

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

From the meeting of:

October 21, 2008

at St. Columban's Catholic School, Cornwall



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

Learning and Growing Together in Christ

CCSTA National Conference: The Conversation Continues

On September 26 and 27, the Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association (CCSTA) hosted a national conference in Ottawa. Superintendent of Education, Marg Shea-Lawrence shared some of the messages delivered and how the CDSBEO plans to continue what was discussed.

The conference was organized as a conversation about Catholic education under the theme *A sower went out to sow*, and featured speakers such as Sr. Joan Cronin, g.s.i.c., Kevin Freehan, LL.B. and Bishop Paul-André Durocher of the Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall. "As participants, we were invited to reflect on our identity, engage in conversation with all of our partners, to listen to those around us, and to be inspired to action that celebrates the good work we do," said Mrs. Shea-Lawrence.

Among the ways the Board plans to continue this conversation is through the expansion of the Catholic Education Coalition (CEC). "We are going to extend an invitation of membership to more of our Catholic stakeholders, including local clergy, Chaplaincy Leaders, parents and other community members," said Mrs. Shea-Lawrence.

Regional CECs will be encouraged to organize our Catholic communities locally to celebrate our distinctive nature. An example of this is the Family Faith Day planned for six of our Catholic School Communities to be held on October 25, at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School in Russell.

The Board will also engage all staff in the continuing conversation through school-based Retreat days, Board-wide Faith Days, and the continued development of curriculum resources that promote the holistic growth of the student—mind, body, heart and soul.

Emergency Preparedness Committee Update

Manager of Transportation, Nicole Makinson, offered an update on the Emergency Preparedness Planning Committee's (EPPC) activity to the Board of Trustees.

"The primary objective of the committee is to safeguard the lives and well being of our students and staff by developing appropriate protocols and procedures to use when reacting to either internal or external emergency situations," said Ms. Makinson.

The EPPC has developed and distributed an Emergency Plan and an emergency evacuation kit to all schools and policies and procedures have been developed for numerous potentially dangerous situations. "In addition to this, we continually review and update our plan and procedures as set out in Provincial regulations and guidelines."

All schools and Board facilities are taking an active roll in being prepared for an emergency by practicing fire drills and lockdown procedures. The Board has worked closely with officials in all of our counties and municipalities to ensure a smooth, cooperative response to any potentially dangerous situation.

Ms. Makinson introduced a new colour coded emergency code and procedures flip chart that will soon be introduced Board-wide. "In the case of classroom workers, the flip chart will be vital in ensuring the safety of our students."

Board Chair, Ronald Eamer, thanked Ms. Makinson. "Your committee has done an excellent job, and we cannot thank you enough for helping to ensure the safety of our students and staff."

A Tradition of Community At St. Columban's Catholic School

Following a beautiful performance by the school choir, Principal David Kennedy and the staff of St. Columban's Catholic School welcomed the Board of Trustees and Senior Administration by showcasing the history of a tightly-knit Catholic community at the school.

"We have always had a very close relationship with our Parish, and that is reflected by the work carried out in teaching the Gospel values by our caring and dynamic staff," said Mr. Kennedy.

Anita Labelle, Catholic School Council representative, told the Board that the school has always worked to foster a strong relationship with parents as well. Parents volunteer to help with fundraisers and get involved in school-wide activities such as International Day of the Child.

Board Chair, Ronald Eamer, said, "It is evident that the rich tradition of Catholic education continues here today. We thank you for sharing your stories with us and for your hospitality."

Meetings / Events

Oct. 29 Special Education Advisory Committee, Kemptville Board Office
Nov. 1 Tenth Anniversary Gala Celebration, Cornwall

7:00 p.m.

Next Board Meeting:

November 4, 2008,
7:00 p.m.
Kemptville
Board Office

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