

HEROIC EFFORTS OF GRADE 9 PHYS ED CLASS AND STAFF MEMBERS RECOGNIZED BY THE BOARD DURING CEREMONY



From left to right: Bill Vane (Retired Principal), Joan Gvozdanovic (Educational Assistant), Colleen Landers (Chair of the Board) and Dion Leclair (Custodian)

When an emergency strikes, knowing how to respond is critical. A grade 9 class at O’Gorman High School demonstrated their ability to do so earlier this semester when their supply teacher, retired Principal Bill Vane, collapsed in the middle of their physical education class on March 31. Their valiant team effort, along with the heroic response by Dion Leclair, School Custodian and Joan Gvozdanovic, Educational Assistant, were recognized today during a special ceremony at O’Gorman High School.

The class reacted immediately, following all emergency response procedures. While some students took charge and delegated responsibilities, others assessed the unresponsive victim, checking for a pulse or signs of breathing. Some students were sent to the office to call an ambulance, others used the intercom to page the staff room and request immediate assistance. Others yet kept their classmates calm or waited patiently out of the way of the responders while they waited for medical help to arrive.

Chair of the Board Colleen Landers commended the students today for their quick response and presented them with a certificate of recognition. “Our Catholic faith tradition calls us to action on behalf of those in need and to learn skills to effectively meet those needs,” stated Landers. “The students of that grade nine physical education class are role models in this regard, as they recognized the developing emergency and reacted immediately. The Board is proud of their rapid and appropriate response to this very serious situation.”

The Board also thanked all staff members who responded to this urgent matter, by calling an ambulance, tending to the victim, providing support and compassion to the students who witnessed the incident and guiding the ambulance attendants to the school gym. Leclair and Gvozdanovic, who were the first staff members to reach the scene, received an award of merit and a gift of appreciation. As no one was able to find a pulse on Vane on that day, Leclair immediately began administering cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Gvozdanovic monitored Vane, checking for vital signs at various intervals, and provided the necessary support to Leclair to ensure uninterrupted CPR until the arrival of medical help.



Continued from page 1

A few of the students in the class shared their reflections on the value of their first aid training. "For a few seconds after Mr. Vane passed out, I felt panicked, but I quickly calmed down and everything I had been taught several years before rushed back," recalls student Stephanie Higgs. "The class calmed down and immediately did their part to ensure his well being. For a few days after, I was worried about Mr. Vane. I'm really relieved that he is ok and has made a full recovery. Overall, I fully realized how important it is to be educated in CPR and all first aid training."

"CPR is worthwhile for everyone," added student Melissa Benoit. "Accidents don't always occur when there's an actual ambulance around. It's worth it to take the CPR course because you can help other people. Of course, when some people take this course they think they won't remember everything but it all comes back in flying colours. It's amazing, and you feel good about yourself and you become more confident about your ability to respond. I encourage everyone to take this course. Adults and children should know what to do in an emergency."

An important message indeed, one with which Bill Vane would gladly concur.

For more information, please contact:
Mélanie Bidal-Mainville
Community Relations Officer
Northeastern Catholic District School Board



Melissa Benoit, Gabriella Desmarais and Stephanie Higgs were among the students in the Grade 9 class who received a Certificate of Recognition.

