**Inclusion**

by Sarah EerkesOver Fifty schools applied for the CIRA

Intramural Award, which recognizes their

intramural success. Each school had to

submit an application summarizing their

program including some of the highlights

and successes of their program. After

reviewing the applications, one theme

that was mentioned a lot in most of the

applications is to promote inclusion of all

students.

A lot of the schools make their programs

designed to include all students. In most

of the schools that have applied, it is

shown that the intramural programs are

designed to cater to all students with a variety of skill

level, gender and grade levels. Most of the schools

have a goal of having participation for all. Here are

some examples:

• Edenbrook Hill Public: They offer both

competitive and non-competitive events. This

way the program will appeal to all students of

various athletic abilities and interests, which will

challenge them and encourage them to improve.

• Credit Valley Public: They have rotating “Stars

of the Game”, which tries to ensure that all

students receive recognition for their

participation. These students names on the

announcements the next day.

• St. Stephen: To increase the participation of

their girls, they introduced yoga, which has

increased their participation of the girls.

Some of the schools mentioned that they have a

program to include individuals with special needs

whether due to intellectual, physical, social or

behavioural challenges. Here are some examples:

• St. Theresa Catholic: They promote inclusion of

all students since they have special needs

students, so they have an intramural program

which includes the special needs students.

• St. Philip: The focus of the intramural program

is on co-operative games so that the special

needs are able to be involved.• Sherwood Mills Public: They have a

program called Fitness Friends, where the

special needs children matched with students

in their class to participate in a variety of

activities such as ball games and walking

outside.

• St. John the Apostle: Many students are

involved in the “Circle of Friends” program

which encourages children with special

needs to play actively at recess.

• St. Isodore: The primary level students are

separated by class and invited to play in the

games in the intramural programs. This was

the students with exceptionalities feel included

and are invited to fully participate in the games.

• Clarke Road Secondary: They hosted a wheel chair

floor hockey tournament for athletes. There were

thirty participants from six different schools who

participated with grants being received for Sport

chairs and transportation. They now have a weekly

wheelchair athlete intramural program every Friday.

There are also many different cultures at schools, and in

the intramural programs, these cultures are also included.

Here are some examples:

• Columbia International: Our international games

day celebrates diversity by playing games from all

over the world, and at the same time have an

opportunity to taste food and listen to music from

different countries. Student leaders design, plan and

deliver this unique daylong celebration. The event

finishes with a Fashion show where the students

dressed in the national colours or national dresses

parade in a grand finale show.

• Morton Way Public: The grade`s 5 have STOMP

performance. Over 75 students participated. They

practiced their active routine every Monday to

Thursday lunch period for two months before the

final performance which occurred during the Black

History Month Assembly.

Overall, most school intramural programs include all

students in their school, and give everyone an opportunity

to participate in the activities and sports.