

# **School News from the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario**

**School: St. Francis Xavier, Brockville**  
**Date: September 10, 2007**  
**Subject: Intensive French Program Debuts in Brockville**  
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## **Intensive French Program Debuts at St. Francis Xavier Catholic School**

**Brockville, ON** – Twenty students at St. Francis Xavier Catholic School in Brockville are enrolled in a program that is only being offered at seven other schools in Ontario: the Intensive French Program.

This literacy-based pilot program increases the number of hours of French instruction. From September until February, students will spend two thirds of their day learning in French, with English, Religion, Mathematics and Physical Education taught in English.

St. Francis Xavier Intensive French Teacher Julie Leeder further explained the program, “There is a very high degree of interaction between student and teacher. The goal is to get the students speaking to one another using authentic communication – such as describing to their friends what they did the night before, or where they would like to go on vacation. The emphasis is on helping the students to learn how to speak the language in everyday situations.”

Benefits of the program include: improved literacy skills, the enhancement of thinking, and preparation for every day life. Student Evan Wright agreed, “I think that learning French is going to help me when I get a job. It will be good to be able to speak to people in English and French.”

Other students say they like the way the program is delivered. “I like when we have clock partners,” said Jacob Beaton. “Mme Leeder tells us it’s time to team up, and we get to talk to our partners about normal stuff, in French of course.”

St. Francis Xavier Principal Linda Callaghan said the launch of the program was well received by parents. “We heard positive feedback from parents after meeting to announce the project. We are very pleased to be able to offer our students this opportunity.”

The program is currently being piloted in 8 schools in Ontario. St. Joseph Catholic School in Gananoque, also a CDSBEO school, is among them.

For more information please call 613-258-7757 or 1-800-443-4562 ext. 206.

### **Attached Photos:**

**St. Francis Brockville Intensive French 1.jpg** – St. Francis Xavier Teacher Julie Leader and two of her Intensive French students Thomas Julien and Meara Deary

**St. Francis Brockville Intensive French 2.jpg** – Mme Julie Leeder’s Grade 5 Intensive French Class at St. Francis Xavier Catholic School in Brockville



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