

School News from the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario

School: St. Joseph, Prescott
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From: Bob Perreault, Communications Officer
bob.perreault@cdsbeo.on.ca



Box 2222, 2755 Highway 43, Kemptville, ON K0G 1J0
613-258-7757 or 1-800-443-4562 ext. 206

Special Performance to Honour Hannah Walker for St. Joseph Catholic School Students

Prescott, ON – Students and staff of St. Joseph Catholic School gathered on September 10 to remember Hannah Walker on what would have been her 12th birthday. Hannah passed away last year after a long battle with a virus that affected her heart.

The students were treated to three songs written by Hannah's mother, Shelley Saunders, and her cousin, Derek Saunders. The songs have been recorded on a CD titled, *Will you Please Remember Me*, and is being sold for \$5.00 to raise money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

The songs (Always Be That Way, First Meeting, and Will You Please Remember Me) were performed by 13 year-old Stephanie La Rochelle who was accompanied by pianist Stephen Chow.

St. Joseph Principal, Kathy Laushway, said it's a fitting tribute. "The students were just amazed by the performance. I know it brings up many emotions and memories, but more importantly it keeps Hannah's spirit alive in our school. She would have loved this tribute."

Last year students and the community rallied to help support Hannah and her family through the fundraiser known as *Hearts for Hannah*. Students made heart pins out of beads and sold them to help the family remain in Toronto with Hannah as she was treated. The fundraiser continued after Hannah's passing, with all funds going to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Superintendent of Education, Mark Musca said it was an example of how the Catholic community in Prescott comes together to help one another. "Everyone wanted to help this family in any way they could. Now we're seeing the community continue that support for the Heart and Stroke Foundation in Hannah's memory through this CD. This outpouring of support and love is so inspirational."

The Heart and Stroke Foundation will have a link to purchase the CD on their website at www.heartandstroke.com. People interested in purchasing the CD can also contact the school at 613-925-4342.

For more information or interview opportunities, 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:

St. Joseph 1 – Shelley Saunders and Derek Saunders hold the CD composed for Shelley’s daughter Hannah who passed away last year after a lengthy battle with a heart condition. Hannah was Derek’s cousin. The CD was launched at Hannah’s former school St. Joseph Catholic School in Prescott as a fundraiser for the Heart and Stroke Foundation.



St. Joseph 1 –A CD dedicated to the memory of Hannah Walker was launched at St. Joseph Catholic School in Prescott as a fundraiser for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Pictured are Hannah’s cousin, Derek Saunders, singer Stephanie La Rochelle, Hannah’s mother, Shelley Saunders, and St. Joseph Principal, Kathy Laushway.

