

In a time of unprecedented change to public education, we know that one thing remains unchanged—**power of one**. The power of one school, one teacher, one mentor, one caring adult to make a difference in the life of

the power of one

one child. We know the future is still built one child at a time. And we know the factors that help children to have a brighter future remain unchanged—a nurturing relationship with their teacher and other caring adults at the school. This is the basis for student success.

Report to the community 1999

The power of information

New Peel board web site a valuable learning resource for parents, students

The Peel District School Board's new web site is a hit—and an award-winner. The site—www.peel.edu.on.ca—helps students and their parents explore learning opportunities year-round. The site increases public access to information and reduces printing and distribution costs.

About 1,000 new visitors come to the site each week. The site has more than 400 pages of information. Here are some ways to use the site:

- Check out the "Student Stuff" section for learning links on math, science, English and other cool sites.

Subscribe

It's fast, easy and free. Go to the Peel board web site at www.peel.edu.on.ca and look for the "subscribe" icon on the home page and throughout the site.

Here's a preview of what you can receive electronically:

- plan activities you can do with your child every day with our electronic parent/child activity calendar—these are sent to you monthly, and have activities for preschool, elementary, middle and high school age groups
- get the news before you read about it in the paper by receiving Peel board news releases
- receive the agenda for upcoming board meetings
- keep up-to-date on decisions of the board of trustees with Briefing, a newsletter that is sent out the day following any board meeting



- Visit the "Meet your Trustee" section for information on your local trustee, board highlights and board meeting schedules.
- Get more Peel board information by filling out the "Send Me More" form. Available items include the board's annual report, Nurture your child's intelligence brochure and Directions, a book of maps for all Peel schools.

Within its first six months, the Peel board web site received several national and international awards.

Job seekers find Peel 'a great place to work and learn' via the web

Following a highly successful recruitment campaign, the Peel board hired 435 full-time teachers and about 300 occasional elementary and secondary teachers for the 1999-2000 school year. To make the hiring process accessible and fair to as many people as possible, the Peel board only accepts applications for teaching positions through its internet hiring site.

The Peel board is encouraging teachers and other job seekers to learn more about joining the board's progressive learning team by checking out the "Work in Peel" section of the board's web site. "Work in Peel" is one of the most frequently visited areas of the site.

The Peel board is the largest employer in Peel region — with 9,000 permanent staff and thousands of part-time and casual employees.

EIC review is great news for Peel board

The Education Improvement Commission, an independent government organization, evaluated the Peel board in July 1999, as part of its review of all 72 boards in Ontario to identify how well they are responding to the challenges of restructuring.

The EIC review team specifies 12 areas of highly effective practices that other boards can learn from Peel:

- regular internal audits
- use of purchasing cards
- construction of the Westervelts Corners joint-use facility
- outstanding communication practices, including the use of communication plans, strategies to share ministry announcements and information with schools and the community, and evaluation of communication efforts
- establishment of community partnerships
- use of EQAO and board assessments as a catalyst for system-wide improvement in student learning
- development of a pro-active approach to preparing for province-wide grade 10 tests
- commitment to helping staff adjust to change
- support for student trustees
- development of action plans for system and system-wide success.

The complete EIC report is available on the board's web site at www.peel.edu.on.ca or by calling Communication Services at (905)890-1010/1-800-668-1146, ext. 2809.

Test data gives **valuable information** to help improve student learning

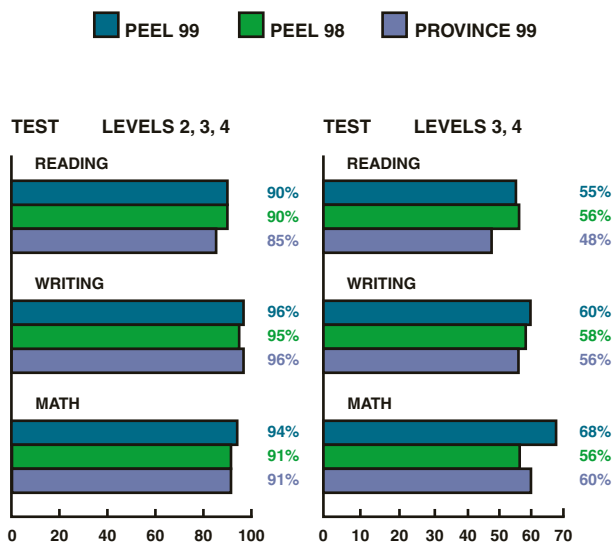
At the Peel board, we believe that a rigorous, comprehensive program of measuring student progress gives us the information we need to help improve student achievement. That means everything from classroom quizzes and assignments to provincial assessments and standardized tests.

90% of Peel students perform well on grade 3 and 6 tests

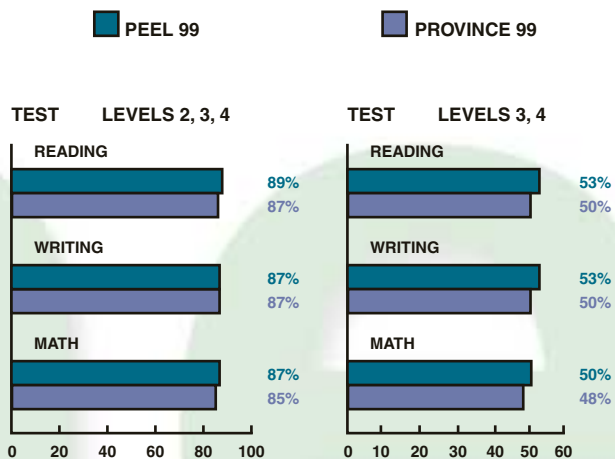
About 90 per cent of Peel grade 3 and grade 6 students performed well on the provincial tests of reading, writing and math. The provincial Education Quality and Accountability Office conducted the tests in May.

Student work on the EQAO tests was scored on a four-level scale that is linked to the new provincial 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 is approaching the provincial standard and is also acceptable performance. In general what level 2 achievement means is that the student has learned some of what is expected—and still has some more to learn.

Overall, this is how GRADE 3 students performed:



Overall, this is how GRADE 6 students performed:



In both grades, about 15 per cent of students receive special education. As well, about one-quarter of students speak a language other than English at home.

Teachers will be working with all students to help them improve, but there will be a special focus to help students who scored at level 1 on any area of the test. It's important to give those students extra support in these early grades to help make sure they are successful in school.

More information about the grade 3 and 6 tests is available on the Peel board web site at www.peel.edu.on.ca. Look for the icon "EQAO test results" on the home page. The results are also available on FaxBack, (905)890-1010, document number 28030, or by calling Communication Services at (905)890-1010, ext. 2809.

The power of ideas

At the Peel board, we believe in the power of ideas. If we have innovative ideas—about how to create better partnerships between schools and the community, about how to reduce portables and build better schools, about how to give adults more learning opportunities—we know we can transform those ideas into reality.

Partnerships improve student learning

Tapping into the wealth of resources in the community that can help students is not a new idea, but one we keep expanding in the Peel board. Here are only a few of the innovative new partnerships initiated in the last year:

- Byngmount Beach Public School was the first Canadian school to benefit from the "Oracle Promise" program, with a \$70,000 donation of technology and training from Oracle Corporation Canada.
- Through a partnership with Mattamy Homes, students earn high school credits while constructing a home with guidance from professionals in a broad spectrum of trades.

- The Peel board approved a six-month pilot to test Youth News Network, a daily news and current affairs program, at one secondary school. The board will assess the program to determine if the program will continue after the pilot phase.

- A new partnership between Clark Boulevard Public School and Nortel Networks will support the breakfast program, literacy initiatives and provide technology expertise.

When schools and the community work together, everyone benefits. For information on becoming a partner, visit the Peel board web site at www.peel.edu.on.ca and check out the "Be a Partner" section, or call your local school or Mark Brickell, (905)949-0049, ext. 2283.

Innovative strategies eliminate portables, create thousands of new student spaces

In 1998-99, the Peel board opened four new schools—Barondale, Fallingbrook, Lisgar and Thomas Street Middle schools. The board opened another four new schools for September 1999—Britannia, Fernforest, Rick Hansen Secondary and Westervelts Corners. Another four schools are in the planning stages to open in the 2000-2001 school year.

A first for the Peel board is the opening of a joint school site with the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. Westervelts Corners Public School is located in a shared facility with St. Cecilia Elementary School. With a total school population of about 820 students for the first year, each school has its own staff and classrooms, but the gyms, library and staff room are common areas.

Rick Hansen Secondary School is also unique in its barrier-free design. In consultation with the Rick Hansen Institute, the school's architects designed a high school whose building, furnishings and services are barrier free.

Another accommodation achievement is the fact that the board's portable inventory has fallen from over 780 to 455. That means there are 8,100 fewer students in portables this year—the equivalent of about 14 schools—despite enrolment growth. The board plans to eliminate another 80 portables during the 1999-2000 school year. It is also pilot testing a new concrete portable design, which would be resistant to mould.

The Peel board now has more than 52 construction or renovation projects underway to provide about 10,000 new student spaces at a cost of \$45.5 million—not including portable repairs.

Parents and community members can keep up-to-date about the schedule for new school construction and specific progress of renovations or additions at their school by checking out the board's web site at www.peel.edu.on.ca and looking for "accommodation update" on the home page.

Parents have their say

About 17,000 parents were asked whether they think Peel schools exhibit the following characteristics of effective schools:

% of parents who agreed	
clean, inviting, safe physical environment	90
student recognition	86
teachers' planning and development	85
assessment of student progress	83
instructional leadership of principal	83
positive student behaviour	82
parent and community involvement	81

'Funding formula' budget a challenge to maintaining quality public education

Peel board trustees approved an operating budget for 1999-2000 equal to the 1998 operating budget—despite the addition of 2,500 new students. This is the second budget set by the board under the province's funding formula for education. The formula continues to cause reductions across the system—including classroom areas. The full budget is \$653.4 million including debentures and school renewal.

The government's funding formula really means less per capita funding for Peel children, in light of increased enrolment. The funding formula provided \$6,196 per student in 98-99, but only provides \$6,020 next year for operating costs. "The impact is simple—when we have the same amount of money, but more students, that means less money, and service, per student," says Janet McDougald, chair of the board.

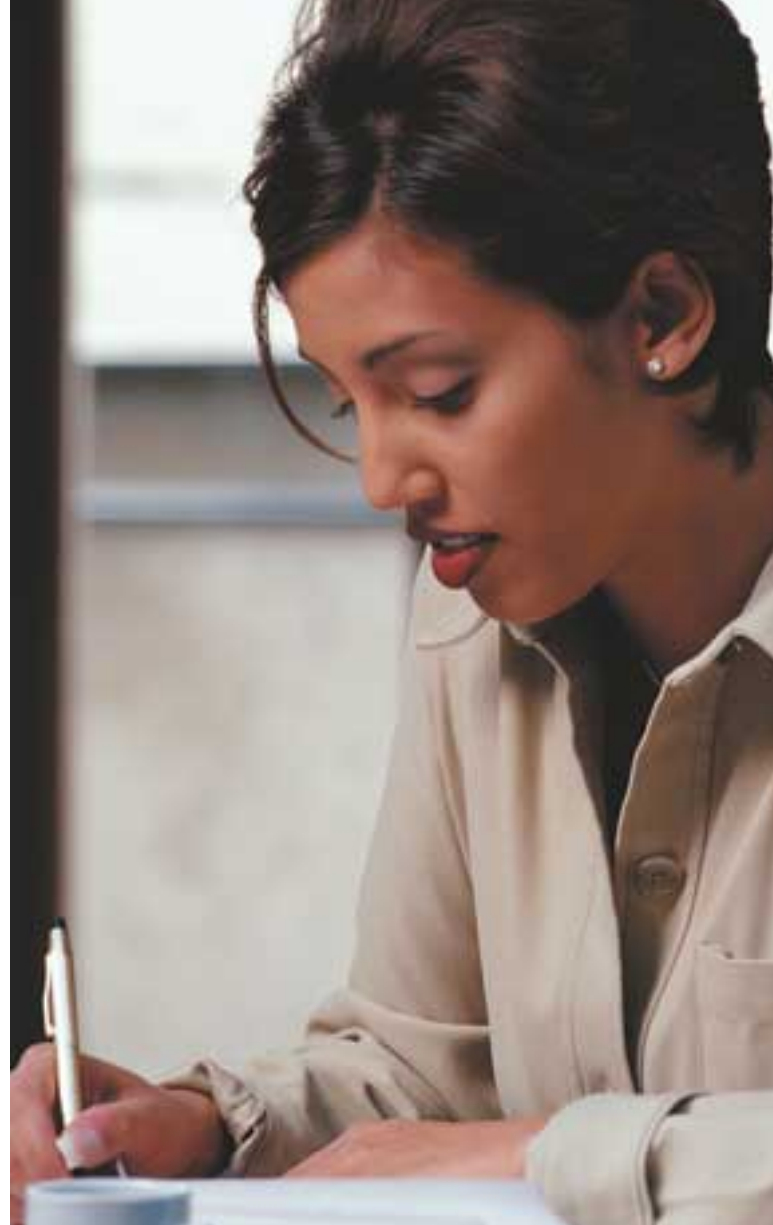
Areas of reduction include family studies, design and technology, library and guidance. There are fewer resource teachers, social workers, psychologists and language-speech pathologists to serve more students. The board moved \$9.8 million from non-classroom to classroom funding—spending more in the classroom and less on administration than the ministry formula calls for.

The board—and the community agencies represented by the Special Education Advisory Committee—have also expressed specific concerns about the fact that the funding formula has not provided additional funds for enrolment growth of students who require special education. The new funding formula has also added more than 400 work weeks of administrative work to access required funding for high need students.

76-year-old scholar proves it's never too late to learn

At 76 years old, Rose Sproul proved it's never too late to learn by going back to school to earn her high school diploma.

Rose Sproul is just one of 300,000 adult learners served each year by the Peel board's Centre for Education and Training. An entrepreneurial, not-for-profit corporation, CET operates with its own board of directors at no cost to Peel taxpayers. It offers hundreds of programs, from completing a high school diploma and computer courses to assisting youth in finding jobs. For information, go to www.tcet.com or call (905)949-0049.



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.peel.edu.on.ca
- information is available through our FaxBack service, (905)890-1010, then press 1 for a listing of documents available
- call Communication Services at (905)890-1099/1-800-668-1146, ext. 2809

The power of **car**ing

The job of 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 without it.

Celebrating individual and collective achievements of students and staff

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

- Ian Carruthers, OAC student at Mayfield Secondary School, was the top scholar in the Peel board for 1998-99, with an average of 99 per cent on his top six OAC courses. He was one of 1,255 Ontario scholars in Peel this year.
- Lauren Cummings, a grade 12 student at Port Credit Secondary School, placed in the top 10 of the Canadian Space Agency's national Senior Student Challenge.

- The board recognized 34 individuals with Awards of Excellence during Education Week for their outstanding contributions to public education in Peel.

- The board honoured 85 community representatives and parent volunteers who have served Peel schools and the board for as much as 20 years.

- In June, the board recognized the achievements of more than 100 students and teachers who won awards in national and provincial athletic, academic and music competitions during 1998-99.

- The Communication Services department received 18 national and international awards for communication excellence.

Students take the lead as good 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 over \$75,000 for cancer research through Terry Fox runs.
- Students read 19,000 books to raise more than \$48,000 through the MS Read-A-Thon.
- Peel staff and students raised more than \$200,000 for United Way in Peel.
- Imran Nagdee, a 10-year-old student at Brookmeade Public School, started a campaign that resulted in dozens of schools collecting donations, clothing and personal items to support the Kosovo relief effort.

Students support landmine ban

Two hundred high school students expressed their concern for global issues by participating in the Peel board's fourth annual Student Model United Nations, debating the ban of antipersonnel landmines. Although 135 countries have signed the Canadian-sponsored treaty on the prohibition of anti-personnel landmines, a stronger message from the international community must be sent to governments that have not accepted the treaty. That's what the students decided after a day-long debate on how the UN can continue to provide international peace and security by banning landmine use.

The fifth annual model UN will be held March 3, 2000. For more information, check out the "Student Stuff" section of the Peel board web site (www.peel.edu.on.ca) or call (905)890-1010, ext. 2817.

Facts at a glance

Total number of schools elementary	184
secondary	155
Total number of students elementary	106,247
secondary	71,693
Number of portables	455
Number of Community Education learners	300,000
Total number of staff academic	9,000
business and support	6,600
Students in French programs	2,400
Students served through special education	41,000
Students in English as a second language/English skills development programs	13,000
Students traveling to school by bus	9,700
Permits issued for community use of school facilities	28,000
	5,400

"If you do one thing in 2000, do something to make a difference in the life of a child"



Imagine a public policy that reduces poverty and crime, unifies people from different racial and class backgrounds—and even lifts the spirits of millions and

millions of people at almost no cost. Such a policy is so obvious, we overlook it—the involvement of adults with children as mentors.

I'm on a crusade for this cause—it's a very personal project. The goal—to have every adult in Peel somehow be involved with children in a meaningful way in the year 2000. That could be mentoring, or reading, or coaching—it doesn't matter.

You may feel you don't have much to contribute. Well, do you have an hour a week? You could be a mentor to an elementary student who needs extra encouragement. Do you enjoy reading? Do you have a special talent or hobby? Your local school can help you share those with children.

Unlock the power you have to influence the future—resolve to make a difference in the life of a child this year.

*Harold Brathwaite
Director of Education*



Peel board focuses on seven improvement goals

The Peel board has seven main goals for the 1999-2000 school year:

- set high expectations for achievement for students and staff
- improve the safety of schools
- achieve equity for students and staff
- enhance relationships between the board and its staff
- expand positive relationships with the community
- deliver quality service in a cost effective way
- meet the accommodation needs of our growing student population

For a complete copy of the Peel board's goals and priorities for 1999-2000, visit our web site at www.peel.edu.on.ca and go to "Get the Facts," request it from our FaxBack service (905)890-1010, document number 28009, or call Communication Services (905)890-1099/1-800-668-1146, ext. 2809.

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.peel.edu.on.ca and check out the "Meet your Trustee" section to:

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



Douglas Murray
Brampton
Wards 2,6,10,11
874-6806



Elaine Moore
Brampton
Wards 1, 3
457-8934



Sandy Ransom
Mississauga Ward 8
823-4184



Rick Williams
Mississauga Ward 5
814-6180



Janet McDougald
Chair
Mississauga
Ward 1, 7
278-1402



Ruth Thompson
Vice-Chair
Mississauga
Ward 3, 4
625-1457



Valerie Arnold-Judge
Caledon
1-905-838-2125



George Carlson
Mississauga Ward 6
858-5818



Amanda Loughlin
Mississauga Ward 9
812-5593



Steve Kavanagh
Brampton
Wards 4, 5
459-1446



Marisa Ghafoor
(Brampton
Centennial S.S.)
Student Trustee
905-451-2860
Schools north of
highway 401



Beryl Ford
Brampton
Wards 7, 8, 9
793-0800



Wendy Davies
Mississauga Ward 2
822-1368



Jessica Clark
(Cawthra Park S.S.)
Student Trustee
905-274-1271
Schools south of
highway 401

WORKING TOGETHER

The Peel District School Board and the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board have developed many cost saving projects over the past five years. These two publicly funded school boards have saved millions of tax dollars each year by making efficient use of public resources. Both boards have worked together to benefit students while maintaining their unique character. For more information, look for "Working Together" in the "Meet your Trustee" section of the Peel board web site (www.peel.edu.on.ca).

WE WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS

This annual report is produced by Communication Services, 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.peel.edu.on.ca or call (905)890-1099/1-800-668-1146, ext. 2818. This report is printed on acid-free paper, 50% recycled, 20% post-consumer. Printing cost of each report is 36 cents.