

**Cuernavaca Travellers
Recap Trip of a Lifetime**

Forty-three students and supervisors visited the Board of Trustees and Senior Administration to share some of their experiences from the annual Exposure Trip to Cuernavaca, Mexico. The students took the trip over the March Break.

Principal of Religious and Family Life Education, Jim Roberts, said, "The students were immersed in Cuernavaca's culture and had the opportunity to meet incredible individuals who gave them insight into the various aspects of day-to-day life. In hearing their stories, you will quickly learn how deeply the trip has affected each of them."

Students from six Catholic high schools (Holy Trinity CSS, Cornwall; Notre Dame CHS, Carleton Place; St. Francis Xavier CHS, Hammond; St. John CHS, Perth; St. Michael CHS, Kemptville; and St. Thomas Aquinas CHS, Russell) shared a collection of their impressions and experiences of their time.

Each school highlighted a significant event or person they met during their trip and how it had affected them.

Since returning, each school has developed an action plan to take the next step in helping from home.

Director of Education, Wm. J. Gartland, stated, "It is apparent that each of you has been affected deeply by your experience and I know you will reflect on it for many years to come. The difference you have made, and continue to make, in the lives of these people is commendable."

**Revisions to Fully Alive
Program Presented**

Superintendent of Education, Marg Shea-Lawrence, presented the revisions to the Fully Alive program - a Family Life Education program, sponsored by the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario. "The program encourages children to become the people God wants them to be - to be fully alive," said Mrs. Shea-Lawrence.

Fully Alive was the result of the Catholic community recognizing there was a need to provide education that is consistent with Church teaching regarding human sexuality, development and family life. Bishops, Board personnel, trustees, parents, and members of the Catholic community collaborated to create it.

The second edition shares the same goals as the first. Among the changes are updated images and it now provides an opening for discussions on anti-bullying and sexual abuse prevention programs.

Activities that involve the participation of families at home are a regular feature of the program and enhance communication between home and school.

Mrs. Shea-Lawrence said that moving forward, Catholic schools will continue to follow the guidelines for Family Life Education from the Institute for Catholic Education and will cooperate with the Ministry of Education Guidelines while maintaining their right to educate according to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

**New and Revised Report
Cards to Debut in 2010-11**

Superintendent of Education, Jane McMillan, and Curriculum Consultant, Joe McCooye, presented an overview of how report cards will be changing.

Mr. McCooye told the Board, "The changes are the result of the release of the province's *Growing Success, Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting in Ontario Schools* document, *First Edition*."

Of the changes outlined by Mr. McCooye, one of the biggest is the reporting of achievement for elementary students. "The Provincial Elementary report card will be sent home twice per year," said Mr. McCooye. "Current regulations require this report card to go home three times per academic year."

The changes to the reporting of elementary achievement have resulted in the creation of a new Elementary Progress Report that will be sent home in November.

Other than a slight change in appearance, the secondary report cards are largely unchanged with the exception of a box that will indicate whether or not a student is taking a course as part of the Specialist High Skills Major program.

School boards will also be able to customize the report cards somewhat by including information such as excerpts from the Catholic Graduate Expectations.

We walk in



good company!

May 25 - SEAC, Kemptville Board Office

May 26 - Blessing of St. Mark Catholic School, Prescott

May 28 - Sod Turning Ceremony - St. Thomas Aquinas CHS



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Next Board Meeting

May 18, 2010

St. Finnan's Catholic

School

Alexandria

7:00 p.m.