

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, June 23, 2009 at 7:30 p.m., the Trustees:

Heard:

- A presentation from Nancy Guillemette, Consultant, Learning Support Services, re First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Program Resources. Ms. Guillemette outlined the mandate for the Aboriginal Education Steering Committee and described the process for the development of the Voluntary Self Identification Policy and Administrative Procedures for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students. She praised the First Nations, Métis and Inuit leaders and representatives who served on the committee for their input and recommendations in the development of the policy. Nancy identified the new resources on Aboriginal education that have been purchased and provided to schools, and highlighted some of the events and activities that took place during the 2008/2009 school year that focussed on native culture.
- A presentation from John Mackle, Director of Education, re Strategic Priorities. Mr. Mackle gave a summary of the implementation of the 2007-2009 priorities under the headings Spiritual Growth, Enhanced Relationships, Effective Communication, Improved Student Learning, and Staff Learning. A list of achievements under these headings was presented.
- A presentation from Deirdre Thomas, Superintendent of Schools, re Office of Faith Development. Ms. Thomas gave an overview of the role of the new Office of Faith Development. She described the partnership between the School Board, schools and Parishes, acknowledged the work from the Family Life and Religious Education staff, and highlighted some of the new resources that have been purchased for the department.

Recognized:

- The following four schools for achieving silver and gold Eco School certification:
 - St. Stephen's Secondary School, Bowmanville = Silver
 - St. Mary Catholic Elementary School, Lindsay = Gold
 - St. Paul Catholic Elementary School, Lakefield = Gold
 - St. Paul Catholic Elementary School, Norwood = Gold

These schools were recognized for their work towards becoming more environmentally sustainable during the 2008-2009 school year. Ontario EcoSchools has four pillars: energy conservation, waste reduction, school ground greening, and ecological literacy. In addition to guidelines for energy conservation and waste reduction, EcoSchools includes elementary and secondary school curriculum to help extend learning. Representatives from these schools were presented with their EcoSchool Certificates.

Accepted:

- With regret, the resignations of Mr. Sean Kirley, Special Education Resource Teacher, St. Mary Catholic Elementary School, Lindsay, and Bernadette Merrick, Grade 3 Teacher, Monsignor Leo Cleary Catholic Elementary School, Courtice, effective June 30, 2009.

Approved:

- The proposed Holy Trinity Secondary School, Courtice, St. Mary's Secondary School, Cobourg, and St. Stephen's Secondary School, Bowmanville, trip to Consuelo, Dominican Republic from February 19 to 27, 2010.
- The following recommendation from the Governance Committee:
 - the 2009-2010 Operating and Capital Budget, in the amount of \$151,026,359.00.
- Policy 304 and Administrative Procedure AP-FOI-304, First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Student Voluntary Self-Identification.
- The following recommendation from the Special Education Advisory Committee:
 - that the Board approve the PVNCCDSB Special Education Plan - 2009, as presented.

Acknowledged:

- The following highlights of system achievements:

St. Elizabeth Catholic Elementary School - Bowmanville

This year, students at St. Elizabeth Catholic Elementary School, Bowmanville, participated in the Forest of Reading Program. They had a wonderful assortment of books from Canadian authors to read and from which to choose their favourites. On May 13, 2009, along with a crowd of over 6,000 readers, the school Red Maple Reading Club attended the Forest of Reading Festival in Toronto at the Harbourfront. "They had beautiful weather and an awesome time," says Joan Hogarth, Librarian. "The students had an opportunity to meet and cheer on their favourite Canadian authors as the winners of these very prestigious awards were announced."

The winners were:

Red Maple (Gr. 7-8) Out of the Cold by Norah McClintock
Silver Birch Fiction (Gr. 5-6) The Third Eye by Mahtab Narsimhan
Silver Birch Non-Fiction (Gr. 5-6) Gold Medal for Weird by Kevin Sylvester
Silver Birch Express (Gr. 3-4). Dear Sylvia by Alan Cumyn
Blue Spruce (Gr. K - 2) Chester by Melanie Whatt

Mrs. Hogarth recommends these books, along with all of the other nominees' books, to keep the students interested in reading this summer. She also suggests that parents stop by the public library and ask for the Forest of Reading nominee list because they are all great Canadian books that children will love.

In addition, she says the public library offers many great programs in the summer: reading clubs, puppet shows, story telling, movies, and they are almost all free!

St. Anthony's and St. Mary's Catholic Elementary Schools - Port Hope

The grade 1 students in teacher Monica Jex's class have entered the political arena early in life. On Tuesday, June 2, 2009, they did a presentation to the Municipality of Port Hope on Accessibility Awareness. "The student presentation to Council was recommended by the local Port Hope Committee for Accessibility Awareness who had come to the school and viewed the presentation earlier in May", says Erin O'Sullivan, Principal. "The Committee was so thrilled with the presentation that they asked us to come to Council and share it with the members. The theme for the presentation was 'Break a Barrier'."

Barb Winfield & Hilda Ed, Co-chairs, Schools' Committee for the Town of Port Hope, wrote a letter of thanks stating that Erin "must be very proud of your students and Ms Jex. They all did such a wonderful job on Tuesday evening at the Council meeting. There were tears in the eyes of many of those listening and watching. Thank you so much for taking the time to arrange all this - we know it all takes work and organization. We are so impressed by the care your schools take in reinforcing the accessibility message. They behaved like angels and transmitted the message beautifully. Please accept our deepest thanks and gratitude."

St. Anthony's and St. Mary's Catholic Elementary Schools - Port Hope (cont'd)

In addition to the letter they wrote to Ms. Sullivan, they wrote to the students and teacher to thank them personally. This letter stated:

“You were all simply wonderful in your "Break the Barrier" performance on Tuesday evening. The Mayor, all the councillors, our Accessibility Committee and the whole audience were greatly impressed.

You all read your parts beautifully. If we did not know beforehand that you are all Grade 1, we would have guessed at least Grade 3! Your performance taught us all about barriers and what to do about them. It was an important message to bring to the Town Hall.

Your parents, your school, the principal, and your teacher are all so proud of you – and so are we!”

Congratulations to Erin, Monica and her grade 1 students. The Board is proud of you too!

Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary School - Courtice

Mother Teresa hosted the Fitness Friends recognition luncheon on Friday, June 19, 2009, 1:15 pm to acknowledge, celebrate, and commend all 35 ‘friends’ and ‘buddies’, who demonstrated dedication, respect, strength, tolerance, reciprocity and empathy through their participation in the ‘Fitness Friends’ program. A grade 8 student who was involved in the program and attended the event wrote the following letter to the school relating his thoughts about the program, and we wanted to share it with our entire school system.

“Hi, my name is Calvin, and I'm a grade 8 student here at Mother Teresa. I have attended this school since junior kindergarten. Over the years I have witnessed many changes. One of the best things to happen at our school has been a program called Fitness Friends. This unique program has allowed senior students to befriend, and to mentor some younger students. It is not unusual to see us ‘high fiving’ our "buddies" in the hallways, or involving them in activities out on the yard. Today many of us have chosen to be here for this celebration, instead of attending our School Board's track meet at Holy Trinity Secondary. This speaks volumes to our commitment to Fitness Friends, and to our little buddies. You buddies are all awesome! Since my time here at Mother Teresa is coming to an end, I strongly urge the staff to keep this wonderful program alive.”

St. Paul Catholic Elementary School - Peterborough

Lily Dart, a student at St. Paul Catholic Elementary School in Peterborough, was recently awarded the Youth Volunteer of the Year for the City of Peterborough. Mayor Paul Ayotte presented the award to Lily at the recent Civic Awards event.

As reported earlier, Lily is the student who was inspired by the Leaders Today program and went on to take action to benefit those less fortunate. Lily was inspired by the 'Free the Children' youth leader's message and became empowered by the belief that she could make a difference. She embarked on a mission to raise funds to build a school in Kenya. She embraced and welcomed other children to join her in this endeavour and became leader of a committee of nine other young people from Queen Mary, Prince of Wales, Queen Elizabeth, and St. Paul Schools. Over the past year Lily has worked tirelessly as the co-ordinator and spokesperson for this group, which they named "Kids for All Kids." She has been busy with meetings, writing letters seeking financial support and was interviewed and photographed by the Peterborough Examiner. She launched a penny drive, sold homemade note cards and had muffin and cookie sales at the ReFrame Film Festival in 2008 and 2009.

Although all of the members have worked hard to achieve their goal it is Lily who inspires, leads, and shoulders the lion's share of the responsibilities.

PVNC Catholic Schools

Congratulations to the following schools on being certified as Eco Schools!

- St Stephen's Secondary = Silver
- St Mary, Lindsay = Gold
- St Paul, Lakefield = Gold
- St Paul, Norwood = Gold

Your leadership and efforts in environmental education have been recognized, not only within your school community, but provincially as well. On behalf of many students, parents, and colleagues our sincere appreciation for your dedication and involvement in the range of projects associated with the Eco Schools process.

Representatives from these schools were presented with their Eco School Certificates on June 23, 2009 at the Board Meeting scheduled to be held at Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School, Courtice.

Again, congratulations and continued success from the entire Catholic school system.

PVNC Catholic District School Board

Congratulations to Sean Heuchert, Manager of Information Technology, and Greg Reeves, Superintendent of Schools/Student Success/Information Technology, for being recognized as a Laureate by the Computerworld Honors Program for the Fast Forward Teacher Laptop Project. This year's honorees were commemorated during the 21st Annual Laureates Medal Ceremony and Gala Evening on June 1, 2009 at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium in Washington D.C. For over two decades, Computerworld Honors has acknowledged those individuals and organizations that have used information technology to benefit society.

The Computerworld Honors Program unites Chairmen and CEOs of the world's foremost information technology companies to recognize the most outstanding user achievements in technology each year. The technology achievements honored by this program are preserved and protected in national archives, and in over 350 universities, museums, and research institutions throughout the world.

Once again, congratulations to Greg and Sean. We are all very proud of you.

Holy Family Catholic Elementary School - Bowmanville

Holy Family Catholic Elementary School in Bowmanville will be receiving a beautiful gift in October 2009. Thanks to one of our retired principals, Chris Sammut, and the Sisters of St. Joseph, a stain glass depicting the Holy Family from the former Mount St. Joseph will be mounted in the entrance at Holy Family Catholic Elementary School in the fall.

Chris Sammut was given the stain glass by Sister Carol. He offered to build a frame for the glass and donate it to Principal Jonathan Bibby for his school. The entire stain glass window and frame are about 60 pounds and the measurements at approximately 60 in. high by 42 in. wide.

What a wonderful gift from the Sisters and Chris. We are all looking forward to the unveiling ceremony in October.

St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School - Peterborough

Congratulations to the St. Patrick School community for raising the most ever in their recent Jump Rope for Heart event. A total of \$7,910 was raised by the students and staff. In the last 9 years, St. Patrick has raised over \$60,000 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Event organizer Anne-Marie Condon was thrilled with the success of this year's campaign, especially in these challenging economic times. Congratulations is extended to Anne-Marie and all those who assisted in making St. Patrick a heart healthier place to be.

Future Meetings and Events:

MEETINGS						
Board Meetings	Tues.	Sept.	22	2009	7:30 p.m.	Boardroom
Chairperson's Committee	Mon.	Sept.	14	2009	3:30 p.m.	Director's Office
Governance Committee	Tues.	Sept.	8	2009	6:30 p.m.	Boardroom
Human Resources Committee	Tues.	Sept.	15	2009	6:30 p.m.	Meeting Room 'A'
Policy Development Committee	Thurs.	Sept.	3	2009	6:30 p.m.	Boardroom
COMMITTEE MEETINGS						
Special Education Advisory Committee	Thurs.	Sept.	17	2009	7:00 p.m.	Boardroom
District Catholic School Council (Parent Involvement Committee)	Thurs.	Sept.	10	2009	6:30 p.m.	Boardroom
Eco Steering Committee	Wed.	Sept.	23	2009	2:30 p.m.	Boardroom
Family Life & Religious Education Committee	Wed.	Oct.	21	2009	6:30 p.m.	Boardroom
Pathways Steering Committee	Wed.	Oct.	28	2009	6:30 p.m.	Boardroom
Numeracy Steering Committee	To be determined					
Literacy Steering Committee	To be determined					
Accessibility for All Committee	To be determined					
Student Council Liaison Committee	To be determined					
French as a Second Language Advisory Committee	To be determined					
Safe Schools Action Team Committee	To be determined					
Aboriginal Education Steering Committee	To be determined					
Ad-hoc Committee to Review the Community Use of Board Facilities	To be determined					
Fair Trade Purchasing for Student Clothing Ad-hoc Committee	To be determined					

Joint Diocesan/Board Sacrament Committee	To be determined		
Communications, Freedom of Information/Protection of Privacy and Records Management Ad-hoc Committee	To be determined		
Information Technology Planning Committee	To be determined		
OTHER MEETINGS, CONFERENCES AND EVENTS			
Trustee School Visit	Wed. Sept. 23 2009	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Immaculate Conception, Peterborough
	Tues. Oct. 20 2009		St. John, Peterborough
	Thurs. Dec. 3 2009		Holy Family, Bowmanville
	Thurs. Jan. 28 2010		St. Teresa, Peterborough
	Thurs. Feb. 25 2010		St. Mary, Lindsay
	Thurs. Mar. 25 2010		Monsignor Leo Cleary, Courtice
	Wed. May 5 2010		St. Patrick, Peterborough
	Tues. June 1 2010		Holy Cross, Peterborough
Secondary School Graduations	Thurs. June 25 2009		St. Stephen's, Bowmanville Holy Trinity, Courtice St. Mary's, Cobourg St. Thomas Aquinas, Lindsay Holy Cross, Peterborough St. Peter's, Peterborough
Annual Board Retirement Dinner	Fri. Oct. 30 2009 * "NEW DATE"	5:30 p.m.	Rock Haven Motel and Convention Centre, Peterborough
General Assembly of Catholic School Council Chairpersons	Wed. Oct. 14 2009	7:00 p.m.	St. Catherine, Peterborough

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