

News Release

Date: October 20, 2011

Subject: Priority Schools Initiative - Bishop Macdonell Catholic School

From: Bob Perreault, CDSBEO Communications Officer

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

New Initiative has Bishop Macdonell Catholic School's Facility Offered to Not-for-Profit Organizations at No Cost

Cornwall, ON – Bishop Macdonell Catholic School now offers free use of its facilities to non-profit community groups, thanks to funding provided by the Ministry of Education's Priority Schools Initiative (PSI).

"This is a wonderful opportunity for our community," said Board Chair, Ron Eamer. "We look forward to opening the doors at Bishop Macdonell Catholic School to these groups. Our Catholic values teach us to be good stewards of our resources and to be concerned with the common good."

Under the PSI, the Board receives funding to eliminate the normal use of schools fees for not-for-profit groups during non-school hours and weekends. Certain criteria must be met, and the programs offered must benefit the local community.

The initiative will provide academic opportunities to Bishop Macdonell students. A new Saturday literacy and math program, called the *Skills Builder* will be offered. The program provides Grade 7 and 8 students with support to develop problem solving, mathematics and literacy skills, study and organization skills, and confidence and friendship building to help ease the transition from elementary to secondary schools.

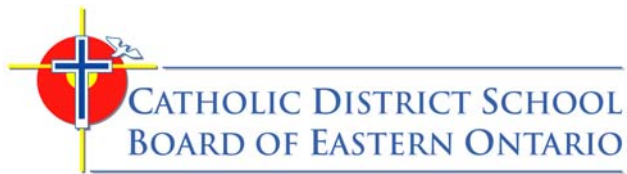
The Board is currently working with a Basketball School to have them offer their services. The PSI makes bringing a program like this to this community a reality. It provides a new opportunity for our students, that they otherwise would not have had.

Other uses could include: Parish fundraising events, new clubs offered to the community, and the establishment of new Boy and Girl Scout Groups, among others. The Board will certainly work to make sure that the groups benefiting from the initiative will have a positive impact on our Catholic school community.

Shalom! Acting justly... Living peacefully... Celebrating joyfully!

Ronald Eamer
Board Chair

Wm. J. Gartland
Director of Education



For more information on the application process, please contact Kevin Dionne, Community Use of Schools Coordinator at 613-258-7757 ext. 217.

The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario provides excellence in Catholic education through provincial-leading programs to more than 13,500 students in 40 elementary and 10 secondary schools across 8 eastern Ontario counties.

Shalom! Acting justly... Living peacefully... Celebrating joyfully!

Ronald Eamer
Board Chair

Wm. J. Gartland
Director of Education