



Matthew Cull, Teacher at St. Patrick School in Cobalt, shares effective practices.

GRADE 4 AND 5 TEACHERS GAIN 'EXPERT'ISE IN LITERACY AND MATH

Grade 4 and 5 teachers from throughout the Board gathered at the Dante Club in Timmins this week for two days of math and literacy training. The purpose of the workshop was to familiarize them with the Expert Panel Reports in these areas released by the Ministry of Education.

Literacy for Learning, The Report of the Expert Panel on Literacy in Grades 4 to 6 in Ontario outlines guiding principles for junior literacy, tips on creating an optimal physical learning environment, and successful approaches to teaching and learning.

Similarly, Teaching and Learning Mathematics, The Report of the Expert Panel on Mathematics in Grades 4 to 6 in Ontario provides an overview of mathematics instruction strategies and examines factors that affect the junior math learner.

The Northeastern Catholic District School Board Curriculum Team has been reviewing both documents since their release. They have prepared an interactive workshop to introduce all grade 4 and 5 teachers from throughout the Board to the key strategies and resources that will improve student achievement.

The workshops were organized by Liz Mulholland, Special Assignment Teacher for Curriculum and Karen Rowe, Program Principal for Curriculum. English Catholic Central School Teacher Lori Hurtubise also presented on strategies which have proven successful in her classroom, including Word Study which invites students to study and break down words, as well as Literature Circles which encourage students to discuss and reflect on a piece of literature. Program Principal John D'Alessandri presented a one hour session on the use of storybooks at the junior level. Dressed as Detective Jake Gander, the lead character in the book *Jake Gander, Storyville Detective, The Case of the Greedy Granny*, he offered a comical rendition of the story, while sharing with teachers some innovative ways of engaging students in reading and improving comprehension and writing skills.

The participants also discussed the implementation of the Balanced Literacy Framework in the junior division. They discussed ways of building on the capacity of primary teachers within our Board who have already implemented this approach at their level. The participating junior division teachers were very engaged and open to new ideas. They were comfortable sharing successes and challenges.

The sessions included time for questions, comments, sharing of most effective practices. A resources display was also set up to allow teachers to peruse a wide variety of storybooks and teaching tools.



John D'Alessandri, a.k.a Detective Jake Gander, presents to the group with Karen Rowe and Liz Mulholland.

**For more information, please contact:
Mélanie Bidal-Mainville
Community Relations Officer**



Northeastern Catholic District School Board

101 Spruce Street North
Timmins, Ontario P4N 6M9
Tel: (705) 268-7443 Fax: (705) 264-0333
www.ncdsb.on.ca

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