

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

From the meeting of:
January 20, 2009



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

Learning and Growing Together in Christ

Sacred Heart, Cornwall Turnaround School

Sacred Heart Catholic School Principal, Frances Spagnolo and Teacher, Angela Beauregard, presented the Board of Trustees a summary of the recently completed Provincial *Turnaround School* Initiative.

The process sees Ministry officials work with school staff to improve literacy results where achievement in the primary division is below expectations. Sacred Heart Catholic School developed an improvement team, an improvement plan, and participated in a literacy audit to identify the school's strengths and weaknesses. Results were then used to develop an improvement plan.

The school was allocated annual funding to be used for professional development, the formation of Professional Learning Communities, and the purchase of resources. "Our school now has reading and writing carts, book carts, and literacy specific technology. Classrooms are also set up to provide more individual instruction for our students," said Ms. Spagnolo.

"We have also developed a wonderful bookroom in our school," said Mrs. Beauregard. "It is a full size teacher resource centre that houses our Big Books, levelled books, books on tape, guided reading sets and our in-school data wall."

Ongoing dialogue with Ministry staff provided additional resources and support, helped to build a cohesive literacy team, and helped the school

focus on research based data to sustain the new levels of success.

"Our relationship between home and school has also been strengthened. Our parents embraced this initiative and offered an incredible amount of support," added Ms. Spagnolo.

EQAO testing results show the process has been a success. Over the course of the process, Grade 3 students improved by ten percentage points in reading and by 20 percentage points in writing. Grade 6 students saw an improvement of 35 percent in reading and 31 percent in writing.

Director of Education, Bill Gartland, congratulated the school on its success. "Sacred Heart has demonstrated what a Catholic school community can do for student success."

Social Justice Committee: Faith in Action

CDSBEO Principal of Religious and Family Life Education, Tom Jordan, and Catholic Student Trustee, Rebecca McEvoy, outlined for Trustees the mandate of the Board's Social Justice Committee. Mr. Jordan and Ms. McEvoy also presented an overview of one of the Committee's largest undertakings, the Just-Us Youth Symposium.

The Social Justice Committee, a sub-committee of the Religious and Family Life Education Department, was formed in 2006. "Our mandate is to explore and promote ways that we can put our faith into action, by increasing the awareness of social justice issues

across our Catholic school system," said Mr. Jordan.

The Committee examines global, national and local issues and recommends ways that our Catholic communities can respond. "This is achieved by sharing resources and best practices across our system," said Mr. Jordan. "We also liaise with other social justice organizations to further the resources available to our students and staff."

Each year, the Social Justice Committee organizes the *Just-Us Youth Symposium* for students in Grade 10 in all CDSBEO secondary schools. The Catholic Student Trustee and the Student Senate take an active leadership role in the planning and implementation of the event. This year's theme focused on current and future economic issues from a social justice point of view. The workshops helped students understand the economic situations in different parts of the world, and how the decisions we all make as consumers can affect the lives of others in developing nations.

Ms. McEvoy told the Board, "The students were all enthusiastic about what they had learned from the workshops. In the past, great initiatives have been started by the students who have attended the symposium and we are confident that this will be the case once again."

In addition to the symposium, Mr. Jordan told the Board that other initiatives in which the Committee takes an active role include: promotion of fair trade products, practices, and being stewards of the environment.

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:

February 3, 2009
Kemptonville Board Office
7:00 p.m.

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