

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

**School: St. Andrew's, St. Andrews West**  
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## **St. Andrew's Catholic School Welcomes Bus Officials and Drivers**

**St. Andrews West, ON** – It has quickly become an annual tradition at St. Andrew's Catholic School: all students and staff gather once a year in the gymnasium to welcome the school's bus drivers and officials from the local transportation companies.

"Gathering like this is an opportunity to thank our drivers, and to officially welcome them back to a new school year," said St. Andrew's Principal Paul Bellefeuille. "We speak about bus safety, but we also let the students know that their bus drivers are an important part of their Catholic education, and are an extension of our St. Andrew's family."

Mr. Bellefeuille first held this assembly when he became principal of the school in 2006. "I think it really helps to have all of our partners together when we go over the rules and regulations of bus riding."

The assembly shows students that the drivers play a very important role in the process of student education and development. "It allows us to go beyond safety when it comes to riding a school bus," said Mr. Bellefeuille. "We can talk to our students and teach them about respect for drivers. It helps them develop the application of their Catholic values in their everyday lives, including parts of their routines."

The school invited its nine bus drivers and the three managers from local bus companies. All were thankful for the opportunity and the dedication shown by staff and students to ensure a safe ride to and from school.

Mr. Bellefeuille stated that students have responded positively to the assembly. "They realise just how big a job being a bus driver is," said Mr. Bellefeuille. "They also learn that their actions on a bus can have a serious impact on those around them, including the driver. As a result, our drivers are telling us that our students are well behaved, and respectful."

St. Andrew's will continue to include all of its partners in future endeavours; the drivers will be invited back to a number of events throughout the year, further cementing their role in the school community.

**Attached Photo:** group.drivers1.jpg – The St. Andrew Catholic School Bus Drivers and Managers

