

CDSBEO Schools Emulate Board Theme through Environmental and Humanitarian Initiatives

Across the Board, our students have been serving as stewards of the Earth by helping to provide a clean environment for themselves and future generations.

In Brockville, the St. John Bosco Environmental Club, under the leadership of Mrs. Sharon Furzeczott Adam, continues to raise funds for school greening projects. The group is now selling protective agenda holders made out of recycled drink pouches. The holders are being sold for \$5.00 with all proceeds going to future greening projects. To date, the club has led the school in raising funds to plant gardens and a mature tree in the schoolyard.



Grade 3 students Hailey Timmins, Payton Anderson, and Elizabeth Prophet from St. Mark Catholic School, pitch in to clean up Sandra S. Lawn Harbour

Students in Cornwall and Prescott took part in the TD Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup. The nationwide initiative's goal is to clean up Canada's shorelines and to gather data to determine the source of litter. Secondary students from St. Joseph CSS and Holy Trinity CSS in Cornwall gathered at Lamoureux Park.

Further west down the St. Lawrence Seaway, students from St. Mark and St. Joseph Catholic Schools in Prescott gathered at Sandra S. Lawn Harbour to take part. The groups collected bottles, cans, food wrappers, abandoned grocery carts, and one group of students even found a bicycle that had been dumped in some tall grass. St. Mark Grade 3 student Mitchell McCaugherty-Jansman summed up the effort, "It's fun to help out and make our world a cleaner place. It gives you a really good feeling."

Other schools are participating in ongoing fund-raisers and philanthropic efforts under the banner of the new Board theme. In Gananoque at St. Joseph Catholic School, support for the Guatemala Stove Project continues annually. Past contributions have amounted to a generous donation which has financed the construction of a classroom for underprivileged children in Cantel, Guatemala.

Food drives also continue to help those in need. St. Joseph Catholic School in Toledo is among those

who collected non perishable food items before Thanksgiving. Principal Dorothy Quattrocchi said, "One way we are *Called to serve...as disciples of Christ* is to provide for those who need our help. We take time to reflect on all our blessings - our families, friends, health and the food we have. We also think of our brothers and sisters who go without."

We look forward to sharing more good news regarding initiatives within our schools in the next issues of the CDSBEO Messenger.



Teacher Sharon Furzeczott Adam, founder of the St. John Bosco Environmental Club, and Grade 3 students Ryan Brett and Darah DeJeet



Students from St. Joseph Catholic School in Toledo display food drive donations

Students Participate in Annual Terry Fox Run for Cancer Research

Students take to the streets annually within our Board, to participate in the Terry Fox Run for cancer research. CDSBEO schools have raised tens of thousands of dollars for the cause over the past several years, and collective donations from CDSBEO schools totalled close to \$25,000 this year.

Among our elementary schools, students at St. John Catholic Elementary School



Kayla Kazda and Hannah Priddle, students at Notre Dame CHS in Carleton Place, prepare to take part in the Terry Fox Run

in Perth raised \$882 for the cause, while JK-to Grade 6 students at St. Francis Xavier Catholic School in Brockville raised more than \$1600.

Secondary students did their part too. At St. Francis Xavier CHS in Hammond, students rallied together and collected close to \$4600 for the cause. Rain couldn't hinder the Panther pride at St. Joseph's CSS in Cornwall; they moved their run indoors and collected close to \$3000. In Carleton Place, Notre Dame CHS students had excellent results with more than \$2500 in donations.



Students from St. John Catholic School, Perth



St. Mary Catholic School in Chesterville celebrated United Nations' World Teachers' Day on October 5th, 2007. Principal Robert Hannigan recognized St. Mary Catholic School teachers by presenting a token of thanks. "It's for the way our teachers embrace our school's motto and *Reach Out and Make a Difference* in the lives of all our students." Each teacher at the school was also congratulated by their students.

Message from CDSBEO Director of Education, Bill Gartland

On behalf of the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario, it is a pleasure to share some good news stories and progress that is being made across our eight counties in this young school year. Welcome to our first edition of the CDSBEO Messenger, this publication will replace the Director's Update.

It is with great joy that I see our schools embracing our new Board theme, *Called to serve as disciples of Christ* in so many wonderful ways. Our students demonstrate that they have been called to serve as stewards of the earth by providing assistance and comfort to those in need, and by offering a sense of hope in their communities as they share their unique gifts with the world.

I thank our dedicated staff for answering the call to serve as Catholic educators, and for acting as such

admirable role models to our students. Their commitment transforms our schools to a place where our children learn from Jesus' example in a supportive, caring, and safe environment.

We are blessed that our students have the opportunity to live our Gospel values in their classrooms, schools, and communities every day. Several initiatives within our Board, including the work of the Catholic Education Coalition, continue to strengthen the bond between home, school and parish. Additionally, we have witnessed the success of the Parent Involvement Committees' Catholic School Council Summit (see story on page 4), and the Good Samaritan Trust Fund which continues to develop and provide much needed funds and hope to families within our Board who find themselves in difficult situations.

I thank you for choosing your local Catholic school for your child. It is through the strong support of our parents, priests, Bishops and Catholic

partners and community members, that our school system shines. I look forward to seeing what wonderful things the rest of this school year will bring.



Bill Gartland with students from Mrs. Ann Seward's Junior/Senior Kindergarten class at St. James the Greater Catholic School in Smiths Falls

Intensive French Program Debuts at Two CDSBEO Schools

Students at St. Joseph Catholic School in Gananoque and St. Francis Xavier Catholic School in Brockville are among a fortunate few in the province who have been given the opportunity to participate in the pilot Intensive French Program.

The literacy-based pilot program increases the number of hours of French instruction students receive over the course of a typical day. From September until February, students will spend two thirds of their day learning in French, with English, Religion, Mathematics and Physical Education taught in English.

The focus of the program is to promote a high degree of interaction between the student and teacher. The goal is to encourage students to speak to one



Julie Leeder and Intensive French students, St. Francis Xavier Catholic School

another about candid topics such as describing to their friends what they did the night before, or where they would like to go on vacation. This opportunity enables students to learn how to communicate effectively in French in everyday situations.

Notable benefits of the program include: improved literacy skills, the enhancement of thinking, and preparation for every day life.

The CDSBEO is very fortunate to have been included in this initiative, as only six other Ontario schools in three other Boards are offering the program.

Ministry Grants \$9.2 Million for School Renewal Projects in Prescott and Toledo

The Ministry has recently announced funding for facility expansion projects in Toledo and Prescott. St. Joseph Catholic School in Toledo will receive \$3.3 million for an addition to accommodate new pupil places. St. Joseph and St. Mark Catholic Schools in Prescott will receive \$5.9 million for a new construction project which will amalgamate the two schools into one new facility to be located at the St. Joseph site at 20 McAuley Road.

Following the Ministry funding announcement, which was delivered on September 4th, the Board initiated plans for the two projects. Specific details on the facility improvements will be finalized by the Board in November.

The Board is extremely excited about the significant benefits our students will experience thanks to these facility upgrades. The initiatives will contribute to momentous gains for our learners in the classroom.

Immaculate Conception Catholic School Gets Creative for Breast Cancer Awareness

The local Curves for Women fitness centre in Cornwall has always been a key supporter of breast cancer awareness. Immaculate Conception Catholic School recently got involved in one of the centre's fund-raising initiatives.

Pink t-shirts were donated to Curves, which in turn asked members to purchase the t-shirts for \$5.00 and decorate them with a message to support breast cancer research.

A staff member at Immaculate Conception Catholic School saw the value and merit in the activity and encouraged her staff members to get involved.

With students and teachers working together as *disciples of Christ*, four t-shirts were designed, providing an excellent example of service for their local community. The t-shirts are set to be auctioned off, with all proceeds donated to the Breast Cancer Society. Each staff member also donated \$20 for "dress down" Fridays which has raised an additional \$400 for the cause.



Joanne Fraser (teacher), Jean Mitchell (student), Shanice Watters (student), and Chantal Amyotte (teacher), display the decorated T-shirts to be auctioned for Breast Cancer Awareness.



Symbolic Donation Made to Mother Teresa Catholic School

Mother Teresa Catholic School in Russell is the recipient of an incredible piece of art that will surely inspire all those who walk into the school for years to come.



Local Artist Laurie McCannell, whose three children attend Mother Teresa, has donated a beautifully crafted wooden cross to the school. The cross is made up of several smaller crosses of different

types of wood. Mrs. McCannell chose this design to symbolize God's love for all people.

The crosses are thick, thin, light, dark, old, new, rare, common, smooth and rough, whole and damaged. Every one of them has a place - they all belong in the sculpture just as surely as the others around them. "It doesn't matter what species or type we are originally; God makes us His own type," said Mrs. McCannell.

Mrs. McCannell explained that every member of the church is unique, like the crosses in her sculpture, but they all matter - "In the sculpture, they are all equal in two dimensions, which enables them to fit together and support each other. I'm so glad this sculpture is finally complete and has found a home at Mother Teresa. I hope people enjoy it, think about it, and will be encouraged to work on their own creations."

The cross was unveiled in early October and now hangs in the school's foyer.

St. Michael CHS Students Learn Canadian War History First-Hand

Mr. Fred Bortolussi's Grade 10 *Canadian History in the 20th Century* class took on an ambitious, unique project to begin the school year; a project which none of the class will forget.

The group transformed a portion of their school yard into authentic World War I trenches, complete with bunkers and a tunnel. Mr. Bortolussi then prepared the students to spend a night in the trenches, experiencing many of the same things Canadian soldiers had to endure over the course of the war, including sound effects which mimic trench conditions. The group had to repair the trench system from leaks, stand guard, and prepare letters for loved ones back home. Some students even spent some time sleeping in a bunker. Messages in the form of lights had to be interpreted to alert those in the trenches of pending German

attacks, and the group ate authentic World War I cuisine.

"It was really an amazing experience," said 15 year-old Byron Carroll. "We only had to experience it for one night, I can't imagine what it must have been like to go through that night after-night."

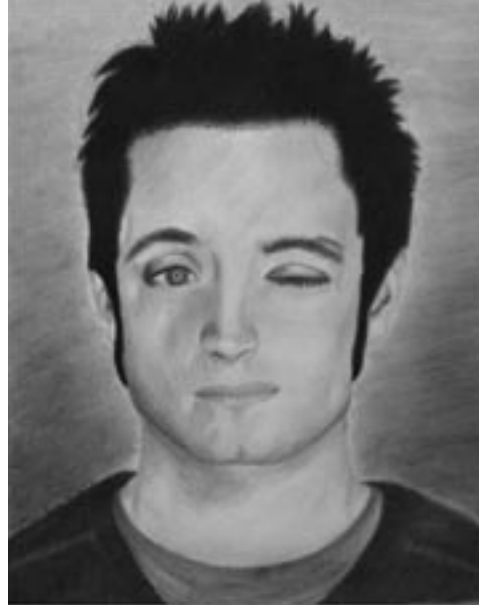
Fifteen year-old Rebecca Cronk agreed with her classmate. "I always had respect for what our veterans had gone through during the war. Going into this, I thought it would just be a fun project, but now I realize the gravity of what our troops did for us in World War I."

The night in the trenches began with an afternoon blessing by Father Alfred Alilio of St. Laurence O'Toole Parish in Spencerville, who blessed the facility with a traditional war-era prayer.



Anastasia Hrebacka, Rebecca Cronk, and Byron Carroll take to the trenches for a history lesson

CDSBEO Student Artwork Spotlight



Emily Welk, St. Thomas Aquinas CHS
Portrait Drawing



William Shaw, St. Thomas Aquinas CHS
Portrait Drawing



Tara Schweighardt, St. John CHS
Painting entitled *Christ Pondering*

Congratulations to Our CDSBEO Graduates!

Three CDSBEO Catholic High Schools held their graduation ceremonies in early October.

Congratulations go out to our Catholic graduates from St. John CHS in Perth, Notre Dame CHS in Carleton Place, and to the first graduating class at St. Thomas Aquinas CHS in Russell.



Lindsay Donovan, Morgan Douglas, and Sheilagh Dalziel
St. John CHS Graduates

Parent Involvement Committee Hosts Catholic School Council Summit

The CDSBEO's Catholic Parent Involvement Committee recently hosted an event that gave Catholic school council chairs, council members, principals and vice-principals, an opportunity to gather and share ideas and best practices regarding parent involvement. The first ever Catholic School Council Summit was held the evening of October 4th at St. Michael Catholic High School in Kemptonville.

The summit was the result of the work of the CDSBEO Parent Involvement Committee, a subcommittee of the Catholic Education Coalition.

Committee Chair Karen Torrie-Racine told the more than 150 in attendance that she was thrilled to see representation from every school in the Board. "It's truly wonderful to have so many representatives from Catholic school councils gathered in one place. I believe that parent involvement is a key

to student success, and by sharing what we learn at this summit with our school communities, we will strengthen the bond between our schools, homes, and parishes."

The evening featured a keynote address from former St. Cecilia Catholic School

Council Chair Peter Remillard. Mr. Remillard delivered a keynote address detailing the role that a school council plays in the overall school community. He also presented a history of how school councils came to be, and shared his personal experiences as a Catholic school council chair.

Each person in attendance was also given an opportunity to attend one of 10 workshops, including: How to Run an Effective Catholic School Council Meeting, Parent Reaching Out Grants, Parenting - Childhood and Adolescents, Examples of Parent Involvement, Websites for Parents, Internet Safety, Nutrition, Let's Read: Ways to Support Your Child's Reading, Gimme 5: Tools to Engage Students in Mathematics, and Study Smart.

Those in attendance have expressed their appreciation for the insight provided by the speakers and workshops. The topics intended to provide new ideas and practices for Catholic school councils to use in developing strategies for increasing parent involvement.

The Catholic Education Coalition and Parent Involvement Committee look forward to another summit in the future.



Debbie Shea, member of the PIC Committee, discusses examples of Parent Involvement

Inspirational Professional Development Day at Upper Canada Village

More than 1100 CDSBEO teachers, educational assistants and student support workers gathered on the fairgrounds of Upper Canada Village on Friday, September 28, 2007 for a day of activities which focused on adult faith development.

The day began with Mass celebrated by Archbishop Brendan O'Brien of the Kingston Archdiocese. Several CDSBEO parish priests served as concelebrants for the Mass, and the St. Joseph Catholic Secondary School choir and band provided music under the guidance of teacher Gilles Levac.

A keynote address was given by Bishop Douglas Crosby of the Diocese of Corner Brook and Labrador. Bishop Crosby offered a challenge to the group: examine the power of true love. He said, "To do this, our first task is to look at who we are and what we are doing, with the goal being to be the best that we can be. When we use our time and energy to serve others, we are demonstrating true love." Bishop Crosby also cited several examples of acts of true love. He reminded the group that these acts do not always have to be large undertakings. "Often the simplest of gestures can be the most effective," said the Bishop.

A second address was given by Director of Education Bill Gartland which reminded teachers of their extraordinary contribution to Catholic education. Inspired by the Board theme *Called to*

serve...as disciples of Christ, Mr. Gartland discussed that each of us have unique gifts which may be used to serve and assist others. He reminded attendees that by striving to reach the goal of quality leadership at all levels within our Board, we will build an organization that will consistently provide an excellent standard of education for our students.



Archbishop O'Brien, Director Bill Gartland and Bishop Crosby

Ronald Eamer, Chair of the Board, was among a strong chorus who called the day an incredible success. "It is an amazing sight to see everyone gathered in this tent. Their presence is just another example of how much they enjoy being Catholic educators, enjoy serving our students and families, and enjoy celebrating and sharing our Catholic faith and Gospel values with others. I am truly awestruck and incredibly proud of everyone in attendance today."

Staff travelled great distances to be together for the event; a testament to the dedication of our educators to Catholic education and to the importance of student success.

CDSBEO Executive Council Members

Bill Gartland, Director of Education
 Gordon Greffe, Superintendent of Business
 Dr. Donaleen Hawes, Superintendent of Education
 Jane McMillan, Superintendent of Education
 Mark Musca, Superintendent of Education
 Marg Shea-Lawrence, Superintendent of Human Resources & Religious Education
 Carole Flaro, Executive Assistant to the Director of Education

Liturgical/School Calendar

November 11, 2007	Remembrance Day
November 23, 2007	Professional Activity Day
December 2, 2007	First Sunday of Advent
December 8, 2007	Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary
December 24 to January 4	Christmas Break
December 25, 2007	Christmas Day
January 1, 2008	Mary the Mother of God
January 25 to 31, 2008	Secondary Examination Days
February 1, 2008	Professional Activity Day
February 6, 2008	Ash Wednesday
March 10 to 14, 2008	March Break
March 16, 2008	Passion Sunday
March 20, 2008	Holy Thursday
March 21, 2008	Good Friday
March 22, 2008	Holy Saturday
March 23, 2008	Easter Sunday
March 24, 2008	Easter Monday
April 25, 2008	Early Dismissal Day
May 4, 2008	Ascension Sunday
May 9, 2008	Professional Activity Day
May 11, 2008	Pentecost Sunday
May 19, 2008	Victoria Day
June 18 to 24, 2008	Secondary Examination Days
June 24, 2008	Last Day of School
June 25, 2008	Professional Activity Day

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