

BOARD WELCOMES FUNDING FOR SCHOOL LIBRARIES

School libraries will feature new books and learning resources in September, thanks to a recent investment by the Ministry of Education. The Northeastern Catholic District School Board's share of this funding amounts to over \$45,000 which will be shared by each of our Catholic schools.

Students are excited to hear that they will have new books at their disposal, and have many ideas on how to improve current collections. "I think we need more fact books about space because in the grade six curriculum we are learning about the solar system," explained Sean Daggett, a student at St. Paul School. "I would also like to have art books with step by step instructions, and perhaps some new picture books for the JKs."



Michael Damini and Sean Daggett, grade 6 students at St. Paul School, pursue through the resources at their school library.

For his part, Michael Damini, also a grade 6 student, feels that a broader selection of youth fiction will encourage more students to take part in the Drop Everything And Read program. "I feel that we need more grade four to six novels for the older students," stated Damini. "At St. Paul, we have the D.E.A.R. program everyday after lunch when for fifteen minutes, everyone drops everything and reads. We come to the library each week with our class to take out books for this program. A better variety will help everyone find something they like."

Director of Education Paul Toffanello believes that the students will benefit greatly from these additional monies. "We know that different types of books appeal to different students, particularly across gender lines," stated Toffanello. "As a result, we need to ensure that we have a wide variety of materials on hand that will meet these diverse interests. This infusion of money supports our Board focus on literacy by expanding our collections. If we can engage our students in positive literacy learning experiences, they are more likely to acquire strategies that will help them become independent readers and writers. These skills are the foundation of learning in all other subject areas, and consequently have an impact on student achievement."

School principals will assess their current resources to determine the type of literature needed in their respective libraries before placing their orders in the coming weeks. The intent is to stock the library with books, periodicals and other forms of writing that are of interest to the students.

This funding announcement marks the government's first ever allocation earmarked specifically for school libraries. A few years ago, the Board allocated \$250,000 from its budget to boost library resources. The Board also invested in classroom libraries for intermediate classrooms in 2004.

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