

THE INDEPENDENT & FREE PRESS

THURSDAY
APRIL 22, 2021



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LISA HARTSINK
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ROYAL LEPAGE
REALTY PLUS
READERS' CHOICE 2020
ALUMNI MEMBER

FIGHTING FOR A VOICE AT THE TABLE

PETITION STARTED TO
ALLOW THOSE OF ALL
FAITHS TO BE STUDENT
TRUSTEES WITH
CATHOLIC BOARD

BAMBANG SADEWO
bsadewo@metroland.com

By many accounts, Raghad Barakat, in Grade 11 at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Secondary School, is a highly accomplished student.

She's on the honour roll and an active member of her school community, including co-running a social justice group. But as a non-Catholic, Barakat — a Muslim — is not eligible to run for a Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB) student trustee position.

"The student trustee position is simply an amazing leadership op-

See ALL, page 2



IMPACTING YOUR
COMMUNITY

Patricia Blakeley, Director of Community Support Services at Acclaim Health, has been amazed by all the volunteer efforts during the pandemic.

Graham Paine/Metroland

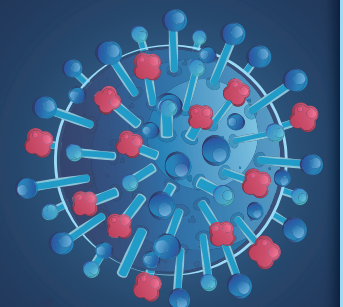
COMMUNITY SPIRIT PERSEVERES

VOLUNTEERS OVERCOME PANDEMIC OBSTACLES TO CONTINUE
SUPPORTING THOSE IN NEED /PAGE 7

EARTH 2021

Please see pages 11-14

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