



Trustee News

CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

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Catholic Education Week 2009

Each year, Catholic schools across Ontario celebrate the unique and distinctive contribution that Catholic schools make to our students, our community and our Province during Catholic Education Week.

This year, Catholic Education Week will take place from May 3 to May 8. The theme – Good News for All – is based on Isaiah 52:7; How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news. We, as a Catholic community, are the bringers of good news, not only to our students, but to the wider community as a whole.

Throughout Catholic Education Week, we ask that you reflect on the significance of Catholic education's presence and contribution in our Church, and in our society. We invite all members of our community, especially our parents, to participate in the activities that will mark the celebration of Catholic Education Week 2009 at CDSBEO schools. Please see your school newsletter or contact your school for more information on related events.

CDSBEO Healthy Advantage

Students across the CDSBEO continue to benefit from the ongoing Healthy Schools program. A number of best practices have been established which educate students on the importance of health, while providing viable options to achieve a healthy lifestyle.

Catholic School Councils, local Parishes, Knights of Columbus, Catholic Women's Leagues, regional Nutrition Advisory Groups, and other community members, have raised funds in support of Nutrition, Breakfast and Snack Bin programs. At the secondary level, all school cafeterias serve healthy choices to students such as wraps, salads and soups. These healthy eating programs, combined with daily physical activity, intramural leagues and after school fitness clubs, are part of the Foundations for a Healthy School framework.

A healthy school generally has quality instruction and programs, a healthy physical environment, a supportive social setting, and strong community partnerships. These elements, along with proper nutrition, are necessary for effective learning, and the normal growth and development of our students.

Environmental Programs Ongoing

On April 22, schools throughout the CDSBEO embraced Earth Day by powering down to only essential electricity during the week of April 20. The day was also marked with ongoing environmental considerations, which are predominant in many Board schools on a continuing basis.

The pervasiveness of popular initiatives, such as the Environmental Education Program for students in grades one through twelve, has helped students develop environmentally conscious attitudes through involvement in responsible practices. The four pillars of the program are ecological literacy, waste minimization, energy conservation, and schoolyard greening. At the secondary level, the program has become somewhat of a competition between schools wishing to be the most eco-friendly.

The Board itself is also committed to providing a safe, comfortable learning environment for students which reduces waste and environmental contamination by using green certified cleaning products and microfiber cloths instead of paper towels. Additionally, all paper products and garbage bags are made from 100% recycled materials.

St. Joseph's CSS Mission Trip

For the past sixteen years, students from St. Joseph's Catholic Secondary School in Cornwall have been travelling to the Dominican Republic to carry out missionary work. This year, without exception, three teachers and ten students spent two weeks in March in the small mountain village of La Demajagua, helping to build a new house for a local farmer.

Over the years, the participants have worked on various projects, helping to build schools, clinics and aqueducts.

The trips are an opportunity for students to learn firsthand what life is like for the poor of developing nations. The experience is not only about what God provides through these students, but also about what God puts in the hearts of students. It is not uncommon for participants to return home with a vision for the world and a plan to act out the next steps God has shown them.

Board Meetings: Tuesday, May 5 (Kemptville Board Office), Tuesday, May 19 (St. John Catholic High School, Perth), and Tuesday, May 26 (Kemptville Board Office)

Visit our website at www.cdsbeo.on.ca for information, news on school events, bus cancellation updates, Board Meeting Highlights, or to visit our Trustee section under Board Information.