

School News from the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario

School: St. John Catholic Elementary
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St. John Catholic Elementary School Unveils Peace Flag

Perth, ON – Hundreds of students cheered as St. John Catholic Elementary School in Perth unveiled its Peace Flag as presented by Peaceful Schools International (PSI). Each student waved their own personally decorated Peace Flag as the unveiling took place.

The Peace Flag is given to schools that have declared a commitment to creating and maintaining a culture of peace. St. John Catholic Elementary School has implemented initiatives that develop and enhance aspects of Catholic education which contribute to the whole person.

St. John Principal Theresa Lalonde-Pankow told the students they truly earned the recognition. "Each and every one of you worked very hard to make this happen. I am extremely proud of the way you have embraced the Peaceful Schools International program and the way you are becoming leaders in our community by showing that ours is a safe, friendly, peaceful school."

The designation is the result of an initiative put forth by Student Support Worker Kate Wing. It began when the school won the Michael Carty Award from the Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario for its proposal to implement the PSI Program. The school used the monetary award to invite PSI founder Hetty van Gorp to the school. Ms. van Gorp founded the organization following the bullying related death of her son Ben.

For more than a year, Ms. Wing has led the effort to bring the PSI designation to St. John. She also addressed students at the unveiling. "As we have worked towards this designation, you have all shown us how you have embraced the anti-bullying message of the Peaceful Schools International Program and applied it to the Catholic values we teach and share every day. It is wonderful that we all get to share this message with the rest of our community."

Community members have also helped teach the students about peaceful initiatives. Perth Police Officer Earle Cook, and Fire Prevention Officer Peter Echlin have been associated with the school and were both present at the unveiling.

“It is amazing to see the students get so excited about this,” said Const. Cook. “It is a great feeling knowing that these students will be sharing this message with the rest of our community.”

PSI has over 200 member schools around the world. Other nearby CDSBEO schools to attain the recognition include St. Mary and St. Gregory Catholic Schools in Carleton Place.

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:

St John Flag1.jpg – St. John Catholic Elementary Grade 8 student Kathryn Gallant, Vice-Principal Jim Roberts, Principal Theresa Lalonde-Pankow, Student Support Worker Kate Wing, and Grade 8 student Meaghan Paine unveil the flag to the school



St John Flag2.jpg – St. John Catholic Elementary Students wave their Peace Flags at the unveiling of the Peaceful Schools International Peace Flag

