

WE WELCOME

the world

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2006



Director of Education Jim Grieve shares a story with Aloma Crescent Public School students during one of his weekly school visits

The *real* reason we have the privilege to welcome the world

Each year, the Peel District School Board grows by about 4,000 new students. With that growth come not only new schools, but also a tremendous sense of optimism and excitement about the future. Each day, from around the corner and around the globe, we welcome the world to Peel schools.

It's an honour to be chosen as the place for children to learn—to have our schools seen as centres of learning and caring by so many. In fact, it is an absolute privilege to serve all of the students in our schools.

In this report you'll see many examples of that service—and the successes we experience as a school system. But what you can't see in the pages of any document is the real secret behind our growth.

What is most astounding is not the tens of thousands of students we serve in almost 230 schools. That is not my vision of success in Peel. Instead, each week when I go to visit schools—the absolute favourite part of my job—I see first hand a world of achievement in the dedication of staff and the faces of our students.

The real magic in welcoming the world is not about the numbers—it is defined instead by the unique, powerful and—frankly—astounding relationship between student and teacher that is at the heart of everything we do. I'm amazed daily by the tremendous commitment and accomplishments of our staff at every site, in every role, as they support student success. They are the reason parents choose to send their children to our schools—they are the secret to our success.

I hope in this report, or on the new www.peelschools.org—now with content in 25 languages—you can get a glimpse of this achievement in action as we welcome the world to Peel schools.



Jim Grieve
Director of Education



Salwa Al Saman
Stephen Lewis Secondary School



WE WELCOME

diversity



Peel board reaches out to community and the world with websites in 25 languages

Parents and others with a first language that is not English are now able to get information they need to register for school, understand the Ontario school system and help their child with reading and writing—thanks to 25 new websites—each in one of the major languages of the Peel region. Located at www.peelschools.org, these websites are the most extensive website effort in North America that reaches out to communities in other languages.

The sites include about a quarter million translated words on almost 1,000 website pages. The content reflects some of the most requested information by parents, schools and community agencies. Sites (listed in order of students who speak the language at home) include:

www.peelschools.org/punjabi
www.peelschools.org/urdu
www.peelschools.org/tamil
www.peelschools.org/hindi
www.peelschools.org/chinese-s
www.peelschools.org/chinese-t
www.peelschools.org/arabic
www.peelschools.org/vietnamese
www.peelschools.org/gujarati
www.peelschools.org/spanish
www.peelschools.org/korean
www.peelschools.org/farsi
www.peelschools.org/bengali
www.peelschools.org/tagalog
www.peelschools.org/serbian
www.peelschools.org/russian
www.peelschools.org/polish
www.peelschools.org/portuguese
www.peelschools.org/albanian
www.peelschools.org/croatian
www.peelschools.org/malayalam
www.peelschools.org/telugu
www.peelschools.org/greek
www.peelschools.org/somali
www.peelschools.org/singhalese

In addition to reaching the language sites with a distinct address, visitors on the Peel board's home page can also click on the word "welcome", in their own language, and they will be taken to the appropriate pages.

"Faith Forward" for students

Understanding and embracing the wide diversity of faiths and cultures represented by Peel board students and staff is the vision of Faith Forward, a Peel board program that includes:

- *Holy Days and Holidays* calendar with important dates in 11 world religions throughout the school year
- monthly Celebrating Faith and Culture backgrounder with information about each religious and cultural celebration observed in the Peel community and throughout the world
- *Reflections on World Religions* guide to provide teachers and students with background information about the origins, scriptures and main beliefs of all major world religions
- consultation with the faith communities in Peel to create stronger partnerships
- training programs to help create sensitivity and awareness of the varying needs of students and staff from all faith backgrounds

For more information about Faith Forward, contact the community liaison coordinator at 905-890-1010 (or 1-800-668-1146) ext. 2573.



WE WELCOME

achievement

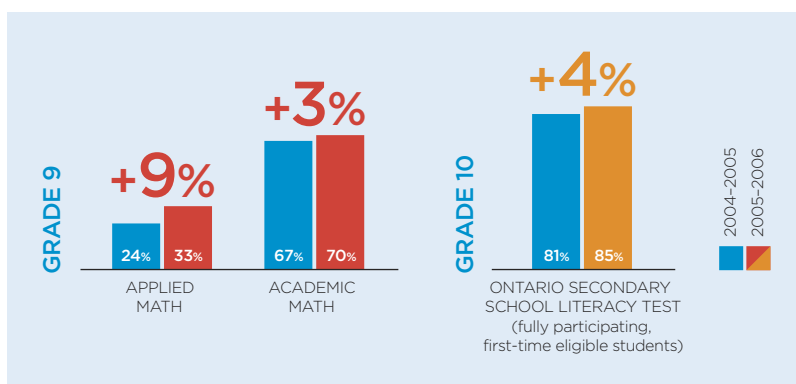
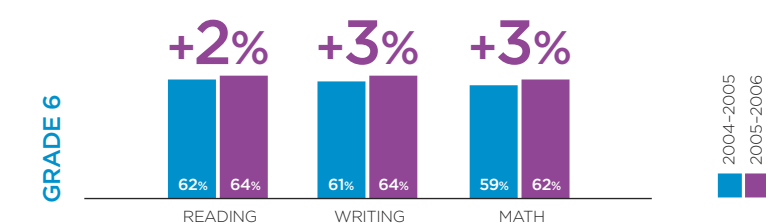
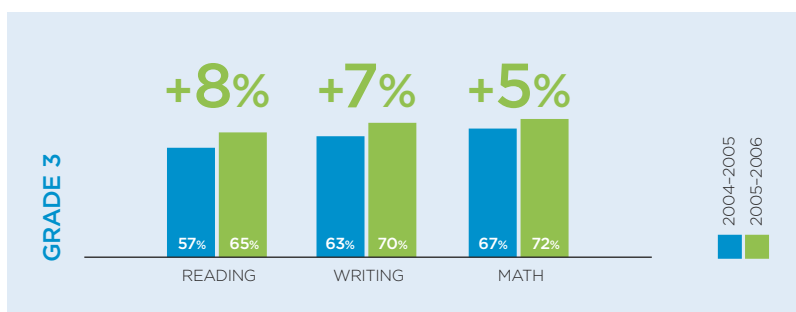


Innovative strategies credited with improvement of provincial tests

Each year, the provincial Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) conducts tests of students in grades 3, 6, 9 and 10. In 2006, Peel students' scores jumped by as much as eight per cent. 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.

Our success can be attributed to staff embracing the innovative transformational teaching practices that we developed to help students strengthen their literacy and numeracy skills.

First, we gathered teaching strategies at schools that were making the biggest difference in boosting student achievement. Next, these [transformational practices](#) were packaged in a way that all schools could easily implement. All teachers were trained on-site at their schools about how to use the practices consistently and effectively. It's clear this approach has made a significant impact on EQAO scores.



The Peel board website 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 standardization testing program, call the Assessment and Accountability department, 905-890-1010 (or 1-800-668-1146) ext. 2610.

Peel board recognizes “Stellar” students

In June 2006, the Peel board held the second annual Stellar awards to honour more than 2,000 students who received individual or group awards in academic, arts or athletic competitions during the 2005-06 school year. The board celebrated the achievements of students who received recognition at the provincial, national or international level.

“Showcase” honours excellence at Peel board

As part of the board's annual Education Week celebrations, the board recognized 34 individuals with Awards of Excellence for their exemplary contributions to public education in Peel. Recipients included teachers, custodians, secretaries, teaching assistants, administrators, students, parents, volunteers and community members.

The board also recognized Joan Hamilton, principal of Roberta Bondar Public School, with an Education Champion Award for her significant and lasting contribution to public education beyond Peel's borders. Hamilton was recognized for her contributions to the advancement of the balanced calendar school year in Ontario.

During Education Week, virtually all Peel schools hold events and activities to showcase the best public education has to offer.

Peel board logo wins national, international awards

In 2005, the Peel board changed its logo for the first time in the 36 years since the organization was formed in 1969. The logo—the board's public signature—“tells the story” of a student-focussed, progressive and diverse school system.

In 2006, the logo—already a part of the day-to-day life of students, staff and the community—was honoured by a number of outside organizations. The logo rollout received the *PRNews* Crystal Award in the category of employee communications.

The logo itself was also recognized with an International Association of Business Communicators 2006 Silver Leaf Award for marketing communications, the Canadian Association of Communicators in Education Bravo Award of Excellence, a North American APEX Grand Award, a National Post Design Exchange Award of Honourable Mention and a National School Public Relations Award of Distinction.

The logo design process was led by a representative Picture the Future Committee, in consultation with hundreds of staff, students and community members. It was created by leading design firm Hambly and Woolley Inc. For more information, visit www.peelschools.org.





WE WELCOME

involvement

Stay busy and stay involved... with parent/child activities

The Peel board offers parents a wide variety of activities to do with their children. These activities are for all ages (preschool, elementary, middle and secondary), are low-cost and are easy to prepare. Activity suggestions can be found at www.peelschools.org in the “Parents Boost Learning” section. The activities are updated monthly so parents can always find new ideas. Why not check it out?

Make a difference in literacy...and beyond

Every year the Peel board hosts an annual parent conference where parents learn ways they can make a difference for their children. This free learning event provides parents with tips and practical ways to help their children be successful in school at all grade levels.

The board’s sixth annual parent conference takes place on March 31, 2007 at Central Peel Secondary School in Brampton. For more information, visit the board’s website at www.peelschools.org and go to the “Parents Boost Learning” section or call 905-890-1010 (or 1-800-668-1146) ext. 2809.



Sarah Patterson
Allan Drive Middle School

People who care, people who share

Long-serving volunteers receive special recognition

In 2006, we honoured more than 100 volunteers who have dedicated 10 years or more of their time to Peel students.

What does a school volunteer do?

School volunteers are a valuable part of a school’s team at the Peel board. Providing helpful suggestions and input through school council, serving up pizza on hot lunch days, attending field trips, reading to and with students, and so much more. Our volunteers are invaluable in helping to nurture student success.

How to volunteer

For those interested in volunteering with the Peel board, please contact the principal at your local school. To volunteer in a school, provincial law requires a criminal record check. Once that is complete, volunteers can enjoy the benefits of helping to support student achievement.

Mentors help children succeed in school

In just one hour a week a mentor can make a real and lasting difference for a child through the in-school mentoring program. This partnership between the Peel board and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Peel matches an adult with an elementary school child who would benefit from the encouragement and assistance of a one-to-one relationship with a caring adult.

More than 100 mentors meet with children in 55 Peel schools. The program receives top ratings from the children and their mentors, as well as teachers and parents. The Peel board has initiated a project to give administrative staff time during work to volunteer as an in-school mentor.

For more information about the program, or to find out how to become a mentor, call 905-457-7288 or visit www.bbscpeel.com.

Students learn value of volunteer service

All high school students must complete 40 hours of volunteer service in the community. To post a volunteer job on the Peel board website, go to “Student Stuff” at www.peelschools.org and click on the “Your Time Counts” icon.

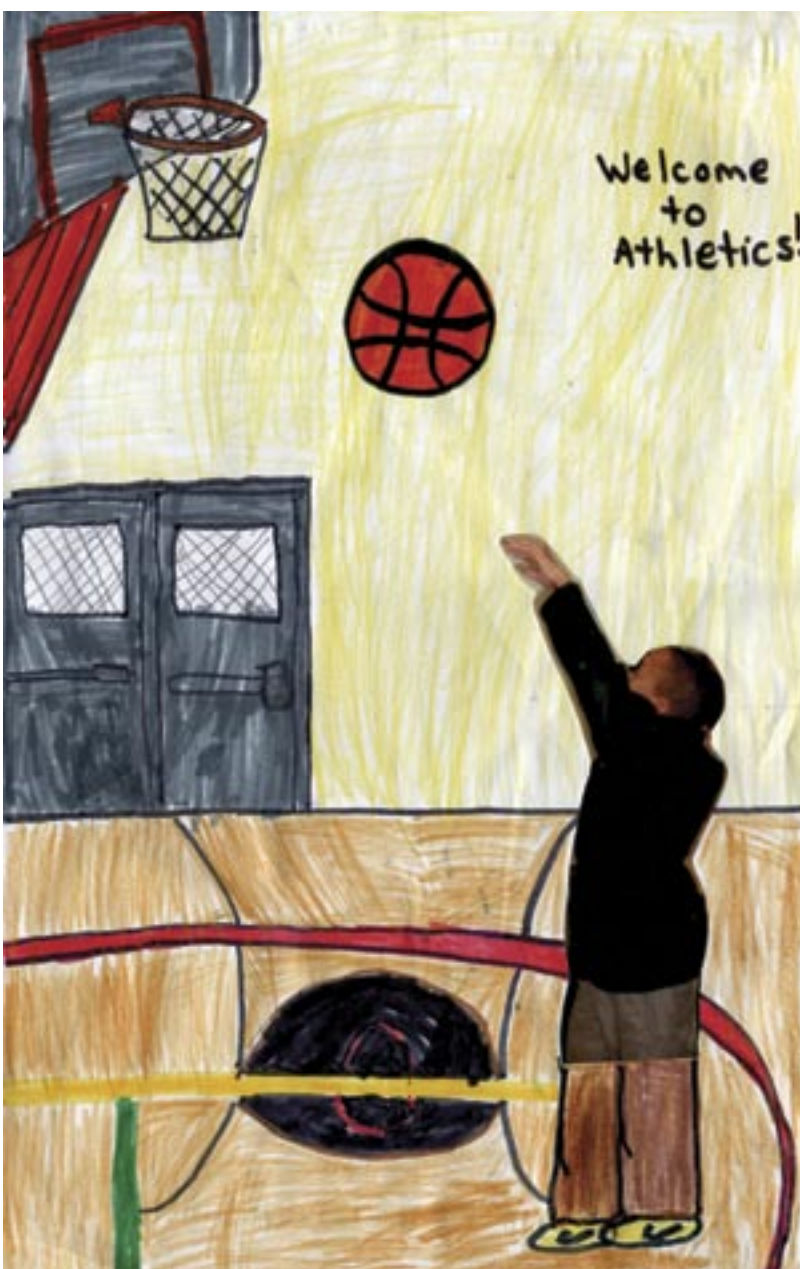


WE WELCOME

dedicated staff

Peel board keeps on growing...

The Peel board hired more than 850 new teachers for the 2006-07 school year to keep up with enrolment and to replace retired teachers. Teachers interested in working for the Peel board can search and apply for jobs directly on the board's website. VIP—Virtually in Peel—is a free online application centre. For more information about VIP or teacher hiring, go to the Peel board website at www.peelschools.org and visit the “Work in Peel” section. VIP also offers online application for all Peel board secretarial and teaching assistant jobs. For other postings, see the “job board” in “Work in Peel”. Job seekers can also subscribe on the website to automatically receive new job postings.



Long-serving employees celebrate “milestone” years

The Peel board proudly recognizes long-serving employees. In past years, the board has hosted an annual 25 Year Club dinner to honour those who reach this special milestone year. In November 2006, for the first time, the board also recognized individuals who reached 30, 35 or 40+ years of service at this special event.

Board pays tribute to community workers

The Peel board annually pays tribute to bus drivers on Bus Driver Appreciation Day in October. The day is celebrated with special activities and events that provide teachers, students and parents an opportunity to thank the 1,650 bus drivers who safely transport 36,000 students to and from school each day.

The board also recognizes the dedication and commitment of police every May in schools across the region. During Police Appreciation Week, students, staff and parents in schools across Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga honour the work of police officers and thank them for enhancing public safety and security within the community.

Quentin Thomas

Rowntree Public School



WE WELCOME

learning
opportunities

Offering a different kind of learning experience

Each year, the Peel board hosts award-winning learning events that enable students to take the lead in dealing with key real-world issues.

- The board's annual *Model UN* gives secondary school students the chance to learn first-hand the challenges associated with international diplomacy. In March 2006, students representing 24 UN member states heard from Maude Barlow, chair of Council of Canadians. This event focused on water as a human right.
- The Peel board receives support from the Canadian International Development Agency for its Student Leadership for Global Development program. Through this program, the Peel board is able to provide innovative global education opportunities to students and staff. The 2006 program focus is gender equality in global development. This topic is explored during an annual development conference, known as *eQuest*, which brings together more than 450 students and teachers. In November 2006, Nigel Fisher, president of UNICEF Canada helped students and teachers realize the importance of global development and the role Canada plays on the world stage.
- More than 200 students attended *RUAware? Spread the word...not HIV* in November 2006. Students in attendance talked about how to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS. Students also discussed ways to take a leadership role in creating awareness events at their schools.
- Every year the board celebrates Black History Month (February) and Asian Heritage Month (May) by offering workshops and education sessions to students on a variety of topics that celebrate the different cultures.

For more information about youth leadership events in the Peel board, go to "Student Stuff" at www.peelschools.org or call 905-890-1010 (or 1-800-668-1146) ext. 2098.



Danielle Mudhar

Stephen Lewis Secondary School

Creative learning choices offer students a variety of options

The Peel board's Creative Learning Choices program expands the variety of learning options within the public school system. They are designed to meet the diverse learning needs of all students. The following choice programs are open to all students in Peel:

- Arts programs for middle school students at Earnsccliffe Sr. Public School, 905-793-2903, and Queen Elizabeth Sr. Public School, 905-278-7287. For high school students at Cawthra Park Secondary School, 905-274-1271, and Mayfield Secondary School, 905-846-6060
- Caring for the Future, career education for students interested in health care, 905-451-2860 ext. 207
- French Immersion, open to all children starting grade 1, 905-890-1010 ext. 2212 for the nearest school
- Extended French, open to all students starting grade 7, 905-890-1010 ext. 2212 for the nearest school
- Construction Co-op program, 905-858-3087 or 905-791-6770
- International Baccalaureate for middle school students at William G. Davis Sr. Public School, 905-459-3661, and for high school students at Turner Fenton Secondary School, 905-453-9220 and Glenforest Secondary School, 905-625-7731
- International Business and Technology program for middle school students at Allan A. Martin Sr. Public School, 905-278-6104 and for high school students at Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary School, 905-274-2391 and North Park Secondary School, 905-456-1906
- Recipe for Success chef training program, Turner Fenton Secondary School, 905-453-9220 ext. 307
- School Online, web-based high school courses, www.school-online.ca
- Sci-tech inquiry centre for students in grades 6 to 8 at Tomken Road Middle School, 905-277-0321 and for high school students at Port Credit Secondary School, 905-278-3382
- Strings program, Port Credit Secondary School, 905-278-3382
- Teaching Tomorrow, career education for students interested in teaching, 905-791-2400

For more information about choice programs in the Peel board, go to www.peelschools.org.

Learning to 18 Pathways

The Learning to 18 Pathways initiative focuses on creating the conditions, within middle and secondary schools, required to produce a positive educational outcome for all students. Specifically, the goal is for all students to leave Peel with a diploma or certificate, community living skills and/or industry certification, and a clear plan for the future. We believe this can be achieved through the development of a full range of program pathways, support programs and a comprehensive re-culturing campaign designed to develop a shared understanding of the value of all program pathways and post-secondary destinations.

There are many destinations beyond secondary school (apprenticeship, college, independent living, university, workplace) and Peel encourages all students to follow pathways that reflect their interests, needs and aspirations.

The Peel board is committed to creating and sustaining a positive learning climate within which all students will succeed. For more information about the board's Learning to 18 program, call 905-890-1010 (or 1-800-668-1146) ext. 2551.



WE WELCOME

growth

We keep on building...and renovating

Peel continues to be one of the fastest-growing regions in Canada. Each year, the Peel board grows by about 4,000 students. To meet the needs of current and future growth, the board has a bold, ambitious plan of building new schools and permanent additions onto existing schools. The Peel board opened five new schools adding 4,250 student places for 2006-07:

Calderstone Middle School (6-8)
Eagle Plains Public School (K-5)
Lougheed Middle School (6-8)
Stephen Lewis Secondary School (9-10)
Thorndale Public School (K-5)

Due to extensive growth in the Peel region, there are plans for continued construction of new schools. Over the next five years, the Peel board's capital plan forecasts the need to build 22 new schools, to keep pace with enrolment growth. Construction is already underway for six new schools to open in 2007-08.

In addition to new schools, the Peel board created 2,527 new pupil places through additions and renovations. Renovation projects included additions and upgrades in public schools across Peel. The board spent over \$130 million to transform and build these new learning spaces.

For more information, contact Planning and Accommodation, 905-890-1010 (or 1-800-668-1146) ext. 2212 or visit www.peelschools.org.

\$1.14 billion budget is an investment in our future

The Peel board budget is an investment in the future of our students. For 2006-07, the \$1.14 billion budget is focused on meeting the wide-ranging learning needs of more than 150,000 students in our growing communities. The expenditure budget is \$1.04 billion, with a capital budget of \$99 million.

The balanced budget is a seven per cent increase in Ministry of Education funding from last year. The increase in the board's budget is due to enrolment growth of about three per cent or about 4,000 students, contractual obligations and additional capital funding for growth and primary class size reductions.

Other new initiatives include the following:

- the opening of four new elementary schools and one new secondary school, along with nine major additions
- expansion of alternative programs to provide a wider range of learning program options
- continuation of our learning technology plan
- implementation of the energy management program and the Good Places to Learn renewal initiative
- new budget provision for lunchroom supervisors

For complete financial statements, go to "Get the Facts" on the Peel board website, www.peelschools.org, or call 905-890-1010 (or 1-800-668-1146) ext. 2012.



Morning Star Middle School



WE WELCOME

inquiries

Facts at a glance

Total number of schools: 226

elementary: 191

secondary: 35

Total number of students: 145,783

elementary: 103,776

secondary: 42,007

Total number of staff: 13,200

academic: 9,900

business and support: 3,300

Students in French programs: 72,629

Students served through special education: 15,421

Students travelling to school by bus: 36,000

Number of portables: 700

Permits for community use of school facilities: 5,600



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 HJA Brown Education Centre. Call the library at 905-890-1010 (or 1-800-668-1146) ext. 2601 for hours or visit the Ministry of Education website, www.edu.gov.on.ca.

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 website at www.peelschools.org
- call Communications at 905-890-1010 (or 1-800-668-1146) ext. 2809.

Suhaira Shaheen

Stephen Lewis Secondary School



WE WELCOME

Leadership

Trustees — strong local leadership

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

Public school trustees are the critical link between communities and school boards. They ensure public schools meet the diverse needs of students in their communities. Together, trustees are responsible to their communities for the quality of education provided in local schools within the approved budget.

Trustee responsibilities include the following:

- govern and set policy for the Peel board
- govern for the provision of curriculum, facilities, human and financial resources for the board
- advocate for the needs of their communities
- as a constituency representative, to explain the policies and decisions of the board to residents

Trustees are available to help taxpayers, parents and others address any issues they may have about the public school system.

Visit the Peel board website at www.peelschools.org and check out the “Meet your Trustee” section of our website.

- A **VALERIE ARNOLD-JUDGE** Caledon, 905-838-2125
 B **BERYL FORD** Brampton Wards 7/8, 905-793-0800
 C **DAVID GREEN** Brampton Wards 1/3, 905-495-4579
 D **STEVE KAVANAGH** Brampton Wards 4/5/6, 905-457-3132
 E **BRAD MACDONALD** Mississauga Ward 8, 905-828-6929
 F **JANET MCDUGALD, Chair** Mississauga Wards 1/7, 905-278-1402
 G **SUZANNE NURSE (newly elected)** Brampton Wards 2/9/10, 905-495-3423
 H **DON STEPHENS** Mississauga Ward 2, 905-826-3358
 I **RUTH THOMPSON, Vice-Chair** Mississauga Wards 3/4, 905-625-1457
 J **ALLISON VAN WAGNER (newly elected)** Mississauga Wards 9/10, 905-785-9290
 K **JEFF WHITE (newly elected)** Mississauga Wards 6/11, 905-267-0764
 L **RICK WILLIAMS** Mississauga Ward 5, 905-814-6180
 M **EMMY MARSHALL-HILL, Student Trustee** Cawthra Park Secondary School, 905-890-1010 ext.3174
 N **AKANKSHA PALIWAL, Student Trustee** Central Peel Secondary School, 905-890-1010 ext.3175



DECEMBER 2003 - NOVEMBER 2006 TRUSTEES

- DALJIT GILL**, Brampton Wards 2/9/10
WARREN KENNEDY, Mississauga Ward 6
SUE MCFADDEN, Mississauga Ward 9



Peel District School Board's inaugural meeting, held December 4, 2006 at HJA Brown Education Centre, 5650 Hurontario Street, Mississauga



Morningside Middle School student artwork



We welcome your comments

The Peel District School Board's Communications department produces this annual report. To receive additional copies, for more information about anything in this report, or to comment, visit our website at www.peelschools.org or call 905-890-1099 (or 1-800-668-1146) ext. 2809.

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