

School News from the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario

School: St. Francis Xavier CSS
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Relay for Life Event Announced for St. Francis Xavier CHS, Hammond

Hammond, ON – Recently, an emotional ceremony at St. Francis Xavier Catholic High School in Hammond kicked off the fundraising efforts for the school's first ever Relay for Life for the Canadian Cancer Society. The relay itself will begin at 7:00 p.m. on May 23 and conclude at 7:00 a.m. on May 24.

The relay has been held for a number of years in communities across Canada, but the event held at St. Francis Xavier will be the first ever held in the counties of Prescott and Russell.

The kick off assembly featured a number of students and staff sharing how cancer has affected their lives. Stories of family members who had lost their personal battles with the disease, and stories of survival were shared.

One parent addressed the group, explaining that his cancer was diagnosed as inoperable and terminal. He said thanks to fundraising efforts such as the Relay for Life that advancements in fighting the disease led to him having a tumour removed. "Now there is only scar tissue left, and I will continue to live. What you are doing here is so important and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your efforts."

Teams of 10 students will be raising funds together as they prepare for the Relay. Luminaries housing candles will also be sold to share messages of survival and remembrance.

St. Francis Xavier Principal, Natalie Cameron, said she is proud of the way the students have embraced the effort. "Cancer has affected the lives of each and every one of our students and staff in some way. I am overwhelmed by the dedication of our Relay for Life Student Planning Committee, and by how all of our students have embraced this fundraiser. The enthusiasm and energy that they are bringing to this event will certainly ensure its success."

Organizer and St. Francis Xavier CHS Chaplaincy Leader, Gordie van Putten, said that the effort goes well beyond the school. "We have already been approached by a number of our parents who are asking how they can help. We have volunteers from our community coming

forward to lend a hand, and we are really seeing how the relay is expanding from a school event, to a community event. We couldn't be happier with the support that is being shown."

For more information and to find out how you can help with the Relay for Life at St. Francis Xavier Catholic High School, please contact the school at 613-487-2913 or 1-888-416-2373.

The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario operates 40 elementary and 10 secondary schools across 8 counties. The CDSBEO offers excellence in Catholic education through provincial-leading programs to approximately 15,000 students.

Attached Photos: St FX Relay for Life kick off .jpg – Members of the St. Francis Xavier Student Relay for Life Committee are joined by school Chaplaincy Leader Gordie van Putten (back left) and Relay for Life Youth Program Coordinator Cameron Whalen at the kick off to the schools fundraising efforts

