

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

From the meeting of:
May 5, 2009



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

Learning and Growing Together in Christ

Memories and Inspiration: Cuernavaca Mission Trip 2009

The 2009 Cuernavaca group of 43 students and their ten supervisors, presented to the Board of Trustees a collection of their impressions and experiences of their time in Cuernavaca during their Mission Trip over the March Break. The students highlighted their journey to the south. The group performed a rap song, read poetry about the trip, and presented a reflection on family.

The trip participants were immersed in local culture and they were able to meet a number of individuals who gave them insight into the various aspects of day-to-day life. These included family life, the economy, history, the situation of workers and the lives of young people.

St. Mary CHS Grade 11 student, Chris Walasek, said, "Meeting these people has inspired me to look at my own life, and to see how I can continue to make a difference in the lives of others from home."

The travellers were also able to take part in two service projects that assisted local families to build a home.

Director of Education, Wm. J. Gartland stated, "Each of you has had an experience of a lifetime in participating in this trip. I know it will be something you will reflect on for the rest of your life."

Virtue Education in the CDSBEO

Superintendent of Education Marg Shea-Lawrence presented to the Board of Trustees the highlights of the Board's newly introduced Virtue Education component of the Religious and Family Life Education Curriculum.

The program is a portion of the Board's response to the Ministry of Education's Character Development Initiative, Finding Common Ground.

The document, *Character Development and the Virtuous Life: A Position Paper*, published by the Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops, encourages us to know, live and teach the Catholic Virtues. Mrs. Shea-Lawrence said, "We are called to become persons of virtue. This happens through a deliberate set of practices and actions that shape us and give meaning and direction to our lives."

The seven virtues are divided into the three Theological Virtues and the four Cardinal Virtues. "The three

Theological Virtues of Faith, Hope and Love are primarily concerned with the relationship we have with God and with our neighbour. These are the virtues we are most familiar with."

The Four Cardinal Virtues, Justice, Fortitude, Temperance and Prudence support the theological virtues.

The Religious and Family Life Education Department enlisted the assistance of students and Chaplaincy Leaders to help find a way to express the Virtues in a student-friendly format. The result is a set of seven posters that have been distributed to schools across the Board. "We are very grateful that his Excellency Paul-André Durocher, Bishop of the Alexandria-Cornwall Diocese, helped us determine the final wording to appear on each of the posters."

Board schools have responded enthusiastically to the program and have found unique ways of displaying the posters. Some schools have had the posters enlarged and have hung them in the gym or cafeteria, others have framed posters for their hallways, and some have hung the posters in every classroom.

The Board looks forward to the continued use of these posters and further development of our Virtues Program.

May 12, 2009 - Specialist High Skills Major Program Launch: Notre Dame CHS, Carleton Place

May 19, 2009 - Specialist High Skills Major Program Launch: St. John CHS, Perth

May 20, 2009 - Specialist High Skills Major Program Launch: St. Thomas Aquinas CHS, Russell

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
May 19, 2009

St. John CHS, Perth
7:00 p.m.

CDSBEO: Box 2222, 2755 Highway 43, Kemptville Ontario, K0G 1J0