

NEWS RELEASE

Page 1 of 2

Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Subject: Memorandum of
Cooperation signed

From: Bob Perreault – Communications Officer
(613) 258-7757 or 1-800-443-4562 (ext. 206)

CATHOLIC DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD OF
EASTERN ONTARIO



Box 2222, 2755 Hwy. 43
Kemptville, Ontario K0G 1J0

CDSBEO Signs Memorandum of Cooperation with Ryan's Well Foundation

Kemptville, On – The **Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario** is proud to announce that it signed a memorandum of cooperation with the **Ryan's Well Foundation** at its Board Meeting held Tuesday March 7th, 2006.

CDSBEO Director of Education Ann Perron told the Board, "This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to learn through the experience and inspiration provided by the Ryan's Well foundation. It will further demonstrate to our students how they can transform the world not only through Ryan's Well but through other initiatives that they create."

Ryan Hreljac started The Ryan's Well Foundation in 1998. **Ryan** was then a student at **Holy Cross Catholic School**, who was inspired to raise funds to provide clean drinking water for the developing world by his then-pen pal Jimmy Akana from Uganda. The foundation believes that education is the key to addressing health concerns related to water and sanitation. Ultimately its goal is to motivate citizens of all ages to take action to bring about positive change in the world.

Susan Hreljac, Executive Director of the Ryan's Well Foundation signed on its behalf. "Ryan and the foundation has always had the support of the Board and we thank you so much for your continued help," said Mrs. Hreljac. "This memorandum further cements an already excellent relationship shared between two organizations dedicated to improving the world through awareness and education. We are truly blessed to have the Board's continuing support."

To date, **Ryan's** efforts have raised more than one million dollars resulting in 196 water and sanitation projects in 10 developing countries bringing clean water to more than 350,000 people.

The memorandum will greatly impact the **CDSBEO's "Youth in Action Ambassador Program."**

Through the "**Water, Wells and Us!**" program, Catholic secondary students will engage in the gospel call to justice and peace as they learn how to help the Foundation with its work in improving the dire water and sanitation problems found in developing countries.

The memorandum also means that students will see their appreciation for the integration of a global perspective in education grow and they will put these concepts into action as while fulfilling the Ministry of Education's 40-hour community involvement requirement.

CDSBEO elementary students across our Board will also feel the effects of the memorandum of cooperation. The Foundation and the Board will be working together to continue to expand an in-depth educational booklet in both English and French. The booklet focuses on water and sanitation issues and presents them at an elementary school level.

CDSBEO Chair Ronald Eamer sees the cooperative effort as another outstanding achievement by the Board. "The effort put forth by the Ryan's well foundation is inspirational and exceptional. Our Board is very fortunate to have the foundation as a partner and it will very much be our pleasure to support this world-renowned foundation, while our students benefit from their experience." said **Mr. Eamer**.

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