



The Northwest Catholic
District School Board

Anne-Marie Fitzgerald, Board Chair
Mary-Catherine Kelly, Director of Education

Board-Wide News for Our Partners in Catholic Education

September
Virtue & Value:
Respect &
Responsibility

Ontario Catholic
Schools
Graduate Expectation

*A self-directed, responsible
lifelong learner.*

Beginning of the year Prayer

We give you praise, O God,
for everything that is new and
beautiful, for everything which holds
promise and brings us joy.
Bless us as we start this new year
with our friends and teachers.
Help us to make the most of every
chance we have to start afresh.
May we show love to one another and to all.
May the new beginning of this school year
remind us that you give us chances to start
over again and again.
Help us to forgive others
as we receive your forgiveness.
Help us to learn and to work together.
Help us to listen when we should
and to know the best words when we speak
and when it is better not to speak.
We thank you for our friends.
Help us to be good friends this year.
Help us to be patient
with ourselves and with others.
Bless our schools and keep us safe.
Be with us as we travel each day.
Help us to be aware of your love
shown to us in the people around us.
Bless all those who care for us
in school and at home.
Help us show our care for them
and to say sorry when we need to.
May our patron school saints protect us
and help us to live as well as we can.
We make this prayer in the name of
Jesus the teacher. Amen.



This month's Board Reports
are posted on the Board's
website:
www.tncdsb.on.ca

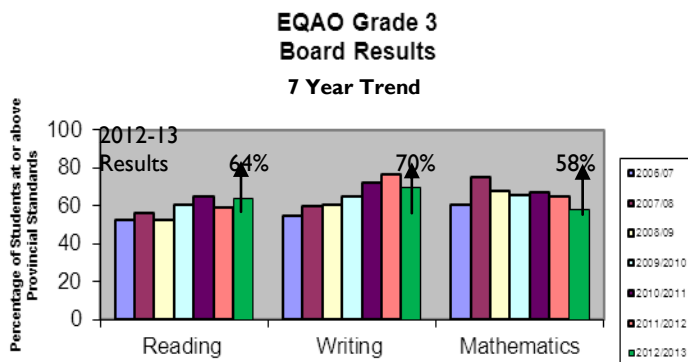
BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Recognition of Excellence

St. Francis School: At its regular meeting held September 14th, the Board recognized the exemplary commitment and dedication of **Robin Sieders, Technical Support Specialist** for the Board. Robin's expertise in the area of computers has truly benefited both staff and students at St. Francis School and the Board. This past summer, Robin replaced all the teachers' desk-top computers at St. Francis. In addition to this, he replaced, installed and programmed a new computer lab at St. Francis. Robin has also been instrumental in the iPad project and the use of iPads in the intermediate division as well as the set-up of any SEA equipment received at St. Francis School.

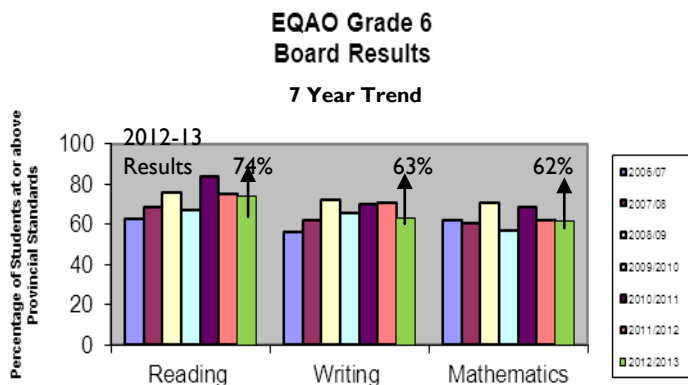


St. Michael's School: The Board also recognized the exemplary commitment and dedicated team work of the St. Michael's School teachers in the delivery of the Daily 5 Program, Lisa Cousineau and Karen Papineau presented an excellent informational session on "The Daily 5" Program. Cousineau updated Trustees on the Summer



Learning program that
was held at St. Michael's
School the first two weeks
after school let out in June
for Grade 3 students to
enhance reading skills in
preparation for EQAO
Assessments.

The charts provided show the
2012-2013 Board Preliminary
Results for grade 3 and grade
6 EQAO Assessment results.
The schools of The Northwest
Catholic District School Board
continue to show
improvement over time with
students showing gradual
improvement overtime from
when students wrote the test
in grade 3 to when they wrote
the test in grade 6. We now
have data over a seven year
period to establish future
planning with. Comparators
will be provided at the Octo-
ber meeting.



Sacred Heart School: Sacred Heart School has had a number of changes due to retirements. Mary-Catherine Kelly, our Director, retired and we welcome **Mr. Rick Boisvert** as the new director. **Mr. Wayne Carter** has retired and **Mr. Jordan Durante** is the new Head Custodian. **Mr. Gene Palko** has retired and **Mrs. Kristi Hildebrand** has replaced him as the site administrator. **Mrs. Michele Wyndels** has also retired and **Mrs. Sylvia MacDonald** has replaced her as the French teacher. The Board approved a fourth kindergarten room due to increasing enrolment in kindergarten. Some of the physical changes happened over the summer such as: asphaltting the back area of the playground, **planting of trees by Mrs. Pettit**, painting the library and revamping the foyer and office to make it more welcoming and efficient. The school community came together for a Mass at the



beginning of September where the teachers were **commissioined to celebrate their role as servants of the Lord**. The **Open House** on September 12 was well attended as was the Hot Dog Lunch that the Toronto Trip Parents hosted. Grade 8's will be attending a **Net Retreat** on October 8 and they will be confirmed by Bishop Colli on December 1. The **Terry Fox Walk** will be held on **September 26** and all students will participate. If we meet our goal of raising **\$5000 for Cancer Research** then **Mrs. Hildebrand** will have

her hair shaved off and **Mrs. Gaudry and Mrs. Cospito** will donate their hair to Locks of Love. Students are getting involved in many clubs that the teachers are leading such as: Chess Club, Ambassador Club, spelling club, PALs, Learn to Run and soccer. There is also a family group that is beginning at the Parish. We hope there is something for everyone. We encourage parents to keep in close touch with the school and your child's teacher. One way to do this is by talking to your children about their learning and thinking. Discussing the local news, world events or books you are reading will give them background knowledge and different points



of view. This will support their thinking and use of accountable talk when they collaborate with other students to form new ideas. We are proud to say that our standardized assessments or EQAO results continue to increase from grades 3 to 6. Together with the parish community, we can help all students achieve their God given potential.

Pictured left is the grade 5-6 soccer team. They played very well on September 24th and came in 2nd place out of all the teams in the tournament.

St. Joseph's School: It was a very busy summer at St. Joseph's with construction happening throughout the school. Staff and students were welcomed back to two brand new JK/SK classrooms as well as automated washroom facilities. **New computers and iPads** were also purchased in order to update and improve the availability and access to technology. On Sept. 4th parents were invited to meet the teachers and tour the school. Our first school mass was held at St. Joseph's Parish that included a commissioning service in order to bless staff and welcoming students. **JK/SK classrooms** have been buzzing with activity. With **95 JK/SK students enrolled** our teachers and education assistants have been working hard at establishing routines and welcoming new students. Students in primary, junior and intermediate classes have been making use of **new technology, practicing for soccer teams and planning social justice activities** such as volunteering at the local mission.



St. Francis School: On September 4th our grade 8 mentors met with their grade 4 mentees for the first time this year. The students worked together to **create pennants** that would later be displayed near the gym. The mentor program here at St. Francis School has **proven to be very beneficial** to both our grade 8 students and our newest students. Our grade 8 students learn about **responsibility and leadership** while our grade 4s have established **great relationships** with their mentors and know they can turn to them if they have any questions. Our mentors and mentees meet several times throughout the school year.

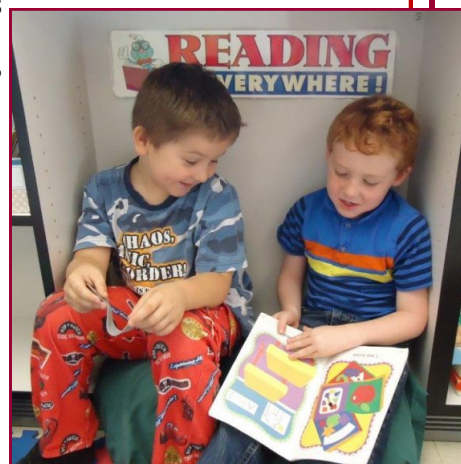
Mrs. Latimer's grade 4 class worked on Eye Art last week with Mme. Vizi.



St. Michael's School: The 2013 - 14 school year at St. Michael's School is off to a great start! All of our students with their **smiling faces** excitedly gathered on the playground on the first day of school. Inside, the classrooms were beautifully decorated with carefully arranged desks and welcoming displays. The halls were shining and everything looked fantastic – ready for the new school year! I would like to **welcome** all new and returning students, their families, and staff members. A special welcome goes out to the newest partners of our school team. Two former staff members to our school, **Angela Mitchelson** and **Jeremiah McCart** are returning to St. Michael's, with Mrs. Mitchelson assuming the role of Special Education Resource Teacher and Mr. McCart providing Prep Coverage. We also welcome a new secretary, **Tammy Riordon**, who will be working on Thursdays and Fridays in the office. **Gerry-Lynn Cousineau** and **Taunia Klem** have also joined our staff as educational assistants, and **Jenny Sieders** is joining us in the library each Tuesday and Thursday. It is exciting to be back at St. Michael's School again as part of such a **vibrant, caring, exciting team!** It is my great pleasure to work with the all our staff in serving the needs of the students and parents of St. Michael's School.



St. Patrick's School: The primary grades at St. Patrick's School have spent the last 3 weeks launching **"The Daily Five"** in their classrooms. The Daily Five is tasks, a system to teach independence and a structure for the literacy block. It is NOT a curriculum. The five tasks are based on how the brain works, motivational research and international **"best practices"**. "The Daily Five" are five low- or no-prep literacy tasks chosen by the students to perform independently while the teacher works with individuals or small groups. The specific five literacy tasks are **"Read to Self"**, **"Read to Someone"**, **"Listen to Reading"**, **"Work on Writing"**, and **"Word Work"**. For students, "The Daily Five" engages them in the act of reading and writing for extended amounts of time (**builds stamina**), gives students focused instruction on building and maintaining independence (**choice**), as well as gives them tailored instruction through whole group, small group, and/or individual conferring, by their skilled classroom teacher, each day. For teachers, "The Daily Five" delivers 3 – 5 whole group lessons each day, teach 3 – 4 small groups of children every day, results in conferences with many individual students each day, at the same time holding all students accountable for eyes-on-text. What does "The Daily Five" look like? Each literate task is separately and extensively modeled, using a gradual release of responsibility model. This process, called a **LAUNCH**, takes several weeks for each task (6-8 weeks total). Finally, although giving children the power to choose makes us a little nervous, it puts them in charge of their own learning, is self-motivating, and will improve their skills. **Purpose + Choice = Motivation**, a successful combination.



Our Lady of the Way School: Students in **Mr. Jones' Social Studies** class have started the year by examining a variety of topics. Kindergarten students are learning about seasons, the environment and our surroundings through play-based learning centres. Here they sort, describe and simply enjoy playing with various materials and objects. Primary students have been describing their own celebrations and traditions while learning about ones from different cultures (such as Diwali in India and the New Year in China). Junior students have interpreted the positive and negative impacts of contact between First Nation People and European settlers/explorers. Our intermediate student is **"back on track"** with important developments such as the railroad across Canada. "Be sure to hang on to your tickets to Confederation, folks!" "Students in Mrs. Wood's class have been working hard in literacy and numeracy. The kindergarten students have been learning letters and numbers and getting into the routines of the classroom. Primary students have been reading and writing and have started **The Daily Five**, students are excited to be building their **"stamina"** during reading to themselves and with junior students during buddy reading. In numeracy students have been working with numbers, from the very smallest to the very largest. Students are excited to be back and are enjoying being with friends and family.



Promoting & Protecting Catholic Education in Ontario

Catholicity in the Schools

Welcome back to another wonderful school year in catholic education. This year we celebrate the theme of:

“Serving in the love of Christ.”

The school year began with a commissioning service with all staff members making a promise to love and serve the Lord, our students and our communities through our faith. As a Catholic community of educators and believers in Christ, our vocation is to assist parents and guardians in the faith formation of the young people in our care.

In our Schools of Hope we believe in a faith that is:

Rooted in relationships;

Our relationships with our students and our students' relationships with God.

Supported by community;

A Christian community that generates the gospel spirit of freedom and love.

Distinctly Catholic;

Shared in the classroom, at home and in the parish through ritual, environment and personal witness.

New Teacher Orientation and Catholicity Day was held Friday, September 13, 2013 in Sioux Lookout. The four new Sacred Heart School teachers in attendance were Angelynn Koss, Sylvie MacDonald, Stephanie Trottier, and Emily Hamilton. Words of welcome and gratitude for choosing Northwest Catholic were given by Director of Education, Rick Boisvert and Superintendent of Education, Margot Saari. OECTA President, Dan Maltais and HR Administrator, Dina Gardiman provided detailed information for the new teachers. Coordinators, Shelly Durance, Natasha Getson and Brody Marsonet as well as Mental Health Lead, Kelly Jaeger offered support and guidance regarding student achievement, curriculum and well-being. NTIP Coordinator and Student Success Lead, Brendan Hyatt presented information regarding the NTIP program and a First Nation Metis Inuit history in Catholic Education. The afternoon was spent with Catholicity Coordinator, Amy LaFroy who guided the new teachers through reflection, discussion and understanding of the special vocation of teachers in a Catholic school.



Picture from left to right: Mental Health Lead, Kelly Jaeger, New Teachers Emily Hamilton, and Sylvie MacDonald.

5 Visible Signs of Catholicity in our "Schools of Hope"

- † A welcoming, friendly environment where there is an evidence of hospitality
- † Care and concern for others and sensitivity to others' needs
- † Mutual respect shown
- † A safe and caring school and classroom environment
- † Integration of faith/values/morality into all disciplines

Anne-Marie
Fitzgerald,
Board Chair



Rick Boisvert,
Director of
Education

Corporate Office Address
555 Flinders Avenue
Fort Frances, ON P9A 3L2

Phone: 807-274-2931

Toll Free: 888-311-2931

Fax: 807-274-8792

E-mail: mckelly@tncdsb.on.ca

We're on the web
www.tncdsb.on.ca

**For complete Board
reports please visit our
website and look for the
Board Meeting Reports
under the Board tab.**



Next Board Meeting
October 15, 2013



World Teachers' Day
October 5, 2013

Mission Statement.

It is the mission of The Northwest Catholic District School Board to provide, in partnership with the home, Church and community, excellence in Catholic education infused with Gospel values.

September Board Meeting Highlights

Director's Reports:

Director Boisvert presented his Fall Address to Trustees. The Fall Address will be distributed to all staff and stakeholders and it is posted on the Board's website.

It is the Mission of The Northwest Catholic District School Board to provide, in partnership with the home, Church and community, excellence in Catholic education infused with Gospel values. This mission statement guides the actions of Northwest Catholic to serve students and their families. It also serves as a foundation for the work of the schools and the Board.

One area of focus for the coming year will be to review and renew the Board's Strategic Plan. The strategic plan will identify priorities and clear direction for the coming school years. An important part of this review process will be input from the partners who support our Catholic schools and system.

Director Boisvert also highlighted the theme "**Serving in the Love of Christ**" with the sub-themes, *Serve with faithfulness, Serve with humility, Serve with justice and Serve with joy*. These themes, which are shared by Catholic schools throughout the province, will be used to celebrate our faith and to ensure that faith is alive in our schools and classrooms throughout each and every day.

Audit Committee:

The Board accepted the resignations of Frank Ball and Graham Harrison from their community volunteer positions on the Board's Audit Committee. The Board approved the appointment of Corrine Owen to a community volunteer position on the Board's Audit Committee.

Audit Committee

The Board is currently seeking an additional member from the Fort Frances area to serve on the Audit Committee. For more information please contact **Cheryl Wilson, Executive Assistant, at 807-274-2931, or toll free 1-888-311-2931, ext. 1222.**



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me... for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14)

Parents' Newsletter:

The Parents' Newsletter is published each month and electronically distributed to parents with helpful hints to engage parents in assisting their children with their schoolwork at home. J. Querel, Student Effective Lead, surveyed parents at the end of the 2012/2013 school year to garner feedback about the value of the Parents' Newsletter Tips. 79 responses were received. The responses supported parent satisfaction with the newsletters that are distributed. Parent engagement is extremely valuable as they are partners in their children's education journey.

Trustees received the following revised Administrative Procedures, which are posted on the Board's website.

Administrative Procedure:

- A-09, Trustee Honorarium
- F-04, French Immersion

Trustees reviewed the following Governance Policies, which are posted on the Board's website.

Board-Staff Relationship:

- 1.0, Director of Education Role
- 2.0, Delegation to the Director of Education
- 4.0, Trustee – Director Communication

Trustees also received the following reports, which are posted on the Board's website.

- 2012/2013 Summer Facilities Projects
- Enrolment Update
- Staffing Update
- Coordinators' Meeting

Serving in the Love of Christ

2014 Catholic Education Week Sub-themes:

- 1 - Serve with faithfulness
- 2 - Serve with humility
- 3 - Serve with compassion
- 4 - Serve with justice
- 5 - Serve with joy