

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

From the meeting of:
March 4, 2008



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

Learning and Growing Together in Christ

Board Theme Resource Unveiled

Principal of Religious and Family Life Education, Tom Jordan, and Religious and Family Life Education Consultants, Teresa McDonald and Paula Wheeler, presented the highlights of the 2007-09 Board theme binder to the Board of Trustees.

The resource is based on our Board theme, *Called to serve... as disciples of Christ!* Ms. McDonald said the binder is divided into five sections - Called, Service, Discipleship, Reflections, and Catholic Education Week. "The sections feature scriptural references, literature that compliments our theme, links to the Catholic Graduate Expectations, Religious Education Programs, and suggested classroom and school-wide extension activities."

The section on discipleship features resources drawing from the three theological virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity, and the four Cardinal virtues of Temperance, Prudence, Justice and Fortitude. This section includes descriptions and stories that help to clarify the language for our students as they strive to become persons of virtue.

Mr. Jordan stated, "The binder represents the combined efforts of the Religious and Family Life Education Department along with

the help of some very talented educators in our Board."

Ms. Wheeler said the resource also includes a first for the CDSBEO. "One of the highlights is the inclusion of a theme song, *The Calling*, written by St. John Catholic Elementary School Vice-Principal, Jim Roberts. It was recorded by the student choir at St. John, with the assistance of staff members Julie Andrews, Jeanette Kenny and Olivia Roberts."

"The resource will be used to link our Board theme to the critical work that school teams do everyday in their schools," concluded Mr. Jordan.

Director of Education, Bill Gartland, stated, "This document will assist each school community as they embrace our theme and continue to find ways to make important differences in the lives of others."

Building Teacher Capacity: Literacy Coaches

Superintendent of Education, Jane McMillan, and CDSBEO Literacy Instructional Coach, Amy Doyle, outlined the benefits of Literacy Coaches for the Board of Trustees.

The Coaches are literacy specialists whose primary goal is to improve literacy achievement by working with teachers and principals to deepen their understanding of the

reading and writing process and extend the current repertoire of teaching and learning strategies.

Ms. Doyle told the Board, "A recent study of district-wide strategies to raise student achievement across eight Ontario school boards explicitly highlights the effectiveness of literacy coaches."

School-based and board-based literacy specialists are becoming more common in Boards across Ontario. Their common goal is to promote student learning, while raising student success.

CDSBEO has one Literacy Instructional Coach, in-school Literacy Support Teachers, and Curriculum Consultants who all support student learning and seek to build teacher capacity.

The everyday work of schools is supported through in-school professional development by modeling demonstration lessons, observing classroom instruction, coaching teachers one-on-one or in grade-level groups, and working with teachers to focus on more precise instruction.

Ms. Doyle said that numerous benefits have been attributed to the use of literacy coaches in schools and classrooms. "The most commonly hailed benefit has been the opening of classroom doors to create a greater sense of community among teachers in school."

Meetings / Events

Mar. 10 - 14 March Break
Mar. 21 Good Friday

Mar. 24 Easter Monday

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:

March 18, 2008
7:00 p.m.
Kemptville
Board Office