



## WE WALK IN GOOD COMPANY!

Marg Shea-Lawrence

The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario inaugurated a new Board Theme for the 2009 – 2011 school years. The theme, ***We walk in good company!*** is derived from Psalm 23, the Good Shepherd Psalm. It reminds us that throughout our history and even today we have been blessed with many who shepherd us.

This workshop responded to questions such as:

- What does it mean when we say we are in ‘good company’?
- What is the source of our inspiration for the theme?
- How does Jesus – the Good Shepherd inspire our own leadership?
- In whose good company do we walk?
- How will the theme be supported?
- How can we as parents reinforce the Board theme at home?

## FULLY ALIVE – GRADE 5!

Jim Roberts

The Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario has launched renewed versions of Family Life programs up to Grade 5. This workshop reviewed the history of Family Life Education in Ontario Catholic Schools. It looked specifically at the renewed Grade 5 program, which was introduced to our students this year. Also discussed were changes in the program and the rationale behind these changes, and the relevance of the programs for parents, as one of the three important groups for whom the programs were written. Materials that are available to parents, including the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario website, were also reviewed.



## **HOW TO HOST AN EFFECTIVE CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING**

**Gord Wise**

This workshop taught how to host an effective Catholic School Council Meeting. Mr. Wise shared a number of techniques to help maintain organization and order during the meeting. These techniques help maximize your Catholic School Council's productivity in a set time span.

## **THE SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR PROGRAM**

**Sheila Farris**

This workshop featured information on the 12 Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Programs in eight secondary schools across the Board. The SHSM is an exciting learning opportunity for secondary students. The specialized program is a cooperative initiative supported by the local business sector, local colleges and universities, and community partners. The SHSM program offers preparatory knowledge, skills, certifications, "reach-ahead", and "on the job" learning opportunities in several specific areas. This workshop introduced and outlined the SHSM programs featured in the CDSBEO.

## **ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY – BENEFICIAL TO ALL... ESSENTIAL FOR SOME!**

**Dawn Fewer**

Assistive technology includes all the tools, products and devices that can make a particular function easier or possible to perform. Its applications and adaptations can help open doors to previously inaccessible learning opportunities for many children with special needs (Judge, 2001). Participants took part in an interactive demonstration of assistive technology available to students. The workshop explored software such as Kurzweil, Word Q, Speak Q, and Dragon Naturally Speaking. Innovative technology such as the ELMO document camera and tips, websites and strategies were also shared.



## **RESTORATIVE PRACTICES IN A CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

**Tom Jordan, Pam Dunk, and Brian Peters**

This workshop served as an introductory overview of our Board's journey with restorative practices. Restorative Practices is a whole school approach involving students, staff and parents, geared to the building of positive relationships in our Catholic school communities. It is focused on helping young people become aware of the impact of their behavior on others through personal accountability and learning from a conflict situation. An important component of Restorative Practices is the focus on restoring relationships after harm has been done.

Print Resources: *The Little Book of Restorative Discipline for Schools*, Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz and Judy Mullet; *Restoring Safe School Communities*, Brenda Morrison

Websites: Peace Games: [www.peacegames.org](http://www.peacegames.org)

Safer Saner Schools: [www.safersanerschools.org](http://www.safersanerschools.org); Barron County Restorative Justice

Programs Inc.: [www.bcrip.org](http://www.bcrip.org); Responsive Classroom: [www.responsiveclassroom.org](http://www.responsiveclassroom.org)

Learning Peace: [www.learningpeace.com](http://www.learningpeace.com); Real Justice (an IIRP) Program:

[www.realjustice.org](http://www.realjustice.org); International Institute for Restorative Practices (IIRP) online

Collection: [www.iirp.org](http://www.iirp.org)

## **ARE YOU SMARTer THAN YOUR GRADE 7-10 CHILD?**

**Karen Thomas and Paula Kolodzie Moffat**

Learning can be fun! Using your wits and armed with a SMART Senteo Clicker, participants discovered how students can learn literacy and numeracy strategies. This interactive workshop exposed participants to some of the technologies that can be made available to engage students in literacy and numeracy.



## **RETHINKING HOMEWORK – STRATEGIES THAT WORK FOR ALL STUDENTS AT ALL LEVELS**

Sue Forbes and France Dupuis

In this workshop the culture of homework and what it means for families today was explored. Effective homework practices were shared. The diagnosing of completion problems and strategies for getting homework done without tears were also examined.

## **GET IN TOUCH WITH MATH**

Joe McCooney

This presentation walked through the primary/junior math curriculum and how math content is organized into 5 strands. Examples of questions for each strand of mathematics were presented using a Smartboard. Participants were invited to *get in touch* with the presentation by interacting with the Smartboard.

## **BOYS, BOOKS, and BOOMERANGS**

Bonnie Levesque and Nancy Prest

This workshop focused on practical activities and strategies that keep boys coming back to reading and writing. Appropriate resources for boys were discussed as was how to gain an understanding of boys' learning styles. Tips on how parents can engage in boys' literacy were also shared.

## **INTERNET SAFETY**

Walter MacDonald

With sites like Facebook and Twitter gaining in popularity every day, it is key that parents and educators stay well versed in the world of Internet safety. This informative and interactive workshop educated parents on what to do to help keep their child safe while they surf. In addition to helping your child stay safe, parents also learned some very helpful tips that will help you stay protected in your online life.