

School News from the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario

School: Our Lady of Good Counsel
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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

Students Embracing Monarch Butterfly Program at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic School

Ingleside, ON – For the past three years, students at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic School have been learning about the life cycle of the Monarch butterfly from parent volunteer and butterfly hobbyist, Tom Todd. Mr. Todd has studied Monarch butterflies for years, and when his daughter Madison started at the school, he thought sharing his hobby with students would be a lot of fun. “We’re so glad he did,” said Principal, Patricia Dennison. “It has been such a success.”

The project reflects the Board and school’s dedication to our planet. “This is a wonderful example of how our students are becoming stewards of the Earth, to make our planet a better place, for all who dwell here, no matter how small,” said Superintendent of Education Jane McMillan.

Mr. Todd, a paramedic by trade, has been teaching students about the different stages of butterfly development while giving them a first-hand look at how it all unfolds. “We collect the caterpillars from milkweed,” said Mr. Todd. “Then we bring them into the school and keep them in an aquarium. The students watch how the caterpillar survives, and eventually turns into a cocoon.”

Once the cocoon hatches, the resulting Monarch butterflies are kept in another aquarium until they are ready to be released. “The students love it when it’s time to release the butterflies,” said Mr. Todd. “They get so involved with the process; you can just see how proud they are when they watch them fly off.”

The butterflies that Mr. Todd studies are part of an ongoing research project undertaken by the University of West Virginia. Each butterfly is tagged with a special sticker that allows it to be tracked. “They go on quite a journey,” explained Mr. Todd. “We have had some of our butterflies found as far away as Mexico.”

Principal Dennison is grateful for the work Mr. Todd does. “It’s always wonderful to see a parent get involved in their child’s school. It’s a perfect example of the strong link we have

between school and home. We're very fortunate to have Mr. Todd share these beautiful little creatures with us."

Madison says she loves when her dad comes to school. "I like that we take care of the butterflies at home and that we do it with my friends at school too. I'm lucky to have my dad come to school."

Mr. Todd has also shared his butterflies with the Cornwall Public Library and other schools including St. Peter Catholic School in Cornwall.

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:

Butterfly 1 – Our Lady of Good Counsel grade 4 student, Madison Todd, holds one of the butterflies she and her classmates have studied with the assistance of her father, parent volunteer, Tom Todd.

Butterfly 2 - Our Lady of Good Counsel grade 4 student, Ty Fetterly, holds one of the butterflies he and his classmates have studied with the assistance of parent volunteer, Tom Todd.

Butterfly 3 – Our Lady of Good Counsel Grade 4 students Tannis Zeran and Tanner Robertson release two of the butterflies they've watched develop as part of a program at the school run by parent volunteer Tom Todd.