

From the

BOARDROOM



A Bulletin from the Director of Education



Peterborough Victoria
Northumberland and Clarington
Catholic District School Board

**At the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, November 24, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.,
the Trustees:**

Heard:

- A presentation from Peter Crane, Religious Education and Family Life Consultant, Jan Ethier, Chaplaincy Leader at St. Stephen's Secondary School, Cathy Mosole, Chaplaincy Leader at Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School, and Secondary School Students from St. Stephen's Secondary School, and Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School, Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School, re the Faith Meets Pedagogy Youth Forum. Student Trustee, Kathryn Ginn, described the summer training that students participated in to prepare themselves to be group leaders at the Student Forum in October. Fifty-four students from our secondary schools experienced the Student Forum. Guest speakers Craig and Marc Kielberger, Me to We – Free the Children - spoke to the students at the forum and encouraged them to create change for a better world and to use the experiences gained at the forum to make changes in their communities when they return to their home school communities.
- A presentation from Joan Ruf, Consultant, Learning Support Services, re Junior Kindergarten Registration. Joan outlined the kindergarten registration process and identified the contents of the kit that is provided to parents of kindergarten students. She highlighted the communication plan and advertising campaign that takes place in late October and early November 2009.
- A presentation from Isabel Grace, Superintendent of Business and Finance, and Joan Ruf, Consultant, Learning Support Services, re Early Learning Initiative. Isabel spoke about the Ministry requirements for the implementation of the program and outlined the program model, the consultation process, funding allocation, criteria for selection of sites and timelines. The Board must provide information to the Ministry by November 30, 2009 including utilization of space, locations and rationale and priority schools. Joan described the differences between an Early Child Educator and a Kindergarten Teacher regarding a child's development and educational outcomes.

- A presentation from Sandra Connolly, Consultant, Learning Support Services, and Alison Macaulay, Consultant, Learning Support Services, re Environmental Education/Eco Steering Committee. Alison outlined the Ministry of Education's environmental expectations for schools including the development of an environmental policy. She identified the schools that are designated EcoSchools and highlighted the work of the Board's Eco Steering Committee. School and Board activities that addressed environmental issues and concerns were presented. A power point was shown highlighting school and Board based environmental activities and events.

Approved:

- The proposed St. Mary's Secondary School, Cobourg, trip to Cleveland, Ohio, from April 28 to May 1, 2010.
- The proposed St. Peter's Secondary School, Peterborough, trip to Algonquin Park, from May 11 to 16, 2010.
- The proposed St. Peter's Secondary School, Peterborough trip to New York City, May 12 to 16, 2010.
- Shawna Belcourt, Community Living, Peterborough, to the Special Education Advisory Committee, for the remainder of the December 1, 2006 to November 30, 2010 term.
- The support of the Peterborough Lakefield Community Police Service 2009-2010 School Safety Patrol Program in the amount of \$3,300.
- Recommendations from the Governance Committee.
 - That the 2008-2009 Financial Statements reflect:
 - 1) \$2,260,000.00 transferred to the Facilities and Site Reserve for addressing expenditures related to the St. Anthony's addition and secondary school additions;
 - 2) \$120,000.00 transferred to the Program Equipment Reserve as approved in the budget process;
 - 3) \$163,500.00 transferred to the Retirement Gratuities Reserve;
 - 4) \$30,713.00 transferred to the School Activities Reserve;
 - 5) \$336,395.00 transferred to Working Funds Reserve.
 - That the 2008-2009 audited financial statements be adopted as presented.
- Trustees wishing to do so, to attend the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association 80th Annual General Meeting and Conference to be held April 29, 30, and May 1, 2010 in Thunder Bay.
- Recommendations from the Policy Development Committee:
 - That draft Policy 1102 and Administrative Procedure AP-T-1102, Trustee Expenses, be posted for consultation as revised.
 - That Policy 407 and Administrative Procedure AP-HS-407, Staff Safety with Students with Special Needs, be approved as revised.
 - That Policy 804 and Administrative Procedure AP-S-804, Physical Intervention with Students, be approved as revised.
- Camille Parent to serve on the Good Samaritan Fund Steering Committee.

Accepted:

- With regret, the resignation of Sandra Riggers, Custodian, St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School, Bowmanville, effective November 6, 2009.

Acknowledged:

- The following highlights of system achievements:

Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School - Peterborough

On Thursday, October 1, 2009, the students of Holy Cross welcomed Rubin "The Hurricane" Carter with a standing ovation! Prior to his visit, students had done some research about him and already knew that in June, 1966, at the age of 29, Rubin Carter was one of the World's top contenders for the Middleweight Boxing Crown when he was arrested and charged with triple murder in his hometown of Patterson, New Jersey. He was tried and convicted twice, but always maintained his innocence throughout. In 1974, upon publication of his autobiography, *The Sixteenth Round: From Number One Contender to Number 45472*, and the recantations of the State's two key witnesses, the Carter-Artis case attracted international attention. Dr. Carter became a civil-rights activist and was immortalized in the Bob Dylan song, "Hurricane". Finally, in 1985, a U.S. District Court ruled that Carter's conviction had been based on "racism, rather than reason", and he was freed after serving almost 20 years in prison for a crime he did not commit. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld this ruling, and in 1988, the 22 year old indictment against Carter was dismissed.

Dr. Carter now makes his home in Toronto and in July, 2000, became a Canadian citizen. Since his release from prison, defending innocent people from wrongful convictions has become his life's work. An articulate speaker, Dr. Carter has shared a stage with Nelson Mandela and has testified before the United States Congress and the United Nations. He serves on Boards of Directors in Atlanta, Boston, and California focusing on human rights and the need to review court convictions. He is also a Doctor of Law of two universities: University of Brisbane, Australia, and York University in Toronto. His life story was the subject of a major motion picture, *The Hurricane*, starring Denzel Washington, and he began his address with an apology to all of those students who were expecting to meet Denzel!

Kelly Adams, Teacher at Holy Cross and Co-ordinator of the event, says "Rubin inspired us all and challenged us to "dare to dream" and strive to create a better world. It was a day, I am sure, we will never forget." Congratulations to Kelly Adams and Tim Moloney for providing this wonderful opportunity for students.

St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School - Douro

Local Government Week was launched the week of October 18-24 and St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School in Douro participated with their local municipality. "It was an excellent opportunity for students, educators and the municipality to engage one another on how their communities work", states Donna Ball, Principal.

In preparation for the grades 4/5 class visit to the Municipal Office on Tuesday, October 20, the students wrote essays on 'what their township does for their family'. The winner of this contest was Carlie Lorentz, a grade 5 student, who was invited to attend a Council Meeting on November 2 as Reeve for the Day.

The class visited the Open House at the Municipal Office, participated in activities and had an opportunity to look at all of the equipment used by the township (ie. snow plows, fire trucks, graders, etc.). "It was an educational and interesting day for everyone", continues Donna.

Well done Donna and staff. We will look for the next generation of 'budding' politicians from St. Joseph in the future

St. Peter's Secondary School - Peterborough

Sue Harris, Community Development Coordinator for the Peterborough Blood Donor Clinic, thanks students & staff from St. Peter's Secondary School for donating blood in honour of Courtney Morrison, a student who attended the school and recently passed away. On Thursday, October 29 at St. Peter's Secondary School, staff, students and community members honoured Courtney's memory with the gift of blood. Cards were made available at the clinic to sign to honour Courtney.

"It is a way for youth to express their individuality while still satisfying the desire to make a difference in society," said Kathy Ross, Principal. "Through just one blood donation, our unique and individual gift has the potential to save up to three lives, and make a direct and positive impact on our community. By donating blood in honour of Courtney, our students and staff were able to recognize someone who made a difference in our lives."

St. Mary's Catholic Elementary School - Grafton

St. Mary's Catholic Elementary School in Grafton are heading to Vancouver. The Primary, Junior and Intermediate divisions are making their way to the 2010 Olympic Games; one lap at a time. As part of their Daily Physical Activity program, classes are walking, jogging, and running their way around the perimeter of the soccer field. Four laps is the equivalent of one kilometre. In their 'pretend' trip, they are enjoying 'pretend spaghetti' served up by Mr. Martone's grandmother when they reach Sault Ste. Marie. While making their way through the Thunder Bay area they were able to see the Terry Fox memorial. Classes are making their way over the border into the beautiful province of Manitoba and should be at the corner of Portage and Main just as the weather grows colder. Guess who they'll see there? St. Mary's students are ready to show their spirit and cheer on our Canadian athletes. Good job, St. Mary's. Hope to see future Olympians from St. Mary's in the years ahead.

St. Mary Catholic Elementary School – Campbellford

Hands were clapping and toes tapping as the students in the grades 5/6 class recently participated in a 3 day workshop guided by professional musicians, "Sheesham and Lotus". Under the direction of the Shelter Valley Folk Festival, this project was aimed at involving students in the creation of original songs, and at the same time celebrating the farmers, the bounty and the rich agricultural heritage of our local area. It also tied in nicely with our Catholic virtue theme of Empathy, as they discussed both the joys and struggles that a modern day farmer faces.

As well as enjoying the musical talents of Sheesham and Lotus, the students were exposed to a wide variety of musical genres. The presenters brought with them a multitude of instruments, many of which were home-made, and some from faraway lands. When it came time to be creative, the students worked cooperatively and produced some sure-fire hits like: The Crazy Cow Blues, Got Milk?, Barnyard Animals, Sunshine and Rain, and The Hard Time Farming Blues. "There are no record deals on the table yet, but you never know....," says Steve Egan, Principal.

St. Mary's Secondary School – Cobourg

Recently, secondary schools from across Canada took a time out to honour their athletic programs.

The week of October 19-23 was designated as "High School Sports Week" in Canada, and local schools got into the act with a full slate of games. At St. Mary's Secondary School, Cobourg, the annual events included buy-outs for students so they could come out and cheer on their teams.

"It's an opportunity to bring some recognition to high school sports, and the kids get to play in front of the school," said St. Mary's Athletic Director, Darryll Hancock, whose job it is to keep athletics thriving at the school.

As such, he knows well the value of sports to school spirit.

"It's so important for the culture and community. When kids partake in sports, they enjoy school more and they do better. It puts them into contact with more positive influences."

Secondary schools in Northumberland are certainly ahead of the curve in that regard. Schools like St. Mary's offer their students a wide variety of sports to try, with hockey, football, rugby, soccer, volleyball, and basketball, being just a few. Cross country and track and field are also immensely popular, and local students routinely find themselves at or near the top in district challenges.

"Athletic accomplishments aside, a school simply runs smoother when there is a healthy sports program," Hancock said. He began his career in the late '90s, when teacher strikes wiped out a lot of athletic programs, taking its toll on school spirit and community. Today, the difference is palpable.

"It's invaluable for a school's climate," he said. "The kids have the opportunities to do a lot of things and we thank the volunteers for their time."

St. Michael's Catholic Elementary School – Cobourg

David Alexander, Coats for Kids Campaign Co-ordinator for Northumberland, acknowledged St. Michael's for their efforts in the 2009 Coats for Kids Campaign.

Over 600 coats were cleaned by Baker Cleaners and 70 boots were sanitized by Bebee Boots.

Between the Cobourg and Port Hope offices, Coats for Kids were able to distribute 810 coats, 70 pairs of boots and 1,584 pieces of hats, mitts and scarves.

Each year, Coats for Kids recognizes a class from a school in Port Hope and Cobourg who give the most donations and this year only one school was identified – St. Michael Catholic Elementary School's, grades 1-2 class. The students and staff brought in 125 coats during the campaign and for their efforts, they received a catered McDonald's lunch.

“Your contribution to our campaign was once again, Awesome!” says David Alexander, Co-ordinator, Coats for Kids. We shouldn't see one kid in any schoolyard freezing because they didn't have the winter apparel to keep them warm. Please accept our heartfelt thanks and we hope to meet up with you again next year.”

A big thank you from the entire Board to the students and staff at St. Michael's for their contributions to Coats for Kids in Northumberland County.

St. Mary's Secondary School – Cobourg

St. Mary's students, Julia Kryluk and Emily Wan, recently joined 78 other young people from across Canada to receive the Silver Award of Achievement from Ontario Lieutenant Governor David Onley. The presentation was part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Ceremony that took place in the legislative building at Queen's Park in Toronto.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, open to youth 14 to 25, challenges young people in four categories: volunteering, skills development, physical fitness and adventure.

The award was founded by Prince Phillip to encourage personal development and get youth involved in their communities. Since 1963, more than 350,000 Canadian students and young people have pursued the bronze, silver and gold awards.

Julia joined the school choir, took ballet class, was a counsellor on a Haliburton camping trip and has contributed many hours of volunteering around the community, with such groups as Big Sisters Big Brothers, to qualify for this honour.

Emily is a member of a local gym, helps out at her church Wednesday evenings, and participates in a sewing design club at school. She was also involved in leadership and cooking activities during a summer canoe trip.

Both grade 12 students agreed the achievement that goes with the recognition has been worth it. “We met a lot of people, developed skills and became more well rounded,” Julia said.

Both girls mentioned that the awards are good for resumes and scholarships.

In the case of Emily, the expedition experience introduced her to outdoor living in the rough, something she hadn't previously experienced.

Well done, Julia and Emily. Our entire Board is proud of your accomplishments.

Future Meetings and Events:

MEETINGS

Board Meetings	Tues. Dec. 1, 2009 (Inaugural)	8:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus Hall, Peterborough
	Tues. Dec. 15, 2009	7:30 p.m.	Boardroom
Chairperson's Committee	Mon. Dec. 7, 2009	3:30 p.m.	Director's Office
Governance Committee	Mon. Dec. 7, 2009	6:30 p.m.	Boardroom
Human Resources Committee	Tues. Jan. 19, 2010	6:30 p.m.	Meeting Room 'A'
Policy Development Committee	Tues. Jan. 5, 2010	6:30 p.m.	Boardroom

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

District Catholic School Council (Parent Involvement Committee)	Wed. Nov. 25, 2009	6:30 p.m.	Boardroom
Family Life & Religious Education Committee	Mon. Jan. 18, 2010	6:30 p.m.	Boardroom
Safe Schools Action Team Committee	Wed. Jan. 20, 2010	7:00 p.m.	Boardroom
Special Education Advisory Committee	Thurs. Jan. 21, 2010	7:00 p.m.	Boardroom
Numeracy Steering Committee	To be determined		
Communications, Freedom of Information/Protection of Privacy and Records Management Ad-hoc Committee	Wed. Feb. 10, 2010	7:00 p.m.	Boardroom
French as a Second Language Advisory Committee	Mon. Mar. 1, 2010	6:30 p.m.	Boardroom
Literacy Steering Committee	To be determined		
Aboriginal Education Steering Committee	Tues. Apr. 6, 2010	6:30 p.m.	Meeting Room 'A'
Eco Steering Committee	To be determined		
Pathways Steering Committee	To be determined		

Accessibility for All Committee	To be determined		
Student Council Liaison Committee	Wed. Dec. 9, 2009	6:30 p.m.	St. Thomas Aquinas, Lindsay
Fair Trade Purchasing for Student Clothing Ad-hoc Committee	To be determined		
Joint Diocesan/Board Sacrament Committee	To be determined		
Information Technology Planning Committee	To be determined		
Committee to Review the Community Use of Board Facilities	To be determined		
OTHER MEETINGS, CONFERENCES AND EVENTS			
Trustee School Visit	Thurs. Dec. 3, 2009	9:00 a.m.	Holy Family, Bowmanville

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