

# BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

From the Board Meeting  
Held December 15, 2009

## Becoming People of Virtue: Character Development and the Virtuous Life

Superintendent of Education, Marg Shea-Lawrence presented the Board's Character Development and the Virtuous Life program.

The program has been developed in response to the Ministry of Education's *Character Education Initiative*. Goals of the Ministry's initiative include, but are not limited to improved academic achievement, positive interpersonal relationships, safe and orderly schools, improved life preparation, and positive school cultures.

The Board's program has been introduced in several ways. A resource binder has been distributed that highlights the virtues as they are reflected in the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations, the Religious and Family Life Education programs, and in literature. Posters with definitions of each of the seven virtues, published in French and English, now hang in several locations in all of our schools. School principals and teachers are also giving special virtue prayer cards to students to emphasize ways in which they have demonstrated, by their attitudes and actions, the virtues of faith, hope, love, justice, fortitude, temperance and prudence.

In addition to these resources, the CDSBEO received a Ministry grant to train teachers on the resource *Our Language - Our Story*, by the Eastern Ontario Catholic Curriculum Cooperative.

The latest addition to the initiative is an outreach brochure to invite families to reflect on the ways in which the virtues and Board theme, *We walk in good company!*, are emphasized. "We are encouraging parents to celebrate the virtues within home as an extension of what we are doing in our schools. The pamphlet also offers suggestions for integrating the virtues into everyday life."

The new brochures will be sent home to each of the Board's households early in the new year.

Director of Education, Wm. J. Gartland stated, "I would like to thank Mrs. Shea-Lawrence and the entire Religious and Family Life Education Department for their work on this initiative. These outstanding resources are the end result of a strong, collaborative effort."

## Procedure and By-Law Review Underway

Bill 177, the Student Achievement and School Board Governance Act, has recently been passed by the provincial Government.

The Act clarifies the mandate and duties of school boards to emphasize their responsibility for student achievement; clarifies the roles of individual trustees, board chairs and directors of education; and builds on good governance practices including the establishment of audit committees and the creation of an enforceable code of conduct for Trustees.

Director of Education, Wm. J. Gartland invited the Trustees of the CDSBEO to review the current Board Governance

Manual and Procedural By-laws in order to ensure they both reflect the legislative changes.

A timeline was also presented for consideration which will see the process completed by August of 2010.

## St. Francis Xavier CHS Showcases Vocal Talent with Performance

The CDSBEO Boardroom was filled with beautiful Christmas music as the Board of Trustees and Senior Administration were treated to music performed by students from Hammond's St. Francis Xavier Catholic High School.

The school choir made up of students from grades 7-12, performed *Do you Hear What I Hear*, *The Promise* and *Unto Us a Child is Born* under the direction of Teacher Louise Leclaire.

Teacher Marc Larocque directed the school's vocal ensemble in their performance of a classic German carol, *Leise Rieselt der Schnee*, and *Conventry Carol*.

Board Chairperson, Ronald Eamer, thanked the students for their excellent performance. "That was simply beautiful. There is no better way to get into the Christmas spirit. We are truly grateful that you have joined us to share your wonderful talents with us tonight."

We walk in



good company!

Dec. 21, 2009 - Jan. 1, 2010 - Christmas Break (offices closed)

Jan. 27, 2010 - Feb. 2 - Secondary Exams

Feb. 3, 2010 - P.A. Day

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

Visit us online at [www.cdsbeo.on.ca](http://www.cdsbeo.on.ca).

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**Next Board Meeting**  
January 19, 2010  
Kemptville Board  
Office  
7:00 p.m.