



Board meeting reports from Catholic Student Trustee, Brianna Workman

Student Trustee Report - February 3

For anyone who is not on Twitter or Facebook, on January 28th, the internet blew up with the hashtag 'BellLetsTalk'. Every text message, wireless and long distance call made by Bell Canada and Bell Aliant customers, every tweet using #BellLetsTalk, and every Facebook share of the Bell Let's Talk Day image at Facebook.com/BellLetsTalk, Bell will donate five cents more to Canadian mental health programs. At the end of the day 122,150,772 interactions were made which resulted in a donation from Bell Canada of 6,107,538 to Canadian mental health programs. I decided to include this in my report since it was amazing to see on the internet how many staff and students from our Board participated in this amazing initiative and just how powerful social media is when it is used this way. Since mental health awareness has become a very important focus in our Board I thought it was definitely worth mentioning how many people came together to support this cause. It was also a beautiful reminder for me of why we are doing the work we're doing on mental health. A few examples of support of this cause from our Board are the following. St. Thomas posted reminders on every locker about the event and mental illness statistics. This encouraged the students at St. Thomas to talk and tweet to participate in this incredible cause to raise awareness and money about mental illness. Iona Academy also showed their support for this day by posting a photo to their twitter with #BellLetsTalk written on the board and a class of students holding up their mobile devices.

Twenty four elementary students from St. Joseph Catholic School competed in a chess tournament at St. John Bosco. Five schools participated in the tournament with each student playing for games. St. Joseph collected 87 points at the tournament but it was St. John Bosco who came out on top. The senior boys' basketball team at St. Joseph Catholic School also won the B Division at the Crusaders tournament at St. Mary CHS on January 26th!

Students at Mother Theresa Catholic School are sharing the love with people in their community and beyond. The Mother Theresa community raised \$330 for the food bank, \$400 for CHEO, \$385 for the Snowsuit Fund, and \$305 for the school's library. Students at St. Anne Catholic School will be attending various open houses at our secondary schools to view their options for the future!

Finally, tonight I would like to share with you all the OSLC mini film. As you may remember five of our secondary school's Student Councils (St. John, Notre Dame, St. Michael, St. Thomas Aquinas, and St. Francis Xavier) attended the Ontario Student Leadership Conference in November. This conference is incredible and motivating for the student leaders in our Board. It was amazing that the student leaders in our Board were able to experience such great leadership training at this conference!

Student Trustee Report - February 17

The students at Our Lady of Good Counsel were treated to a pancake luncheon for Shrove Tuesday. Friday, February 13th, the students of Our Lady of Good Counsel were also invited to dress like someone they love or in Valentine's Day colours; red, white, or pink. The grade 3 and 4 students are cross country skiing and snow shoeing over the next few weeks and the kindergarten students are planning a trip to the sugar bush. The grade 7/8 students at St. Finnan's Catholic School participated in Zumba, and are also participating in a few spirit days in February. Pierre Lemieux visited St. Finnan's to present the history of our Canadian flag to students from grade 4 to 8. This presentation was to celebrate that February 15, 2015 marks the 50th anniversary of our flag since it was first raised over Parliament Hill in 1965.

Cathy Empey, principal at Holy Cross Catholic School was recently awarded the honour of one of Canada's Most Outstanding Principals. Mrs. Empey was one of 40 principals selected out of a pool of 13,000 principals nationwide. This is an incredible honour and since attending Holy Cross myself from JK to grade six, I can certainly attest to Mrs. Empey's dedication and leadership to the Holy Cross community. Also, in support of our Board's mental health initiatives, Holy Cross is having 'Bounce Back Week' in February. The goal is to teach the students about resiliency so that they are able to overcome their own challenges and fears.

St. John CHS hosted a gala on February 7, which included a dinner and silent auction. All the proceeds went to the Guatemala mission team. The group had an amazing turn out, raising over \$7,000! Last week, St. Michael's swim team travelled to EOSSAA to compete. Unfortunately, none of the swimmers qualified for OFSSAA but it was an incredible accomplishment for the team's first season! Outdoor education students at St. Michael's also built quinces last week and spent one night out in the cold sleeping in them! St. Michael's has also launched their annual blanket drive where new or gently used blankets are collected for the less fortunate.

The Senior Boys basketball team will also be hosting their LGSSAA championship game this Thursday against TISS. The SHOUT team at Holy Trinity CSS is selling Rafiki friend chains this month as part of a global fundraiser for Free the Children. Each handcrafted bracelet purchased earns a fair wage for a mother in Kenya. Each bracelet also comes with a tracking number so students are able to see exactly where their money is being sent! Holy Trinity also hosted its annual charity week in February. This year, the proceeds are going to Hospice in Cornwall. The charity week includes events such as the following; candy grams for Valentine's Day, an ice cream sundae bar, decorate your own cupcake, a dress down day, and semi-formal dance. The Arts department at Holy Trinity will be presenting "The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe." Holy Trinity students have been working on this performance since May 2014 and they hope to bring it to the Sears Drama Festival this year. St. Joseph CSS's jean drive came to a close last week. The jeans will go to the homeless and less fortunate in the community. Finally, the St. Mary's hockey team is off to the LGSSAA finals against North Grenville after a 5-0 semi-final win over South Grenville.