

NEWS RELEASE

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Tuesday, September 6, 2005

Subject: Hurricane Relief Fundraising Challenge

From: Ann Perron – Director of Education
(613) 258-7757 or 1-800-443-4562 (ext. 204)

CATHOLIC DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD OF
EASTERN ONTARIO



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

CDSBEO Begins Academic Year With a Challenge To Catholic School Communities To Raise Funds for Hurricane Relief

Kemptville – Following is selected text of a letter sent today from Director of Education Ann Perron inviting staff, students and parents of the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario to contribute to relief efforts supporting the victims of Hurricane Katrina:

This year we have embraced the theme, “**We are people of God ... Transforming the World**”. During the last week, we have all witnessed the effects of the natural disaster along the Gulf Coast States. I know our Catholic schools will be involved in fund-raising efforts to offer support to the survivors of Hurricane Katrina. As a Catholic school system, we have always invited and encouraged our staff, our students, and our Catholic School communities to engage in meaningful activities to provide financial resources and ultimately restore hope to those in need. Our response, as a community of faith, is to gather in prayer. The Religious Education and Curriculum Departments will be sending schools information to assist teachers who will dedicate some instructional time to teaching age-appropriate lessons on relevant topics arising from this disaster.

Please keep the victims and survivors in your prayers, as the road will be long and hard for many in the months ahead.

Once again, I am inviting school communities to respond to the relief efforts assisting the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Please consider voluntary fund-raising school activities through means of collecting donations and directing funds to the organizations listed below.

The following information may be helpful to our Catholic school communities:

- The **Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace** suggests that any donations be made through **Catholic Charities USA**. Donations can be made online at www.catholiccharitiesusa.org, by phone at 1-800-919-9338, or by cheque at *Catholic Charities USA*, 2005 Hurricane Relief Fund, P.O. Box 25168, Alexandria, VA U.S.A. 22313-9788.
- The **Archdiocese of New Orleans** is accepting donations and information can be found at www.archdiocese-no.org/. The Archdiocese is very concerned about their Catholic schools and plans to educate the children.
- The **Canadian Red Cross** is also receiving donations at www.redcross.ca/.

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This call, to reach out to others, speaks to who we are as a people. Our Board vision is worth repeating **“Inspired by the teachings of Jesus Christ, we transform the world with justice and peace through Catholic education”**. As individuals, this may seem somewhat daunting, but together, I know we can make a difference. Mother Teresa once stated, “I never look at the masses as my responsibility, I look at the individual. I can only love one person at a time. I can feed only one person at a time. Just one ... one ... one.”

The Board thanks Catholic school communities for their prayer and action in response to these tragic circumstances.

*(For more information, contact Ann Perron, Director of Education,
at (613) 258-7757 or 1-800-443-4562, extension 204)*

Learning and Growing Together In Christ