

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

From the meeting of:
December 16, 2008



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

Learning and Growing Together in Christ

Bus Safety Contest Winners Announced

Manager of Transportation, Nicole Makinson, made two very special presentations at the Board Meeting of December 16th. The Transportation Department launched two contests this year during School Bus Safety Week (Oct. 20-24), to engage students, parents, and teachers in the importance of school bus safety.

"The contest gives us the opportunity to reinforce our bus safety efforts," said Mrs. Makinson.

Elementary Schools were challenged to make a banner promoting bus safety under the theme of "Rain, Shine or Snow - Safety's a go!" St. Mary Catholic School in Chesterville took home the top honours. Principal Michael Crossan said, "I am thrilled that our students recognize the importance of being safe while on the bus. We are very grateful to have been chosen - especially with so many other worthy entries."

Secondary students were given the task of creating an instructional video that shows students and parents how to use www.cdsbeo.on.ca to check bus cancellations during inclement weather. The winner was St. Joseph's CSS, from Cornwall. "Our students are certainly quite talented," said Principal John Cameron. "I am very proud that this St. Joseph's-produced video was selected."

Director of Education, Bill Gartland, thanked the winning students in attendance for their efforts. "Once

again we see how talented our students are each and every day."

Mrs. Makinson also told Trustees how other CDSBEO schools marked School Bus Safety week. A video from St. Mark Catholic School in Prescott of the choir singing their very own safety song was presented. "Overall the contest was a resounding success," said Mrs. Makinson.

Mr. Gartland thanked Mrs. Makinson for her leadership with this initiative.

Building Communities of Peace

Superintendent of Education, Dr. Donaleen Hawes, presented Trustees with a new booklet that is being sent home to every family and Grade 7 to Grade 12 student in our Board. "As part of our Board's communication strategy, this booklet entitled, *Called to Care...*

Called to Action... Called to Rebuild—Creating Communities of Peace is being shared with students, staff and parents."

Dr. Hawes identified that the booklet is a key component of the Board's strategy to address safe school legislation. "Our Board has also developed policies, procedures and programs and has made these new resources available to our schools."

The booklet provides students and parents with an outline of the CDSBEO's focus on Restorative Justice and Progressive Discipline. It also discusses the rights and responsibilities of students, school officials, and parents when it comes to these topics.

The names and addresses of agencies, parishes and support services for the eight counties served by the CDSBEO are also provided.



Members of the St. Mary CHS Choir from Brockville, under the direction of Brenda Reil and Diane Wooler, performed some popular Christmas songs for Trustees and Senior Administration. "Absolutely beautiful," said Board Chair, Ronald Eamer. "You have brought the joy of Christmas to our Board Room tonight, thank you."

Meetings / Events

Jan. 23 - Jan. 29, 2009 - Secondary Examination Days

Jan. 28, 2009 - Special Education Advisory Committee - 7:00 p.m. Kemptville Board Office

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 for news from our schools, program information and much more.

Next Board Meeting:

January 20, 2008
Kemptville Board Office
7:00 p.m.

Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario: Box 2222, 2755 Highway 43, Kemptville Ontario, K0G 1J0