

Northeastern Catholic District School Board



2007 SUMMER BULLETIN

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE:

As adults, we recognize that we exist in an era of constant change. We are challenged each and every day ethically, morally and spiritually in our attempts to define what is right and wrong, what is good and bad, and what will benefit us and our families such that we grow stronger and are able to contribute positively to society.

Imagine that your children feel the same pressures within their own lives. For them, it is even more perplexing than we can ever understand because of the demands of our current society for their attention. As such, we are compelled to guide them as they grow into mature young adults, and it is in this loving process that we search for a context within which we can foster, support and sustain this growth.

Indeed, this goal is what our Catholic schools strive to achieve. The thrust of our efforts is a focus on being a visibly strong part of the triad of Home, Church and School wherein we work with parents and guardians in helping to nurture the whole child. It is our determination to ensure that Christ is at the centre of this effort, and that your child will be provided with strong role models, opportunities to reflect and pray, and opportunities to engage with the parish priest both at school and in Church. I urge you to visit our website and view the Catholic Graduate Expectations which clearly frame our efforts in this regard.

In this perplexing time for our children who are faced with so much, it is our hope that you recognize the comfort, support, care and direction that we can offer them within the teachings of Christ—teachings which we know inherently are the same messages that you give them each and every day: to love one another, to forgive each other, and to be symbols of hope to the world that we can make it a better place to live.

We thank you for choosing to educate your child in our Catholic schools, and we are here to serve you as Christ would have us do.

God bless,
Paul Toffanello, Director of Education

Parental support, the key to Catholic Education

Catholic education needs the support and commitment of parents. These are a few suggestions on how you can ensure the continuation of Catholic Education for your child:

- Check the support designation on your property tax bill to verify that you are registered as a Catholic School supporter
- Facilitate communication between the church and the school
- Reach out to other parents and encourage them to take an active role in their Catholic School community

Pastoral Care

As my role in the Board continues to unfold, one aspect of my work that is becoming more defined, with the help of teachers and principals, is in the area of retreats. The purpose of these Ambassador retreats includes the hope of strengthening community within our Board, supporting our personal and collective faith journeys, and sharing ways to bring our experience and relationship with God to our students. Next year the hope is to continue to develop the Ambassador program in order that the atmosphere of faith in our schools remain clear and healthy. We will seek to involve as many people of faith as possible in this program, be they staff, students, parents, or members of the larger Catholic community.

As well, retreats for our students are evolving into something good and affirming for students and teachers alike. Currently, these retreats range from:

- sacrament of confirmation retreats in Kapuskasing and Cochrane
- grade 8 retreats in other intermediate level schools
- retreats of fasting for grade 9 to 12 students (in conjunction with Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace).

The prayerful hope for next year is that retreats will be developed for our younger students, grades one to six, that will support the religion programs already in use within our classrooms.

Peace,
Michael Buhler, Board Pastoral Care Worker

Inspired by the mystery of Christ, we will guide our students on a journey of discovery that celebrates life.



School Success Stories

St. Patrick School - Cobalt

The JK and SK students collaborated on creating a *Friendly Letter for our World Vision* Sponsored Child in Bolivia. Our grade 1 students successfully gathered the most food per capita for the local Food Bank. Smile Cards were sent weekly from the students in Grade 2/3 to cheer up members of the school community. A Bible Presentation will be held on June 6th for the students of Grade 4/5, and the Grade 5/6 students hosted a Nutrition Fair for parents and students alike. St. Patrick School also held Monthly Student Success Assemblies, and participated in a Reading Buddies program.

St. Jerome Catholic School Kirkland Lake

The Catholic School Council applied for a *Parents Reaching Out Grant* through the Ministry of Education and funding was received to sponsor workshops to help support parent involvement in their child's learning and achievement. We were able to secure Jim Jordan, an experienced motivational speaker, who delivered his *Stop Bullying* message to students and parents. He enthralled the students with his magic tricks, inspired them with insight and gave them strategies to use in a number of bullying scenarios. With the parents, Jim introduced his *Plug the Tub* theory, presenting them with techniques to motivate and lead their children more successfully.

O'Gorman High School - Timmins

We are very proud of the hard work undertaken by the staff of O'Gorman on a daily basis. Of particular note is the OSSLT results for first time writers. Our results have risen over the last three years from 63% in October 2003 to this year's high of 79%. This increase is a direct result of the continued dedication to improving Literacy practices in the classroom.

As well we are very proud of *Anything Goes*. The musical production is a collaboration between, Drama, Music, Construction Technology, Art and numerous students and staff who take care of everything needed to make this endeavour a huge success. The musical comes together because of the dedication and teamwork of over 100 staff and students.

"I'm so thankful that I have had the opportunity to grow and mature in a Catholic school environment where I'm not only taught to..."



St. Joseph Catholic School South Porcupine

St. Joseph Catholic School has made significant advancements in the approach to teaching with the implementation of new technology in the form of the SMARTboard. In conjunction with this wonderful tool, the staff has been provided with excellent professional development, further advancing our teaching practice which has resulted in improved student success.

St. Anne English Catholic School Iroquois Falls

This year's focus on reading and the establishment of Guided Reading Teams for Grades K to 7 have boosted our students' reading levels. Many students in Kindergarten are reading well into the Grade 1 standards while some of our Grade 1 students are reading at a Grade 3 level! This success continues and throughout the school, students read even as a reward activity for work well done.

Aileen Wright English Catholic School Cochrane

Aileen Wright focused on many professional development opportunities and resources were purchased including a SMART Board, enhancing our current instructional practices.

Our healthy eating programs correspond with our Daily Physical Activity, promoting healthy lifestyles.

We have participated in the MS Read-a-Thon, Terry Fox Run, Jump Rope for Heart, and recently our School choir, along with the Community Choir, held a benefit social to raise money for breast cancer, demonstrating that our Catholic values are an asset to our community.

As a sign of our UNITY, our school community is looking forward to a new start in the Fall with the implementation of school uniforms.

Sacred Heart Catholic School - Timmins

This year Sacred Heart School has embraced the Catholic value of giving. Through many community involvement activities and various donations, the students have come to realize and appreciate the rewards of helping others in the community and throughout the world. We have grown in many ways this year as a Catholic school and have learned the true meaning of generosity.

Development and peace \$680.00 Free the Child \$800.00
Jump Rope for Heart \$3800.00 Terry Fox \$600.00
Child and Family Services - 17 Christmas Hampers filled with household items
Food Bank Donations - 1800 items for the food bank

St. Paul Catholic School - Timmins

Canadian Author, Maggie L. Wood, guided the students at St. Paul School through interactive workshops focused on writing techniques. Ms. Wood has written *The Princess Pawn* (nominated for the Red Maple and Stellar Book Awards), *The Princess Mage*, and she is currently working on *The Princess Heir*, the third book in her *Mistolear* series. This event was a special opportunity for our students to celebrate their talent and interest in writing.

The percussion group, Tribal Thunder, engaged the students with presentations of native instruments and various legends. Tribal Thunder also delivered a strong message of the power of respect, responsibility and communication. This presentation assisted our school in making the Aboriginal culture come alive.

Holy Family Catholic School Englehart

Holy Family School has celebrated many successes this year thanks to the students, dedicated staff and volunteers.

- For the first time, we were able to offer a Family Studies and an Industrial Arts program, with the assistance of Sacred Heart School in Kirkland Lake.
- We now have three "SMART Boards" to enhance lesson delivery.
- Under the leadership of Mr. Regimbal, our students participated for the first time in a Cross Country Team Meet.
- Sixteen poems from Mrs. Schaffner's Grade 4 class were published in two anthologies, *A Celebration of Young Poets - Canada Fall 2006 and Spring 2007*.
- The Rotary Club of Englehart and the "Honda Books for Kids" partnered to purchase \$5,000 in new books for our school library.

Sacred Heart Catholic School Kirkland Lake

Ontario Focused Intervention Partnership has afforded our school many opportunities for Professional Development and increased support materials. We have focused on:

- "unpacking" EQAO results for Gr. 3 and 6;
- purchasing books for our Read Aloud, Shared Reading programs (used for model reading strategies); and
- moving from direct instruction to more *specific or implicit* instruction. Working toward developing higher level thinking skills.

Free the Children: We have teamed up with Sacred Heart School in Timmins and together we have raised close to \$3,000. Our aim is to build a "Sacred Heart School" in Africa.

Miss Peever's grade 5 class joined 25 seniors through participation in *InterLink*. We exchanged penpal letters, held choir practices, had a luncheon and performed for the community of Kirkland Lake.

... respect others, but to love people for who they are and for who they are going to become." Kelsey - Gr. 8 Sacred Heart, KL



O'Gorman Intermediate Catholic School Timmins

O'Gorman Intermediate Catholic School (OICS) was awarded the Quality Daily Physical Education (QDPE) Recognition Award Program's (RAP) top award—the Diamond Award. QDPE recognizes excellence in school physical education programs and the Diamond Award is given only to schools that provide a minimum of 150 minutes of physical education per week. OICS will receive national recognition and earn the official title "QDPE School", an award banner and a free one-year CAHPERD membership.

Catholic Education Week provided OICS the opportunity to continue to celebrate our faith as a community as part of the week focused on the Gospel message of Mark (12:31) which states "loving our neighbour as we love ourselves". The students created a 3-piece cross that was put together during mass to signify a sense of building a community of love and hope between home, school, and church.

English Catholic Central School - New Liskeard

This year the staff and students of ECCS supported the local Bikers Reunion to raise money for local cancer patients. A number of events took place each month to raise dollars and cancer awareness. These events included an Art Sale and Cake Auction in May, a children's games and activity night, a Christmas coffee house, a float in the Christmas parade and an assembly where one of our Grade 1 students had her hair cut to send away to be made into a wig. A final family celebration barbecue will be held in June to present a cheque for over \$6,000 to the organization. The Bikers Reunion will take place Canada Day long weekend and some of our students will be on hand to help distribute water bottles.

St. Patrick Catholic School - Kapuskasing

St. Patrick School hosted a variety of Spirit-Building activities to help those in need such as:

- monthly WINIT assemblies celebrating student success and achievement;
- the Grade 8 class created an anti-smoking video that won a provincial grant;
- the Grade 7/8 students recorded a public service announcement for Earth Day that aired on Moose FM;
- over 50 after-school lessons were completed by a teacher to help build literacy skills;
- dollars were raised for a student who lost all possessions in a house fire; and
- staff and students donated change to help others in need during lent.



Dates to remember...

2006-2007 School Year

Last day of school – June 28th, 2007

Professional Activity Day – June 29th, 2007

2007-2008 School Year

First day of school – September 4th, 2007

Professional Activity Day – September 28th, 2007
November 9th, 2007
December 7th, 2007
February 1st, 2008
April 14th, 2008
June 30th, 2008

Christmas Holidays – December 24th, 2007 to January 4th, 2008

March Break – March 10th–14th, 2008

**The complete 2007-2008 School Year Calendar can be found on our website at www.ncdsb.on.ca*

OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

TIMMINS

St. Joseph Catholic School 235-4622
Sacred Heart Catholic School 264-5869
St. Paul Catholic School 264-5620
O’Gorman Intermediate Catholic School 264-6555
O’Gorman High School 268-4501

IROQUOIS FALLS

St. Anne English Catholic School 232-5355

COCHRANE

Aileen Wright English Catholic School 272-4707

KAPUSKASING

St. Patrick Catholic School 335-3241

KIRKLAND LAKE

Sacred Heart Catholic School 567-7444
St. Jerome Catholic School 567-5800

ENGLEHART

Holy Family Catholic School 544-2397

NEW LISKEARD

English Catholic Central School 647-4301

COBALT

St. Patrick Catholic School 679-5575

Dear Parents,

As you are aware, much is going on in our Catholic school system. As places of learning, our schools are actively involved in many projects sponsored at the Board level.

We are currently planning for focused support of our Aboriginal learners. We seek to honour the culture and heritage and specific needs of our Aboriginal students and we feel that an appreciation of the culture and values of this specific community can benefit our entire Catholic school system. We look forward to stakeholder input in our work in this important area.

You will also know that it is the view of our Board that literacy underpins all learning and that proficiency in reading, writing and oral language are goals of our schools as a collective and this is reflected in our Board improvement plan. We are so pleased with the work taking place in each of our schools, work that sees specific, research-based strategies implemented to the benefit of our students.

We are blessed and grateful for the unrelenting dedication of our administration and teaching staff who strive to reach every student's full academic, spiritual and emotional potential. We will continue to work with you, as we guide our young learners on their journey of discovery with Northeastern Catholic District School Board.

Best wishes for a restful and safe summer.

Blessings,
Karen Rowe, Superintendent of Education

Learning increased to Age 18 - Bill 52

The school leaving age has been changed to 18 or graduation to encourage more students to graduate, prepared for work or future learning. The Ministry of Education has implemented the *Six Ways to Help Students Graduate* to assist schools at achieving this goal. These steps include:

The Student Success Teams; Expanded Co-op Credits; OYAP: Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program; Duel Credit Program; Lighthouse Projects; and Link Crew Programs.

** for more information visit the Ontario Ministry of Education at www.edu.gov.on.ca.*

Northeastern Catholic District School Board

PAUL TOFFANELLO
Director of Education

www.ncdsb.on.ca

COLLEEN LANDERS
Chair of the Board