

Wishing You A Blessed Christmas

Board Chair, Brent Laton, extended Christmas wishes to students and their families on behalf of his fellow Trustees. Mr. Laton said, "I hope you have a blessed Christmas and enjoy spending time together over the Christmas holiday. I wish you all the best as we celebrate in Christ's name, this wonderful time of year."

Director of Education, Bill Gartland, also reflected on the occasion. "As we wait in joyful hope to welcome our Saviour, Jesus Christ, let me thank you all for the outstanding work you do as partners in Catholic education throughout the year. My hope is that each and every one of you has a restful and energizing holiday that provides you with much quality time to celebrate joyfully with family and friends."

The Spirit of the Season: Notre Dame CHS Fills Boardroom with Christmas Spirit

Each year, the Board of Trustees and Senior Administration are blessed with a performance of our students performing Christmas related songs and vignettes.

This year, students from Notre Dame Catholic High School in Carleton Place visited to provide both music and an outstanding Christmas play.

Students performed a dramatic presentation, entitled *Advent Arrives*. This play asks the question: Christmas is soon to arrive and we are asked to prepare, but what are we to prepare?

The play was adapted from a chaplaincy resource by Mrs. Brenda Reinkeluers, Chaplaincy Leader at Notre Dame Catholic High School. The play was performed by the senior drama class under the direction of Teacher Jim Giannarapis.

The school's Student Stage Band also provided entertainment. The band, known as *The RetroActives*, performed five songs at the meeting. Band Director, Tony Stuart, has taken this group to perform in New York City, Boston, Washington, and Chicago. The group also puts on an annual show called *Music Miracles*, which has helped to raise more than \$14,000 over the past four years for the Carleton Place and District Memorial Hospital.

Board Chair, Brent Laton, thanked the group for their performance. "On behalf of my fellow Trustees, I would like to thank you for your performances this evening. It is wonderful to see students use their talents to help share the meaning of Christmas with others."

Catholic Student Senate Makes Annual Commitment to Dominican Republic School

Superintendent of School Effectiveness, Marg Shea-Lawrence, introduced Principal of Religious and Family Life Education, Jim Roberts, Catholic Student Trustee, Sarah Norton, Student Senate Vice-Chair, Jessica Hogan, and St. Thomas Aquinas CHS Chaplaincy Leader, Chris Vonesch, to tell the Board about the Catholic Student Senate's support of the Brothers of LaSalle and the Dominican Experience.

The Brothers of LaSalle are dedicated to the education of children around the

world. The Brothers help close to 1,000,000 students get an education in more than 1,000 teaching establishments in 82 countries.

Each year, the CDSBEO's Catholic high schools send students on a poverty exposure trip called *The Dominican Experience* in the Dominican Republic. The Student Senate is raising funds to be directed toward the annual salaries of two teachers in that country.

The initiative began after the exposure trip group from St. Thomas Aquinas CHS in Russell had a chance encounter with Brett Wilson of the television show *Dragon's Den*. Mr. Wilson asked about the students' trip and then he donated \$10,000 to the Dominican Experience on behalf of the students. The money is being used to build a school that will be run by the Brothers of LaSalle.

The Student Senate would like to help this school every year by providing \$7,000 to pay for two teachers' salaries. Catholic Student Trustee Norton told the Board, "The Senate agreed that we should hold a dress down day to raise the necessary funds. We are hoping that it will become an annual event."

This first event is scheduled to take place in February 2012.

Director of Education, Wm. J. Gartland, commended those involved. "Students returning from this trip have told us how it has changed them forever, and that they wanted to continue to help. This annual event is an outstanding example of how our students are living our Catholic values. I congratulate you on your efforts and commend you on this undertaking."

Upcoming Dates/Events:

December 26, 2011 - January 6, 2012 - Christmas Break
January 27 - February 2, 2012 - Secondary Examinations
February 3, 2012 - Professional Activity Day

Contact
1-800-443-4562
or 613-258-7757
for more
information.



**Next
Board Meeting:**
January 17, 2012
Kemptville Board Office
7:00 p.m.