



Trustee News

CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

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Brent Laton, Chair (Grenville County and Elizabethtown-Kitley Township)

Todd Lalonde, Vice-Chair (Cornwall-Glengarry)

Ronald Eamer (Cornwall-Glengarry)

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Sue Wilson (Prescott-Russell)

Thomas Mooney (Catholic Student Trustee)

Aboriginal Education Day

Ongoing exposure and education about First Nations, Métis and Inuit traditions and culture remain an integral part of the CDSBEO Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement. This year, the first CDSBEO Aboriginal Education Day was held to celebrate the rich history and culture of our FNMI communities. Schools began the day with liturgies and prayer services highlighting the important teachings of the medicine wheel.

The day was created as part of the 2015-2016 FNMI Action Plan. Brent Bovaird, Principal of Curriculum explained, "An Aboriginal Advisory Committee was created to garner input from the FNMI parents and community members with an eye toward better understanding the successes and challenges of CDSBEO Aboriginal learners. Members of the board included FNMI parents, Aboriginal Elders, community representatives, school staff, and board staff."

One of the items discussed at the first meeting was to hold a day each year to celebrate, board-wide, all things Aboriginal. National Aboriginal Day is held on June 21st each year, but as CDSBEO's secondary students will be involved in exams at that time, it was agreed that the Board day would be celebrated during Catholic Education Week – this year, it was held on May 4.

The focus of the first Aboriginal Education Day was on the teachings of the Medicine Wheel, which are among the oldest traditions of the First Nations' peoples. All schools were presented with a Medicine Wheel, in addition to a banner which represents either East, West, North, or South, depending on where the school is located in the district.

Four different banners were created in consultation with Aboriginal Elders. Input of the Elders was key to the development of the banners. They helped to create and guide the symbolism for the banner images, and students from all ten secondary schools, along with two art teachers, then participated in producing the artwork. Schools also received special kits to support and contribute to the day. In many CDSBEO schools, Aboriginal role models made presentations and told their stories.

Moving forward, CDSBEO Curriculum Consultants will continue to use pedagogical documentation in schools to better understand and support student voice, and student need. The main goals of the framework focus on continuing to reduce gaps in student achievement, and to build an awareness of FNMI traditions and cultures in Board schools.

CDSBEO Receives SBCI Safety Leadership Award

Each school year, School Board Cooperative Insurance (SBCI) collects and analyzes school board health and safety data to measure board performance. The Safety Leadership Award is then presented annually to one Ontario school board for each category (based on board size), to acknowledge leaders in safety performance according to accident statistics.

The "Total Incident Frequency" (TIF) rate is derived from the statistical data, and compared to fellow group members. The board which achieves the lowest TIF rate is awarded the accolade of "Best in Class."

CDSBEO has been recognized with the Best in Class Award for medium-sized boards for 2014-2015. There are currently 20 medium-sized boards across the province. This is the fifth consecutive year that the CDSBEO has received the award. The achievement serves as a significant indicator that the CDSBEO has been consistent in taking progressive steps toward improving and maintaining its Health and Safety program.

Catholic Education Week

Each year, the Catholic community of Ontario engages in a week-long celebration of the unique identity and distinctive contributions of Catholic education during Catholic Education Week. This year Catholic Education Week, which took place from May 1-6, celebrated the theme "Opening Doors of Mercy." The week began with the celebration of the annual Board-wide Mass, which was led by Archbishop Brendan O'Brien of the Kingston Archdiocese. Throughout the week, schools shone a great light on the ways in which schools celebrate Catholic education. The week was marked by special activities and events for all grade levels, including prayer celebrations, service activities, celebrations of the arts, sporting events, and fundraisers; indeed the spirit of service was the hallmark of each event.

A video which highlights some of the many happenings at CDSBEO schools during Catholic Education Week can be viewed on the CDSBEO YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/CDSBEOVideo.

Good Samaritan Trust Fund
Annual Golf Tournament and Silent Auction Fundraiser
Tuesday, July 5, 2016 at the Outaouais Golf Club
Visit www.cdsbeo.on.ca for more information.