



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

From the meeting of May 26, 2009



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL
BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

Catholic Education: Good News for All!

Superintendent of Education, Marg Shea-Lawrence, and Principal of Religious and Family Life Education, Tom Jordan, provided for Trustees several of the highlights of Catholic Education Week 2009.

The Board marked the beginning of the week with the traditional Board-wide Mass, now in its seventh year. The mass brings together students, parents, clergy, administrators, teachers, and support staff from all of our school communities. This year, the Board was honoured to have the Most Rev. Brendan O'Brien, Archbishop of the Kingston Archdiocese, celebrate the Mass.

Mrs. Shea-Lawrence told Trustees, "Catholic Education Week is always an excellent opportunity for us to reach out to our Catholic community partners and remind them how important their support is to us and how much we appreciate it."

A DVD produced by the Religious and Family Life Education Department and the Communications Department was presented. It highlights important events that took place across our system during Catholic Education Week and how our schools celebrated this year's theme, Catholic Education: Good News for All!

Mrs. Shea-Lawrence said, "We are very grateful to the Ontario Catholic Schools Trustees' Association for providing us with the resource package every year. This valuable resource is anticipated and utilized extensively by our schools."

Mr. Jordan said, "Once again we are extremely proud of how our schools used this week to highlight and celebrate who we are and what we do. Our schools took the opportunity to invite our community partners in and thank them for all they do to support Catholic education."

Restorative Practices: A Whole School Approach

Principal of Special Education, Brian Peters, and Principal of Religious and Family Life Education, Tom Jordan, presented for Trustees an overview of Restorative Practices.

This is an initiative the two departments have undertaken during the school year, and it will continue to develop over the next two years.

Restorative Practices is a whole school approach that fosters empathy, understanding and compassion which assists students to make good choices and to resolve conflicts and forgive others.

Mr. Peters said, "This initiative is in

part a response to Bill 212. The Special Education Department produced the document *Creating Communities of Peace*. It utilizes restorative language and practices extensively, so this is a natural progression for our Board."

Mr. Jordan added, "Restorative Practices are not new. They are firmly rooted in the Scriptures, Gospel Values, and Catholic Graduate Expectations."

The approach teaches students in a conflict situation, that it is important for them to deal with the harm they have caused individuals and the school community, and to try and make amends.

"What is new is that we are being much more systematic, consistent and deliberate in our approach," said Mr. Jordan.

The CDSBEO is in the process of training all schools to facilitate restorative conversations, interventions, classroom circles and formal conferences to help students and staff to have an opportunity for resolution and reconciliation.

Mr. Peters concluded, "To date, 18 school communities have participated in formal training through orientation retreats, school assemblies and parental involvement."

June 18 - 24 , 2009 - Secondary Examinations
June 24, 2009 - Last Day of School
June 25, 2009 - Professional Activity Day

Next Board Meeting
June 16, 2009
Kemptville Board Office
7:00 p.m.

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.

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