

School News from the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario

School: St. John Bosco Catholic School
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St. John Bosco Catholic School Gives Wonderful Gift to Children of Chernobyl

Brockville, ON – A recent visitor to St. John Bosco Catholic School in Brockville has had a lasting effect on its students. The school welcomed the President of the local chapter of Canadian Aid for Chernobyl, Dave Shaw.

Mr. Shaw presented a slide show that told students about the Chernobyl disaster and the effects it has had on hundreds of children in Russia. He discussed the needs of the numerous orphanages that house hundreds of children between the ages of two weeks and 16 years. Many of the children are orphans because their parents are too unhealthy to provide the basic needs of life, due to lingering side effects of the disaster.

Every year, Canadian Aid for Chernobyl organizes the delivery of several containers to children living in these orphanages and within the Chernobyl disaster radioactive zone. Among the many items they require are wrapped bars of soap.

“Hearing about the soap inspired our students to take action,” said Grade 3 Teacher Andrea Dowd. “They wanted to do their best to get the entire school to collect as many bars of soap to help those children. This desire to help is just the most recent example of how our students embody our Board theme, *Called to serve... as disciples of Christ!* perfectly, and certainly answers the question, what would Jesus do?”

Each class collected wrapped bars of soap to be used in a *Soap Building Competition* in the gym. After the entries were judged, the soap was donated to the organization to be sent in the care packages. Amazingly, the school collected more than 1,600 bars of soap to help the children of Chernobyl.

“Our students never cease to amaze me,” said Principal, Donna Balemba. “This social justice initiative embraces our Gospel values. It is a wonderful example of how our children see a problem in the world and react with the spirit of giving selflessly. I am so incredibly proud that they were able to make such a significant donation.”

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: Soap building 1.jpg, Soap building 2.jpg – Students at St. John Bosco Catholic School in Brockville used donated bars of soap to build various creations. All the soap is being donated to children who are victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

