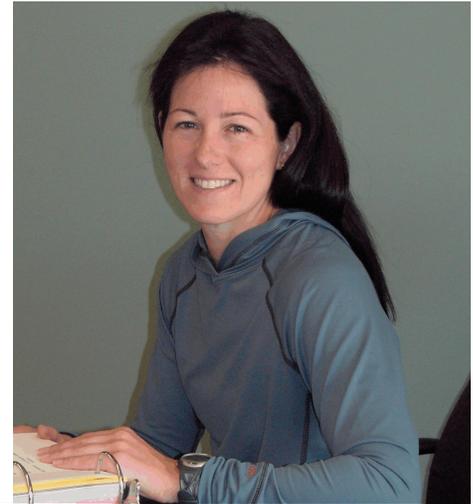


AILEEN WRIGHT ENGLISH CATHOLIC SCHOOL WELCOMES NEW PRINCIPAL

With only two weeks until the start of classes, Renee Closs is busy making herself at home at Aileen Wright English Catholic School. Mrs. Closs has been appointed principal of the Cochrane area school by the Northeastern Catholic District School Board for the 2005-06 school year. She is replacing Angelo Anselmo who retired this summer after thirty-five years of service in Catholic education.

Mrs. Closs is a dedicated educator and learner who holds a Master of Science in Education in primary/junior elementary education, as well as a Bachelor of Arts in History. Throughout her teaching career, she pursued additional qualifications in the areas of Religion and Computers in the Classroom, and is a Specialist in Special Education and Reading. She recently completed both parts of the Principal's Qualification Program through the Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario. This advanced learning opportunity helped her develop the knowledge, skills and values to effectively lead a Catholic school community.



**Renee Closs, Principal of
Aileen Wright English Catholic School**

Her relentless desire to help her students attain their potential drives her to instill a love of learning in each of them through new classroom and co-curricular strategies. "My uncompromising view is that all students can learn, given a positive learning atmosphere that welcomes exploration and enhances student confidence," noted Closs. "It is my belief that an educator's mission is to make school enjoyable and exciting - if students look forward to attending school, they will want to LEARN."

One of her priorities is the promotion of our Catholic faith both in the school and in the community. Within the school environment, she intends to focus on student learning, while ensuring that the Catholic Graduate Expectations are incorporated into the curriculum. She also believes in fostering the personal and professional growth of teachers, while supporting their ongoing religious and faith practices.

Board Director of Education, Paul Toffanello, is pleased to welcome such a dynamic educator to the team of leaders within our Catholic school Board. "Renee has developed valuable leadership abilities by serving as a principal's designate and through the LEAP program," stated Toffanello. "These experiences have provided her with insight into the educational, operational and administrative demands of a principalship. Her experience in implementing a strategic plan in a school environment will also be a definite asset to our system. She was instrumental in setting new directions in the areas of communication, resources, educational programs and wellness as a member of the CREW committee at her school. We will certainly look to tap into this knowledge as we embark on a similar journey."

Aileen Wright English Catholic School serves approximately 160 Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 students in the community of Cochrane. Mrs. Closs will welcome all new and returning students on the first day of classes, September 6th.

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

