



The Northwest Catholic
District School Board

Anne-Marie Fitzgerald, Board Chair
Rick Boisvert, Director of Education

Board-Wide News for Our Partners in Catholic Education

October
Virtue & Value:

Courage
Ontario Catholic
Schools
Graduate Expectation

*An effective
communicator.*

Heavenly Father,
God of courage,
May we always seek to do
what is right,
no matter what others
say or think.
May we honestly try to be
the best we can be, each
and every day.
We know that we may not
always be brave, but with
your gift of courage,
may we be always willing to
try new things as we follow
Jesus, your Son, and our
model of courage.
Amen.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Recognition of Excellence

Sacred Heart School: At its regular meeting held October 15th, the Board recognized the exemplary commitment and dedication of Educational Assistants and School Secretary. EA's Beth Bastone, Andrea Cospito, Maria George, Alina Hall, Alynne Harel, Laurel Mittleholt, Andrea Romy and School Secretary Maria Kirton were honoured for their compassion, work ethic and the pride that they instill in students. We thank them for their commitment to excellence. Principal MacLellan said, "These ladies go above and beyond their required responsibilities daily to create a warm and loving school community environment."



Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association "A National Conversation"

Trustees and Board Representatives attending "A National Conversation" in Ottawa on October 3 to 5, 2013. Board Chair, Anne-Marie Fitzgerald said, "it was an excellent conference with riveting speakers." Sister Sullivan was truly inspiring with her presentation on Vatican II and interesting dialogue. Other phenomenal speakers in attendance were Bishop Claude Champagne, Father James Mallon and Father Gilles Routhier, all of whom touched on the New Evangelization and its role in the Catholic school system. Director Boisvert purchased Sister Sullivan's book written on Vatican II and it is available as a resource for staff. An important part of the conference this year was the student presenters. They spoke about how their Catholic education has influenced their lives.

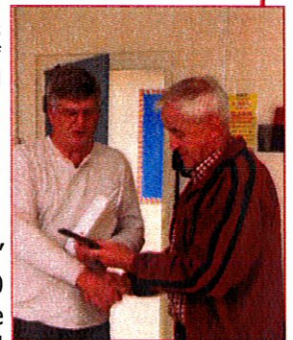


Picture here from the left is Amy LaFroy, Catholicity Coordinator; Trustees Teresa Larson, Atikokan and Kathy Bryck, Dryden; Rick Boisvert, Director of Education; Anne-Marie Fitzgerald, Board Chair; Noel Martin, OCSTA; and Trustees Jim Kulchyski, Sioux Lookout and Harold Huntley, Fort Frances.

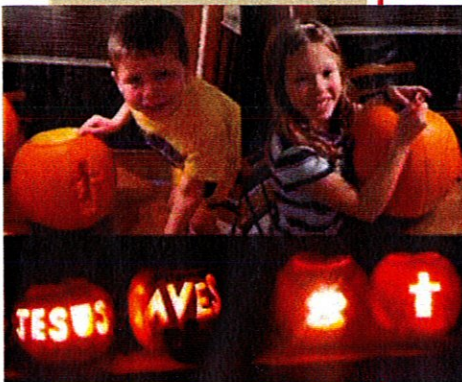
Thunder Bay Diocesan Catholic School Trustees' Association

The Thunder Bay Diocesan Catholic School Trustees' Association held its 51st Annual Conference on September 20 & 21, 2013. Trustees nominated Deacon Bob Grynol for the 2013 Diocesan Award, which he won at this event. Mr. Grynol earned the award for his lifetime contributions to Catholic Education. Trustee Huntley said, "I know of no one who more

deserves the recognition and the thanks from our schools, our parish and our diocese. A vocation lived-out, a mission humbly assumed. We are all the better for it."



Pictured here Trustee Harold Huntley
& Deacon Bob Grynol.



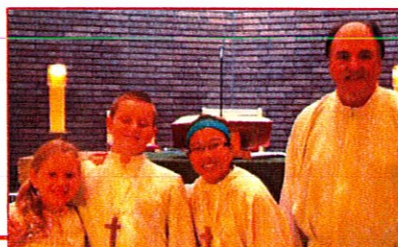
This month's Board Reports
are posted on the Board's
website:
www.tncdsb.on.ca



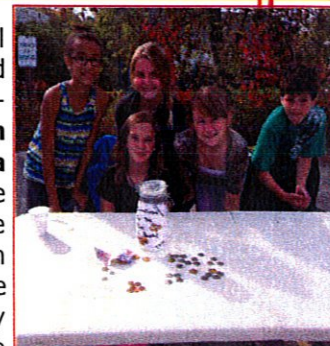
Sacred Heart School: On October 11, the **Kindergarten team** put on a presentation for rest of the primary staff on how to engage students using an inquiry stance. Their presentation helped everyone to understand how to listen to students so that we use their questions and wonderings to help them learn to read, write and use math. **Ms. Perron and Ms. Fontana**, our grade 1 teachers, continue to go to **Cedar Bay** to infuse inquiry learning by using the natural environment. The primary teachers continue to collaborate to support students who are not at their reading benchmark or who are struggling readers. The Junior teaching team continues to work on metacognition to inspire students to think deeply about their reasoning and insights. The intermediate team is investigating the use of accountable talk to help students reflect on learning experiences through the use of rich tasks with multiple entry points. **Progress report cards** will go home on **November 8** with **parent teacher conferences on November 14**. We look forward to sharing your child's progress with you.

Thank you goes out to **Cherie Coulombe** who shaved two teachers' heads and cut two teachers' hair for '**Locks of Love**' during our **Terry Fox Assembly**. Teachers were great sports as the students were promised that they could throw pies at their teachers, if **\$5000** was raised. **Mrs. George and Mrs. O'Donovan** even agreed to be duct taped to the wall and sprayed with ribbon. Thanks goes out to our whole community for supporting a good cause while having fun.

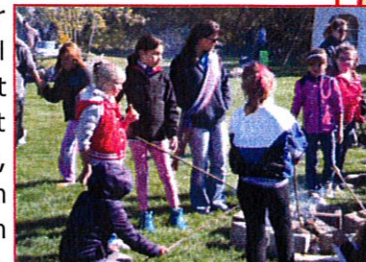
The **National Evangelization Team** worked with grades 7 and 8 students during a **NET Retreat on October 8**. **Mrs. Vinczeff** is working with the **Ambassador Group** make our school a welcoming place. **Mrs. Salter** has started a **cooking club** with her students and the smell of their food is so good. We continue to celebrate that we are 'Schools of Hope' through our actions to deal with social justice issues and improve student achievement at home, at School and at Church.



St. Joseph's School: Students in **grades 5 and 6 French Immersion** classes hosted "**St. Joseph's School Market**" on September 29th from 1-4. The day included a **garage sale, bake sale and a soccer tournament!** Parents and staff were invited to rent a parking spot for \$20 to sell their used household items. All proceeds from rentals were donated to community organizations that help support families in need. **Mlle Childs and her grade 1 French class** are pleased to welcome **Barb Avanthey** (instructor), **Jenn Bachynski** and her 3-month old son **Ben**, to their classroom for the **Roots of Empathy** program. Roots of Empathy is an evidence-based classroom program that has shown significant effect in reducing levels of aggression among school children while raising social/emotional competence and increasing empathy. Their mission is to build caring, peaceful and civil societies through development of empathy in children and adults. On September 24th, the **Canadian Wildlife Federation's (CWF's) Athletic Ambassador, Angella Goran**, visited the school to share her love of sports and wildlife conservation with the students. Angella began her 6000km bike campaign on August 14th, in Victoria BC, and is scheduled to finish her quest in Halifax NS near the end of October. Angella's message to the students was quite clear; we all need to get active and enjoy the beauty of the outdoors, while ensuring that we take care of the environment so it will be there for future generations to cherish. Her enthusiastic presentation was capped off with a **donation of two White Spruce trees**, on behalf of her and the CWF to celebrate National Tree Day, which are to be planted on the school property.



St. Francis School: Dagwaagin (Fall) is time when First Nation, Métis and Inuit peoples prepared for the long winter ahead. The different techniques used have been developed and passed down for generations. On October 1st students from St. Francis School were part of the Annual "**Dagwaaginii Maawindoosijigewin**" **Fall Harvest** Preparations Workshop, held at the Nanicost grounds. Students met their group leader around the fire, then took part in several stations including: Manoominikewin – Wild Rice Preparation, Bakwezighanikewin – Bannock Making, Baashkiminasigan – Jam Making, Asabiig – Fish Nets, Bineshiyyag - Bird Preparation, Awesiwayaan - Hide Preparation, Obshkaasigewin - Smoke House, Saagachiwe – The Drum, Bashkweginekizikewin – Leather Work, Onii'Igawin - Trapping, Aniibiishaabokewin - Traditional Tea Making, and Dibaajimowinan – Teepee Stories. Staff and students also enjoyed a fabulous lunch of bannock and soup that was prepared over the fire by the group leaders. Elders in communities have maintained these traditions, and our students were provided an excellent opportunity to learn in traditional surroundings and engage in activities conducted by our local Elders and community leaders. On October 4th **56 students from St. Francis School** participated in the **annual Cross Country run** at Crossroads School. Special thanks go out to **Mr.**



Hrychuk and Mrs. Jean for all the time they spent with our students training for the run. Thank you to **Mrs. Jean, Miss McPherson, Mrs. Morris and Mr. Noga** for accompanying our students. All of our students did a great job. We are proud of each and every one of you!



St. Michael's School: The whole concept of **Daily 5** has been classroom changing to the teachers at St. Michael's School. It has given **time where time did not used to be**. Time to work one on one with children, time to do the assessments that need to be done as these assessments help drive instruction, time for teachers to really get to know each child in their classroom, time for the children to do what is most important for their learning. Research has shown: For children to be better readers they need to read and for them to be better writers they need to write. While the Daily 5 doesn't hold curriculum content, it helps educators know how to teach so that the children's learning is accelerated. It gives the children options, it builds habits and behaviours, it creates a **sense of urgency**, it **builds stamina**, creates **voracious readers/writers**, it **fosters a love of reading and writing**, it gives the children time to **set goals** and most importantly it puts the learning in the hands of the child. It has

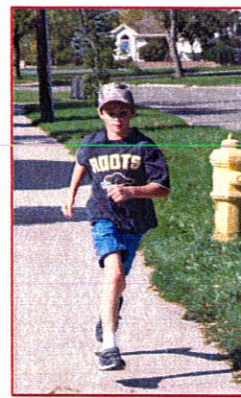
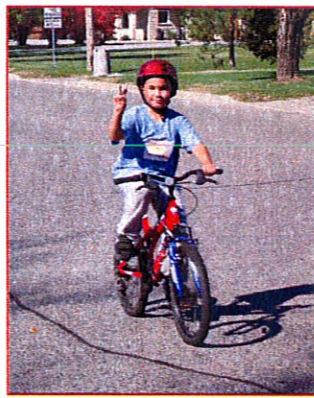


Picture above is from left to right: Gail Boshey, John Cousineau, Lisa Cousineau, Paulette Romaniuk, Joan Mosher and in the back Jeremiah McCart, when they were in Atlanta Georgia.

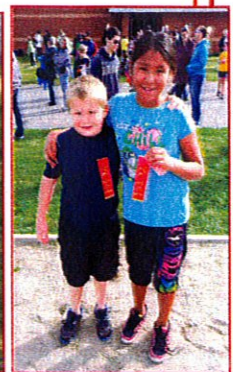
created a shift from teaching 80% of the time to 20% of the time, which has changed teaching time to smaller amounts of teaching, in turn making the learning focused and precise. Last November St. Michael's School applied to the Teacher Leadership and Learning Program, at the Ministry of Education, under the direction of their principal, **Mr. Hyatt**, for funding to get training for the Daily 5. After a few tweaks and waiting, and convincing the Ministry that this training was not available in Canada, we received news that the **TLLP** would allow for 3 teachers to attend a conference during the summer of 2013. Jeremiah McCart, Paulette Romaniuk and John Cousineau and Lisa Cousineau went to Atlanta Georgia, in August for an incredible, intensive two days of training, for the **Daily 5/CAFÉ**. St. Michael's has embraced the Daily 5/CAFÉ. It has impacted teacher and student learning, and the School looks forward to watching the children grow and develop as the year progresses.

St. Patrick's School: At St. Patrick's School, **Mrs. Cunningham's grade 1 class** demonstrated an understanding of how seasonal changes affect living things by creating animal habitats. The students read books and viewed a video about seasons and animals in North-western Ontario. The students used plasticine to create their animals and habitat. They used **their knowledge of seasons** to paint their animal's habitat. Using a **graphic organizer**, the students drew pictures and wrote about their animal's survival in that season. The students enthusiastically presented their new learning to Mrs. Richard's Full-Day Early Learning Kindergarten class.

The **Terry Fox Run** was once again a huge success. Students either walked one kilometer or ran or biked five kilometers. All students from **Grade JK to 8 participated** in the event and raised over **\$1500 in pledges and donations**. Students encouraged and motivated each other as the bikers and runners passed by. The event ran safely because of the volunteers who were stationed throughout the course. St. Patrick's School staff, students and parents/guardians should feel proud for working cooperatively together to make this event happen smoothly.



Our Lady of the Way School: On October 4th, four determined athletes from Our Lady of the Way participated in the annual **Cross Country Run**, held at Crossroad's School. Their dedication and training paid off as they all had a successful finish. **Jessie Phillips** dominated the Grade 6 boys with his **top place finish** in that division. Seen below from the left are: **Jevonte Phillips**-sprinting to the finish line. **Cameron Fraser, Jessie Phillips, Jevonte Phillips and Angel Medicine**, all smiles after the races. **Cameron Fraser** focuses on his race. **Jessie Phillips** strides to victory. **Angel Medicine and Cameron Fraser** show their team spirit and participation awards. We are very proud of these four students for representing our school with such enthusiasm. On October 9, 2013 we celebrated our **first mass at Our Lady of the Way Church**. **Father Alan** has been in to visit the class every Wednesday to answer questions the students have about lessons taught and stories read. Students enjoy the visits and they always have some interesting questions and insights for Father. We thank Father for bringing the connection of the church into our school.

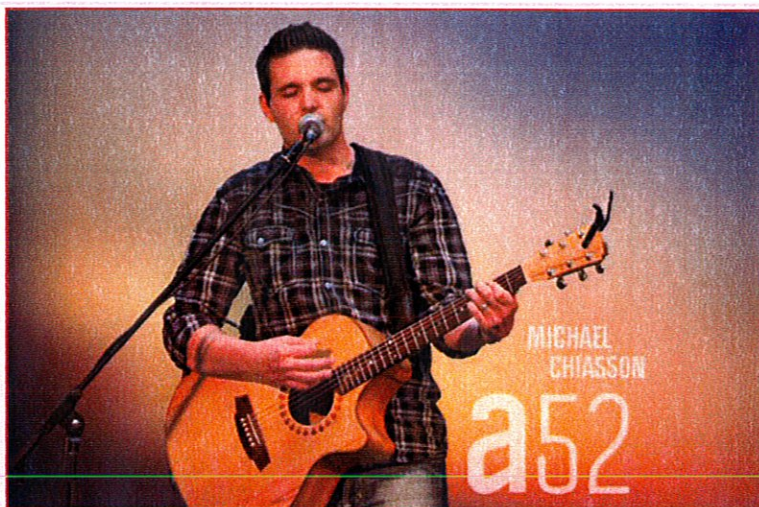


Promoting & Protecting Catholic Education in Ontario

Intermediate Student Leadership Special Presentation Inspirational Speaker - Michael Chiasson

Dear Parents and Guardians of Intermediate Students, (grade 7 & 8)

In conclusion to the *Year of Faith* and theme of *Evangelization*, there will be a special presentation for all intermediate students in our board. Through this one hour special presentation Michael Chiasson will share his vision of helping youth to discover their place in Christ through story, music, praise and worship. His mission is to motivate, challenge and inspire all people, those who believe and those who do not. For more information of Michael Chaisson's ministry visit: <http://www.access52.com>



Here is the agenda for the following school presentations. Please join us if you are able.

	Date	Time	Place
SFS, OLOW	Monday, October 28, 2013	10:00am	SFS Gymnasium
SPS	Tuesday, October 29, 2013	10:50am	Library
SJS	Wednesday, October 30, 2013	11:05am	Gymnasium
SHS	Wednesday, October 30, 2013	1:45pm	Gymnasium

A Tree and Its Fruit (adapted from Matthew 7:15-20)

"Watch out for those who pretend to be something that they are not. They may come to you acting like they are your friend but really they are not. You will be able to tell who they are by what they do. Like thorn bushes that cannot bear grapes, these people cannot be mean but will be kind, just like a healthy tree cannot grow bad fruit by will grow only good fruit. A mean person is often mean, just like an unhealthy tree produces bad fruit. Ask the Lord to deliver you from evil and pretenders. Then you will know what to do when false people come to you."

Halloween Prayer

On this All Hallows Eve, or Halloween,
we ask God to help us to turn away from situations
that could lead us in the wrong direction.
We ask God to lead us to goodness and keep us safe from harm.
From the goblins that haunt us,
From the tricky and those we do not trust,
From the unknown darkness of the night,
From the shadowy webs of lies,
From the masks that people hide behind,
From the cauldrons of hatred and meanness,
From the ghosts of broken promises,
From the scarecrows of loneliness,
From the spooky things that frighten us,

This Halloween *and always*, Lord, lead us away from temptation and deliver us from evil,
for the kingdom on earth and heaven are yours. **Amen.**

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: rboisvert@tncdsb.on.ca

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

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



Audit Committee

The Board is currently seeking an additional member to serve on the Board's Audit Committee. For more information please contact:

Cheryl Wilson, Executive Assistant, at 807-274-2931, or toll free 1-888-311-2931, ext. 1222.



**Next Board Meeting
November 19, 2013**

Mission Statement.

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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.

October Board Meeting Highlights

Director's Reports:

Director Boisvert was pleased to announce that the Board will hold its "Recognition Awards for Staff and Trustees" at its Committee of the Whole meeting to be held December 6th in Dryden. The Board has a long established procedure to recognize annually those employees and trustees who have contributed a long term of service and shown exemplary service to the Board. "We are thankful that we have staff that make a difference in the lives of the students they serve and it is important that we take time to celebrate those contributions," said Boisvert.

Ministry of Education Primary Class Size Report (PCS)

Superintendent of Business, C. Howarth, reported that the 2013-14 PCS Report meets the Ministry requirements and has been submitted to the Ministry. Results are as follows:

- % primary classes 20 and under - 90.5
- % Primary classes 23 and under - 100.0
- Average junior/intermediate class size - 19.91
- % grade 3/4 combined classes under 23 - 100.0
- Average ELP class - 22.8

It is noteworthy that the Board's average junior/intermediate class size is significantly under the pupil foundation grant benchmark of 24.5:1. This is caused by the Board operating French immersion and small, geographically dispersed schools where optimizing class size is not practical. This does result in a funding shortfall, which is partially funded by geographic grants for small remote rural schools but the end result is an overall funding deficit.

Parent Involvement Committee Meeting

The first PIC meeting will be held via videoconference Monday, November 25 at 6:30 p.m. CST/7:30 p.m. EST. Please mark you calendars. The meetings are held at the your school and all parents are welcome to attend. For more information please visit the board website or contact Cheryl Wilson, Executive Assistant, at 807-274-2931, or toll free 1-888-311-2931, ext. 1222.

Ministry of Education

Effectiveness & Efficiency Review

Superintendent of Business C. Howarth reported that both transportation consortiums, which provide school bus transportation services for the Board, have completed the final stage the Ministry of Education Effectiveness & Efficiency Reviews. The Northwestern Ontario Student Services Consortium, which services schools in the Kenora District, received a high rating and the Rainy River District Transportation Services Consortium, which services schools in the Rainy River District, received a moderate to high rating. C. Howarth stated "This will have a significant positive impact on the transportation funding as the Province will fund 100% of transportation costs in the Kenora District and 90% of transportation costs in the Rainy River District."

2013-2014 Board Operational Strategic Plan

The Board received the 2013-2014 Board Operational Strategic Plan, which has been developed with the assistance of all department heads.

2014-2015 School Year Calendar

Discussions are underway for the planning of the 2014-2015 School Year Calendar. Superintendent of Education, Margot Saari, informed the Board that the school community will be surveyed in the near future with regards to the formation of the 2014-2015 School Year Calendar.

Administrative Procedure:

- A-08, Recognition Awards for Employees & Trustees (draft)
- A-10, Community Remembrance Day Ceremonies (new)

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

- Health & Safety
- Variance Report
- 2012-2013 EQAO Results
- Parent Newsletter