

## LATER LITERACY IN THIRD YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION AT NCDSB SCHOOLS

The Later Literacy Program is in full force within the Northeastern Catholic District School Board this year, reaching more and more students. Now in its third year of implementation, this initiative is aimed primarily at supporting grade 7 to 12 students.

The program can be used in small group settings, but portions of it can also be integrated into full classroom instruction. It is aimed to support students who have fallen two to three years behind in their reading abilities. Several teachers in all of our schools have received training in the Later Literacy Program over the past years, including John Casonato at St. Patrick School in Kapuskasing.

According to him, the program is a valuable intervention tool for educators who believe that all students can be successful readers and writers with the appropriate support. "The ultimate goal is to allow students to approach reading and language-based materials by using strategies before they read, while they read and after they read to help them unlock the meaning behind words. The students learn to get through the language and overcome that barrier in order to tap into the actual content, be it in Math, History or another subject area. It teaches them how to go about understanding what they have read through mind mapping or graphic organizers. As a result, it boosts their reading and writing abilities and builds confidence."

Trustee for Hearst/Kapuskasing/Smooth Rock Falls, Paul Keating, believes that innovative new programs and services such as Later Literacy are a definite asset for our students. "I am always pleased to see new initiatives implemented in our classrooms, coupled with the enthusiasm of our teachers," stated Keating. "Here in Kapuskasing, we are fortunate to have the staff, resources and programs that will help our students overcome learning barriers to achieve success. The Later Literacy program is just one example of the ways in which our Board is helping students reach their potential. In the new year, we will also be installing an elevator at St. Pat's here in Kapuskasing to better accommodate students, staff or visitors who require it either due to a physical disability or other mobility concern. This project was approved earlier this year through our capital plan. We also invested in new assistive technology last year such as the Kurzweil program which empower students to take control over reading and writing disabilities to establish their independence."

Later Literacy is a short-term intervention program designed to assist individual students, ages 10 to 15 to become confident, independent readers and writers. With a strong emphasis on strategies students learn to self monitor their literacy processes, think deeply about text, solve unfamiliar words, increase sight vocabularies and adjust reading according to text and task.

**For more information, please contact  
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