

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

**School: St. Joseph, Gananoque**  
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## **Sharing Fair a Success at St. Joseph Catholic School in Gananoque**

**Gananoque, ON** – Students in Ms. Genevieve Lanigan’s Grade 4 class at St. Joseph Catholic School in Gananoque recently completed a project that helped underprivileged women and girls in impoverished nations, while assisting people with their Christmas shopping.

In response to class discussions about answering the Gospel call to help others, the class held its first ever “Sharing Fair” on Thursday, December 13, 2007.

The Sharing Fair is a project of the international congregation of Sisters of the Good Shepherd. For sale are small items that have been made by women or young girls in developing countries who shoulder the responsibility for family support. One hundred percent of the proceeds from the items sold are returned to the villages where the goods were made. The money is used to provide food and other necessities for families.

Ms. Lanigan said that the fair is about options. “The students are learning that this is an opportunity to promote the Gospel value of justice as they seek to assist others during the Christmas season. The items that are sold are of an incredible quality, and their sale gives dignity to the women and girls who made them, and their home villages. I am so proud of the way our students have dedicated themselves to this event.”

Handcrafted items for sale include handbags, toys, baby supplies, clothing, jewellery, and decorative items. In order to pay for the items to be shipped from Toronto, the school held a bake sale in conjunction with the fair.

Organizers were concerned on the day of the event as the forecast called for a significant snowfall.

“It was an incredible success,” said Ms. Lanigan. “The efforts of our students at the Sharing Fair and bake sale raised close to \$2000 for the women and girls and their villages. We can’t thank the community enough for coming out like they did despite the weather.”

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.

