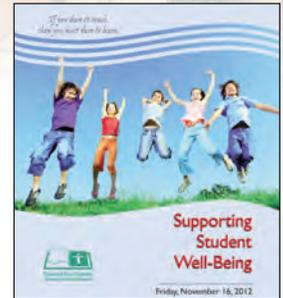




InTouch

Supporting Student Well Being

Everything's set for this Friday's PD day focused on Student Well Being. Elementary teachers, school administrators and ECEs will choose from among 17 amazing workshops on students' physical, spiritual, emotional and mental health. Secondary school staff will be the first group in the region to be fully trained in SAFETalk, a program that prepares participants to respond to signs of depression and thoughts of suicide among students. SSPs and custodians will participate in job-related sessions on Friday. Staff members will end their day with collegiality and conversation at the DaVinci.



Growing our Technology Reputation

In October, Director Joan Powell was invited by Apple Canada to present our K-8 technology model to senior educators from across the country. Ms Powell and Technology Consultant Paul Mackett presented two sessions to packed audiences. The most frequent comment was on the extensive professional development that our Board has provided to teachers, SSPs and school administrators. Later this month, Paul Mackett will join Secondary Coordinator Rob Murphy and IT Manager Chris Hanley on a trip to Alberta to have a look at the progressive use of technology in Calgary high schools.

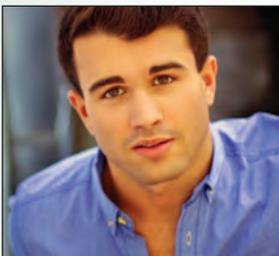
Fall Harvest

More than 600 of our students attended this year's Fall Harvest, held on the grounds of Fort William Historical Park. Organized to give students awareness about Aboriginal culture and food preparation, students learned about making leather, cooking *pakweijigan* (bannock), wild rice roasting and numerous other First Nation traditions in harvesting, preparing and storing foods.



Proloquo: (Latin) to speak out loud

Nineteen special needs students are now benefitting from the award-winning iPad App, **Proloquo2Go**, which supports their communications, independence, behaviour and general well being. Technology SSP Trudy Scavarelli is able to customize the App for each student, providing specific symbols/pictures and core vocabulary to give students a voice, often for the first time in their lives.



St. Ignatius Grad Lands Starring Role!

Sam DiGiuseppe has been cast as the Mayor of Munchkinland in Andrew Lloyd Webber's upcoming production of **The Wizard of Oz**. Sam credits his start in musical theatre to his Grade 2 role as the **King** in Our Lady of Charity's performance of **Cinderella** and, more recently, as Ryan in **High School Musical I and II** at St. Ignatius. **The Wizard of Oz** opens next month at the Ed Mirvish Theatre in Toronto with performances continuing until September 2013. Lloyd Webber recently announced that the show will go on a North American tour following the run in Toronto.

Growing a Mo - A Global Movement

Since its humble beginnings in Melbourne, Australia, **Movember** has grown to become a global activity that inspires more than 1.9 million participants. Throughout the month of November, men across Canada and around the world sprout moustaches to raise funds and awareness for men's health, specifically prostate cancer and mental health. At Thunder Bay Catholic, many brave souls have joined **Team MoCatholic**, which now includes Omer Belisle, Craig Murphy, Frank Carpino, Martino Perzan, Stephen Adamko, Michael Ianni, Doug Diebel, JP Tennier, Rob Murphy (*pictured*), Kris Bragnalo and Laura DePiero. Check out movember.com for more info and feel free to grow a Mo or donate to this worthy cause!



Managing Information for Student Achievement (MISA) Project Update

On November 1-2, a cross-panel team of Board Math leaders participated in the 2012 MISA Research Symposium in Thunder Bay. The highlight of the symposium was an address by Dr. Stephen Katz, a Senior Lecturer from OISE who specializes in evidence-informed decision-making, classroom assessment, and networked learning communities. The team formulated their research questions for this year and shared last year's research project with educators from across the region.

Taking Stock of our Schools' Climate

At this week's Board meeting, Trustees were told that Ontario school boards are required to conduct school climate surveys every second year. Superintendent of Education Pino Tassone reported that all Grades 4 - 12 students will complete the survey during Bullying Prevention Week, November 12-16. Staff will have the opportunity to complete their survey on the November 16 PD day. Principals have been asked to involve as many parents as possible in the survey. "We are urging all parents to fill out the online survey so that we have a better understanding of their concerns," Mr. Tassone said.

Living Our Catholic Faith

With a plan centred on Living Our Catholic Faith, one of our Strategic Action Steps this year is to "enhance the faith life of staff." On Monday night, Fr. Ciaran spoke to Trustees about the recent Commissioning Services held for all school staffs; professional learning opportunities for our Faith Ambassadors; and spiritual support and professional development for teachers and chaplains. Reporting on this year's **When Faith Meets Pedagogy** conference were Principal Jan Bazaluk, teachers Rose Migliazza and Patrick McWhirter, and Chaplain Joanna Lacaria, all of whom commented on the value of the conference, both personally and professionally.





Sustainable Enrolment Numbers

Our current enrolment is 164 FTE students fewer than last year, which “represents a decline of approximately 2.11%, and is consistent with our projections,” said Tom Mustapic, Superintendent of Business and Corporate Services. Our enrolment is actually 60 students more than expected with slightly better than expected JK enrolment and very little attrition at the high school level. Mr. Mustapic cautioned Trustees to anticipate a decline of nearly 600 students at the secondary level over the next five years.

Congrats to Our High School Athletes and Coaches

It might be early in the school year but our two high schools have won more than their share in the city’s sports world. St. Ignatius Junior Boys Football team, coached by Michael Savioli, Martin Furtado, William Bodak and Jay Alexander won the city championship last weekend and the school’s Junior Girls Basketball team, coached by Dana Toneguzzi, Frank Carpino and Alicyn Papich were just crowned the best team in Thunder Bay. Earlier this year, St. Ignatius Junior Boys Volleyball team, coached by Domenic Migliazza and Tim Lemmetty became city champions as did their Senior Girls Basketball team, coached by Matthew Erdman and Kristen McFarlane. The school’s Golf team was also successful this year, winning the Northwestern Regional Championship. Congratulations to the team and coaches, Frank LePore and Tony Pacifico. St. Pat’s Cross Country team was strong this year, capping off a 3rd place finish at NWOSSAA and sending 10 athletes to the provincial championships. Mason Quarrell finished off his undefeated season with a 6th place finish in Ontario, one of the best finishes ever for our Board. Congrats to Matthew and coaches Roger Slomke, Leena Silvaggio, Lindsay Baraskewich and Trevor Zimak.



Capital Plan Update

During past year the Board has initiated a number of capital projects totaling more than \$4.9 million. Several additional projects totaling more than \$5.3 million are in the planning stage. Additions will be built at St. Jude, St. Bernard, Holy Cross and St. Martin schools and renovations, including major roofing projects, will occur at several school sites. In May of this year, the Board approved a submission to the Ministry for a gymnasium expansion at St. Martin School. The project is valued at \$1,000,000 and approval is pending.

Tech Coaches On the Go

Our K-8 Tech Coaches, Kathleen Arena and Jerry Izydorczak, have been busy this fall answering calls for in-service and assistance. Introducing the application **WordQ** to our Grade 3 and 6 students has been a major focus as has the new web version of **Kurzweil**. Starting this month, Kathleen and Jerry will begin scheduled visits to all K-8 schools.

Christmas Comes with Charlie Brown



St. Pat's Grade 12 drama class is deep in rehearsals for this year's production of **'Tis the Seasons, Charlie Brown**. Performances are planned for 7:00 p.m. on December 13 and 14 in the school auditorium. All proceeds, including ticket and concession sales and all local donations, will go directly to the Disaster Relief Fund of Thunder Bay.