

NEWS RELEASE

Page 1 of 1

Friday, April 29, 2004

Subject: Catholic Education Week

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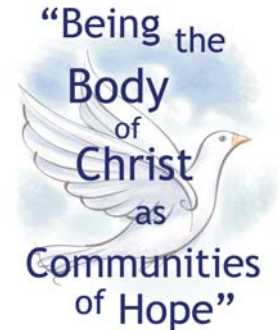
CATHOLIC DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD OF
EASTERN ONTARIO



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CDSBEO Celebrates Catholic Education Week 2005

Kemptville – Students and staff across the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario will mark Catholic Education Week 2005 by celebrating the distinctive contributions that Catholic schools make to our communities and our society. A Board-wide Mass, open houses and many special school activities will take place during the week-long event to be held May 1 to 6, 2005.



Catholic Schools as 'Communities of Hope'

CDSBEO's school-year theme, "*Being the Body of Christ as Communities of Hope*", is particularly appropriate in this "*Year of the Eucharist*", as proclaimed by the late *Pope John Paul II*. CDSBEO Director of Education *Ann Perron* thanks the Board's teachers, administrators, support staff and parents for creating vibrant, safe and nurturing schools for students. Ms. Perron states, "Our call to create '*Communities of Hope*' reminds us of our responsibility to provide hope-filled environments where we celebrate the hearts, minds, bodies and souls of all of our students. The hope we bring to our children is rooted in the belief that more is possible – that justice and peace will prevail, even if not in our own time."

"Everything we do is about providing spiritual nourishment, security and love that our students can count on and come to believe in. If each child is welcomed into a school culture where hope is internalized, we empower that student to become engaged in '*transforming the world*' by living the Catholic Graduate Expectations." Ms. Perron adds that this 'transforming' hope spawned an incredible response this year as Board schools collectively raised over \$86,000 in relief support for the survivors of the tsunami disaster in Southeast Asia in January.

Board-Wide Mass

To begin Catholic Education Week, a Board-wide Mass has been organized for the third year in a row by the Board's Religious & Family Life Education Department, in conjunction with the Catholic Education Coalition – a partnership of home, school and parish supporters of Catholic education. The Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop *Marcel Gervais*, from the Ottawa Archdiocese, at Holy Cross Church in Kemptville on Monday, May 2nd at 11:00 a.m. Representatives from every school in the Board will take part in the celebration, along with parish priests, trustees and a combined student choir. Principal of Religious Education *Margaret Shea-Lawrence* says each school will receive a plaque inscribed with the Prayer of St. Teresa of Avila to mark this year's theme. Ms. Shea-Lawrence says, "This Prayer signifies our unity as a Catholic education community and our call to bring the word of Christ to others in this world."

Catholic Education Week 2005 will also feature a wide range of activities in CDSBEO schools including spelling bees, math nights, '*Jump Rope For Heart*' events, mini-enrichment courses, prayer services, open houses, talent shows and art workshops, as well as the national '*Music Monday*' initiative to unite schools across Canada in music and song. Parents and community members are invited to visit their local Catholic school community during Catholic Education Week 2005.

(For more information, contact Communication Officer Brian Perkin at 1-800-443-4562 extension 206)