

CATHOLIC STUDENTS PAY TRIBUTE TO VETERANS

Catholic students from throughout the district are paying tribute to our veterans this week in honour of Remembrance Day.

Director of Education, Paul Toffanello, believes that educators help preserve the tradition of remembrance by bringing to life the plight of the men and women who served our country to secure our freedom. "Within our teachings this week, our Catholic schools have been integrating learning activities to deepen our students' appreciation of the contributions and sacrifices made by our veterans," stated Toffanello. "This message allows them to reflect on their rights and responsibilities as Canadian citizens, and to appreciate the value of their freedom. As a faith community, we offer our prayers for all those who paid the ultimate price during war times. It is a valuable part of our heritage, and we have a collective obligation to share it with generations to come."

Students at **Aileen Wright English Catholic School** in **Cochrane** gathered for a liturgical service in honour of Remembrance Day at Transfiguration Parish along with representatives from the Royal Canadian Legion and from the Knights of Columbus. The school choir enchanted all with their angelic voices as they a solemn rendition of "Amazing Grace" and a beautiful song calling for peace in the world. A student also led the reading of In Flanders Fields for reflection. Afterwards, the group joined the broader community in the church basement for the local Remembrance Day ceremony.



Students at Aileen Wright English Catholic School sang Amazing Grace at the local Remembrance Day Service.

At **St. Patrick School** in **Cobalt**, students have been putting pencil to paper and share their thoughts on Remembrance Day through poems and short stories. This morning, select compositions were read during morning announcements to set the tone for this day of remembrance. A service geared to kindergarten to grade 3 students was held in the gymnasium, while the older grades attended the ceremony at the local cenotaph where a student layed a wreath on behalf of the student body.



English Catholic Central School in **New Liskeard** welcomed local veterans to the school yesterday to speak with the students about their personal experience and to raise awareness about the importance of Remembrance Day. Together, they took part in an assembly during which students read poetry, sang God Save the Queen and listened to a Pipe Band. The grade 6/7 class also acted out the poem, In Flanders Fields. The assembly ended with a wreath ceremony by each class. The school was also represented by their student council at the cenotaph this morning.

In **Kapuskasing**, a World War II veteran visited **St. Patrick School** to talk to grade 7 students about his war experiences. The entire student body participated in a ceremony at St. Patrick's Parish, which was animated by grade 8 students with Legion Colour Party in attendance. Grade 6 students recited John McCrae's "In Flanders Fields" for all in attendance. Grade 7 and 8 students participated in the Royal Canadian Legion Remembrance Day ceremony.

The grade 6 students from **St. Joseph School** played a central role by organizing and running the ceremony at the cenotaph in **South Porcupine**. They also provided the music and served as choir by leading the singing. Student Johnathan Hutteri was proud to assist the Legion with this ceremony. "It think it is important to help organize the ceremony and sing at the cenotaph because we are honouring the soldiers with their families and friends," explained Hutteri. "It also lets us give thanks to the people who fought for our freedom".

During the town service at the cenotaph In **Englehart, Holy Family School** student Kristien Sears was chosen to read a poem which he had composed, and then layed a wreath on behalf of the school as his schoolmates looked on.

At **St. Anne English Catholic School** in **Iroquois Falls**, students gathered in the gymnasium for a liturgical service in memory of those who fought bravely, many of whom perished. They listened attentively as they watched a slide show depicting symbols of remembrance and images highlighting the Year of the Veteran.

Other schools organized school-based events, held prayer services or masses, and/or participated in Legion ceremonies at their local cenotaph.

Many of our students also participated in Legion essay and poster contests commemorating Remembrance Day.



St. Anne English Catholic School student Kezmin Madden recited a prayer during the school service.

**For more information, please contact:
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