

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

From the May 18, 2010 Board Meeting at St. Finnan's Catholic School, Alexandria

Lifelong Lessons Learned During Dominican Republic Exposure Trip

Sister Terry Ann Wilson, Chaplaincy Leader at St. Joseph Catholic Secondary School in Cornwall, was joined by students and staff as they shared their experiences from the school's annual exposure trip to the Dominican Republic.

The group spent two weeks in March helping to build latrines and walkways for families in the area of the small mountain village of El Cercado. "They were so grateful that we were there," said Sr. Terry, "but we are truly grateful for the experience."

Each student on the trip shared stories of how they had been affected by the trip. Many met people they would never forget and will draw inspiration from for the rest of their lives. Teacher, Becky Poitras, said, "They have so little and stay so positive. I think about everything I have, like how many pairs of shoes I have in my closet. I don't need them all. There's better things I can be doing with my resources to help, and that's the message I want to share."

Director of Education, Wm. J. Gartland, said, "It truly is the series of experiences that make this trip so outstanding for each and every one of you. Thank you for sharing your stories, and thank you for being wonderful examples for your peers."

New Outlook at St. Matthew CSS

The new programs at St. Matthew CSS in Cornwall have been embraced at the school, and Principal Renee Rozon told Trustees that a new outlook has helped

students immensely. "This has been an exciting year of change," said Ms. Rozon.

The school has changed from a Catholic Learning Centre focusing on adult education to a Catholic Secondary School which enrolls students up to the age of 21 - most usually requiring some form of differentiated instruction. Students at the school are offered a number of hands-on courses such as shop classes, hairstyling and hospitality.

The teachers work with students to build on their individual learning styles to work towards graduation. "This gives our students confidence, which allows them to become leaders in their school. That's something many of them have never experienced before. It's amazing to witness."

Ms. Rozon said that teachers are also constantly developing their teaching styles. "Teachers are excited to try new methods of engaging students. The end result is students who are beginning to create goals and work towards achieving them."

Ms. Rozon also provided a number of student testimonials. One student wrote, "We are like a family here," while another wrote, "St. Matthew makes you want to be successful."

"There is no better way to explain it than that," concluded Ms. Rozon.

A Warm Welcome: St. Finnan's Catholic School Hosts Board Meeting

St. Finnan's Catholic School Principal Judith Boucher, staff, and several

students, provided a warm welcome for the Board of Trustees and Senior Administration, as the Alexandria school hosted the Board Meeting.

Ms. Boucher told Trustees, "We have some very talented students at our school and our staff draws on those talents as they work towards each student's success."

Ms. Boucher shared a presentation with Trustees highlighting several moments from throughout the school year. Among them was a special ceremony they had held for the Year for Priests, Family Literacy Day, The Terry Fox Run and a special visit from Lt. Cl. Drummond Fraser, who had just returned from serving in Afghanistan.

Several students also performed a song which will be featured at a special concert hosted by the Catholic Education Coalition on May 27 at the ruins in St. Raphael's.

Rejoicing in Catholic Education Week

Superintendent of Education, Marg Shea-Lawrence presented to Trustees a new DVD which highlights 2010 Catholic Education Week activities in the CDSBEO. This year's theme was Catholic Education: Rejoicing in Hope.

The video, produced by the CDSBEO Communications Department, includes the annual Board-wide Mass and features photos and video from schools across the Board celebrating Catholic education.

To view the video, please logon to www.cdsbeo.on.ca.

We walk in



good company!

May 25, 2010 - SEAC, Board Office Kemptville
May 26, 2010 - Official Blessing of St. Mark Catholic School
May 30, 2010 - Prescott-Russell CEC Family Faith Day



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Next Board Meeting
June 1, 2010
Kemptville
Board Office