



# Trustee News

CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

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## Sandy Lake Building Bridges Experience

For the third consecutive year, the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario had students participate in an exposure trip to Sandy Lake First Nation in Northern Ontario. The experience was again a huge success, involving new adventures and a stronger connection between CDSBEO and the Sandy Lake Board of Education. This year, the initiative was organized by the department of Religious and Family Life Education, which provided the opportunity to ten students from four different school communities (St. Luke CHS, Notre Dame CHS, St. Francis Xavier CHS and St. Mary CHS). The trip focused more deeply on developing a clearer understanding of the living conditions of an isolated First Nations community, as well as building positive relationships.

The Sandy Lake First Nation is accessible only by plane or winter ice road; therefore, transportation of essential goods such as food, clothing, gas, building supplies, and vehicles is difficult and very expensive. Brooklyn Patrick, a student from St. Mary Catholic High School, identified the differences in food costs, and the resulting health issues for the residents of Sandy Lake. "All food is flown in; therefore the wholesale price is much higher. There is only one store, so there is no competition. No price regulations are in place, and families can only afford the cheaper, unhealthy food selections. As a result of poor diet, the residents deal with many health and dental problems and visits from doctors and dentists, happen only periodically."

The CDSBEO will continue to offer this experience to secondary students as part of the annual exposure trip opportunities.

## Pupil Accommodation Review - Cornwall Area

In October 2015, the Board of Trustees approved revisions to the Board's Pupil Accommodation Review Policy in accordance with the March 2015 release of the Ministry of Education's new Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline. The Board Policy and Ministry Guidelines outline the requirements for the commencement of a Pupil Accommodation Review. In October 2016, an initial Staff Report recommended to the Board of Trustees the commencement of a Pupil Accommodation Review (ARC) for the Cornwall area. The Cornwall area has been identified as being under capacity in 2015-2016, with a forecasted continued enrolment decline, necessitating a Pupil Accommodation Review to address the excess capacity. More information on the ARC can be found at [www.cdsbeo.on.ca](http://www.cdsbeo.on.ca).

## St. John CHS Relay for Life

St. John Catholic High School has participated in the Relay for Life for the past 15 consecutive years. This annual event has helped the school develop a strong school community, and lasting connections to the larger Perth community.

This past year was the school's 15th anniversary and St. John is the only school in Ontario that has participated in Relay for Life for 15 years. In 2002, St. John was one of four schools in Ontario that hosted a youth event, and in 2003 the school began the student organizing committee.

The Canadian Cancer Society reinvests funds into the student youth fundraising efforts - an experience that is very positive for students. The school hosts a kick off rally in April; the ceremony is always very emotional. At the ceremony, the school puts a face to the disease, and it brings a very powerful message, giving the students a sense of why their efforts are important.

Students are asked to raise \$100 each for the campaign. In May, the school does a cancer awareness campaign, which focuses on an education component, teaching healthy eating, and other important information. In May, the final event takes place - the 12 hour relay event with a rally and opening ceremonies.

There are many benefits for the school through participation in this event, including the immense sense of pride the event brings. In addition, the event allows the school to make a connection to the local community. A group of survivors attend, and the students meet these survivors and are inspired by them.

In August, the school learned that they had won a contest through the Canadian Cancer Society. St. John was entered as one of the participating schools that raised over \$50,000 at the last event. On Saturday, October 1, Canadian rock group Hedley played a free, private concert at the school which was attended by over 500 students and Relay for Life alumni.

"The concert is an amazing way for us to kick-off this year's Relay for Life event," noted teacher Dave Peters, who oversees the organization of the student committee, and annual campaign events.

St. John has raised over \$680,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society in the 15 years it has participated in Relay for Life. In 2016, the May event raised over \$56,000.