

NEWS RELEASE

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Date: Wednesday, April 12, 2006

Subject: St. Mark CS Anniversary

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CATHOLIC DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD OF
EASTERN ONTARIO



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A Golden Celebration at St. Mark Catholic School

Prescott, On – St. Mark Catholic School celebrated its 50th anniversary in its current location on Tuesday, April 11, 2006 with a birthday party for staff, students and invited guests.

“It’s a wonderful milestone,” said **Principal Kathy Laushway**. “We wanted the children to be able to feel like a big part, so we came up with the idea of throwing a Birthday party, complete with cupcakes, party hats and bubbles.”

“There have been many changes in the past 50 years and we wanted to ensure that the current students and staff, along with members of our Catholic school community, who are so dedicated to our school, had the opportunity to mark this joyous occasion,” added **Ms. Laushway**.

CDSBEO Director of Education, Ann Perron spoke to the staff and children at the party stating, “I hope you continue to celebrate this party long after today and continue to show your Catholic school family how much you care about them. It feels good to be a part of a peaceful, caring family and I know you have one here at St. Mark’s.”

Principal Laushway, a native of Prescott, is also a former Vice-Principal, teacher and student at St. Mark and embodies that family spirit that Ms. Perron spoke of. “I have many ties to this school. My mother-in-law, **Mrs. Alice Laushway**, spent her entire teaching career at St. Mark as well,” added **Ms. Laushway**. “She is still a volunteer, serving as our computer volunteer Friday mornings.”

Principal Laushway said that close family connection continues to this day. Her son is in grade 1 and her daughter will begin Junior Kindergarten in September at the school.

Students at the party enjoyed cupcakes and sang songs. Following the festivities all in attendance enjoyed the sunshine in the back yard while blowing bubbles as a sign of peace.

Trustee Brent Laton, Trustee Robin Reil, Trustee Sue Wilson, Parish Priest Father John Appelmann and **CDSBEO Principal of Religious and Family Life Education Marg Shea-Lawrence** also attended the party.

The school, located at 560 Edward St. in Prescott has a rich history dating back to its first building built in 1875, also on Edward St. That two-story, four classroom Catholic School remained in use until the current building was constructed in the mid 1950’s to both modernize facilities, and accommodate a growing student population.

The current school opened on April 11, 1956 with six classrooms, but no library or gymnasium. The St. Mark Parish Centre served as a temporary gymnasium until 1979 when the current gym was built. Portable classrooms have also been added, one to accommodate students and the other a library.

Today the school accommodates students in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3.

The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario operates 41 elementary and 10 secondary schools across 8 counties. The CDSBEO offers excellence in Catholic education through provincial-leading programs to approximately 15,000 students.

Learning and Growing Together In Christ