



Board meeting reports from Catholic Student Trustee, Thomas Mooney

Student Trustee Report - March 22, 2016

March Break has ended, and everyone has returned to school with renewed vigour, ready to complete semester two. Prior to March Break, the Student Senate met for the third time this year. Two presentations were given at the meeting, one regarding the Eastern Ontario Skilled Trades Competition and the other regarding the range of Specialist High Skills Major programs available to students within our schools. The Skills Competition is an opportunity for students to compete against their peers, both locally and from across the region. It is a chance to demonstrate the skills and talents acquired through the vast range of technological courses offered within CDSBEO schools.

Specialist High Skills Major programs offer more in-depth studies of relevant knowledge and skills for students to explore within a field they might wish to pursue post-high school, whether work related or related to further education. I am currently finishing the co-op requirements for my Specialist High Skills Major in Arts and Culture. Students within our Board are lucky to have access to a range of eight different Specialist High Skills Major programs. Both of the presentations delivered to the Student Senate were designed to increase awareness of these excellent opportunities.

In addition to these presentations, the Student Senate discussed the application process for next year's Student Trustee. Senators will be sharing the process with students at their schools in order to ensure applications by April 1, 2016. The Student Trustee position is an excellent opportunity for a student to become involved in, and increase awareness of, the work and role of the Board.

As we enter Holy Week, an opportunity is given for us to reflect upon so much that has been achieved by students in our schools with regard to social justice issues. I was fortunate enough to be able to participate in the Mission Trip to the NPH Orphanage in the Dominican Republic during this March Break. It was an incredible opportunity to experience people living in

different circumstances and to gain insight into cultures other than our own. It was also an opportunity to contribute to the building and maintenance program at the orphanage; they really have achieved incredible things in such a short time there. It was a very humbling and enlightening part of my Lenten journey.

