



**ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC**  
**DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**  
*Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey*

## **REPORT**

**SUBJECT:** **HOLY ROSARY SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION  
REVIEW COMMITTEE  
SURVEY RESULTS**

**SUBMITTED TO:** **HOLY ROSARY SCHOOL REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**DATE OF MEETING:** **September 26, 2002**

**PREPARED BY:** **George Cyrenne, Consultant**

**PRESENTED BY:** **George Cyrenne, Consultant**

## **BACKGROUND:**

Board policy 7.4 requires that a report be made which outlines the results of a parent and community survey concerning the accommodation issues for Holy Rosary School.

## **RESULTS OF SURVEY:**

Attached are the following:

- a) a summary of Holy Rosary School survey results
- b) survey results including comments
- c) letter to Catholic school supporters
- d) survey

## **GENERAL OVERVIEW:**

- 192 surveys were distributed, 101 returned or 53%.
- Holy Rosary School parents returned 79%, others from other schools & the parishes returned 36%.
- If Holy Rosary School closes, only 3% of respondents from Holy Rosary are in favour of moving students to St. Philip or St. Michael. Overall, 15% are in favour.
- 86% of Holy Rosary School respondents said they would consider sending their children to a public school. 36% of the others who responded said they would also consider this alternative.
- 68% of those who responded from Holy Rosary School said that their children would be inconvenienced by not having the ability to walk to school, come home for lunch or walk with parents to & from school. About 79% of the others agreed with this statement.
- 90% of the Holy Rosary School respondents felt that their children would suffer in the loss of the school's community participation. Overall, 85% agreed.
- 85% of the respondents from Holy Rosary School felt the community would lose its economic viability and property values would decrease. 71% of the others feel this would occur.
- 32% of Holy Rosary parents who responded were concerned that, if the school does not close, fewer resources would be available to all students in the system. Also 33% of all others expressed a similar concern.

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- 32% of Holy Rosary parents who responded were concerned that, if the school does not close, fewer resources would be available to all students in the system. Also 33% of all others expressed a similar concern.

**SUMMARY OF HOLY ROSARY SCHOOL REVIEW COMMITTEE SURVEY RESULTS**

	<u>H. Rosary</u>	<u>St.Philip</u>	<u>St. Michael</u>	<u>St.Philip Ch.</u>	<u>H.Rosary Ch.</u>	<u>St.Michael Ch.</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
DISTRIBUTED	75	20	20	20	20	20	17	192
RESPONDED	59	12	10	1	8	6	5	101
% RESPONDED	79%	60%	50%	5%	40%	30%	29%	53%

**2a If the School Board decides to close Holy Rosary School, students would likely be moved to St. Philip School, Petrolia or St. Michael School, Bright's Grove. Is this acceptable to you?**

YES	3%	50%	30%	0%	0%	33%	40%	15%
NO	86%	42%	60%	0%	75%	67%	40%	73%
N/A	10%	8%	10%	100%	25%	0%	20%	12%

**2b Would you consider sending your child to a nearby public school?**

YES	86%	33%	50%	0%	50%	0%	40%	65%
NO	7%	50%	20%	0%	13%	50%	0%	16%
N/A	7%	17%	30%	100%	38%	50%	60%	19%

**3 If the School Board decides to close Holy Rosary School, many of the students now attending Holy Rosary School would require bussing. Your comments on bussing students to the other schools are requested.**

**4 Do you feel that the children would be inconvenienced by not having the ability to walk to school, come home for lunch, or walk with you to and from school?**

YES	68%	75%	80%	100%	75%	83%	80%	72%
NO	19%	17%	20%	0%	0%	17%	0%	16%
N/A	14%	8%	0%	0%	25%	0%	20%	12%

**5 Do you feel that the children will suffer in the loss of the school's community participation such as school programs that are centrally located and within walking distance that would impair their overall social and spiritual development?**

YES	90%	58%	90%	100%	88%	83%	80%	85%
NO	2%	25%	0%	0%	0%	17%	20%	6%
N/A	8%	17%	10%	0%	13%	0%	0%	9%

**6 Do you feel that the community would lose its economic viability and that property values would decrease should Holy Rosary School be closed?**

YES	85%	50%	70%	100%	75%	100%	80%	79%
NO	10%	25%	10%	0%	13%	0%	20%	12%
N/A	5%	25%	20%	0%	13%	0%	0%	9%

**7 If Holy Rosary School remains open, the Board will be required to maintain and operate more floor space than they receive funding for. This will have the effect of spreading the resources more thinly and will hinder the opportunities to effectively operate and maintain the schools across the system at large. It is estimated that if Holy Rosary School is closed the Board would save about \$100,000 in operating expenses annually and also forego spending for capital improvements. These savings would then be used to improve the opportunities to serve all students in the entire school district. Does it concern you that fewer resources would be available for all pupils if Holy Rosary School does not close?**

YES	32%	33%	50%	0%	13%	50%	20%	33%
NO	51%	33%	50%	0%	63%	50%	40%	49%
N/A	17%	33%	0%	100%	25%	0%	40%	19%

**8 Please feel free to make any additional comments that you wish.**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
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**HOLY ROSARY SCHOOL REVIEW COMMITTEE SURVEY RESULTS**

**2a If the School Board decides to close Holy Rosary School, students would likely be moved to St. Philip School, Petrolia or St. Michael School, Bright's Grove. Is this acceptable to you?**

	H. Rosary	St.Philip	St. Michael	St.Philip Ch.	H.Rosary Ch.	St.Michael Ch.	Staff	TOTAL
DISTRIBUTED	75	20	20	20	20	20	17	192
RESPONDED	59	12	10	1	8	6	5	101
YES	2	6	3	0	0	2	2	15
NO	51	5	6	0	6	4	2	74
N/A	6	1	1	1	2	0	1	12

**COMMENTS:**

H.Rosary We do not want our children sent out of our community to go to school.

H.Rosary I think Petrolia or Bright's Grove are too far to go if a parent is needed.

H.Rosary I have children in Wyoming and am not going to put them on a bus for an hour.

H.Rosary They will stay in the community.

H.Rosary Our daughter will remain within our community and attend Wyoming school.

H.Rosary Wyoming offers community to children & families & school should be part of the community experience.

H.Rosary Our taxes from all our properties "3 townships" will be directed towards the Public system.

H.Rosary Our child is a special needs child & would depend on where special needs teacher is & distance.

H.Rosary Is unable to ride the bus & we have to drive him in the mornings.

H.Rosary My child attends Holy Rosary & I am able to walk her to school & not bus her to South Plympton.

H.Rosary We feel that it is unacceptable to put small children on busses for extended periods of time.

H.Rosary Splitting the friendships by virtue of location would not be fair to children.

H.Rosary We have decided to raise our children in Wyoming to be close to school & church.

H.Rosary We are very pleased with the staff of Holy Rosary & enjoy being part of a small Catholic community.

H.Rosary We don't live in Petrolia or Bright's Grove.

H.Rosary Why should a child be bussed 45 minutes when a school is 10 minutes away.

H.Rosary At St. Michael's school they told me there was no room for my son as they were filled to capacity & Petrolia is too far.

H.Rosary It depends on length of time on the bus & where her friends go.

H.Rosary I would rather my children attend the Public school and stay in the community.

H.Rosary Difficulty to pick up if child gets ill at school.

H.Rosary Our preference is for our children to remain where they are, their education & daily routines not be interrupted.

H.Rosary If we decided to stay with the Separate board we would accept St. Philip in Petrolia, but not St. Michael.

H.Rosary I place a high value on educating my child locally & not spending the extended periods of time on a bus.

St.Philip If this means increasing class sizes to accommodate, I am not in favour.

St.Philip We need to be there for the children but also for the children already at the school.

St.Philip I don't think it matters much, the Board will go ahead & do it anyway.

St.Philip Already too many kids per classroom.

St.Philip I worry that some animosity might arise between H.R. & St. Ph kids as they have competed against each other for years in team sports.

St.Philip I don't think that class sizes are acceptable now. I would hate to see the get larger.

St.Philip Does the board plan on closing all other small rural schools?

St.Philip Yes, although I would hate to see any split grades resulting from this.

St.Michael Not especially, I think this is a long way to travel for the children of Wyoming.

St.Michael I do not object to those children being integrated into St. Michael's if the need arises.

St.Michael Children should attend school in their own community.

St.Michael Providing it doesn't over crowd the school receiving students to the point of hindering their education.

St.Michael The classrooms at St. Mike's have no room for any other students & teachers should not have to teach more than 30 pupils.

St.Michael Board needs to start looking at what is in the best interest in the children they are educating.

St.Michael Will the receiving schools be over crowded and will students get the individual attention they deserve?

St.Michael It would appear portables would be necessary & that would be unacceptable.

St.Philip Ch. If Holy Rosary closes this is the only Catholic alternative.

St.Philip Ch. Some in Wyoming may want Petrolia & others Bright's Grove = possible logistical problems.

H.Rosary Ch. Holy Rosary always was viable & the population in Wyoming suggests continued viability.

H.Rosary Ch. There is no need to move children from our community. We are a rural growing community.

H.Rosary Ch. Should a young child be expected to ride over an hour to get to school?

H.Rosary Ch. Our parents fought to have local Catholic education & now you people are just throwing your hats at it.

H.Rosary Ch. I'm afraid you will lose a lot of children.

St.Mich.Ch. There are already children in portables.

St.Mich.Ch. Only if it is absolutely necessary.

St.Mich.Ch. It will be too long a ride & too much distance for any child to be carted to St. Michael's.

**2b Would you consider sending your child to a nearby public school?**

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RESPONDED	59	12	10	1	8	6	5	101
YES	51	4	5	0	4	0	2	66
NO	4	6	2	0	1	3	0	16
N/A	4	2	3	1	3	3	3	19

**COMMENTS:**

H.Rosary My husband works in Corunna & I work about 4 blocks from Holy Rosary, 2 blocks from Wyoming Public & I want to be close by.

H.Rosary We will be sending our children to Wyoming Public school if Holy Rosary closes.

H.Rosary I am undecided at this time.

H.Rosary Our children attending a school in our community is important to us.

H.Rosary Without a Catholic school in our community we lose our Catholic community.

H.Rosary All three children will be attending Wyoming Public school.

H.Rosary No, not a chance.

H.Rosary It's a matter of community & support. It's family, not Home Depot.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
88			H.Rosary	I would be foolish to send my children on a bus for 2 hours extra every day.										
89			H.Rosary	Sending our children further away will only lengthen bussing.										
90			H.Rosary	Our children are already first on and last off.										
91			H.Rosary	We want to have our children going to a school in the Plympton township.										
92			H.Rosary	I believe the Catholic school system is the better system for my child.										
93			H.Rosary	Reluctantly yes, as I am not fond of the Public school system and its lack of faith & religion.										
94			H.Rosary	More important to have our children in our community than continue with a Catholic school which is outside our community.										
95			H.Rosary	We have decided to raise our children here & this is where we will stay.										
96			H.Rosary	I want my child to finish his grade school at a Catholic school but also do it in our community.										
97			H.Rosary	Yes, I believe it is my only choice and the best one for my son & future aged children.										
98			H.Rosary	It's a 2 minute walk.										
99			H.Rosary	My reason for looking for employment in Wyoming was to be close to the school & children.										
100			H.Rosary	I do not wish to do this but circumstance will force me to forego my Catholic religion.										
101			H.Rosary	My children belong to Wyoming community & associate with all kids not necessarily those that attend Catholic schools.										
102			H.Rosary	It is not an easy decision but I feel my children would benefit more by staying in their own community, i.e.: girl guides, etc.										
103			H.Rosary	I placed a high value on Catholic education but the difference between both systems is not significant enough to justify the added travel.										
104			H.Rosary	We will find other ways to get religion into our children with the help of the church.										
105			H.Rosary	Yes, of course any parent should consider all options.										
106			St.Philip	If the school in my area closed I would send my child to the Public system, community school.										
107			St.Philip	If my child's education is going to be effected by this I would send them to a nearby Public school as well as my tax dollars.										
108			St.Philip	I value the quality of education they have received & am not willing to change schools unless the numbers effect that.										
109			St.Philip	If all Catholic rural schools are closed I would either join the Public system or return to home schooling.										
110			St.Michael	Yes, if you choose to bus my children out of the community.										
111			St.Michael	If our school were to be closed it would be an option.										
112			St.Michael	In a heart beat.										
113			St.Michael	If Board continues to demonstrate indifference to the children & parents interests they will pursue Public education.										
114			St.Philip Ch.	There will be a significant number of people who would choose this option resulting in loss of Separate School supporters.										
115			H.Rosary Ch	I live in Wyoming & I want my grandchildren educated & participating in their local community.										
116			H.Rosary Ch	Public school is better than moving them to an unfamiliar area & probably travelling by bus for an hour.										
117			St.Mich.Ch.	If I had to decide they would still attend a Catholic school.										
118			St.Mich.Ch.	Facilities at St. Michael's are excellent.										
119			St.Mich.Ch.	Father Gary, Janet Oliver & staff are outstanding. Great fellowship, etc.										
120			Staff	If I live in a community I expect my children to go to a school in my community.										
121														

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COMMENTS:	H.Rosary	St.Philip	St. Michael	St.Philip Ch.	H.Rosary Ch.	St.Michael Ch.	Staff	TOTAL
129	H.Rosary	That wouldn't change for us. Our children are already bussed to school.						
130	H.Rosary	This just tells me that transportation costs would increase if Holy Rosary closes.						
131	H.Rosary	It only means that more busses would be required to transport children to school.						
132	H.Rosary	I enjoyed time spent together talking on the way to/from school & bussing would take that time away.						
133	H.Rosary	Bussing can add an hour on each end of the school day this is not acceptable.						
134	H.Rosary	My concern is for children who are young travelling so far by bus everyday.						
135	H.Rosary	Kids would be hindered from joining extra curricular activities due to transportation.						
136	H.Rosary	Students spend enough time sitting in a classroom all day, is it fair to spend an extra couple hours on a bus?						
137	H.Rosary	Will stay on the bus.						
138	H.Rosary	Busses are not that safe, chance of accidents higher.						
139	H.Rosary	What time would our child get on the bus in the morning & when would she be home after school?						
140	H.Rosary	Would there be a late bus provided for kids who stay after school for activities ie:sports, etc.?						
141	H.Rosary	Kids 4 - 6 don't need to spend more than 30 minutes on a bus to or from home. The days are long enough for them.						
142	H.Rosary	I'm sure its cheaper but being on a bus is not quality living. Not my children.						
143	H.Rosary	I will not put my children on a school bus for an hour.						
144	H.Rosary	Bad idea. My child is on the bus 40 minutes now, this will only increase.						
145	H.Rosary	I wouldn't bus my child any further than South Plympton. I live in a small community & should be able to walk my child.						
146	H.Rosary	We recently moved to Wyoming to avoid bussing our children.						
147	H.Rosary	Small children struggle with daily activities & attention span, to force them into several hours of bussing is unjustified .						
148	H.Rosary	I would rather pay higher taxes to accommodate our school.						
149	H.Rosary	My children are on the bus now for a short period of time. Will not bus them if longer than 15 - 20 minutes.						
150	H.Rosary	We are only a few minutes from Petrolia so it would be unacceptable for our child to be on the bus for a lengthy time.						
151	H.Rosary	What a waste of time each day.						
152	H.Rosary	Why bus a student when it's not necessary?						
153	H.Rosary	Length of time on bus may be an issue, if timing was known it may change the decision.						
154	H.Rosary	As we live in the country bussing has always been part of going to school.						
155	H.Rosary	If my child is required to spend more than 30 minutes one way travelling to school, this is too much.						
156	H.Rosary	Studies show this has a negative impact on kids so I will not allow this to be an issue with my children.						
157	H.Rosary	My son will stay in Wyoming, I will not bus him to Petrolia or the Grove.						
158	H.Rosary	Our child's ride is presently 40 minutes each way & we live 3 km from the school. Any more than this is too much.						
159	St.Philip	How will bussing be addressed?						
160	St.Philip	Unless the child is bussed from home, you have made no provisions for bussing when child is cared for by a daycare.						
161	St.Philip	Long, frustrating, tedious for students.						
162	St.Philip	We have enough bussing problems as such, add the additional numbers & watch what happens.						
163	St.Philip	Children don't need to be sitting on busses for that long a period.						
164	St.Philip	There is a need to keep safety in mind.						
165	St.Philip	Too long of a bus ride during inclement weather can be extremely dangerous.						
166	St.Philip	Not acceptable. The day is already long enough, another half/one hour on the bus is too much.						
167	St.Philip	Any bus journey in excess of 45 minutes would be unreasonable for an elementary student.						
168	St.Michael	I feel this is a long trip for the children especially in cold weather & a worry to parents.						
169	St.Michael	I hate the idea of children, especially little ones spending a lot of time on a bus, but it may be a necessary evil.						
170	St.Michael	Need to determine cost savings, closing schools & cost of bussing.						

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
171			St.Michael	Tires students out and often requires they get up early in the morning just to catch the bus.										
172			St.Michael	Time on the bus for Holy Rosary students could be unbearable for younger students.										
173			St.Michael	Children should attend school in their community.										
174			St.Michael	It helps to foster the values of a community & forms relationships for the rest of their lives.										
175			St.Michael	A short bus ride is okay - but too far away & too long a ride is not.										
176			St.Michael	More buses mean more responsibility for the bus drivers										
177			St.Michael	If children have to ride the bus there will be no sports after class.										
178			St.Michael	How long will these children be on the bus before & after school?										
179			St.Philip Ch.	Causes much longer days for young children.										
180			H.Rosary Ch.	Bussing is not the main problem, having no Catholic school in Wyoming is unacceptable.										
181			H.Rosary Ch.	Young children will spend too much time on busses & it will interfere with after school activities.										
182			H.Rosary Ch.	The cost of bussing is senseless, the money you save you will give away in another area.										
183			H.Rosary Ch.	The drive is too long. Doesn't bussing students to Sarnia cost money too?										
184			St.Mich.Ch.	As a student I disliked the bus. It was stinky diesel and nauseated me and some children cause discipline problems.										
185			St.Mich.Ch.	Less children will be available for extra curricular activities if they have to rely on parents driving.										
186			St.Mich.Ch.	If a Catholic has to be bussed to get a Catholic education, I am all for it, 100%.										
187			St.Mich.Ch.	Too long a drive or too long on a bus for any school child.										
188			St.Mich.Ch.	Bussing is a fact of life & it's happening now.										
189			Staff	Many parents at Holy Rosary feel a strong attachment to the Wyoming community & prefer children to walk to their school.										
190			Staff	The presence of parents in the school is strongly felt & this is why it is important to have a Catholic school in the community.										
191			Staff	It would seem some children would spend a long time on the bus. Some parents would not be happy with this.										
192			Staff	Air quality on busses in winter? Behaviour problems on bus.										
193			Staff	What a long day as opposed to walking to nearest school.										
194			Staff	Most are bussed already.										

**Do you feel that the children would be inconvenienced by not having the ability to walk to school, come home for lunch, or walk with you to and from school?**

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<b>YES</b>	40	9	8	1	6	5	4	73
<b>NO</b>	11	2	2	0	0	1	0	16
<b>N/A</b>	8	1	0	0	2	0	1	12

COMMENTS:		
207	H.Rosary	For those that would lose that opportunity it may mean loss of quality time spent with their children.
208	H.Rosary	Again the children lose all sense of belonging in their community, safety becomes an issue.
209	H.Rosary	Children playing sports who don't live in that community that they are bussed to are at a disadvantage.
210	H.Rosary	They would have to catch the bus earlier & would get home later & would still have to do their homework.
211	H.Rosary	What about school sports, usually practices are after school?
212	H.Rosary	Also the inconvenience before & after school, child care provider.
213	H.Rosary	They would have much less free time to play, do homework, chores or be active in sports.
214	H.Rosary	Many households will be turned upside down to try to put children in schools out of town.
215	H.Rosary	My daughter enjoys the security of seeing me at the end of the day.
216	H.Rosary	Proximity is critical in raising young families.
217	H.Rosary	In cases of illness or running late it is important to have a short distance for your children.
218	H.Rosary	I prefer to see my child arrive safely each day.
219	H.Rosary	We did consider this convenience of being close to the school when we purchased our home.
220	H.Rosary	I think this might be an issue for some, but not us.
221	H.Rosary	School sporting events are normally after school for longer than 20 minutes.
222	H.Rosary	Have you done your homework? It is a minority that walk to and from school.
223	H.Rosary	Some children have piano lessons which they walk to & from Holy Rosary. If the child is sick we are 5 minutes away.
224	St.Philip	It is for the very reason that my children will go to the Public high school in town.
225	St.Philip	The whole purpose of living in a small community is so we can have these privileges.
226	St.Philip	My kids walk to school in Petrolia & that is something they have come to appreciate over the years.
227	St.Philip	It would make it difficult for working parents to make other arrangements with regards to day care, etc. to accommodate bussing.
228	St.Philip	I think this type of convenience is a major consideration for people with families in a small community.
229	St.Michael	This generation of children will experience many different situations than their parents.
230	St.Michael	Change is and will continue to move rapidly, let them adjust.
231	St.Michael	Families often move to small communities because of easy access to their school of choice.
232	St.Michael	Closing the school impacts the population of the community & some may move out.
233	St.Michael	The kids should be able to come home for lunch if they please.
234	St.Michael	What about extra curricular & after school & before school activities?
235	St.Michael	What about the health benefits of walking to and from school?
236	H.Rosary Ch	My children were always bussed so they were always at school for lunch.
237	H.Rosary Ch	Moving them out of their community is what will hurt them.
238	H.Rosary Ch	Obviously, extra curricular activities would be curtailed.
239	H.Rosary Ch	Yes, but a lot of them would be able to walk to an excellent Public school that will be happy to receive them.
240	St.Mich.Ch.	Some would. Walking is exercise, many students are under active, in a bus you sit.
241	St.Mich.Ch.	However, if closing Holy Rosary is inevitable, St. Mike's is the best option.
242	St.Mich.Ch.	Bus kids will feel segregated by kids who can walk/bike to school.
243	St.Mich.Ch.	One of the precious memories I have is having lunch with my mother each day when I went to school.
244	Staff	In some children's cases it would change their routine & perhaps this wouldn't be a positive situation.
245	Staff	Some students need that noon hour break to get away & regroup, especially behaviour students.
246	Staff	Sometimes it is a question of safety.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
254	5	<b>Do you feel that the children will suffer in the loss of the school's community participation such as school programs that are centrally located and within walking distance that would impair their overall social and spiritual development?</b>												
255														
256														
257			<b>H. Rosary</b>	<b>St.Philip</b>	<b>St. Michael</b>	<b>St.Philip Ch.</b>	<b>H.Rosary Ch.</b>	<b>St.Michael Ch.</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>				
258		<b>DISTRIBUTED</b>	75	20	20	20	20	20	17	192				
259		<b>RESPONDED</b>	59	12	10	1	8	6	5	101				
260														
261		<b>YES</b>	53	7	9	1	7	5	4	86				
262		<b>NO</b>	1	3	0	0	0	1	1	6				
263		<b>N/A</b>	5	2	1	0	1	0	0	9				
264														
265		<b>COMMENTS:</b>	H.Rosary	As young children we want them to identify with Wyoming as their community, not Petrolia or Bright's Grove.										
266			H.Rosary	Removing the school from the community will alienate the education institution from this local community.										
267			H.Rosary	The children would still have social development but spiritual development would decrease having them go to a Public school.										
268			H.Rosary	Holy Rosary has very good parent involvement & provides many extras for the kids through fund raising.										
269			H.Rosary	If kids are placed in another community for school I feel they will be outcasts.										
270			H.Rosary	Holy Rosary is small with great spirit. Involved teachers in sports promotes a greater school experience.										
271			H.Rosary	The convenience of having this available in our own town is of great value to children & parents.										
272			H.Rosary	As a family you should do as many activities as possible in the community you live in.										
273			H.Rosary	Children growing up & learning in other communities would soon no longer be a part of the community they live in.										
274			H.Rosary	If school is out of town there will be less opportunity to participate in sports or programs of any sort.										
275			H.Rosary	Spirituality fits very much into every aspect of the day, disruption of this could be devastating.										
276			H.Rosary	The community of the whole could suffer including our parish.										
277			H.Rosary	Students will not be able to participate in the mass on Thursdays or prepare for the sacraments.										
278			H.Rosary	The Wyoming Sports Club would lose participation, possibly ending them if kids wanted to join sports teams in Petrolia or Bright's Grove.										
279			H.Rosary	With the Ontario curriculum, the only difference would be their spiritual development, the main reason for attending a Catholic school.										
280			H.Rosary	Religious studies are very important to this family.										
281			H.Rosary	You would be pulling them away from their school, church local facilities used for school excursions & special occasions.										
282			H.Rosary	This will mean sacrificing religious/spiritual development with their peers.										
283			H.Rosary	If my kids go to Petrolia, they would most likely not participate in after school sports programs since they would not be able to get home.										
284			H.Rosary	I think my child would lose out when all her school friends were in another community.										
285			H.Rosary	If she wishes to play on school teams she could not because of transportation issues.										
286			H.Rosary	There is too much extra curricular activity our kids would miss if they went to a school outside our community.										
287			H.Rosary	Sacraments need to be done at our own parish, not at some other one.										
288			St.Philip	Wyoming is a tight community.										
289			St.Philip	You would be removing the kids from a beneficial environment that could potentially be ruined by the school closure.										
290			St.Philip	Absolutely, this is very important in the children's connection of school/church.										
291			St.Philip	I think it would cause much rivalry between the Wyoming/Petrolia kids. It's a bad idea.										
292			St.Philip	Other communities also have programs to promote social & spiritual development.										
293			St.Philip	Both schools have a church, youth minister & parish priest available.										
294			St.Philip	Kids take pride in their schools & communities.										
295			St.Philip	Losing that connection would be a tough adjustment that would probably have a negative effect in their well being.										
296			St.Philip	Particularly for special needs children.										
297			St.Philip	Yes of course, somewhat but they could get this in Petrolia too.										
298			St.Michael	Yes, but I also know that we have to make some difficult decisions in order to maintain financial responsibility.										
299			St.Michael	Time on the bus will also be social development. Bussing is not new.										
300			St.Michael	A school is central to a community & it's cultural identity.										
301			St.Michael	Close the school & slowly watch the spirit of the Catholic community erode.										
302			St.Michael	The spiritual development of the child will discontinue if they choose to send their children to the Public system.										
303			St.Michael	A loss of a Separate school student to a Public system could lead to a loss of family practicing their faith.										
304			St.Michael	Parents do not need the additional stresses that will be caused.										
305			St.Michael	This relates to the school community, church community, children issues, geographic community & time spent with children.										
306			St.Philip Ch.	Especially spiritual & especially for those who switched for Public system.										
307			H.Rosary Ch	Closing Holy Rosary will encourage our youth to look for spiritual help elsewhere or drop it completely.										
308			H.Rosary Ch	It is important for a child growing up to have stable school attendants & not be moved from school to school.										
309			St.Mich.Ch.	Difficult if the bus leaves at 3:20 and basketball practice is at 3:30. Dad or Mom have to drive in if their schedule allows.										
310			St.Mich.Ch.	The schools that my children attend are almost all bussed. Children & the extra driving for parents is a huge issue.										
311			St.Mich.Ch.	Children who move to another Catholic school will be taught to look & function in a slightly larger Catholic community.										
312			St.Mich.Ch.	With church clustering, the children would still be attending in their parish.										
313			Staff	It is much more difficult for students to remain at school for sports or other events when they are bussed to another community.										
314			Staff	They will lose a sense of ownership, community pride & responsibility.										
315			Staff	Most kids play hockey, soccer, etc. in Petrolia & Sarnia.										
316			Staff	I think there is a sense of belonging here. Possibly of being "odd one out" at another location.										
317														
318	6	<b>Do you feel that the community would lose its economic viability and that property values would decrease should Holy Rosary School be closed?</b>												
319														
320														
321														
322			<b>H. Rosary</b>	<b>St.Philip</b>	<b>St. Michael</b>	<b>St.Philip Ch.</b>	<b>H.Rosary Ch.</b>	<b>St.Michael Ch.</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>				
323		<b>DISTRIBUTED</b>	75	20	20	20	20	20	17	192				
324		<b>RESPONDED</b>	59	12	10	1	8	6	5	101				
325		<b>YES</b>	50	6	7	1	6	6	4	80				
326		<b>NO</b>	6	3	1	0	1	0	1	12				
327		<b>N/A</b>	3	3	2	0	1	0	0	9				
328														
329		<b>COMMENTS:</b>	H.Rosary	Families would not move to Wyoming if the school of their choice is too far of a bus ride away.										
330			H.Rosary	Making it harder for people to sell their houses causing prices to go down & making it less attractive to live in Wyoming.										
331			H.Rosary	One of the factors we considered buying our home was the close proximity of the school.										
332			H.Rosary	If the school closes we're afraid the building & property will become an eyesore to the neighbourhood.										
333			H.Rosary	Catholic families looking to moving to Wyoming may not do so if they don't have a school to send their children to.										
334			H.Rosary	This decision also effects the efforts of our parish to construct a new church.										
335			H.Rosary	Without a school why would anyone join our parish?										
336			H.Rosary	If the viability is not there people will look at another community that would meet their needs.										



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
337			H.Rosary	Not if the building is removed for more recreational homes.										
338			H.Rosary	Having a small community school attracts people & Holy Rosary holds many community services & events.										
339			H.Rosary	No, that's a little extreme.										
340			H.Rosary	A number of families may relocate to ensure continuing employment & education.										
341			H.Rosary	We built this school 50 years ago.										
342			H.Rosary	Young Catholic families will likely select a community offering education in a Catholic system.										
343			H.Rosary	I can honestly say we have considered moving again if that means being closer to our school.										
344			H.Rosary	Catholic families moving into our community are already opting to send their kids to the Public school.										
345			H.Rosary	People are already talking about moving if the school closes.										
346			H.Rosary	Most concerned parents weigh their choices of community with heavy emphasis on schooling for their children.										
347			H.Rosary	Closing Holy Rosary not only limits choice but reduces the quality of choice considerably.										
348			H.Rosary	Decreasing access to schools does not help increase property values.										
349			H.Rosary	I would seriously consider moving to Petrolia to be closer or as well as changing my property to support Public schools.										
350			H.Rosary	Yes, unless of course all the students go to the local Public school.										
351			H.Rosary	Yes, property values can go down & our businesses will suffer.										
352			H.Rosary	If one finds his way elsewhere he will probably spend his money there too.										
353			H.Rosary	In a short term there would be minimal impact but in long term young Catholic families would not locate in this area.										
354			H.Rosary	New Catholic families would not move to a community without a local school.										
355			St.Philip	That's an extreme statement. I'm sure that Wyoming's economic viability is not dependent on Holy Rosary.										
356			St.Philip	They will stand to lose an after hours meeting place for community events though.										
357			St.Philip	Who wants to move to a community that doesn't even have a school for their kids to attend?										
358			St.Philip	They need their own school, that's what small communities are all about.										
359			St.Philip	Perhaps people would be less likely to buy a home in Wyoming if there is no schools there.										
360			St.Philip	I feel that Wyoming would appear less appealing to Catholic families with young children.										
361			St.Michael	Depends if the Board sells the property or properly maintains it.										
362			St.Michael	Do not let empty schools fall into a state of decay, that would be disgraceful.										
363			St.Michael	I believe this makes a community less attractive to persons moving there.										
364			St.Michael	Communities strive when young families move in.										
365			St.Michael	This community would not be as desirable if they know their child would be bussed 20 plus minutes each way.										
366			St.Michael	People will continue to relocate where they choose.										
367			St.Philip Ch.	Catholic parents need areas community Catholic schools. Will deter Catholics from purchasing homes in the area.										
368			H.Rosary Ch	Probably not, but we would lose the young sincere Catholic families that want to move into an area with a Catholic school nearby.										
369			H.Rosary Ch	New houses are being built daily which increases property value in Wyoming.										
370			St.Mich.Ch.	Church, home & school go together. Proximity to school is a factor of deciding where to live.										
371			St.Mich.Ch.	Schools are used for many day & evening activities.										
372			St.Mich.Ch.	Yes, however what is important here is can the School Board afford to keep Holy Rosary open?										
373			St.Mich.Ch.	Many parents do want their children bussed & therefore want to live in those communities.										
374			St.Mich.Ch.	Young families will tend to reconsider relocating elsewhere.										
375			Staff	New young families do not move into communities with no schools/community programs.										
376			Staff	People could move out of the area to be closer to a home school.										
377			Staff	Tax dollars would be lost or they would be switched to the Public board.										
378			Staff	No, Wyoming is also a retirement community.										
379			Staff	Closing Holy Rosary will not attract any families with young children who value their faith.										
380			Staff	Given a choice, any such newcomers would probably move to a community with a Catholic school.										

**If Holy Rosary School remains open, the Board will be required to maintain and operate more floor space than they receive funding for. This will have the effect of spreading the resources more thinly and will hinder the opportunities to effectively operate and maintain the schools across the system at large. It is estimated that if Holy Rosary School is closed the Board would save about \$100,000 in operating expenses annually and also forego spending for capital improvements. These savings would then be used to improve the opportunities to serve all students in the entire school district. Does it concern you that fewer resources would be available for all pupils if Holy Rosary School does not close?**

	H. Rosary	St.Philip	St. Michael	St.Philip Ch.	H.Rosary Ch.	St.Michael Ch.	Staff	TOTAL
<b>DISTRIBUTED</b>	75	20	20	20	20	20	17	192
<b>RESPONDED</b>	59	12	10	1	8	6	5	101
<b>YES</b>	19	4	5	0	1	3	1	33
<b>NO</b>	30	4	5	0	5	3	2	49
<b>N/A</b>	10	4	0	1	2	0	2	19

**COMMENTS:**

H.Rosary Of course it does, but we believe the management is able to find a creative way out.

H.Rosary \$100,000 to keep over 100 students close to home, family & friends where they will be happy & comfortable will be well worth it.

H.Rosary \$100,000 spread over how many schools would not even be noticed & would not improve things in any school.

H.Rosary My child would not benefit in larger classrooms & in a matter of time that money would be spent in a school she will not be attending.

H.Rosary We believe all parents would rather sacrifice to keep small rural community schools & their sense of community.

H.Rosary We feel that there is a higher value in learning in a small rural school.

H.Rosary Holy Rosary staff & teachers demonstrate both individual & combined excellence.

H.Rosary They are a close group. You may manage to keep individuals, however they will be diluted.

H.Rosary The Board will lose much more by closing the school as students will be transferring to the Public system.

H.Rosary Holy Rosary has operated efficiently in the past & it is a concern that you indicate we would have to operate with fewer resources.

H.Rosary What about the cost of the transportation for children?

H.Rosary Different ways to make up for the difference such as fund raising, buying a few of the supplies, etc.

H.Rosary Holy Rosary raises a lot of money through bingos & other fund raisers - I'm sure we could do with fewer resources.

H.Rosary If you really find the boundaries for all schools, you could keep Holy Rosary & St. Helen's open.

H.Rosary Allocation of resources can be completed with trimming of extras that are nice to have but not essential to a core education.

H.Rosary It appals me that you want to pull over 100 students out of a school that their grandparents built in the 50's.

H.Rosary This school means so much to these families in the Wyoming area for a reason of saving a few dollars.

H.Rosary Local use of school by community organizations could help by off setting funding cuts.

H.Rosary My concerns are for my children, not children in Sarnia. Why should my kids suffer for their sake?

H.Rosary If as many families leave the Catholic system as I feel they will, in the long run the Catholic board will lose more money.

H.Rosary Year after year the resources are being depleted.

H.Rosary Council & parents work numerous bingos & hold several fund raising to compensate for cutbacks already.

H.Rosary I'm not willing to give up Holy Rosary just so others may benefit.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
420			H.Rosary	I don't think other schools will suddenly realize any notable increase in resources if Holy Rosary closes.										
421			H.Rosary	It is dumb of the organization to make a decision like this on the basis of saving money when it will actually cost it revenue.										
422			H.Rosary	If the students attend the Public school then no resources would be gained for any students in the board.										
423			H.Rosary	We don't believe this is true. I think the money could be available for all the schools.										
424			H.Rosary	If the dollars being saved are truly being used to "improve opportunities" why are so many schools losing existing resources?										
425			H.Rosary	Does it concern the School Board that our children will have no resources because we will no longer belong to the Separate system.										
426			H.Rosary	It concerns me that I was never able to get what my children need. We have always looked for outside help.										
427			H.Rosary	This is a very leading question. You have stated your opinion, not necessarily a fact.										
428			H.Rosary	The parents/community would step in to provide for any necessary improvements. Holy Rosary is presently in very good shape.										
429			H.Rosary	Does it concern the Board that if you close the school & parents switch to the Public Board, the money will go with them?										
430			H.Rosary	This ridiculous question could be asked of any parent in any school. Think this is a terrible question.										
431			H.Rosary	My child deserves the same quality of education as any other student in the system.										
432			H.Rosary	Holy Rosary has received little in the amount of resources or capital improvements.										
433			St.Philip	At St. Philip's we have a strong parent council group which raises money continuously .										
434			St.Philip	Somehow these savings always seem to disappear.										
435			St.Philip	This is such a small amount in the big picture.										
436			St.Philip	We do at least that amount in fund raising with school council.										
437			St.Philip	Class size is more important to me than more resources.										
438			St.Philip	However, as a parent at a school remaining open, I have not seen additional funding come our way as a result of other school closures.										
439			St.Philip	I am not so selfish as to expect another community to lose their school just so we can keep ours at the status quo & remain unaffected.										
440			St.Philip	I feel other areas could be looked at the free up money, i.e. in area of administration.										
441			St.Michael	I do not feel that it is the responsibility of the current students to bear the burden of past mistakes.										
442			St.Michael	Yes, but don't use the money for teachers salaries or legal fees, make sure it benefits the students directly.										
443			St.Michael	Leave the neighbourhood schools open and explain to all parents & students that fewer resources will be available to other schools.										
444			St.Michael	I'm sure that's a price everyone will pay.										
445			St.Michael	This and future generations of children will learn that bussing is okay.										
446			St.Michael	It is parents who do not want to give up what they believe is their right.										
447			St.Michael	Other provinces have no funding for Catholic schools yet the Catholics find ways to raise the money.										
448			St.Michael	I think a smaller school could operate without a full time principal, secretary & library tech., etc.										
449			St.Michael	More money seldom means a better education.										
450			St.Michael	This is worded to get the answer you want.										
451			St.Michael	The problem is the Provincial Government's funding rules, and no one is doing anything about this..										
452			St.Michael	Perhaps the School Board could seek to be more prudent in its expenditures.										
453			St.Philip Ch.	Loaded question, implying the decision has already been made in principle & now trying to justify the decision.										
454			H.Rosary Ch.	Our Wyoming/Plympton children deserve a right to have a community area school in Wyoming.										
455			H.Rosary Ch.	We get a small school allowance of \$100,000 so I see no need for this question.										
456			H.Rosary Ch.	All schools should do with less to keep important, strategically located schools open.										
457			H.Rosary Ch.	I am concerned more about the loss of Catholic education & all that it stands for in this community.										
458			H.Rosary Ch.	The Board will lose more than \$100,000, all school taxes including ours will be changed to the Public system.										
459			H.Rosary Ch.	What about community involvement, there's got to be a better answer than closing a school.										
460			H.Rosary Ch.	The money the Board has wasted in the past 10 yrs., the little bit of money to keep Holy Rosary open is just a minimal cost.										
461			H.Rosary Ch.	The Gov't. is doing all that can be done to reduce resources for teachers & students. Education is not a priority of the Gov't.										
462			St.Mich.Ch.	The gov't. and the funding formula are the problem. Boards are in a no win situation.										
463			St.Mich.Ch.	I hope that other ways of raising funds & reducing expenses can be found & implemented.										
464			St.Mich.Ch.	We need strong schools/communities & the closure of Holy Rosary can keep the Catholic system strong.										
465			St.Mich.Ch.	You can't just use "saving money" as the only yardstick to make a decision. If so you should just have one school for the entire county.										
466			Staff	Sometimes, community support to children is more valuable than anything they can get in a large school.										
467			Staff	Assuming we have 5000 children in our system, \$100,000 will only yield \$20/child, mere peanuts.										
468			Staff	If the school closes the money will be spent on other communities and concerns me that Holy Rosary will receive nothing.										
469			Staff	It seems to be a no win situation for both scenarios.										
470														
471	8			<b>Please feel free to make any additional comments that you wish.</b>										
472														
473														
474			<b>DISTRIBUTED</b>	<b>H. Rosary</b>	<b>St.Philip</b>	<b>St. Michael</b>	<b>St.Philip Ch.</b>	<b>H.Rosary Ch.</b>	<b>St.Michael Ch.</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>			
475			<b>RESPONDED</b>	75	20	20	20	20	20	17	192			
476				59	12	10	1	8	6	5	101			
477			<b>COMMENTS:</b>											
478			H.Rosary	Closing our school is an evil deed. God does not want this for His little ones.										
479			H.Rosary	Statement in letter to parents stating the Government has placed Boards in a difficult position is misleading.										
480			H.Rosary	Your statement sounds like you are trying to justify your position to close schools.										
481			H.Rosary	It would seem accountability is what they are looking for. No one wants to be accountable.										
482			H.Rosary	\$100,000 sounds like a years salary for someone. I hope they are truly earning it.										
483			H.Rosary	Believe that Holy Rosary has been in long term Board plan for many years - postponement of many capital improvements, etc.										
484			H.Rosary	How much money would the Catholic Board lose if many students switched to the Public system?										
485			H.Rosary	I'm sure our church community would continue their support when we send our children to the Public school.										
486			H.Rosary	We are no less of a Catholic if they attend the Public school, it is how the kids are raised in their own home.										
487			H.Rosary	We feel our choice of Catholic education for our children would be taken away from us if Holy Rosary were to close.										
488			H.Rosary	Honestly, we know you have made the decision to close Holy Rosary even though you say otherwise.										
489			H.Rosary	We almost sent our oldest child to Wyoming Public/South Plympton but we are simply supporting Holy Rosary.										
490			H.Rosary	We will make ourselves very clear, if the school closes our children will go to the Public board as well as our funding.										
491			H.Rosary	I do not feel Holy Rosary is a financial burden to the Board.										
492			H.Rosary	I think we should be looking at what can be done to save rural schools & how to run them more efficiently without closing them.										
493			H.Rosary	Closing our school will destroy a piece of the children's security & faith & change negatively an entire community.										
494			H.Rosary	Presently 2 of our boys have graduated from Holy Rosary & we would like to see our third child do the same.										
495			H.Rosary	I can appreciate the hard choices the trustees must make & I hope we can show them that closing our school would be a huge mistake.										
496			H.Rosary	The general consensus suggests that if Holy Rosary closes 80 - 90% of families will transfer to the Public system.										
497			H.Rosary	Students leaving the Catholic system in the J.K. through 8 grades will likely not attend a Catholic high school either.										
498			H.Rosary	Please consider the child & not put a dollar value on him/her.										
499			H.Rosary	Holy Rosary is the only school in the district that doesn't need extra help from the Board to buy basic things (art supplies, vcr).										
500			H.Rosary	Can't this be considered into the picture? Close St. Anne's.										
501			H.Rosary	As much as it saddens me that they may not attend a Catholic school I feel the right choice is the Public school in Wyoming.										
502			H.Rosary	What happened to this process when 3 new Catholic schools were built?										
503			H.Rosary	We are suffering so that a select few can have beautiful new schools.										



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
586			St.Mich.Ch.	The systems should re-assess and cut back on some things.										
587			St.Mich.Ch.	Bussing could create added costs as well as risks, especially during winter months.										
588			St.Mich.Ch.	The close community schools help students retain their individuality & are not merely numbers in a system.										
589			St.Mich.Ch.	Strong schools/communities provide a healthier environment to grow up in & will make for a stronger parish community.										
590			St.Mich.Ch.	First choice - Keep Holy Rosary open.										
591			Staff	Many children in smaller schools are actively involved in many school sports programs.										
592			Staff	They will not have the same opportunities in larger schools.										
593			Staff	Unfortunately, the student population at Holy Rosary is decreasing every year, not increasing.										
594														



**ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC**  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey

September 13th, 2002

Dear Catholic School Supporters,

The St. Clair Catholic District School Board is in the process of reviewing the enrolment, facilities, educational programs and finances of Holy Rosary School, Wyoming for possible closure by September 2003. The committee members who are responsible for this review intend to submit their report to the Board before the end of November 2002.

The provincial government has placed most school boards, including our Board, in a difficult financial position with respect to school accommodations. With the continued decline of student numbers for September 2003, the Board projects that there will be space available at St. Philip School, Petrolia and St. Michael School, Bright's Grove to accommodate all the students from Holy Rosary School.

With the possible closure of Holy Rosary School, the Board anticipates savings in the expenditure categories of plant operation, maintenance, capital projects, principal, secretarial, office and library.

In an effort to get as much input as possible from Catholic School supporters who might have an interest in the proposed closure of Holy Rosary School, a survey is attached for your response. This survey is to be completed by either parent with children in Catholic schools or by Catholic school supporters who have no children in school.

Please understand that no decisions have been made regarding the closure of Holy Rosary School, and your views are needed. Please return your completed survey, in the envelope provided, to your child's school as soon as possible but **not later than Monday, September 23rd, 2002.**

Thank you for your attention and interest in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Dan Barry  
Chairperson, Accommodation Review Committee

# Holy Rosary School Accommodation Review Committee Survey

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School Child Attends: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Parish Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ *Please respond only to the questions that pertain to you.*

1. Please check the appropriate information regarding you.

I am a (Check one only)

(a) parent/guardian with children in Holy Rosary School

(b) parent/guardian with children in other Catholic schools

(c) other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

2a. If the School Board decides to close Holy Rosary School, students would likely be moved to St Philip School, Petrolia or St. Michael School, Bright's Grove. Is this acceptable to you?

YES

NO

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2b. Would you consider sending your child to a nearby public school?

YES

NO

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. If the School Board decides to close Holy Rosary School, all of the students now attending Holy Rosary School would likely require bussing.

Your comments on bussing students to the other schools are requested.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you feel that the children would be inconvenienced by not having the ability to walk to school, come home for lunch, or walk with you to and from school?

YES

NO

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you feel that the children will suffer in the loss of the school's community participation such as school programs that are centrally located and within walking distance that would impair their overall social and spiritual development?

YES

NO

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Do you feel that the community would lose its economic viability and that property values would decrease should Holy Rosary School be closed?

YES

NO

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. If Holy Rosary School remains open, the Board will be required to maintain and operate more floor space than they receive funding for. This will have the effect of spreading the resources more thinly and will hinder the opportunities to effectively operate and maintain the schools across the system at large. It is estimated that if Holy Rosary School is closed the Board could save at least \$100,000 in operating expenses annually and also forego spending for capital improvements. These savings would then be used to improve the opportunities to serve all students in the entire school district. Does it concern you that fewer resources would be available for all pupils if Holy Rosary School does not close?

YES

NO

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Please feel free to make any additional comments that you wish.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Please return it in the envelope provided to your child's school as soon as possible but not later than Monday, September 23rd, 2002.