

## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

From the April 20, 2010 Board Meeting at St. James the Greater Catholic School, Smiths Falls

### Walking in Good Company with St. James The Greater Catholic School

An opening prayer featuring the beautiful voices of the St. James the Greater Catholic School Choir provided a warm greeting for the Board of Trustees and Senior Administration as the Smiths Falls school hosted the Board Meeting.

Principal, Jennifer Perkin, said the school has embraced the Board theme, *We walk in good company!* and highlighted a number of events from the current school year. "We are so proud to see our students embracing the Gospel values in their lives as they learn how they can make a difference in the world."

Catholic School Council Chair, Shannon Williams, said supporting the overall Catholic community has been a priority. "We have created a joint Catholic School Council with St. Francis de Sales Catholic School which allows us to double our efforts to benefit both schools."

Board Chair, Ronald Eamer, thanked Mrs. Perkin for the warm welcome. "I congratulate your school for being a wonderful example of how building strong school, home, and community ties contributes greatly to success. It is apparent that your students are benefiting from this approach to their education."

### Building Student Success

Supervising Principal of Student Success, Sheila Farris, outlined for Trustees the Board's commitment to expanding

learning opportunities for students beyond the classroom.

Mrs. Farris told the Board, "Students have the opportunity to partake in many expanded hands-on and experiential learning opportunities including: job shadowing, job twinning, cooperative education, and Discovering the Workplace courses."

Other programs, such as the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) and the Specialist High Skills Major initiative are possible thanks largely to strong community and expanded regional partners. "Our partners' continued commitment to these programs has been a key reason for their success," said Mrs. Farris.

The School-College-Work Initiative was also explained. It gives students the opportunity to explore and experience pathways from secondary schools to college, apprenticeship and the world of work.

Professional development for staff in support of the initiatives began in October and is scheduled to continue through to the end of June.

### CDSBEO Students Embrace Role as Stewards of the Earth

Principal of Curriculum, Charlotte Rouleau, and Curriculum Consultant, Karen Thomas, highlighted how CDSBEO students have eagerly taken on many different environmental challenges.

Ms. Thomas explained, "We provide them

with a simple direction, and our students take off. They create their own initiatives and become leaders to help the environment in not only their schools, but also in the community by holding such events as clean-ups in the spring."

Members of the St. Thomas Aquinas CHS Green Team were present to provide a living example of our students' efforts.

The school, which offers the Specialist High Skills Major: Environment Program, recently earned an Ontario Ecoschools gold certification. Students have conducted energy audits and created activities to mark Earth Week. Principal, Richard James, said, "Our students are our leaders. They are openly challenging all other schools to follow their example and earn a gold certification too."

The school plans to further its commitment to helping the environment with the addition of a greenhouse, the creation of a shaded outdoor learning centre, and by facilitating a Giving Garden which will see the town of Russell come together to plant fruit, vegetables, and a variety of plants for community use.

The group stressed that community partners have been key in ensuring the Board's efforts have been a success.

Ms. Thomas said that our students are truly inspirational. "We can look in any of our Catholic school communities and see how our students are making a difference. It is empowering to know they have become stewards of the Earth and are eager to pass that experience on to their communities, and the next generation."

We walk in



good company!

Apr. 26, 2010 - SEAC Symposium, St. Michael CHS, Kemptville

May 2 - 7, 2010 - Catholic Education Week

May 3, 2010 - Board-Wide Mass, Holy Cross Parish, Kemptville



Follow us on Twitter!  
twitter.com/CDSBEO

For more information contact **613-258-7757** or **1-800-443-4562, ext. 206.**

Visit us online at [www.cdsbeo.on.ca](http://www.cdsbeo.on.ca).

CDSBEO: Box 2222, 2755 Highway 43, Kemptville Ontario, K0G 1J0

**Next Board Meeting**  
May 4, 2010  
Kemptville  
Board Office