



# InTouch

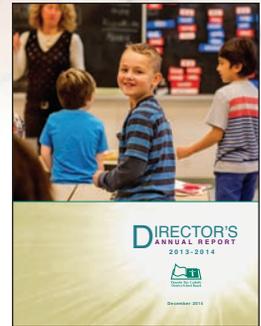
## Director's Annual Report Released

Director of Education, Pino Tassone, presented Trustees with his annual Director's Report at Monday night's meeting.

A yearly requirement by the Ministry of Education, the Director's Annual Report provides a snapshot of the previous year's accomplishments and challenges. It also requires Boards to include their most recent EQAO data.

"When you review the document, it becomes readily apparent of the many wonderful and conscientious people we have working throughout our system. Although our work, in many ways, is never done, I hope Trustees can see just how diverse and thorough our programs and supports are to ensure that all of our students succeed," explained Mr. Tassone.

A copy of the Director's Annual Report will soon be available on the Board website.



2013-2014  
Director's Annual  
Report

## New Concussion Policy Introduced

Medical professionals around the world are just discovering the long-term effects of head trauma and have good reason for their concern.

J. P. Tennier, Superintendent of Education, presented Trustees with a new Concussion Policy, designed to better identify and educate coaches and teaching staff of the inherent risks associated with the injury.

"This policy was developed in cooperation with the Lakehead Public School Board and Superior Secondary School Athletic Association (SSSAA). During sporting events, we will have procedures in place to deal with the response of students suspected or diagnosed with concussion," said Mr. Tennier. On January 30, 2015, Ontario will become the only province to have an organized plan to deal with concussions that occur at school. It's now known as Policy/Program Memorandum No. 158 School Board Policies on Concussion (PPM 158) of the Ontario Ministry of Education.

A considerable number of concussions in kids and adolescents occur at Ontario schools. Exact numbers are difficult to come by, but it's estimated that about 25 per cent of concussions occur among children aged 6 to 18. In Ontario, that translates into tens of thousands.

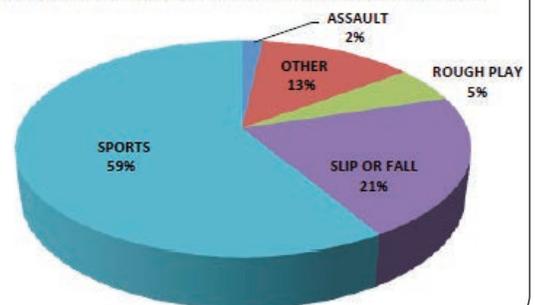
"So it's imperative to try to reduce the number of concussions at school and expertly manage those that occur," said Mr. Tennier.

Under PPM 158, all 72 school boards in Ontario will be required to have concussion programs in place to educate parents, students, teachers and coaches about concussions and policies to manage them.

The most important features are removal of the student from the game or practice when a concussion is suspected, and clear guidelines that every concussed athlete or student would be examined by a physician or other health-care professional.

Research indicates that during adolescence, the brain is most susceptible to trauma – making it even more important that we deal effectively with prevention and management of concussion in schools.

OSBIE 2011 Incident Report Data  
Suspected Concussions Sustained by Nature of Incident



## The On-Going Benefits of Inclusion

Thunder Bay Catholic schools have always prided themselves as open and accessible to all students. An exciting new development in that approach is a successful program in our secondary schools.

Leadership Phys Ed. combines Grade 12 students with students from the Life Skills class.

“Prior to 2010, students (from the Life Skills program) were placed in special education classes, with limited opportunities to enroll in mainstream classes,” explained Marcy Barry, Special Education Resource Teacher (7-12).

The high schools are now integrating these students as often as possible. “Significant effort is made to enroll Life Skills students into courses they’re interested in. Furthermore, numerous supports, including Student Support Persons in the classroom and program assistance are provided to ensure a greater likelihood of academic success,” said Ms. Barry.

Ms. Barry said that the Ministry of Education allows students with special needs a variety of accommodations to assist them in acquiring high school credits.

“Accommodations may include preferential seating, assistive devices, additional time, the use of braille or text to speech,” she said. “The key here is that we try to take every measure to ensure that the students are provided the opportunity to access curriculum expectations for the subject, while using strength-based options to demonstrate their learning.”

She said that both St. Ignatius and St. Patrick High Schools have already expanded the main-streaming program to include cooperative education and other secondary classes.

## Summer School a Huge Success, Again!

During the summer of 2014, TBCDSB operated the summer school program out of the Confederation College site, and according to Rob Murphy, Coordinator of Secondary Programs, the venture was another success.

“This was the second year for this initiative to be operated from there. Thanks to the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities for funding the Summer SWAC program, (School Within a College),

TBCDSB has had an extremely successful summer program for the second year in a row,” he said.

“Thanks to the hard work from Principal, Francis Veneruz, as well as teacher Jim Keyes, we enrolled approximately 70 students in dual credits, credit recovery and specialized co-op programs,” he added.

Mr. Murphy explained that with the dedication of the summer school staff, we were able to have an overall success rate of 85% of our students obtain the credit they were pursuing at Summer School.

