



Board meeting report from Catholic Student Trustee, Alexa Meeson

Student Trustee Report - February 21, 2017

On February 17th, I once again had the privilege of meeting with the Student Senate. The student leaders in all of our secondary schools never cease to amaze me with their enthusiasm, ideas, and by sharing the various activities going on in each of their schools! This Student Senate meeting included a presentation from our Board's Mental Health Lead, Michelle Neville. Michelle worked to capture the student voice through a presentation of videos and activities to demonstrate what well being truly means. Michelle also shared some essential tools with the students that they can utilize when in such situations where they can help their peers who may be going through a tough time. We then went on to discuss issues that we have been facing as a group, such as student participation. Through discussion and the sharing of ideas we collaborated some great ideas to get students involved.

At the elementary level, Board Chaplaincy Leader Fr. John White has been helping students at Pope John Paul II Catholic School prepare for first communion and confirmation. St. John Catholic School has been embracing the cold weather by skating on their school rink at recess and throughout phys-ed class. The students at Mother Theresa Catholic School enjoyed a special treat on Friday, March 3, as the high school students from the St. Thomas Aquinas band shared their talent in a performance.

Schools have been celebrating many successes in sports over the past few months winning 11 LGSSA titles!!! Teams including the St. John's Junior Girls Volleyball, Notre Dame Senior Volleyball, St. Michael's Senior Girls Volleyball, St Michael's Boys Wrestling, Holy Trinity Junior and Senior Boys Basketball, as well as Girls Curling, St. Mary Girls Junior and Senior Volleyball, as well as junior and senior basketball.

I wanted to take a moment to congratulate all of our schools for participating in some sort of act of kindness over the season of Advent. To name a few, all of our schools participated in the Good Samaritan Trust Fund Day, where they payed two dollars to wear a hat, or sweater. St. Thomas Aquinas held their annual clothing drive for the Ottawa Mission. St. John Bosco in

Brockville participated in their annual "Adopt a Family" fundraiser, in which they donate items to families in need. St. John raised 450 cans for their local food bank, St. Michael raised 1500, St. Luke raised over 300, and St. Mary in Brockville raised over 12,000 cans for their local food bank! After a little research, I am proud to announce that our high schools alone donated over 13,000 cans to local food banks. Some food for thought being that over 860,000 Canadians use a food bank each month... to put that in perspective you could fill the Rogers Centre 17 times. With our schools donations, our Board alone has given 10,833 meals to families. Each school participated in some sort of fundraiser to help families and people in need over the holidays. Not only does this demonstrate our students and teachers practicing their faith but the giving hearts of each individual.

It is evident that our schools don't reserve their kind giving hearts just for the holidays, but throughout the entire year. For example, just a few weeks ago all of our schools participated in the Good Samaritan Trust Fund Day, where they payed two dollars to wear a hat, or sweater, where all proceeds going towards the Good Samaritan Trust Fund. Whether it is giving through sharing food, donating money and clothes, a celebration in mass, or simply a kind gesture, our students and staff are always giving, and I believe it is something that we can all take pride in knowing.

Prayer of Reflection for Lent

Almighty and Everlasting God,
You have given the human race
Jesus Christ our Savior as a model of humility.
He fulfilled Your Will by becoming Man
And giving His life on the Cross.
Help us to bear witness to You
By following His example of suffering
And make us worthy to share in His Resurrection.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son.

Amen.