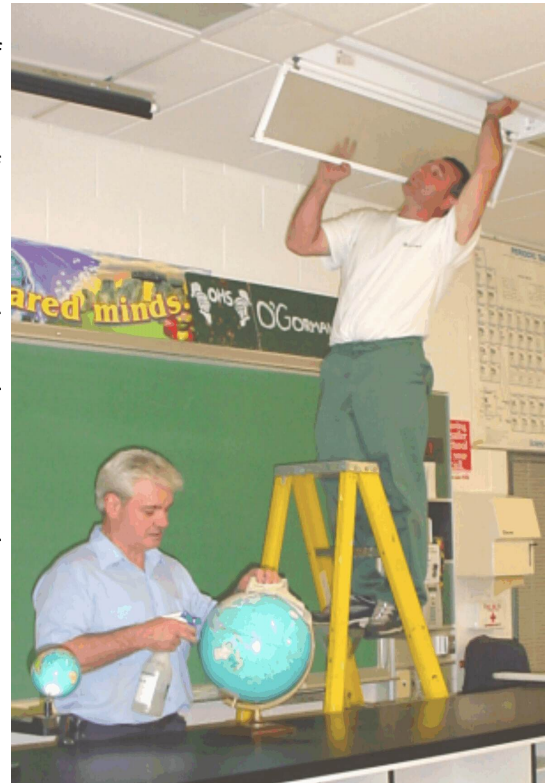


CATHOLIC SCHOOLS TO WELCOME STUDENTS WITH GREAT EXPECTATIONS

With only two weeks remaining before the smiling faces of students fill classrooms, the Northeastern Catholic District School Board is putting the finishing touches on summer projects and learning sessions for principals and teachers.

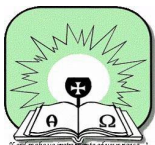
All of these initiatives are taking place as we launch the school year under the leadership of our new Director of Education, Mr. Paul Toffanello. "It is with anticipation and great expectations that we will open our doors to students and guide them on a brand new journey of discovery," stated Toffanello. "I am pleased to welcome them, as well as our dynamic group of teachers, principals and support staff. Our programming leaders have prepared professional development opportunities for our educators, which will provide them with the tools to better implement and deliver the curriculum. For their part, our maintenance and custodial teams have been polishing up classrooms and completing renovations to make sure our school environments are conducive to teaching and learning. These initiatives, along with our continued emphasis on student achievement, will ensure that the students have everything they need to flourish academically and spiritually."



Dion Leclair (Custodian) polishes a globe while Ron Fortier (Maintenance) installs a new ballast at O'Gorman High School

Among the capital projects, Sacred Heart School in Kirkland Lake is receiving extensive renovations to provide a woodworking shop for their technology program, as well as a home economics room. The purpose of the program is to enhance the entire student, and help each one develop the skills that they may require in the future, by learning and applying design and production principles.

At St. Paul School in Timmins, windows are being replaced and ventilation will be upgraded, including air conditioning in the computer room. The Board is also installing an elevator to improve access to its facilities. Students will benefit from an expanded gymnasium through the relocation of a storage area. New flooring and paint, as well as remodelled student washrooms will provide a modern new look to the school interior. The school is also proud to announce that "Café St-Paul", the affectionate name for their breakfast program, will be open for service again this year serving up healthy snacks, including the famous 'St. Paul Bagel'.



Northeastern Catholic District School Board

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P. Toffanello, Director of Education
C. Landers, Chair of the Board

Re-roofing projects were completed at St. Anne English Catholic School in Iroquois Falls, and over the gymnasium at St. Patrick School in Kapuskasing. St. Patrick School also received an upgrade of the second floor hallways, with new lighting and ceilings. A large area of their school yard was paved to provide a more practical play area for students.

To ensure that our computer infrastructure operates smoothly, staff will also have access to the services of technologists through a telephone help line to assist with any difficulties encountered by users. Because assistance will be available on-the-spot through remote access, this new feature will reduce computer class interruptions caused by minor equipment and software malfunctions.

All principals will be meeting this week to discuss any new administrative and education issues. They will also be receiving in-service on the new Individual Education Plan engine, the Successful Pathways program, literacy and numeracy and writing strategies.

For their part, teachers will also have the chance to learn new teaching skills or enhance program delivery by taking part in the Summer Institute offered by our Board. Topics include Reading Strategies for students, Classroom Publishing (Primary/Junior Level), Classroom Publishing (Intermediate/Senior Level), The Use of Multi-media Technology in the Classroom and Web Page Design. We are also proud to welcome Dr. John Mighton, also referred to as "The Math Motivator" by Maclean's Magazine. Dr. Mighton will be presenting a session on his Junior Undiscovered Mathematical Prodigies (JUMP) approach. All teachers who would like to register for these sessions may contact the Board Office at 268-7443.

In addition to these internal workshops, the Board will be hosting a Catholic Symposium, entitled "Ontario Catholic Education: The Enduring Gift... Connecting Schools, Parishes and Families. "This gathering of all of our stakeholders, including administrators, principals, teachers, parents, members of the clergy and parishioners will help us examine our purpose in a changing world," explained Board Chair Colleen Landers. "We will be engaging in open dialogue about our roots, as well as where we are and where we want to go as a Catholic system. We welcome anyone who wants to assist us in this mission to join us on October 16th as we work together to provide the best Catholic schools for our communities." Registration forms are available at the Board Office.

With programming advancements and facility upgrades in place, we look forward to welcoming students on September 7th. Families who would like register their child are invited to contact their local English Catholic school as of August 30, or the Board office at 268-7443, or 1-877-422-9322. They can also find out more about our system by consulting our website at www.ncdsb.on.ca. French Immersion programs are available in most areas.

For more information, please contact:

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