

# ***School News from the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario***

**School: St. Patrick Catholic School, Rockland**

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## **St. Patrick Student Makes Cookies for Cancer a Success**

**Rockland, ON** – Once a month, staff and students at St. Patrick Catholic School in Rockland have the opportunity to buy homemade cookies from Grade 5 student Alanna Longley and her mother, all the while helping a great cause. Alanna calls the effort *Cookies for Cancer*.

Alanna said the idea combines two of her favorite things. “I like helping people by raising money for charity and I really like baking. So I thought it was a great idea to put the two together and start *Cookies for Cancer*.”

Alanna told her mother Christine about the idea, and together they approached the school. Student Support Worker, Mary Jane Murphy, thought it was a great idea. Mrs. Murphy said when they finally got started, it was an instant success. “We actually ran out of cookies the first time and we had to turn people away. You only have to look at the long lines to see how our students have embraced the idea. I think the way it has caught on is amazing.”

St. Patrick Principal, Judith Boucher, said the entire school gets behind the effort and knows it’s about more than just buying a cookie. “Our students know that with each cookie they buy, they are helping to fight cancer. Everyone at the school is incredibly proud of Alanna. We each have gifts to share with others; Alanna is using hers to help those in need. She is truly living our board theme, *Called to serve...as disciples of Christ*.”

For Alanna, picking cancer research as her charity of choice was an easy decision. “So many people in the world have cancer. I have people in my family that have been hit with it too. I just thought this would be a great way to help them out.”

The cookies sell for 25 cents each and sell out each and every time. Alanna’s mother told Ms. Boucher that the first two *Cookies for Cancer* days have raised close to \$200 for the cause.

Alanna and her mother plan to run the fundraiser until the end of the school year, and hopefully beyond. “I hope that we can do it again next year too,” said Alanna.

Ms. Boucher said she would welcome hosting the fundraiser again.

For more information, please contact CDSBEO Communications Officer Bob Perreault at 613-258-7757 or 1-800-443-4562 ext. 206 or 613-859-0678 (mobile).

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: Alanna Longley .jpg – St. Patrick Catholic School Grade 5 student Alanna Longley, the creator of *Cookies for Cancer***

