

## ***FAX RELEASE***

**Page 1 of 2**

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**Subject: Magazine Honours Schools**

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**CATHOLIC DISTRICT**  
SCHOOL BOARD OF  
**EASTERN ONTARIO**



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## ***'Today's Parent' Magazine Honours Bishop Macdonell and St. Mary-St. Cecilia School***

**Kemptville** - Two schools with the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario have been honoured in the national '*Great Schools*' competition sponsored by '*Today's Parent*' magazine. In January of this year, the magazine received over 300 nominations in 10 different educational categories that judged exemplary, effective and successful schools. As part of a feature article honouring the '*Top 40*' schools in the September 2004 issue of '*Today's Parent*', writer *Katharine Partridge* noted, "We were heartened by the tributes of warmth, welcome and joy that created places where students are valued and encouraged to reach their potential both academically and socially."

Bishop Macdonell Catholic School in Cornwall and St. Mary-St. Cecilia Catholic School in Morrisburg were two of 40 schools from across Canada recognized for their outstanding programs and innovation in the classroom.

### ***Bishop Macdonell Honoured in 'Respect' Category***

Bishop Macdonell School was recognized in the '*Respect*' category for its efforts to promote school pride and respect for students and their environment. Principal *Natalie Cameron* says the school is delighted to make the magazine's list of top schools. Ms. Cameron says the school has developed a number of programs that encourage respect and good behaviour amongst its approximately 400 students. Students receive '*Gotcha*' tickets when they are '*caught*' being kind to others and helping out in class. Those tickets are good for prize draws during the school's monthly '*Good News*' assemblies where '*Students of the Month*' are announced.

Ms. Cameron states, "We also hold a '*Cleanest Classroom*' competition every month. We inspect each classroom and encourage students to take extra care of their own desks and homerooms. It goes a long way in helping keep the whole school neater too. The kids are very proud of their classrooms, and it builds a real sense of community for them."

As an added service to its students and the community, Bishop Macdonell also runs an after-school '*Homework Centre*' four days a week. The program operates in partnership with Tri-County Services, allowing students to get extra support in literacy and numeracy skills.

(....Page 2)

***St. Mary-St. Cecilia School Recognized in 'Rising To A Challenge' Category***

St. Mary-St. Cecilia School was honoured in the *'Rising To A Challenge'* category for its work and success in bringing two Catholic school communities together at the newly amalgamated school. The 112 students in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 at St. Mary School in Morrisburg welcomed 71 students in Grades 5 to 8 from neighbouring St. Cecilia School in Iroquois for the 2003-2004 school year.

Because of construction delays, staff and students started their year at the St. Cecilia site, before moving to freshly renovated facilities in Morrisburg. Principal *Donna Nielsen* says staff, students and parents of the two individual schools all displayed terrific cooperation in building their new Catholic school community together. Ms. Nielsen states, "During the process, the two schools derived great strength from each other. We have a bright new future in a bigger school with an even bigger heart." As one parent remarked, the new school was now doubly blessed having two patron saints in its namesake.

An Opening and Blessing Ceremony was held in May of 2004 in the school's new gymnasium with special tributes recognizing the important legacy of both St. Cecilia and St. Mary school communities.

Director of Education Ann Perron says the Board is proud of all schools across the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario. Ms. Perron adds, "The fact that two out of forty top schools across Canada in this competition came from our Board is a significant accomplishment. We also recognize that 'Great Schools' have great students, administrators, teachers and support staff! We embrace the philosophy that exemplary, effective and successful schools involve academic results and innovative programs supported within a faith-filled atmosphere. Our congratulations to Bishop Macdonell and St. Mary-St. Cecilia for representing our Board in such a positive light."

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*(For more information, contact CDSBEO Communications Officer Brian Perkin,  
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***Learning and Growing Together In Christ***