

AILEEN WRIGHT ENGLISH CATHOLIC SCHOOL CELEBRATES 25 YEARS



Students Ashley Larose, Kayla Antila, Brittanya Henley, Vanessa Robin and Kelsey Vallee each hold up 5 fingers to indicated the 25th anniversary of their school with Principal Andrea Iserhoff. The students are part of the school choir which will be performing on Saturday.

The student choir at Aileen Wright English Catholic School has been rehearsing musical selections in preparation for a silver celebration. A planning committee has been busily ironing out the details of the official festivities of the school's twenty-fifth anniversary, which will take place on Saturday, September 30. The Board of Trustees of the Northeastern Catholic District School Board will be holding their public board meeting at the school to coincide with the 25th and to commemorate this event.

School principal Andrea Iserhoff, who recently assumed the principalship of the school, believes that there is much to celebrate in their Catholic elementary school community. "Our focus over the past twenty-five years has been to provide each learner with an education of the highest quality, in a positive Christian environment," states Iserhoff. "It is an objective that we fulfill through

caring and dedicated educators and support staff. It gives us great pride to gather on Saturday to celebrate our silver anniversary of fostering academic and spiritual growth of our students. We invite the community to join us at 1 pm on Saturday for a special ceremony in our gymnasium as we toast to another twenty-five years of service to Catholic education in our community."

The planning committee is particularly excited that Mrs. Elizabeth Wright, daughter of Mrs. Aileen Wright, the namesake of the school, will be travelling from Toronto to take part in the event. Mrs. Aileen Wright is a former Vice-Principal of the English section at the former St. Joseph School. She passed away a few years following the dedication ceremony in 1981.

As part of the preparations, each classroom has chosen one Christian value and will be preparing a visual arts display reflecting their value as it relates to Catholic education. Their creations will be on display along the hallways of the school in time for the celebration.

Few schools in North America can claim such an unusual beginning as Aileen Wright English Catholic School. In 1912, circus train of twenty-two cars pulled into Cochrane. This was Cochrane's first circus and cleared land was required for the show. Three elephants were part of the entourage and before the show could begin, they were led to the area full of stumps and the remains of burned trees. The elephants went to work, pulling and piling stumps and clearing the area. The clearing was claimed for education and after serving various purposes, including a conversion into a second hospital during the typhoid epidemic, the site is now home to Aileen Wright English Catholic School.

The ceremony will begin with greetings from Director of Education Paul Toffanello followed by a welcome address by Principal Andrea Iserhoff, a message from Father Sauve of Transfiguration Parish, an opening prayer and blessing, a musical presentation by the senior student choir and a complete overview of the history of the school by Chair of the Board Colleen Landers. Tours of the facilities will also be available.

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