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**NORTHEASTERN CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
"You Are The Light of The World!"

NEWS RELEASE

Students Learning to Express Themselves – Successful Critical Thinking Project Underway at Catholic Schools

Timmins and Kirkland Lake, November 7, 2011:

The Northeastern Catholic District School Board acknowledges the positive outcomes of the Early Primary Collaborative Inquiry (EPCI) within the Sacred Heart School (Timmins) and St. Jerome School learning communities. In its third year, this inquiry project provides teachers with an opportunity to come together in a professional learning setting to explore the impact of instructional practices on student learning. Through ministry funding, teams of teachers work collaboratively to identify an area of focus and student need and then determine together what instructional strategies and approaches may have the most powerful influence on student learning and achievement. As part of our research this year, teachers from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3 at the two schools will focus on oral language development in the early years and identify how these opportunities will lead to enhanced ability for students to express their thinking and learning in written formats. The inquiry is considered to be an instrumental measure for our progress in French Immersion programming in the primary years.

Roslyn Gauthier, Principal at Sacred Heart School, commented "Our students now have the skills and abilities to use their voice to share their thinking and understanding of themselves, each other, and the world around them. We are deeply proud of our accomplishments in the first two years of the inquiry, and believe that this year will have an even greater impact as we collaborate with other French Immersion teachers within the NCDSB."

The NCDSB remains committed to maximizing every opportunity to engage our teachers in professional learning activities that will have positive outcomes for our students and increase achievement results.

For more information, please contact:

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