



Board meeting report from Catholic Student Trustee, Alexa Meeson

Student Trustee Report - October 4, 2016

This season not only brings the change in colour of the leaves, but also on the student's faces, as they dress in their school colour to embrace their school spirit. Almost every school in the Board (both elementary and secondary) are participating in at least one cross country meet in the month of October. Most of our secondary schools have basketball, volleyball, football, and golf. St. Francois Xavier held a pep rally on September 29, in celebration of the debut of their fall team sports.

Many of our schools participated in a Terry Fox walk or run towards the end of September. A few examples are; Notre Dame on September 29, St. Jude's on September 29th, and St. Luke's on September the 10th. Also, St. Michael's Catholic High school, and St. Mary Catholic High school in Brockville had their "Frosh Days" on September 16. These grade nine students enjoyed getting to know each other through gross activities such as going down a slip and slide through a mixture of tuna, ketchup, chicken broth, and tomato juice. A few Elementary schools are having spirit days to donate to "Toonies for Tuition." For example, St. Jude Elementary is having a hat day in October; students that bring a toonie can wear a hat for the day. Also, Bishop MacDonnell is having a spirit wear day on October 23, also to donate to this cause. Next, St. Thomas Aquinas had their assembly to mark the start of their annual food drive. The secondary schools are kicking off fundraisers for the Dominican Republic Mission trip in March. St. John Catholic High School is hosting their annual yard sale for the trip on Saturday, October 22, at Crystal Place in Perth.

I come from a very close-knit family, and just the other day, my sister and I baked our first seasonal pumpkin pie. As we were tidying up the cutlery, my sister turned to me and said, "Lex, we usually have a couple pies made by now, you never have time to do things with me anymore." This really struck me, for I realized that it was true. We become so caught up in our regular day to day routine, that we sometimes forget about what is truly important.

John F. Kennedy once said that, "The most important gifts you can give, are your love, time, and attention. I would like to wish each and every one of you a wonderful and relaxing Thanksgiving weekend. May your tummies be filled with turkey and pie, and your heart with the love of family and friends.

Student Trustee Report - October 18, 2016

Friday, October 14, was a very exciting day here because it was our first Student Senate meeting of the year! I had the incredible opportunity to meet with student leaders from all the secondary schools within our Board. Just as I expected, it was a very fun day of collaboration and sharing ideas between our schools student councils. We also elected Brooklyn Patrick from St. Mary Catholic High School as the Vice- Chair of Student Senate and Christina Goddard from Holy Trinity as the Secretary. As a collective group, we jumped two feet in, to ensure that each student has the best year possible. I presented to the group, an idea called "Spiritual Challenges". This is where as a senate, we have one theme amongst the high schools, representing students demonstrating their faith. This month's theme is "I have done an act of kindness." This phrase is posted on a poster inside the school. Students who have shown a kind gesture, sign the poster. I believe this is not only a wonderful display of our beliefs, but also gets students to take pride in their faith. I brought with me today the poster from St. Mary, as you can see; many students are taking the initiative to sign the poster. Our Senate is also busy preparing for Just Us Youth Day, as well as brainstorming ideas in which we can promote the Empower app.

In the spirit of fall, Kindergarten and Primary students at Pope John Paul II Catholic Elementary School took a field trip to Cannamore Orchard on October 7. St. Francis Xavier Catholic High School is having a "We Scare Hunger" food drive in order to replenish the Bourget Food Bank after Thanksgiving. The food drive is running from October 20 to October 29. St. Thomas Aquinas is holding a Drive Away Hunger food drive, and all the food collected is being given to the Good Neighbours food bank in Embrun. This food drive is began on October 1st and ended on October 16, which is World Food Day. St. Matthew's Hospitality class fed the hungry bellies of some of our fellow Trustees and the Cornwall Police. The student's at St. Luke in the Trade and Tech class started to build another cottage for the Park's Commission. St. Michael's Catholic High school hosted a dinner with the Salvation Army.

Just overlooking these last few points, it is evident that our schools are making a difference in our communities. As Mother Theresa once said "If you can't feed one hundred, then feed just one."