

NEW TEACHERS AT NCDSB COMPLETE FIRST PHASE OF INDUCTION PROGRAM

With the first few weeks of school behind them, new teachers from the Northeastern Catholic District School Board gathered at St. Paul School in Timmins last week to take part in our New Teacher Orientation Day. The day, which was organized by our Curriculum Team, provided an initiation to resources, programs, services and support available through the Board.

Director of Education Paul Toffanello welcomed the group as they arrived and shared his perspective on teaching based on current research and his own personal experience in the classroom over a seventeen-year period. "You are entering classrooms that look very different that they did when I started teaching," commented Toffanello. "In the past, the bell rang and we all walked into our classrooms and closed the door behind us. Now, we generally see a more open door approach, which allows us to learn from each other, to engage in dialogue about instruction, to share best practices and to be the professionals that we are. We have invested in training for our principals in recent years to ensure that they are strong instructional leaders. Do not hesitate to rely on them for guidance. We also have a dynamic and experienced curriculum team ready to be deployed in our schools to assist you with classroom management, literacy strategies or other areas of need. Each morning when you walk into your classroom, I want you to look at your students, and remember that Jesus is present in each and every one of them. He will call on you to care deeply for all of your students, to nurture their minds, to be servant leaders, and to make decisions that are underpinned by what He would do."

The group took part in a brainstorming session in the morning to set goals for the day. The focus included establishing a support network with Board leaders as well as with their peers. They also wanted to develop a greater understanding of Balanced Literacy and classroom management techniques. As the day progressed with a carousel of workshops, they became more familiar with these areas, as well as with differentiated instruction and the guiding principles in the Ministry documents, Education for All. They even took part in a scavenger hunt in St. Paul School. Equipped with a digital camera, they visited classrooms to locate and photograph elements of effective instruction.



Teachers Joe DiMarco (OHS), Meredith Young (St. Paul School) and Megan Cull (ECCS) take part in the scavenger hunt to find elements of effective instruction in place in classrooms at St. Paul School.

New teacher orientation days are part of the Ministry of Education's New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP). The programs will enable teachers to become familiar with the classroom, the school, the school board and education in Ontario. It is a professional learning opportunity that supports our new educators in making a successful transition into the classroom, one focused on improving student learning.

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



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