

School News from the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario

School: St. John Catholic Elementary, Perth

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From: Bob Perreault, Communications Officer

bob.perreault@cdsbeo.on.ca



Box 2222, 2755 Highway 43, Kemptville, ON K0G 1J0
613-258-7757 or 1-800-443-4562 ext. 206

Grant Means More Music for St. John Catholic Elementary School

Perth, ON – A grant from MusicCan, the national music education charity of the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (CARAS), means that students at St. John Catholic Elementary School are going to receive more opportunities to explore their musical talents.

The school has been approved for a \$10,000 Band Aid musical instrument grant, which it will use to purchase new instruments.

“This is truly fantastic news,” said St. John Principal Theresa Lalonde-Pankow. “The Band Aid grant will be giving so many of our students an opportunity to explore their musical ability, which they may not have otherwise had. This announcement is going to make a wonderful difference at our school.”

St. John Elementary Music Teacher Julie Andrews said the grant will be used to benefit as many students as possible. “We will be buying at least 15 instruments for the instrumental music program, including some specialty instruments that we’ve never had before - like a bass clarinet and a valve trombone. We will also be purchasing percussion instruments for our primary students who are just beginning to explore their musical talents.”

Superintendent of Education Dr. Donaleen Hawes believes that music can play a vital role in the development and education of Catholic students. “The exploration of music is a wonderful component to our curriculum. Our students display so many incredible talents and abilities, and a grant like this only allows them to further explore their potential. We are grateful that CARAS recognized the benefit that this grant will have on the St. John Catholic Elementary School community.”

Several factors are weighed in awarding the grant, including: economic need, inventory, condition of existing musical instruments, and overall impact the grant would make to the school and surrounding community. To date, CARAS has donated more than 2.3 million dollars to music programs at schools across the country. The grant awarded to St. John Catholic Elementary School will help support a variety of programs in the school, from early-years instruction, through to advanced techniques.

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.