

School News from the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario

School: St. John Bosco, Brockville
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Families Attend Anti-Bullying Night at St. John Bosco Catholic School

Brockville, ON – *Stone Soup* night at St. John Bosco Catholic School in Brockville drew quite a crowd.

Students and parents joined teachers and staff for an information session about the dangers of cyber-bullying. The presentation was made by Sergeant Doug Locke and Technical Services Coordinator Tom Reil of the Brockville Police Service. The officers were joined by CDSBEO Curriculum Consultant, Chris Atkinson, to answer any questions parents and staff may have had.

CDSBEO Religious and Family Life Education Consultant, Teresa McDonald, started the evening's program with a story based on the parable of the loaves and fishes. The story of *Stone Soup* by John Muth was integrated as the reflection of the prayer service.

Stone Soup is the story of three hungry and tired strangers who pass through a war-torn village. The villagers hide their food and close their windows, as the war has made them suspicious of outsiders. Soon the three strangers begin making a soup out of stones. The villagers are intrigued by the idea, and soon start contributing food to the soup until they have made a wonderful meal. The story tells of the strength people possess when they work together.

Parents were invited to write their family's names on a rock and place it in a cauldron as the Catholic community began creating its own *Stone Soup*.

Teacher Cynthia Mantha helped students prepare booklets in which they wrote positive messages in the three weeks leading up to the night. Students had the opportunity to share these booklets with their parents. Parents even completed a family page – a key part of the project. The booklets will be kept at school as part of the classroom prayer centre.

In preparation for the night, students had read four different versions of *Stone Soup* with their class and the school's Catholic School Council provided soup for all students. In keeping with

the school's Ecoschools efforts, all students brought a spoon and bowl from home to cut down on waste.

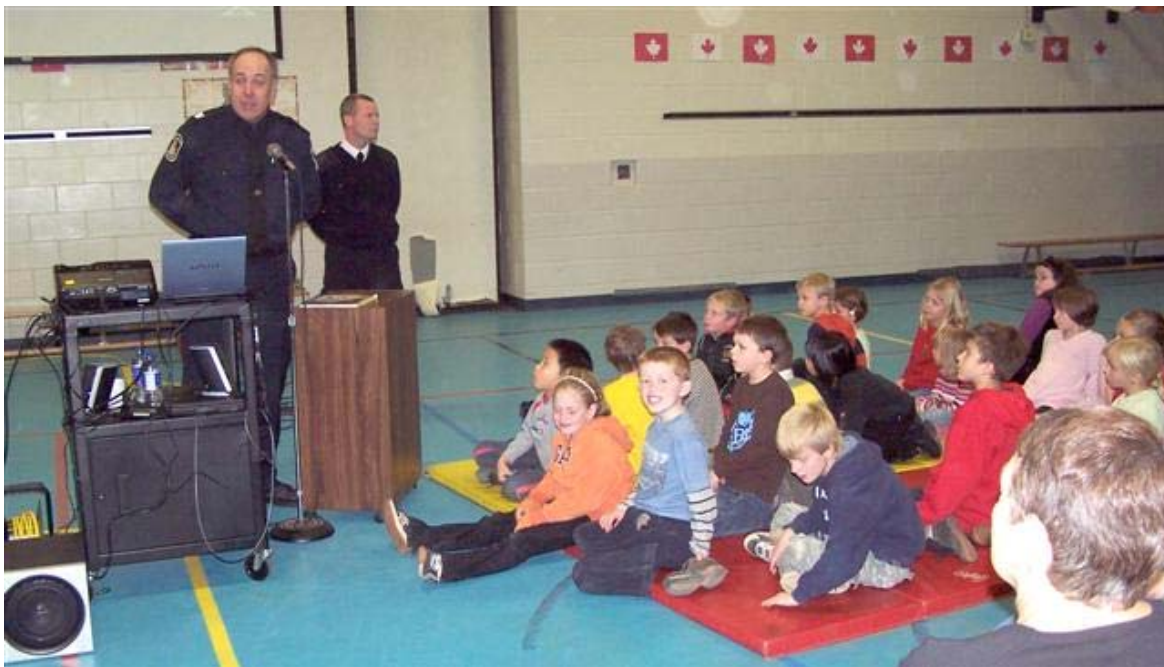
Principal, Donna Balemba, said she was very happy that so many families could attend. "I am very pleased that so many of our parents were able to be with us for this very important presentation. Stone Soup gave the school an opportunity to link faith, character education, social justice, literacy, and positive community relationships. It was a great example of teaching across the curriculum and across grade levels."

For more information, please contact CDSBEO Communications Officer Bob Perreault at 613-258-7757 or 1-800-443-4562 ext. 206 or 613-859-0678 (mobile).

The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario operates 40 elementary and 10 secondary schools across 8 counties. The CDSBEO offers excellence in Catholic education through provincial-leading programs to approximately 15,000 students.

Attached Photos:

Stone Soup 1 – Sergeant Doug Locke and Technical Services Coordinator Tom Reil of the Brockville Police speak to students and parents about cyber-bullying at St. John Bosco Catholic School's anti-bullying night titled Stone Soup.



Stone Soup 2 –St. John Bosco Catholic School Teachers Frank Fralic, Lynne Hart, and Cynthia Mantha collect family names written on paper stones to place in the school's paper cauldron at the Stone Soup Anti-Bullying night. Parents and students explored the book *Stone Soup*'s themes of cooperation and positive relationships.

