

Welcome Back Message from the Director



Welcome back. I hope you had a terrific summer interacting, talking, sharing, listening, and laughing with friends and relatives – a wonderful opportunity to bring and maintain balance in our lives.

Most weekends, Susan and I hosted guests in our home. Our daughter, Kate and friend, Craig visited from Chicago a few times and we spent a week with son, Jake, in Baltimore and then explored the east coast of Chesapeake Bay – great memories!

This year, our Spiritual Theme is **Believe; Love; Act: “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices”** LUKE 1:45-46. This theme encourages us to enrich and sustain vibrant faith-based learning communities in our schools and at the Catholic Education Centre. “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices” is the first line from the Magnificat. Mary’s Magnificat is a song of liberation and describes a journey of prophetic discipleship – witness. We are called to live Mary’s Magnificat in the world today and rejoice in the good things God has done for us. This passage challenges each of us to magnify Jesus by our lives and to offer the leadership that Jesus modeled.

Preliminary results from EQAO indicate sustained improvement and consistent high performance across our Board. This success is attributed to your use of assessment data, Catholic school improvement plans, effective implementation of programs and resources as well as focused professional development. Congratulations – you have much to celebrate!

This year, we will continue to support your success and are pleased that we are participating in eight research projects – a few of these projects include: classroom action research (Teaching Learning Leadership Program); Blended Learning Pilot in association with Ontario Education Resource Bank to Prime Project Phase II; Leading Student Achievement: Networks for Learning; and Essential for Some, Good for All, Boston College review of raising student achievement of special needs students.

Finally, this fall, we will again be supporting the United Way campaigns of Peterborough City and County, Oshawa-Whitby-Clarington, City of Kawartha Lakes, and Northumberland.

Susan and I were honoured to have been asked to Co-Chair the Peterborough City and County 2009 United Way campaign. Our Board United Way kick-off will take place on September 30, 2009 and more information will be available throughout October and November.

I would ask that all PVNCCDSB employees reflect on the tremendous value and contributions made by the United Way in your community. As public sector employees, we have been extremely fortunate to have been shielded from some of the recent economic downturn. We have permanent employment, guaranteed pay increases and protected pensions. Many of us have personally benefitted from United Way agencies or have seen our students and their families benefit.

Please take time to consider making a donation to your United Way campaign this year. Payroll deduction is an effective method of donation. These forms will be distributed to all staff in early October.

Please accept my sincere best wishes for an excellent 2009-2010 academic year.

Sincerely,

John Mackle
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Attitude

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company ... a church ... a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past ... We cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable.

The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude ... I am convinced that life is 10 percent what happens to me and 90 percent how I react to it. And let it begin with me.

C. SWINDOLL
AUTHOR AND LECTURER



Peterborough Victoria
Northumberland and Clarington
Catholic District School Board