

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

From the meeting of:
November 18, 2008
At St. Francis de Sales, Smiths Falls



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

Learning and Growing Together in Christ

Exceptional Art from Beautiful Minds

Principal of Special Education, Brian Peters, and Notre Dame CHS Visual Arts Teacher, Sarah Jaynes, presented an overview of a workshop for special needs students titled, *Without Exception, Exceptional Art from Beautiful Minds*. This one day workshop explored colour theory and allowed the students to express themselves through their art.

Thirteen secondary students from across the Board gathered at Hanley Hall in Smiths Falls for the session. "The work these 13 students produced was simply breathtaking," said Ms. Jaynes.

An art show was held this past September at the Mill of Kintail Museum near Almonte featuring the pieces. Prints of the paintings are now available for purchase to benefit the Good Samaritan Trust Fund. All profits go directly to the fund. (Visit www.cdsbeo.on.ca and click the *Exceptional Art* banner at the top of the page for ordering information.)

Board Chair, Ronald Eamer, thanked Ms. Jaynes for her work, "We are truly grateful to you for developing this workshop. The students certainly have very good reason to be proud of the work they have done."

Director of Education, Bill Gartland, stated, "Your approach has certainly produced outstanding results. Thank you for sharing your talents with these students."

St. Francis de Sales Catholic School Hosts Board Meeting

St. Francis de Sales Catholic School in Smiths Falls welcomed Trustees and Senior Administration for the Board Meeting held November 18. The school choir's rendition of *Oh Canada!* accompanied by Student Support Worker, Tim O'Neil started the meeting.

Principal, Derek Haime, introduced several students and teachers to show how technology has been embraced in the classroom.

Vice-Principal, Dan Lesser, and Grade 7 student, Brett Cassell, demonstrated the interactive SMART whiteboard. "The hands-on approach engages students in their lessons, and they all look forward to their turn at the Board," said Mr. Lesser.

Brett also showed how the Kurzweil text-to-speech technology helps students with reading challenges remain at the same learning level as their peers in all subjects. "It allows students to take part in their classes with confidence," said Mr. Haime.

Teacher Steve Zukowski and Grade 7 student Liam Merkley also showed examples of how the ELMO document projector can assist in the classroom.

Board Chair, Ronald Eamer, thanked the participants for their presentation. "It is fantastic to see this technology in action first hand, and to hear directly from the students how it is having a positive impact on their learning experience."

Letting Students in on the Secrets of Good Reading

Curriculum Consultant, Amy Doyle, and Literacy Instructional Coach, Joy Martel, presented several strategies of good reading for students and demonstrated how these methods are used in classrooms during a presentation to the Board of Trustees. "Students need explicit instruction and modeling to let them in on the secrets of good reading," said Ms. Doyle.

Several research based comprehensive strategies were outlined for the Board including: asking questions to assist understanding, making connections in the text, predicting and inferring.

"We make sure the students understand these strategies by using comparisons. Asking questions while reading is like taking on the role of a talk show host," said Ms. Martel.

Ms. Doyle and Ms. Martel showed some examples of these strategies being applied. They read the story *Angel Girl*, by Laurie Friedman, and identified how the strategies help comprehension and retention.

Director of Education, Bill Gartland, thanked Ms. Doyle and Ms. Martel for their work. "The Curriculum Department's efforts continue to produce positive results for our students' success particularly in the area of reading."

Meetings / Events

Nov. 26 Special Education Advisory Committee, St. Michael CHS, Kemptville 7:00 p.m.
Nov. 28 Professional Activity Day

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.

**Inaugural Board
Meeting:**
December 2, 2008
Kemptville Board Office
7:00 p.m.

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