

NEWS RELEASE FROM THE CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

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Subject: CDSBEO Recognizes World Aids Day
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CDSBEO Recognizes World Aids Day

Kemptville, ON – The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario is among thousands of organizations around the world recognizing World Aids Day on December 1.

The Board provides, as part of its family life education program, instruction on the nature and prevention of HIV/AIDS. The main goal of this program is to help students to understand the ways in which this disease is spread.

The program, approved by the Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops, teaches a holistic approach to educating children beginning in Kindergarten through to grade 12 on the Christian call to compassion, care and concern for the sick and their responsibility to live a healthy lifestyle as persons created in the image and likeness of God.

CDSBEO Director of Education Ann Perron stated, “As *people of God transforming the world*, we have a responsibility to educate our children in the prevention of such diseases. Inspired by our Gospel values, we must find ways to help make a difference in the lives of victims of HIV/AIDS.”

World AIDS Day is dedicated to raising awareness of the global AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV infection. World Aids Day originated at the 1988 World Summit of Ministers of Health on Programs for AIDS Prevention. From 1988 to 2004 the day was organized by a division of the United Nations. In 2005 The World Aids Campaign, an organization dedicated to the eradication of the pandemic, assumed responsibility for World AIDS Day.

Since the first human case was diagnosed 25 years ago, AIDS has killed more than 25 million people, making it one of the most destructive epidemics in recorded history.

For more information, please contact CDSBEO Communications Officer Bob Perreault at (613) 258-7757 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.