

News Release

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Subject: Glengarry Catholic School Principals

From: Bob Perreault, Communications Officer

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Glengarry Catholic School Principals: A Homecoming in Williamstown and Strengthening Community Ties in Alexandria

Glengarry County – Students at the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario's (CDSBEO) two elementary schools in Glengarry County will be greeted by two very happy principals when they head back to school on September 6th. Kennedy MacDonald takes over at Iona Academy Catholic School in Williamstown, while Chris Oldford moves from Iona Academy to Alexandria's St. Finnan's Catholic School.

Homecoming for Mr. MacDonald

"I'm coming home." That was the initial reaction of Principal Ken MacDonald, when he was told that he would be moving to Iona Academy Catholic School in September.

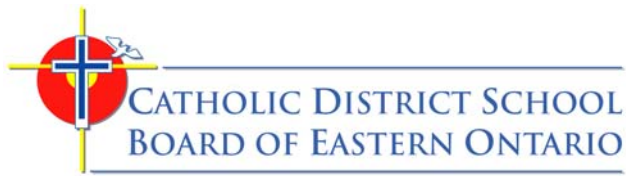
Mr. MacDonald, a Principal for eight years with the CDSBEO, said he feels the move is a perfect fit. "Growing up, I lived five minutes from the school, was an elementary student at Iona, and my family attended Mass at St. Raphael's," he said. "I was also a teacher at the school before taking on the role of Principal at St. Columban's Catholic School in Cornwall. It is going to be wonderful to be back."

Mr. MacDonald says the ties to the Catholic community run deep. "My wife and I live less than 15 minutes away from the school. Relating to the parents of our students will be easy because I am a part of this community. My children are a part of this community too, and I think that is a fantastic advantage when it comes to connecting with the students."

Mr. MacDonald says his goal is the same as it was at his last school, St. Anne. "We want to do our absolute best to deliver a quality Catholic education rooted in the Gospel values to our students. Our goal is to prepare them for their next steps on their journey to becoming Catholic graduates and to help them become successful, contributing members of their communities."

Mr. MacDonald succeeds Chris Oldford, who begins at St. Finnan's Catholic School in September.

We walk in good company!



Mr. Oldford Strengthens his Glengarry Ties

“I had a wonderful time at Iona and I am looking forward to the new experiences at St. Finnan’s,” said Principal Oldford.

St. Finnan’s Catholic School will be Mr. Oldford’s second school as Principal, having previously served as Vice-Principal at Notre Dame CHS in Carleton Place, and St. Thomas CHS in Russell, before moving on to Iona Academy.

“I am certainly pleased that I will be staying in the area. I’ve grown quite attached to Glengarry County over the past two years, so it’s nice that I am simply moving up the road to Alexandria.”

Mr. Oldford says that he knows Alexandria is a warm, friendly community. “Just as at Iona, the school receives a great deal of support from parents and the Catholic community as a whole.”

“Glengarry County is a wonderful learning environment for our students,” he said. “We are able to take advantage of the strong history of Catholic education and Catholic faith in this region; that is an incredible resource and wonderful enhancement to our curriculum.”

Mr. Oldford will be strengthening his ties to the Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall as well, by working with his second parish in the area. “I know the students look forward to the time they get to spend at St. Finnan’s Cathedral, and Father Maloney is a wonderful spiritual guide and teacher.”

Mr. Oldford said that he knows he is walking into an excellent school. “The staff and students at St. Finnan’s are driven towards a tradition of excellence. I am looking forward to working with the St. Finnan’s family to grow that tradition, both spiritually and in the classroom, as we work towards getting them ready to become high school students at Holy Trinity CSS.”

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 13,500 students.

We walk in good company!

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Wm. J. Gartland
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