

We walk in



## **BOARD HIGHLIGHTS**

### **From the meeting of September 1, 2009**



**CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL  
BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO**

good company!

#### **Partnerships for Health: CDSBEO and Health Authorities Prepare for H1N1**

Director of Education, Wm. J. Gartland, presented for Trustees two documents and provided a verbal summary of meetings with Medical Health Officers and the Chief Medical Health Officer of Ontario concerning the H1N1 flu virus.

"As this is a health issue, our Board is taking direction from our local Medical Officers of Health, the Provincial Medical Officer of Health, and the Ministry of Education," said Mr. Gartland. "The current focus is prevention of the spread of the virus."

Parents are being informed about the measures the Board is taking through newsletters and the Board website ([www.cdsbeo.on.ca](http://www.cdsbeo.on.ca)), "Communication is important. All documents from the local health departments will be forwarded to parents. We will post pertinent documents on our website and continue to do so as we receive them."

Specific key areas have been identified by the Ministry of Health to aid in teaching about prevention; hand hygiene and cough etiquette, focus on individual responsibility. Parents are also being asked to keep students who are ill at home - ill staff members are being asked to do the same.

Mr. Gartland explained to Trustees, "The Board's Pandemic Plan has been revised for this particular virus. We will continue to provide the latest information and training to staff and our partners as it becomes available."

#### **New Theme Resource will Guide and Inspire**

Superintendent of Education, Marg Shea-Lawrence, Principal of Religious and Family Life Education, Jim Roberts, and Consultant, Paula Wheeler, presented the resource binder for the new Board theme, *We walk in good company!*, to Trustees and Senior Administration.

The department worked with a team of teachers to provide our Catholic school communities with ideas and activities to bring the theme to life. Topics include: The Good Shepherd, Saints and Heroes, Companions on the Journey, and Walking as People of Virtue.

In addition to the resource binder, a book entitled *The Book of Heroes*, a collection of stories about saints and holy men and women, was presented as was the new Board theme song, *Walking in Good Company*, written by Mr. Roberts.

#### **Summer Capital Projects: Improving the Learning Environment**

Manager of Plant and Maintenance, Bernie Kehoe, presented a number of summer projects to Trustees.

Projects from schools across the Board were highlighted, including the new school in Prescott, and major additions in Russell and Toledo.

Mr. Kehoe told the Board, "There was a concerted effort by all of our staff to ensure the projects were completed in time to welcome students on the first day

of school. I am very pleased to inform you that we have met that goal."

Board Chair, Ronald Eamer, thanked Mr. Kehoe for his continued efforts. "The results are simply magnificent. I am very happy to recognize the role our Plant and Maintenance Department plays in our students' success."

#### **Voluntary, Confidential Aboriginal Student Self-Identification Policy Introduced**

Superintendent of Education, Marg Shea-Lawrence, outlined for Trustees the Board's new Voluntary, Aboriginal Student Confidential Self-Identification policy.

The policy is the result of an ongoing dialogue and partnership between the Ministry of Education and provincial Aboriginal organizations.

Among many things, the policy will result in the collection of data to help assess Aboriginal student achievement so they can receive the highest possible quality of education. It will allow all students to benefit from an appreciation of the richness of Aboriginal cultures and the important contributions made to our cultural, economic and social future.

Consultation and communication with Aboriginal communities and stakeholders have been vital components in the development of the policy. Information packages will be sent home to parents in September outlining the self-identification process.

**Sept. 25, 2009** - Professional Activity Day

**Sept. 30, 2009** - Special Education Advisory Committee

**Oct. 12, 2009** - Thanksgiving

For more information contact CDSBEO Communications at **613-258-7757** or **1-800-443-4562**, ext. 206. Visit us online at [www.cdsbeo.on.ca](http://www.cdsbeo.on.ca) for news from our schools, program information and much more.

**Next Board Meeting**  
Sept. 15, 2009  
Kemptville Board Office  
7:00 p.m.

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