



Trustee News

CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

Volume: VI
Number: 2
November 2011

Ronald Eamer, Chair (Cornwall-Glengarry)
Brent Laton, Vice-Chair (Grenville County and Elizabethtown-Kitley Township)
Nancy Kirby (Lanark)
Todd Lalonde (Cornwall-Glengarry)

Karen McAllister (Stormont-Dundas)
Robin Reil (City of Brockville, Town of Smiths Falls, and Leeds County)
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Sarah Norton (Catholic Student Trustee)

"We Day" Experience for HT Justice League

Students from Holy Trinity CSS's Justice League had the privilege of attending We Day in Toronto on September 27, 2011. In order to be selected to attend, schools and students are required to take on a significant project to help change the world. The goal of the HT Justice League members was to build a clean water project in Haiti. The group had to raise \$5,000 to make this project a reality. The project was chosen because Haiti is still recuperating from the devastating earthquake of 2010.

We Day is a national event created by Craig Kielberger, founder of Free the Children. It inspires youth to be the change in our world. Held in Toronto's Air Canada Centre arena, the event brings together 18,000 people. We Day explores topics of peace, women's rights, the environment, overcoming obstacles, and more. Throughout the event, speakers, panels, and performers give youth an educational and engaging launch pad for social change. Since its inception, We Day has inspired tens of thousands of youth to build a community dedicated to leading local and global change.

Keeping Our Schools Safe

As of the 2011-12 school year, all school boards in Ontario are required to provide an annual report on the number of specific violent incidents taking place at school, or during school events, to the Ministry of Education. The existing Safe Schools legislation provides guidelines and requirements for boards to implement policies and procedures for Keeping our Kids Safe at School (Bill 157).

Research shows that violence in schools can affect the social, psychological, and physical well-being of students, as well as the learning process. It also shows that monitoring the occurrence of violent incidents helps to obtain valuable data on which to base policies and planning.

On October 17, 2011, the Directors of the five eastern Ontario school boards, local Police Chiefs, and community agencies endorsed their commitment to two new community protocol documents: the Police and School Board Protocol, and the Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol. Both documents have been implemented to ensure student safety.

Student Success Through Collaboration

The CDSBEO's Board Improvement Plan highlights the importance of departmental collaboration to achieve student success. The plan presents an overview of the Board's current student achievement results, and identifies areas where progress is being made. Additionally, it identifies areas where progress is needed, and explains how those issues will be addressed.

Under the plan, individual students are monitored with the use of data to determine the proper pathway they need to ensure successful graduation. Data is also used to help enrich our Board's individual Catholic communities and learning environments. By reviewing such things as the number of school suspensions, graduation rates, credit accumulation rates, and how students are faring at alternative programming sites, the Board is able to accommodate various individual student needs. The Improvement plan is tied closely to the Board's Strategic plan, which focuses on three cornerstones: Living our Catholic Faith, Achieving Literacy for All, and Making Resources Matter.

CDSBEO Attendance Support Program

An Attendance Support Program is crucial in shaping workplace quality, employee wellness, and most importantly, student achievement. This program addresses absenteeism across the Board, and it is driven to help provide a healthy workplace.

There are two components to the program: disability management, and attendance support. Each is aimed at providing the employee with the assistance necessary to maintain consistent attendance. The program focuses on employees who are unable to maintain regular attendance at work, and is non-disciplinary and supportive.

It is expected that the program will generate savings with regards to employee replacements costs. While the process is ongoing, the Board will continue to monitor employee attendance closely, aiming for continuous, ongoing improvement.

Board Meeting Dates: November 1, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m., Kemptville Board Office
November 15, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m., Kemptville Board Office

Visit our website at www.cdsbeo.on.ca for information, news on school events, bus cancellation updates, Board Meeting Highlights, or to visit our Trustee section under *Board Information*.