieve the board goal to create equity. The campaign includes a poster, brochure and web site—www.GoBeyondWords.org.

The launch of a new video was only one of the activities this year to support The Future We Want. The video reinforces the board’s commitment to creating a culture of respect and acceptance for each person and explains the seven “ism’s”—ableism, ageism, classism, faith as an “ism,” heterosexism, racism, sexism. For more information about The Future We Want, contact School Services, 905-890-1010 (or 1-800-668-1146) ext. 2640 or go to www.TheFutureWeWant.org.



Facts at a glance

Total number of schools	199
elementary	171
secondary	28
Total number of students	131,000
elementary	91,200
secondary	39,800
Number of portables	585
Number of Community Education learners	800,000
Total number of staff	11,200
academic	8,200
business and support	3,000

Students in French programs	56,000
Students served through special education	13,500
Students in English as a second language/ English literacy development programs	14,300
Students traveling to school by bus	34,500
Permits issued for community use of school facilities	5,000

Board launches wellness initiative



Take One Step is a new board-wide wellness initiative. During the last year, the importance of staff health and wellness has been a focus throughout the organization. The

Peel board recognizes that promoting good health among our staff contributes directly to the success of our students. A new web site—www.takeonestep.org—gives staff and the public information about wellness at work and in their personal lives.

Peel board of trustees strong, local leadership

The Peel board, like every public school board in Ontario, is governed by a board of trustees. They are responsible for determining policies and maintaining standards of excellence in education for Peel Region. They are elected by public school taxpayers every three years during municipal elections and are directly accountable to the community.

Visit the Peel board web site at www.peelschools.org and check out the "Meet your trustee" section to:

- find out who your trustee is
- contact your trustee
- learn more about the role of the trustee
- find out about recent decisions of the board of trustees
- subscribe to receive the agenda and meeting highlights electronically

We welcome your comments

This annual report is produced by the Communications department, Peel District School Board. To receive additional copies, for more information about anything in this report, or to comment, visit our web site at www.peelschools.org or call 905-890-1010 (or 1-800-668-1146) ext. 2809. This report is printed on acid-free paper, 50% recycled, 20% post-consumer. Printing cost of each report is about 30¢.

Peel board names Jim Grieve as new director of education



The Peel board appointed Jim Grieve as the new director of education. The former director of education at the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board joined the Peel board in August 2002, succeeding retiring director Harold Brathwaite.

Grieve's appointment marked a return to Peel—he began his 30-year teaching career at Agnes Taylor Public School in Brampton. He then moved to the North York Board of Education working as a teacher, vice-principal and principal. Grieve became a superintendent in the North York Board of Education. In 1998 he was appointed director of the Ottawa-Carleton board, the seventh largest school district in Ontario with over 79,000 students in 147 schools.

Jim Grieve's bio is online at www.peelschools.org and go to "Its all about learning" in the "Get the Facts" section.



Janet McDougald, Chair
Mississauga Wards 1 & 7
905-278-1402



Ruth Thompson, Vice Chair
Mississauga Wards 3 & 4
905-625-1457



Valerie Arnold-Judge
Caledon
905-838-2125



Beryl Ford
Brampton Wards 7/8/9
905-793-0800



Dian Gray
Brampton Wards 2/10/11
905-846-3550



Steve Kavanagh
Brampton Wards 4/5/6
905-459-1446



Sue McFadden
Mississauga Ward 9
905-821-9889



Sandy Ransom
Mississauga Ward 8
905-823-4184



Rick Williams
Mississauga Ward 5
905-814-6180



Omar Soliman
(TL Kennedy S.S.)
Student Trustee
905-279-6540
Schools south of highway 401



Randy Barnett
Brampton Wards 1 & 3
905-453-2539



Ashleigh Egerton
(Bramalea S.S.)
Student Trustee
905-793-2400
Schools north of highway 401