

*We must restore hope to young people, help the old, be open to the future, spread love. Be poor among the poor. We need to include the excluded and preach peace.*

Pope Francis

Every year, trustees and the senior management team of Simcoe Muskoka Catholic gather at the home school of our new student trustee to celebrate their Commissioning during our opening mass and board meeting. For the second year in a row (and the third time during my tenure as trustee), I was thrilled to welcome everyone to St. Dominic Catholic Secondary School. It is a testament to the leadership opportunities offered at DOMS that, even though it is the smallest of our 9 high schools, over the past 6 years, we have had 3 student trustees elected by the board's student senate. Anna Szumska has taken over for her classmate McKenna McCoy as student trustee; she has big shoes to fill, but I am sure she will do a wonderful job of bringing the student voice to our board table.

The government of Ontario is conducting an online consultation on education in our province, and I encourage each of you to participate. You can visit the website at: [www.fortheparents.ca](http://www.fortheparents.ca) to provide your feedback. Right now, there is space to input an open submission but there will be an online survey and telephone town halls available soon.

The website states that feedback from these consultations will help shape decisions in the following areas:

- Improving student performance in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)
- Preparing students with needed job skills, such as skilled trades and coding
- Improving provincial standardized testing
- Ensuring students graduate with important life skills, including financial literacy
- Managing the use of technology in classrooms, such as cell phones
- Building a new age-appropriate Health and Physical Education curriculum that includes subjects like mental health, sexual health education and the legalization of cannabis
- Developing the first-ever Parents' Bill of Rights

As the changing leaves light up the beautiful area where we are blessed to live, I hope that you have a wonderful Thanksgiving and some opportunities to enjoy the splendour around us.

God Bless,  
Carol Corriveau-Truchon