

Mom happy with teacher's apology but not with school board's silence

By **EAMONN MAHER**
Staff Writer

Two classes of Stewarttown Middle School students who were assigned a pro-union, anti-government poster-making project last week were issued an apology by their teacher earlier this week.

The unidentified Grade 7 art teacher, whom the Halton District School Board (HDSB) has refused to identify, reportedly apologized to students in a written statement Monday for presenting a list of pro-teacher slogans at the front of two separate classes last Thursday, asking students to choose one to write on a poster.

Parent Doris Mattear, who contacted the media on the weekend to express her outrage over the incident, was pleased to hear that her daughter was among those who received the apology, but still isn't impressed with the HDSB's silence on the matter.

"I'm happy that the teacher read the apology—not specifically to my daughter because there were two classes involved—but I'm not happy that the board of education hasn't made any sort of public statement about it. This is not an isolated incident and I'm hearing about other similar cases outside of Halton as well."

Debra McFadden, executive director of human resources for the Halton District School Board, said that any information regarding discipline assessed to the teacher following its investigation wouldn't be disclosed to

the public, including parents of the affected students.

"This is a personnel matter between the school board and the teacher and all of those matters are kept confidential," she said.

Mattear added that she's received "overwhelming support" from other parents whose children were involved in the classroom activity, in which students were allegedly encouraged to create posters with slogans such as,

"My Teacher Taught Me About Democracy (And it's not Spelled Bill 115)," and "My Teacher is Being Bullied, and I Won't Be a By-stander."

The teacher collected the posters at the end of class, ostensibly to use as part of the planned "day of protest" this past Friday against the government's imposition of employment contracts under the controversial Bill 115.

When informed of the HDSB's statement, Mattear said she's unsure if she'll pursue the matter further, but is not afraid of any repercussions from going public with her concerns.

"I got a bit of a frosty reception when I went into the school (on Monday), even from some teachers I know, but that doesn't bother me. I'm still going to walk in there with my head held high," said the mother of four, with two daughters attending Stewarttown.

"I volunteer at that school and I'm not going to stay away all of a sudden. I still believe that some teachers are using their position in the classroom as a political pulpit and that parents need to know what's being discussed in front of their kids."



DORIS MATTEAR

HEARING SCIENCES Audiology and Hearing Aid Centre

Yes, we have INVISIBLE hearing instruments!

Over the last 3 years, hearing instrument technology has improved so they are small enough to fit deep into the ear canal allowing for use during active sports. This is one of many tiny options available. For some patients, the open fit option is preferred. These miniature options are available in all price ranges of high performance digital instruments. Hear the difference for yourself.

If you've forgotten what fair, professional service feels like, call us and prepare to be amazed. Satisfaction guaranteed!

Call (905) 877-0099 to book your complimentary hearing test (\$60 value, Age 55+)



GEORGETOWN 211 Guelph Street, Suite 1 (M&M Plaza, across from Winners)

APPLEBY
SYSTEMS GEORGETOWN INC.

It's going to be
VERY COLD!!!

- FURNACES
- FIREPLACES
- SALES & SERVICE

We'll Keep You WARM!

**FURNACE, AIR CONDITIONING
FIREPLACE & BBQ
SALES and SERVICE**



SHOWROOM
118 Guelph St. (at Maple)
905-877-8990
www.asghomecomfort.com

WEEKEND FORECAST...

Halton Hills	Friday
HIGH	-3°
LOW	0°
Feels Like	-11°
Saturday	Sunday
3°	-4°
0°	-10°
-3°	-15°



Junior/Senior Kindergarten & Full-Day Early Learning Program Registration for the 2013-2014 School Year

Advanced registration for those children who will be attending Junior Kindergarten or will be new to Senior Kindergarten in Halton Catholic Schools in Burlington, Oakville, Milton and Halton Hills (Georgetown/Acton) will be held at all elementary schools on:

Tuesday, January 22, 2013 & Wednesday, January 23, 2013
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Junior Kindergarten: Children must be 4 years of age on or before December 31, 2013.

Senior Kindergarten: Children must be 5 years of age on or before December 31, 2013.

Please Note: Children currently registered in Junior Kindergarten are not required to register for Senior Kindergarten. Placement in the Senior Kindergarten program will be processed by the school, unless otherwise notified by the parent(s)/guardian(s).

THE NEW ALTON VILLAGE SCHOOL

Registration for the new Alton Village Catholic Elementary School will be accepted at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Elementary School.



To determine your home school, the requirements for registration and more, please visit: www.hcdsb.org.

FULL-DAY EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM

The Full-Day Early Learning Program will be offered at 33 elementary schools across the Board in 2013-2014. Please visit www.hcdsb.org/Programs/EarlyLearning for more information.

For language assistance regarding registration, please contact Halton Multicultural Council 905-464-3187.

Si requiere de asistencia con el lenguaje para inscribirse, por favor contactar al Halton Multicultural Council 905-464-3187.

Jeżeli państwo potrzebują pomocy językowej w rejestrowaniu, proszę skontaktować się z Halton Multicultural Council 905-464-3187.

Para asistencia na sua língua a fins de registo, favor contactar Halton Multicultural Council 905-464-3187.

등록과 관련하여 언어적 도움이 필요하시면 할튼 다문화 위원회 (Halton Multicultural Council), 전화 905-464-3187 으로 문의하시길 바랍니다.

للحصول على المساعدة باللغة العربية للتسجيل في المدرسة. الرجاء الاتصال على مجلس هالتون للثقافات المتعددة على هاتف: 905-464-3187.

Diane Rabenda
Chair of the Board

Michael W. Pautler
Director of Education

Achieving...Believing...Belonging!