

NEWS RELEASE FROM THE CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

Date: May 15, 2008
Subject: Catholic Education Forum
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First Catholic Education Forum a Resounding Success

Kemptville, ON – The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario (CDSBEO) is pleased to report that its first Catholic Education Forum was a resounding success. The Forum was presented by CDSBEO’s Catholic Education Coalition (CEC) and Parent Involvement Committee (PIC). The Forum featured a keynote address from Bishop Douglas Crosby, from the Diocese of Corner Brook and Labrador.

The gathering was a celebration of cooperation, and brought together representatives from every CDSBEO school across our eight counties. School teams made up of Parish Priests, principals, parents and teachers joined Trustees and Senior Administration for the keynote address which was followed by several break-out sessions. In all, more than 250 people were in attendance.

“The forum is a wonderful opportunity for our larger Catholic community to come together and discuss issues that are common across our Board,” said CDSBEO Principal of Religious and Family Life Education, Tom Jordan. “At the same time though, we are able to share solutions that can be applied to individual school situations and the challenges they face.”

Prior to the keynote address the Board debuted a new promotional DVD that shares the success of our schools, and the successes that have come as a result of our Catholic partnerships. The production tells the story of Catholic education in eastern Ontario and it explains how the CDSBEO is dedicated to nurturing the heart, mind, body and soul of each and every student.

In his keynote address Bishop Crosby reminded the group that every single person “receives gifts, lots of gifts, and different gifts from God.” As Catholic partners we often do a good job of “recognizing these gifts in others, but we don’t always recognize them in ourselves.”

His Excellency stressed the valuable contribution that all partners (home, school and parish) make to Catholic education with a special emphasis on the importance of parents and the significant role that they will play if the threat to Catholic Schools increases in the Province of Ontario. He talked about the need for the entire Catholic community to “lean in” and work together to preserve, proclaim and protect our schools.

Board Chair, Ron Eamer, told the group how wonderful it is to see this level of dedication to Catholic education. "Our schools are successful because of you and the work you do. It is an amazing feeling to see so many people who share the same passion working together to strengthen our Catholic school system. I am grateful for your dedication."

Following the keynote address, the group split into break-out sessions which covered a variety of subjects such as: an overview of various peace, justice and service projects that students at our secondary schools have engaged in; a discussion about the history of English Catholic education in Ontario with a view to building a strong future; literary resources that help bring Catholic themes to life for students; and the importance of parental involvement in Catholic education.

Director of Education, Bill Gartland, stated, "It's important to note that the break-out sessions were planned at the request of our Catholic partners. Our dialogue in Catholic Education Coalition and Parent Involvement Committee meetings led to the planning of sessions that were tailor-made for this group. We are very pleased that we had such a large turnout to take part in this Forum. It is a definite sign that our connection between home, school and Parish continues to strengthen."

The Catholic Education Coalition was formed in 2002 as the result of our Catholic partners' strong desire to answer a call to action. The coalition represents our eight counties, serving to support the vision, mission and motto of CDSBEO. It is made up of representatives from all of our schools, including principals, teachers, Parish Priests, parents and students.

The Parent Involvement Committee is a provincially mandated committee. It was formed in 2006 and has representation from all eight of our counties. The goal of the committee is to encourage parental involvement in education through the sharing of best practices, and successful initiatives.

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:

Catholic Education Forum 1 – CDSBEO Board Chair, Ron Eamer, Bishop Douglas Crosby of the Diocese of Corner Brook and Labrador, and CDSBEO Director of Education, Bill Gartland, at the CDSBEO's first ever Catholic Education Forum.



Catholic Education Forum 2 – Delegates at the CDSBEO's Catholic Education Forum listen to Bishop Douglas Crosby, from the Diocese of Corner Brook and Labrador deliver his keynote address.

