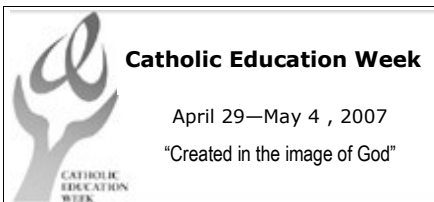


St. Francis de Sales Catholic School Council NEWS

Message from Council

A very important subject was recently brought to our attention in a letter from the Executive Director of the Ontario Catholic School Trustee's Association. Education Equality in Ontario (EEO) refers to a group who are actively seeking the elimination of Catholic Education in Ontario. EEO speaks out in favour of a "single, secular, and public school system for each official language". A recent article in the Ottawa Citizen featured a response to the EEO campaign by retired teacher/vice-principal and permanent deacon of the Roman Catholic archdiocese of Ottawa Rick Gervais. Mr. Gervais writes "Not all Catholics attend or support Catholic schools. Not all other denominations attend or support public schools. It is a matter of choice." Mr. Gervais also points out that many parents choose to send their children to Catholic schools for the very reason others wish to eliminate them – because they are not secular but based on Christian values. Mr. Gervais warns that "The only way Ontario will lose its Catholic schools, as has happened in other provinces, is if Catholics no longer remember or care why their schools exist in the first place." Catholic Education was the target again last week when Ottawa-Carleton District School Board voted in favour of eliminating separate, publicly funded school systems. Instead, they call for public-funded schools re-organized along the lines of language and not religion.



This year Catholic Education Week takes place from April 29–May 4. Throughout Catholic Education Week, we hope that everyone in our school community will reflect on the significance of the presence of Catholic Education and its contribution to our Church and to our society.



March / April 2007

Distinctiveness of Catholic Schools

Catholic schools are distinctive in that they provide an environment filled with Christian values

- where religious education programs make students knowledgeable about their faith,
- where academic achievement is promoted, and
- where participation in sports and community is strongly encouraged.

A number of organizations exist that promote and work to protect publicly-funded Catholic schools. One such organization is the Ontario Institute for Catholic Education (ICE). The ICE was established by the Bishops of Ontario in 1986. Their mission is to bring together, work with, and assist organizations that share responsibility for English Catholic education in their efforts to promote and maintain publicly-funded Catholic schools animated by the Gospel and reflecting the tenets of the Catholic faith.

The ICE is responsible for the distinctive expectations outlined for graduates of Catholic schools. These expectations are based on research which identified current and future educational goals and priorities across the province. They enhance the expectations of the Ontario Ministry of Education and Training as outlined in provincial curriculum documents.

THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL GRADUATE IS EXPECTED TO BE:

1. **A discerning believer** formed in the Catholic Faith

community who celebrates the signs and sacred mystery of God's presence through word, sacrament, prayer, forgiveness, reflection and moral living.

2. **An effective communicator** who speaks, writes and listens honestly and sensitively, responding critically in light of gospel values.
3. **A reflective, creative and holistic thinker** who solves problems and makes responsible decisions with an informed moral conscience for the common good.
4. **A self-directed, responsible, lifelong learner** who develops and demonstrates their God-given potential.
5. **A collaborative contributor** who finds meaning, dignity and vocation in work which respects the rights of all and contributes to the common good.
6. **A caring family member** who attends to family, school, parish, and the wider community.
7. **A responsible citizen** who gives witness to Catholic social teaching by promoting peace, justice and the sacredness of human life.

For more information, please visit
http://www.occb.on.ca/ice/online_docs/Graduate%20Expectations.pdf

Why Choose a Catholic School?

In Catholic Schools the person and message of Christ find expression in:

- Communities of Faith, Service, Prayer and Worship.
- The development of each student's full potential in a climate of joy, freedom, respect, challenge, co-operation and celebration.
- The enrichment of student life - intellectual, physical, spiritual, moral, social and emotional.
- The promotion of a spirit of charity, social justice, global awareness and concern for others leading to practical outreach and partnerships.
- A culture of tolerance where people of diverse identities are recognised, welcomed, respected and cherished.
- Listening, mutual understanding, trust, reconciliation, healing and peace.

(<http://catholiceducation-ni.com/>)



Upcoming Events

Catholic Education Week: Catholic Schools everywhere celebrate their distinctiveness April 29-May 4, 2007. St. Francis de Sales School Council will kick off the

celebration by hosting a meet and greet with refreshments following the 11:00 a.m. mass at St. Francis de Sales Parish on Sunday, April 29.

Family Fun Night: Wednesday, May 2, 2007 5:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m. Watch for more details coming soon.

Next School Council Meeting: Wednesday, May 9, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the library. Everyone is welcome.

2007-08 School Council Elections: Elections for the 2007-08 St. Francis de Sales School Council will take place in June. Any parent interested in becoming a member of school council is encouraged to contact Debbie Shea at 613-283-5349 to learn more about the activities of school council. Watch for more details coming soon.

Contact us:



If you are interested in volunteering or you would like to learn more about the St. Francis de Sales School Council, please contact Debbie Shea at 613-283-5349 or approach any member of council.

2006-07 School Council Members:

Debbie Shea—Parish Rep./Chair, Connie Smith—Vice Chair, Margaret West—Treasurer, Shelley Nadeau—Secretary, Tammy Demidoff—Parent Liaison Rep., Bernice Chiniborch—Community Rep, Patricia Meagher—Non-teaching Rep., Susan Hoysted—Teaching Rep., Alex Bujacz—Principal, Nancy Fontyn, Tracey Stringer, Debi Cunningham, Monica Wilson, Lorraine Fenn, Dorothy Hudson, Cyndi Galazzo, Debbie Burns, Melody Lefebvre

Prayer for Catholic Education

O Holy Spirit,

Source of truth and grace for those entrusted with the Christian development of children; enlighten our minds, strengthen our wills, and fill our hearts with generosity so that our homes, our parishes and our schools may cooperate effectively with You, and with one another in the exalted mission of Catholic Education.

We make our prayer through Christ our Lord Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us. Amen.

(<http://www.oapce.on.ca/>)



Please consider calling or contacting your Member of Provincial Parliament to express your support for Catholic Education in Ontario.

You deserve a choice!

Lanark-Carleton MPP:

The Hon. Norm Sterling MPP
Heritage Walk, 130 Lansdowne Ave., Unit 5
Carleton Place, ON K7C 2T7
Phone: 613-253-1171
Toll-Free: 1-800-267-1020
E-mail: norm.sterlingco@pc.ola.org

Leeds-Grenville MPP:

The Hon. Bob Runciman MPP
243 Perth St.,
Brockville, ON K6V 5E7
Phone: (613) 342-9522
Toll Free: 1-800-267-4408
E-mail: rwrunciman@brockville.com

Did you know...April 22 is Earth Day!



Wisconsin Governor Gaylord Nelson and Harvard University student Dennis Hayes celebrated the first Earth Day in 1970. Today, more than 6 million Canadians join 500 million people in over 180 countries in staging events and projects to address local environmental issues.