

THE GOOD SAMARITAN TRUST FUND

The Good Samaritan Trust Fund will be hosting its third annual golf tournament on July 6, 2010, at Upper Canada Golf Course in Morrisburg. Come out and support a great cause! Various prizes are available, including \$10,000 for a hole-in-one. Visit our website at www.cdsbeo.on.ca/good-samaritan.htm for more information. The Good Samaritan Trust Fund is a charity established by the CDSBEO which offers support to our students, particularly those whose needs cannot be met by other charity organizations.

REGISTRATION IS NOW UNDERWAY!

The Board continues to accept registrations for September. To register at your local Catholic school, visit our website at www.cdsbeo.on.ca to find a directory of schools in your area as well as our registration form, and instruction on process and documentation you will require.

Celebrating our Shepherds: CDSBEO Marks the Year for Priests

Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario Trustees, Senior Administration, and School Principals, came together to host three luncheons for each of the Eastern Ontario Dioceses, to mark the Year for Priests.

Clergy from the Archdiocese of Kingston, the Archdiocese of Ottawa, and the Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall, were recognized at the gathering for their leadership and guidance.

In his opening remarks, Director of Education, Wm. J. Gartland stated, "We are so very pleased to have you all here with us today to celebrate the contribution you each make to strengthen the bond between our parishes, our schools, and our homes. Today is about expressing our gratitude for the outstanding support you provide our students and our staff."

The Board was blessed to have Archbishop Terrence Prendergast of the Ottawa Archdiocese, Archbishop Brendan O'Brien of the Kingston Archdiocese, and Bishop Paul André Durocher of the Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall in attendance at the luncheons. Each led the guests in Grace, and said a few words on behalf of the clergy in attendance.

The gathering was an opportunity to hold informal discussions about Catholic education in our region. It was a wonderful chance for those in attendance to celebrate the numerous contributions made to protect and preserve Catholic education.

His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, proclaimed a Year for Priests on June 19th, 2009 - the 150th anniversary of the "dies natalis" of John Mary Vianney, the patron saint of all parish priests worldwide.



Above: Father Matthew Brunet is presented a token of appreciation from St. George Catholic School Principal, Roger Patenaude, and Our Lady of Good Counsel Principal, Patricia Dennison. Below Left: Gananoque's St. Joseph Catholic School Principal, John-Paul Elliott, shares a gift with Father Shawn Hughes. Below Right: His Grace, Terrence Prendergast, addresses guests attending the Ottawa Archdiocese luncheon.



Regional Catholic Education Coalitions Demonstrate Togetherness With Joyous Events

The Catholic Education Coalition (CEC) continues to work within individual communities to preserve, proclaim, and protect the uniqueness of Catholic education. Regional coalitions have been set up across our eight counties to help share the CEC's message, and to come together to celebrate our faith and strengthen our individual Catholic communities.

Over the course of the last few months, these regional groups have held events to celebrate that God's precious children and youth can attend schools where Jesus' message is proclaimed and lived.



A journey of the Board Cross through Lanark County took place during Catholic Education Week. Communities across Lanark County gathered for prayer services as the Cross reached each site. The cross was built in 2003 by Skylar Nicholson and Jamie Broadbent, two students from St. John CHS in Perth.



The Regional Coalition of Leeds and Grenville facilitated a walk for Poverty Awareness as part of Catholic Education Week. Schools in Kemptville, Gananoque (pictured above), Prescott, and Brockville, took part. Students learned how they can help by raising awareness (See additional photo on Page 6).



Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry gathered for another incredible event in late May. The ruins in St. Raphael's hosted a unique concert featuring talented students from across the three counties. The ruins provided an awe-inspiring backdrop as their incredible acoustics echoed the voices of children of all ages. The concert closed with an energetic performance by all singers and the audience led by Holy Trinity.



In May, the counties of Prescott and Russell celebrated their Family Faith Day. St. Francis Xavier CHS in Hammond hosted the event, which included all schools from the two counties, and St. Mary Catholic School, Chesterville. The event began with the Liturgy of the Word, followed by a wonderful community luncheon. Parents and community members were then treated to a great musical performance by students from each of the Catholic elementary schools in Prescott and Russell.

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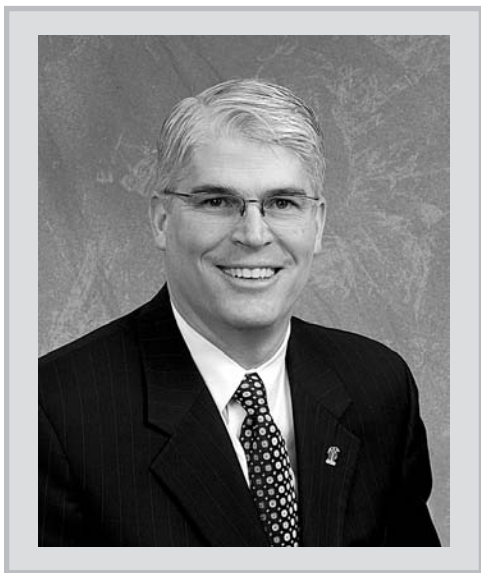
Specialist High Skills Major Programs



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March for Life

A Message from the Director of Education



As you are aware, this year's Board theme is "We Walk in Good Company!" As I reflect on all that has taken place this year, we truly are fortunate as a Catholic school community, to have so many individuals contribute to the quality Catholic education we provide to the students and parents we serve.

Our schools continue to answer the call to social justice issues such as helping the poor and reaching out to the marginalized. Where there is a crisis, our staff, students and parents respond – over \$60,000 was raised for the people of Haiti after the tragic earthquake hit that country. This is just but one example of how our community has taken action.

Our Regional Catholic Education Coalition events achieved the goal of bringing our communities together to celebrate the great contributions

that Catholic schools make to Eastern Ontario.

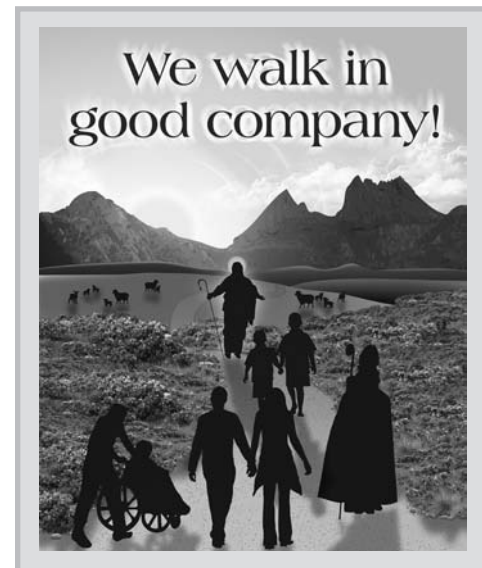
This year we officially opened a new school in Prescott - St. Mark Catholic School, and we celebrated ground breaking ceremonies for major additions at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School in Russell, and St. Michael Catholic High School in Kemptonville. We are so very thankful for the support for these capital projects by the Ontario Ministry of Education.

As the year comes to an end, I would like to thank each of you for your contribution to our school system. The work of our volunteers, committees, parents, staff, and students ensures that we all remain committed to our vocation of Catholic education. Your contribution is so much appreciated by the Senior Administration and the Board of Trustees.

Please take time this summer to rest and relax. I am looking forward to another successful year in 2010-2011.

God bless,

Wm. J. Gartland



Thank you for taking the time to read this edition of the CDSBEO Messenger. I know as you read through the articles and look at the photos, you will be amazed at the work in which our students, staff, parents, and parishes have been involved.

Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program at Notre Dame CHS

Submitted by Notre Dame CHS Grade 8 Student, Jacob Townend, Carleton Place

In September 2009, Ms. Tracey Clarey's Grade 8 class was introduced to the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program. The program, delivered by Mrs. Patricia Larkin, first introduced us to water and told us many important facts and details.

She told us about the activities that we were going to do over the many weeks to come. One that I really enjoyed was the "well-making" project. We used big empty water buckets and filled them with different substances that imitated the first few layers of the Earth. We performed a groundwater test to see if our water was contaminated when we retrieved it from beneath the layers.

Our class also visited the water treatment and wastewater plant in Carleton Place. We got to see the many stages that water goes through before we can drink it. We went right into the plants to see all the machines

and the people doing their jobs to clean our water.

A few weeks later, our class was assigned duties to perform around the school to check our water quality and quantity of waste. Some people interviewed the principal and custodian, while others performed tests on all of our sinks, toilets and fountains.

The idea of the program is to help people around our community and our school learn about water quality and to help people recognize that we need to conserve water by fixing broken sinks, toilets, etc. I have learned a lot through this process and I am sure everyone else has as well. We are now working on ways to change our wasteful ways and to find solutions to fix problems.

I would like to thank everyone involved in this project who made it possible for our class to have this unique learning experience!



Ms. Tracey Clarey's Grade 8 class at Notre Dame CHS, Carleton Place takes part in an experiment to test the quality of water in their community as part of the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship program.



Students from Mr. Dewachter's Grade 8 class at St. Joseph Catholic School, Gananoque, assist their buddies from Mrs. Edward's Grade 1 class, in designing and drawing chalk 'Enviro-Heros' for Earth Week.



Mrs. Jean Dabros and the Environmental Club of St. Joseph Catholic School, Gananoque, hosted a lovely celebration on Earth Day. They called upon their teachers and classmates to reflect on their habits and make changes that will help us all live in a sustainable way on our planet. The Club focused on our use of water bottles, and the need to support and enhance the consumption of clean tap water.

Special Education Advisory Committee Symposium Puts Focus on Students

The first ever Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Symposium, attended by more than two hundred parents, community partners, service providers, Special Education staff, Catholic educators, Trustees, and Senior Administration, came together to celebrate Special Education in the CDSBEO.

The event, held at St. Michael CHS, allowed participants to target their own areas of interest. Information booths provided by agencies, associations, and educators were available, and three workshops were offered in classrooms. Demonstrations on the effective use of assistive technology to enhance student learning was also provided.

The workshops offered attendees a variety of topic choices. The Individual Education Plan (IEP)/Individual Placement Review Committee (IPRC) workshop provided an overview of the importance of the process, clarified roles and responsibilities of those involved, and demonstrated how IEPs can be successfully implemented.

The workshop also stressed the importance of the cooperative effort between the home, school, and in some cases, community partners, in the development and implementation of IEPs.

The Anxiety and Our Special Needs Children workshop helped parents and educators recognize the symptoms of anxiety and how it can interfere with learning. The seminar explained that anxiety is on the rise, and that many behavioural problems can be the result of anxiety that has not been addressed. Tips and practical strategies for reducing, dealing with, and preventing anxiety, were also shared.

The Family Stressors Around Special Needs Children workshop provided a forum for discussion on the issues that many families of children with special needs face. Sibling, parent, and home/school issues were highlighted. Information was also provided on how community agencies help increase the success of children, families, and school teams in reducing stressors.

Principal of Special Education, Tom Jordan, called the evening a wonderful success. "The hardest thing that a parent of a special needs child can do is to try and raise them alone without any help. We wanted to make sure that we shared the message that we are here to help, and so are our partnering agencies."



Above: Parents and staff members from across the Board take part in the Individual Education Plan/Individual Placement Review Committee workshop facilitated by Special Education Consultants, Judy Dallas, and Rod McCleod. Top: Interactive displays and demonstrations engaged participants throughout the evening.

Official Opening and Blessing of St. Mark Catholic School

Submitted by Paul Mantha, Vice-Principal, St. Mark Catholic School, Prescott



Many St. Mark students assisted Archbishop Brendan O'Brien during the Liturgy of the Word and official blessing of the new Prescott school.

St. Mark Catholic School in Prescott celebrated its Official Opening and Blessing on Wednesday, May 26th. The evening consisted of a beautiful blessing ceremony conducted by Archbishop Brendan O'Brien of the Kingston Archdiocese, entertainment from the St. Mark choir, greetings from several dignitaries, a ribbon cutting ceremony, and a moving presentation highlighting the history of both St. Mark and St. Joseph Catholic Schools.

Nearly 400 students, parents, teachers, and administrators, past and present, were in attendance for the event.

Not only was this a celebration of a new beginning, the evening captured the longstanding sense of community that permeates the school today and was alive throughout its history. In

many ways, the evening felt like a family reunion. Many in attendance enjoyed catching up with old friends while remarking on the beauty of the new building.

One comment that was repeated often was the strong sense of friendship and comradery that permeated both the old St. Mark's and St. Joseph's and how this element of connectedness continues today.

Our school theme, *Unity Brings Peace*, was personified in the people and stories shared. It is with great praise for the efforts of those who built this community and hope for the future, that we move forward united in the peace of Christ and hopeful that future generations will find St. Mark as welcoming and loving as it has always been.



As trustees, administrators, local politicians, and school staff look on, ground is officially broken in Kemptville, where St. Michael Catholic High School will receive a 22 room addition.



Students, administrators, trustees and local politicians were thrilled to officially turn the sod for the 12 room addition to St. Thomas Aquinas CHS in Russell. The addition will welcome students in September of 2011.

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School Students Commemorate the 65th Anniversary of Victory in Europe and the Liberation of the Netherlands

Submitted by Helen Zurawski, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School Teacher and Tour Leader, Russell

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School students returned from an incredible 10-day tour to celebrate the 65th anniversary of victory in Europe and the liberation of the Netherlands. Students gained a new found understanding of World War II history, an ingrained respect for the sacrifices and courage undergone by veterans and a culture in the name of freedom, and a strengthened pride of being Canadian.

During the tour, which brought them to Paris, Vimy Ridge, Beaumont Hamel, Passchendaele, Bruges, Groesbeek, Wageningen, and Amsterdam, to the battlefields of Ypres Salient and Arnhem, and to the Canadian Memorial War Cemeteries in France, Belgium and Holland, the students commemorated the fallen soldiers, walked in now silent trenches, laid wreaths at monuments and poppy crosses at unmarked graves, prayed for those whose lives went un-lived, and warmly embraced the Dutch people who embraced them in return.

A tour highlight was the Silent March on May 4, where thousands of Canadian

students and veterans walked in silence out of the village of Groesbeek and up the hills to Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery for the commemoration celebrations. St. Thomas Aquinas students led the march, carried a Canadian flag that had flown over the Peace Tower as well as the national Hands Across the Generations flag, in memory of veterans.

As the students and veterans marched the 3 kilometres in gratitude for the fallen soldiers, silent voices, silent thoughts, and silent footsteps embraced the quiet green landscapes, the gentle cool breezes, and the setting sun. The moments were powerful and pride filled; the memories firmly embedded.

The students participated in the Wageningen Liberation Day parade on May 5, in an experience that was humbling and surreal. Thousands and thousands of Dutch citizens applauded continuously along the parade route as the students marched past, admiring school banners and flags. Many older citizens greeted the students with tears in their eyes.

The visit to the Jewish Cultural Quarter in Amsterdam on Holocaust Remembrance Day, May 6, culminated in a solemn prayer service and wreath laying ceremony at the deportation centre monument and chapel dedicated to the memory of 104,000 Dutch Jews who perished in death camps.

The students departed the Netherlands blessed with lifetime memories, enveloped in the kindness of people, and a feeling that they were part of history. The experience has left a bittersweet feeling in our hearts - sadness for those who died and suffered, and pride for the courage that was displayed for the freedoms and liberties that were won.



Students from St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School lay a wreath at Beaumont Hamel Memorial Cemetery in Northern France in memory of the 1st Battalion Newfoundland Regiment soldiers who perished in unprecedented artillery bombardment from German forces during the First World War.

Why I Chose a Catholic Education

Essay submitted by St. Michael CHS Grade 12 Student, Shayna Lodge, Kemptville

Then the Lord God took some soil from the ground and formed a man out of it; he breathed life-giving breath into his nostrils and the man began to live." - Genesis 2:7 (Good News Bible)

Catholic theology teaches that a human being is both body and soul; earth breathed into life by the Divine Creator. We are all more than material beings; we are unique and beautiful

souls - children of God. My Catholic education and faith have given me the ability to develop that second, crucial, and dominant aspect of who I am.

Catholic education has influenced, is influencing, and will influence my life. I have been lucky to attend a Catholic school, then a Catholic high-school, and plan on attending a Catholic university. Like the clay that the Creator formed Adam from in Genesis, I was malleable and young when this journey began. I was full of life - and yet there was this significant piece of my life that was missing. I would probably not know God, if not for my Catholic education. My school introduced me to a constant companion in Christ. As the years passed, my relationship with God deepened, and I found my faith in Him helped me through the hard times and assisted in the celebration of the good times.

But I wasn't a Catholic until I chose to be, and that decision was guided by my religious education. I longed - I ached - to be with this great and amazing God that I was learning so much about, that I was singing about in Church, and praying to every day. It was like the Creator breathed the breath of life into me again. I was so alive. And so I chose to be baptized, and when Confirmation arrived, I said "yes" sincerely to God.

This wonderful gift of belief has changed my outlook on life. I now see

the world through the stained-glass lens of my faith, and everything is more beautiful and meaningful that way. For one, I learned of love. True love. Divine love. That "God is Love" (1 John 4:8) and the greatest of faith, hope, and love is love (1 Corinthians 13:13), that I am here today because of His indescribable love for us - and that love never dies. Love sacrificed Himself; bled and died for someone as insignificant and undeserving as me.

But that is another thing I have learned - that I am not insignificant. My Catholic education has invited me to study inspiring faith leaders such as Pope John Paul II, St. Francis of Assisi, and Mother Theresa (and also those closer to home such as Ryan Hreljac) in an environment that encourages me to follow my own vocation. My Almighty Father will be with me the entire way; the Shepherd leading His lamb with love to her purpose, and waiting to carry her when she stumbles and falls.

My Catholic education has affected my life by giving me many gifts. It has given me a constant companion, faith and love to truly experience my stay on Earth, and hope for a bright future and afterlife in His light. I try to worship Him in all I do - especially in song - and I feel that this worship is a celebration. Let my every breath be a "thank You, Lord", I pray. I have so much to be grateful for, and my Catholic education is undeniably one of them.

CDSBEO Hands-Off Donations to Relay for Life

Staff and students at many CDSBEO Schools across our Board take part in Annual Relay for Life Fundraisers. The annual event sees relay teams walk around the school's track for 12 straight hours to raise money for cancer research.

Prior to the official start of the relay held in Perth at St. John CHS, the school was recognized by the Canadian Cancer Society for its efforts with the presentation of a plaque. The school has been recognized for raising more than \$270,000 over the course of the nine relays it has held.

Their relay got underway with the survivor's lap - which sees people who have survived their fight against cancer lead all the relay participants around the track for the first lap. More than 20 survivors led the energetic group around the track. In all, the school raised another \$47,000 for the cause.

In Vankleek Hill, St. Jude Catholic School was well represented at the

community's local Relay with three teams of ten raising \$5,621.31 for the cause. Students at St. Francis Xavier CHS in Hammond walked through the night and raised \$20,000 in their third annual edition of the Relay, while Alexandria's St. Finnan's Catholic School raised \$900.



St. John CHS Grade 12 student, Alexandra Harper receives a plaque on behalf of her school from the Canadian Cancer Society's Natalie Gibb-Carsley, in recognition of the school's fundraising accomplishments.

Three New Specialist High Skills Major Programs Celebrated in the CDSBEO

Special celebrations across our Board this year marked the first year of new Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs in three of our schools. Each school was happy to welcome Ministry of Education Officials, Trustees, Senior Administration, and community partners for a showcase of our students' abilities, talents, and knowledge.

St. Joseph CSS in Cornwall launched a new SHSM Business Program. The program enables students to build a foundation of business sector-focused knowledge and skills before graduating to apprenticeship training, college, university, or an entry-level position in the workplace. Students focus and customize their program around the varied aspects of the business world and have the opportunity to participate in career mentorship programs and career exploration activities related to the field. Those in attendance at the celebration heard from former students and local partners who are involved in the program. All were grateful for the opportunity.

Holy Trinity CSS, also in Cornwall, launched the SHSM Health and Wellness Program, known as the Live

Well program in the CDSBEO. It focuses on overall health of oneself and of others. Students enrolled in the program learn how to improve health through many facets of life, including fitness and nutrition. First aid and in-depth studies of human anatomy are explored to give students a better understanding of what is needed to help improve overall health for society. Through partnerships, students see the effects the health industry has on the community's quality of life. Students in the program showcased several things they have learned including fitness techniques, and offered a selection of healthy food that they had prepared themselves.

In Hammond, students were given the opportunity to enter the world of Hospitality and Tourism at St. Francis Xavier CHS. The Hospitality and Tourism SHSM gives students the chance to build a solid foundation in the knowledge of such things as accommodation, food and beverage services, recreation, and travel services. They are given the opportunity to work alongside established professionals in the field to get a fantastic on the job feel for the industry. The event, a breakfast

culinary talents. A gourmet breakfast was offered to give those in attendance a firsthand look, or taste, into how the program is being embraced.

Supervising Principal of Student Success, Sheila Farris, said the SHSM gives students an amazing opportunity. "These students are able to actually work in these specific areas of study to gain incredibly valuable experience. We are blessed to be able to offer the SHSM programs at our secondary schools and are thrilled when we hear the numerous success stories from past students who are now either working, or have taken their experience to post-secondary learning."

All SHSM programs extend well beyond classrooms in order to provide learning opportunities within the local business community, as well as post-secondary training and education partners. These additional learning opportunities are made possible through the generous participation and support of local community partnerships with business, colleges and universities.

The results speak for themselves: students leave SHSM programs with a diploma noting the program, preparatory knowledge, skills, certifications, reach-ahead, and on the job opportunities in several specific areas of learning.



Top right: Students in the Specialist High Skills Major: Hospitality and Tourism program at St. Francis Xavier CHS in Hammond had the opportunity to share their experiences during the program at its celebratory launch. Above left: Community Partnerships help to strengthen all SHSM programs, including the SHSM: Business program at St. Joseph's CSS in Cornwall. Above right: Students enrolled in the SHSM: Health and Wellness program at Holy Trinity CSS in Cornwall show just one of the many different types of specialised teaching aids that are used.

Busy Year Coming to a Close at St. Francis Xavier Catholic School

Submitted by Teacher Bill Gowsell, St. Francis Xavier Catholic School, Brockville

St. Francis Xavier School took on two projects as Lenten initiatives: a Pancake Tuesday lunch and Cheryl's Home in Kenya, a nonprofit school for children that relies on donations for its success. Students took the opportunity to write letters to students at Cheryl's Home, and the Grade 5/6 class donated a box of school supplies. In all, St. Francis Xavier raised \$860 for Cheryl's Home.

Staff, students, and parents also held a dance/walkathon fundraiser to celebrate Catholic Education Week. Students and parents were able to raise more than \$1,800 for the school by walking

around the neighborhood, and dancing in the schoolyard.

Hands on Learning: Past and Future
St. Francis Xavier's Grade 4 and 5 classes have been broadening their understanding of recent social studies and science units with practical end of unit tasks. The grade 4's recently completed their study of medieval times by constructing castles. To successfully build their model castles, students had to rely on knowledge of social studies, mathematics and language arts for a final written summary. Teacher Matt Hubbard said, "This was a great way

to involve all students in a performance task assessment."

The Grade 5 Intensive French class constructed solar ovens as a final task for their science unit about energy. The students saved pizza boxes from the Wednesday pizza day and used the box as their oven shell. With the addition of tin foil and plastic wrap, their ovens were complete. After successfully harnessing the sun, each student was able to enjoy a delicious s'more. Teacher Jasmine Delaney said, "This was a fun activity that allowed the students to apply their knowledge

in a non-threatening assessment task."

The Grade 5 and 6 students applied their knowledge of international trade in a fun activity. Each student had to form their own country and trading alliances with classmates. Using play money they had earned in the previous three weeks of the unit, they had to purchase as many resources possible from other countries without going bankrupt.

All told, it was a successful year at St. Francis Xavier and we look forward to seeing what September brings.

Catholic Education Week at CDSBEO Schools

Once again, schools from across our eight counties celebrated the distinct contributions that Catholic schools make to their communities during another successful Catholic Education Week. Eucharistic celebrations, living Rosaries, and fundraisers took place. Social justice issues were explored and promoted in several communities.

Artistic showcases also took place at many schools to celebrate our students' diverse talents. We were very pleased to have all CDSBEO Catholic schools come together to mark the beginning of the week with the eighth annual Board-wide Mass at Holy Cross Parish in Kemptville on Monday, May 3, 2010 and we were honored to have

Bishop Paul-André Durocher of the Alexandria-Cornwall Diocese preside over the celebration. We wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the parents,

grandparents and other members of our Catholic communities who took the time to visit our schools during this wonderful week.



St. Mary CHS Students lead all area Catholic schools in the annual Walk for Poverty Awareness march organized by the Regional Catholic Education Coalition of Leeds and Grenville. The St. Mary students visit the local elementary schools to teach the younger students about poverty awareness and how they can help. Walks were also held in Prescott, Kemptville, and Gananoque.



Students at St. Gregory Catholic School, Carleton Place, created this mural to celebrate the Board theme and Catholic Education Week.



His Excellency, Bishop Paul-André Durocher, Bishop of the Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall, is joined by Holy Cross Catholic School students Christopher O'Neill, Alexander Hart, and Austin Houlihan at the Board-wide Mass held in Kemptville.



Parents visited classes at Holy Cross Catholic School in Kemptville to share a story.

Hope

Hope gives us peace
And puts more into our beliefs.
If you spread it around it will bloom like a flower,
It gives you and everyone a lot of power.
Hope can make us wise
And stop you from telling lies.
It's a gift that God gave you to use
It's something you don't want to lose.
Hope overpowers your bad feelings
And replaces them with good.
The more hope you give, the better you feel.
To me that's a pretty good deal.
Eventually it comes back to you
Remember hope in everything you do.

*Written by Haley Mallory, Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic School, Lanark
May 6th, 2010*

St. Mike's Drama Students Bring Gospel Message to Their Audiences with Energetic Performances

Submitted by Teacher Mary Ellen Viau, St. Michael CHS, Kemptville

On the final day of Catholic Education Week, five senior drama students from St. Michael CHS travelled to St. Mark in Prescott, St. Mary – St. Cecilia in Morrisburg, St. Mary in Chesterville, and Holy Cross in Kemptville, to perform *A Dance With The Dragon* for elementary students.

The anti-gossip message in the play, written and directed by their drama teacher, Mary Ellen Viau, was well received by their enthusiastic audiences.

A Dance With The Dragon is the story of a young boy named Dimitri who wants the dragon who rules the kingdom to like him. He believes that telling the dragon some nasty news about his neighbours will make him look better and earn him the privilege of dancing with the dragon.

However, Dimitri is challenged by the dragon's three wise counsellors. They

help him to understand that before anyone tells a story to others, they must reflect on whether the news is worthy of telling. Each of the counsellors asks the boy one question about the story he is bringing to the dragon. The first counsellor asks him if he is sure the story is true. The second counsellor asks him if the story is uplifting or happy. The third counsellor asks if telling the story will be helpful to the dragon.

When Dimitri has considered these questions carefully, he realizes that the story is not worthy. He is told he may not tell it to the dragon. When he leaves the palace to return to his home, Dimitri meets a new friend who is very sad. He forgets all about his plan to try and win the dragon's love and instead tries to get the dragon to help his new friend.

In the end, Dimitri learns a very important lesson: true happiness can never come from doing something

unkind. True happiness comes to us when we bring it to someone else. This message was warmly accepted by all the students who had the privilege of watching the performance.



Different Grades collaborated to create beautiful works of art at St. Edward Catholic School in Westport.



Students at Pope John Paul II Catholic School in Hammond assist Deacon Rick Gervais at a special prayer service for hope.



St. Michael CHS students share their performance of *A Dance With The Dragon* with students at St. Mark Catholic School during Catholic Education Week.

Working Together to Explore the World of Nonfiction

Submitted by Mother Teresa Catholic School (Russell) Teachers Erin James and Tammy Clune

It's not hard to engage students when it comes to reading and writing nonfiction, you just have to spend a few minutes observing some of the Grade 1 and Grade 5 students at Mother Teresa Catholic School in Russell.

One of the focuses this year was to increase the amount of nonfiction reading and writing in both the primary and junior divisions. Research suggests that approximately 90% of adult reading is nonfiction.

The Grade 1 students elicited the help of some very enthusiastic Grade 5 students as they continued to explore nonfiction. Grade 1 students began to prepare by reading nonfiction texts and learning about the many features that are specific to this genre. They used this knowledge to prepare a nonfiction text scroll highlighting many of the important features such as a glossary and captions. Students discussed how these features help the reader better understand the text.

Following this, the Grade 1 students created nonfiction research folders with the help of the Grade 5 students. The first step was to use the Internet to investigate various types of snakes in order to select one for their research project. As they continued to work together over a few weeks, students had the opportunity to create sketches and take notes about interesting facts such as habitats, eating habits, and predators.

Nonfiction has even carried over into their environmentally friendly artwork. Students worked together to reuse shredded paper in order to make snake bodies. The students used the information from their research to papier-mâché and then paint their

reptiles with the appropriate colour design.

The benefits to cross-age tutoring are endless! The Grade 5 and Grade 1 students were able to draw upon all of their literacy strategies to organize and communicate the nonfiction research. The junior students took on a leadership role by showing respect and patience in order to assist their younger buddies. This initiative has provided many opportunities for both groups of students to live out so many Catholic virtues. Love, for example, was witnessed as the students learned about each other's gifts and various academic abilities.

Student engagement and motivation remained evident throughout the entire process. From a teacher's perspective, this was a powerful experience which allowed students to not only further develop their understanding of nonfiction material, but to also use the life skills that will stay with them forever.

Grade 5 student reflections from their Writer's Notebook:

The time I've been with my buddy has been very fun and has really helped me connect to kids younger than me. All that really matters is helping my buddy so he can excel in life.

William D.

I think that the research folder is a very smart and thoughtful idea to keep track of information about their animal.

Nicholas M.

I have 2 reading/working buddies and I enjoy doing this because it helps me with my reading and writing.

James M.

My buddy has taught me that being patient is the most important thing in life. I think this because I want to be a teacher when I grow up...it helps me

know what it's going to be like.
Lauren L.



Students at Mother Teresa have embraced the cooperative program that sees Grade 1 and Grade 5 students working together to improved their reading and writing skills.



CDSBEO Students March for Life

Submitted by Sr. Terry Ann Wilson, Chaplaincy Leader, St. Joseph CSS, Cornwall



Above: Students from St. Joseph's CSS in Cornwall led by Chaplaincy Leader, Sr. Terry Wilson are joined by Bishop Paul-André Durocher of the Alexandria-Cornwall Diocese at the march. Right: St. Mary CHS students from Brockville travelled to Ottawa to take part in the march and have their voices heard.

Hundreds of students and staff from St. Joseph's CSS and Holy Trinity CSS in Cornwall, St. Michael CHS in Kemptville, St. Mary CHS in Brockville, and St. Francis Xavier CHS in Hammond, joined more than 12,000 people from across Canada for this year's National March for Life held on May 13th in Ottawa.

This Pro-Life event is organized annually as a means of advocating for life with the government. Participants gather on Parliament Hill to hear speeches from Members of Parliament who are pro-life, and then march around the downtown core of Ottawa with their message.



Bravo Breakfast Award Winners

The Board had the privilege of hearing about some wonderful students from our schools as the second annual Bravo Breakfast Awards were held in Cornwall, Hammond, Smiths Falls, and Brockville this year. These young folks are the unsung heroes of their schools who go the extra mile.

Some of our recipients have overcome adversity and personal challenges to remain positive influences for their peers,

while others help the less fortunate in their communities by visiting the elderly, serving their parishes, and spear-heading food drives.

Some simply bring a positive outlook and energy with them to school every day which resonates through the school and into their communities.

Pictured are this year's winners, a very inspirational group of students.



Hanley Hall, Smiths Falls

Front Row: Ashley Dawn Stockton, St. Gregory Catholic School, Carleton Place; Kayla Gillam, St. Luke CHS, Smiths Falls; Kaitlyn Lockett, St. John CHS, Perth; Nathalie Morais, St. Michael CHS, Kemptville; Ella Besserer, St. Michael CHS, Kemptville; Kathryn Eynstein, Notre Dame CHS, Carleton Place; Kristie Danfousse, Notre Dame CHS, Carleton Place.

Second Row: Mrs. Stockton, Parent; Cally Girdwood, St. John Catholic Elementary School, Perth; Garland Trottier, Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic School, Lanark; Ryan Villeneuve, St. Mary Catholic School, Carleton Place; Andrew Van Campen, Holy Name of Mary Catholic School, Almonte; Lauren Frankovitch, St. James Catholic School, Smiths Falls; Connor Peereboom, St. Francis de Sales Catholic School, Smiths Falls; Angelica Miller, Holy Cross Catholic School, Kemptville.

Back Row: Dylan Foss, St. Edward Catholic School, Westport.



C.J.'s Banquet Hall, Brockville

Front Row: Marc Steinlechner, J.L. Jordan Catholic School, Brockville; Leigha Geraghty, St. John Bosco Catholic School, Brockville; Madison Ford, St. Joseph Catholic School, Gananoque; Cori Klein Gunnewick, St. Joseph Catholic School, Toledo.

Back Row: Abigail Kilpatrick, St. Francis Xavier Catholic School, Brockville; Alexander Stewart, St. Luke CHS, Smiths Falls; Lukas Ranger, St. Mark Catholic School, Prescott; Kathryn Jonker, St. Mary CHS, Brockville; Anne MacLean, St. Mary CHS, Brockville.



Chez Philias, Hammond

Front Row: Brandon Scheepers, St. Mary Catholic School, Chesterville; Aly O'Quinn-Gravelle, Mother Teresa Catholic School, Russell.

Second Row: Alexandra MacIsaac, St. Thomas Aquinas CHS, Russell; Carole Rondeau, Pope John Paul II Catholic School, Hammond; Vanessa Brazeau, St. Patrick Catholic School, Rockland; Vanessa Vandergoten, St. Jude Catholic School, Vankleek Hill.

Back Row: Mathieu Henri, St. Francis Xavier CHS, Hammond; Melanie Mariutti, St. Francis Xavier CHS, Hammond; Rachel Theriault, St. Thomas Aquinas CHS, Russell.

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Best Western Parkway Inn, Cornwall

Front Row: Dylan Kirkey, Holy Trinity CSS, Cornwall; Natalie Rothwell, St. Matthew CSS, Cornwall; Elizabeth Bakker, St. Joseph's CSS, Cornwall; Jillian Lynch, Iona Academy, Williamstown; Bradley Pecore, St. Andrew's Catholic School, St. Andrews.

Second Row: Taylor Primeau, St. Peter Catholic School, Cornwall; Brandy Cameron, Immaculate Conception Catholic School, Cornwall; Abigail Croteau, St. Columban's Catholic School, Cornwall; Olivia Deschamps, St. Anne Catholic School, Cornwall; Lauryn Henry, St. Mary-St. Cecilia Catholic School, Morrisburg.

Third Row: Austin Latour, Bishop Macdonell Catholic School, Cornwall; Pamela Champagne, St. Finnan's Catholic School, Alexandria; Hunter Wells, Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic School, Ingleside; Wesley Mantha, St. George Catholic School, Long Sault; Janisiya Srihar, Sacred Heart Catholic School, Cornwall; Alain Theriault, Holy Trinity CSS, Cornwall.