

NEWS RELEASE

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Subject: Family Literacy Day

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CATHOLIC DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD OF
EASTERN ONTARIO



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CDSBEO Celebrates Family Literacy Day January 27th

Kemptville – Students at schools across the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario will be taking part in *ABC Canada Family Literacy Day* on Friday, January 27th, 2006.

The day is observed on the 27th of January every year and aims to promote reading and learning at the family level, encouraging all members of the family to get involved. The cross-country event was founded in 1999.

Literacy themed events are planned at schools in all 8 counties served by the CDSBEO and Board Superintendents of Education will be visiting schools, taking the opportunity to read to groups of children.

Director of Education, Ann Perron stated, “We celebrate this day with our students and their families in recognition of the importance and the multitude of ‘literacies’ our culture embraces. My hope is that the focus today will remind us to keep students’ interests alive through engaging, thought provoking and age appropriate activities both in the classroom and at home.”

Superintendent of Education, Jane McMillan also praised the initiative, “National and international studies have shown us time and time again that the most important activity for success in reading is reading aloud to children at an early age.”

Superintendent McMillan added “Reading to children at home sets up reading as an important and enjoyable activity. Reading together also gives children an appreciation and respect for books, promotes language and vocabulary development, and fosters creative thinking. Family Literacy Day serves to highlight the importance of books and reading in a child's life and we look forward to taking part in Family Literacy Day activities in our schools and celebrating the joy of reading.”

Among the many events planned by CDSBEO schools are true family reading days. Parents will be invited into the school to read to students in their child's class. Other schools see children writing book reviews to encourage their peers to read books that they have enjoyed. Contests are also running across the Board to see how many books can be read at the individual level and at the class level.

One school is holding a “Cuddle up and read day,” where students will be wearing their pyjamas while enjoying a good book. Another school is holding a book drive, challenging students to bring in books to donate to the school library. One school will write the names of

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participating family members on large snowflakes, which will be placed in a giant snow globe in the school's front foyer.

For more information, please visit www.cdsbeo.on.ca or www.abc-canada.org/flid/index.shtml.

ABC CANADA Family Literacy Day is celebrated at hundreds of literacy-themed events across Canada. Schools, parents and libraries co-ordinate events such as story-writing contests, public story readings, read-a-thons, book drives, reading circles and family literacy workshops.

Celebrated children's author Robert Munsch reprises his role as Honorary Celebrity Chair.

The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario covers 8 counties and includes 41 elementary schools and 10 secondary schools.

“We are people of God...Transforming the World!”

(For more information and interview opportunities, please contact Bob Perreault, Communications Officer, at (613) 258-7757 or 1-800-443-4562, extension 206)