



InTouch

Successful Student Achievement at the High Schools

At Monday night's Board Meeting, Superintendent of Education, J.P. Tennier and Secondary Coordinator, Rob Murphy, presented secondary programs that are helping students succeed now and beyond high school.

"The key to these programs is to help students become more engaged in their learning, and ultimately become self-directed learners," explained Mr. Tennier.

Some of the programs included the Specialist High Skills Major Programs in Construction, Transportation, Manufacturing, Health Care, Fitness, Hospitality and Arts and Culture. In addition, the two also spoke about the successful School College Work Initiative Programs: College Now, Team Taught and SWAC Summer CLASS, Experiential Learning Programs, Reach Ahead Programs, and the all-year Math Program.

"All of these programs would not be as successful as they are without the strong leadership at the administration level who fully support the work of the Instructional Leaders," said Mr. Murphy.

"The Instructional Leaders are key in leading their departments in the above mentioned programs, especially in the work being done on departmental collaborative inquiries," concluded Mr. Tennier.



Secondary School Coordinator, Rob Murphy, left and Superintendent of Education J. P. Tennier reviewing successful programs

Student Trustees Recommend the Creation of a System-wide Student Senate

Since the beginning of the school year, fellow Student Trustee, Nicole Miniely, and I have been thinking about how we can get more "student voice" into the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board.

After doing some initial research on other Catholic boards, we concluded that the best thing to do would be to form a Student Senate. The Student Senate would be a joint committee with representation from all the Senior Elementary and Secondary Schools.

Each grade from each school will send students, who are elected by their peers, and asked to attend meetings throughout the school year, bringing forward thoughts and ideas from their respective classes.

The Student Senate will be an ongoing project and is in its final stages of inception and will, hopefully, be up and running in the coming months. The hope is that this initiative will carry on for many years!

We are both very excited and honoured to start this project and hope to see it grow!

Michael Coccimiglio
TBCDSB Student Trustee
St. Ignatius High School



Student Trustees, left. Michael Coccimiglio and Nicole Miniely

Local Principal Named One of Canada's Top 40 Administrators

Jan Bazaluk, of St. Ann School, is being recognized by the Learning Partnership as one of Canada's Outstanding Principals this year.

She is among 40 exceptional administrators, selected from every province and territory in Canada, who are being recognized for demonstrating innovation, and for employing creativity in finding solutions and opportunities.

Jan will be awarded for her accomplishments at the 12th annual Canada's Outstanding Principals Gala on February 23rd, 2016, at the Westin Harbour Castle Hotel in Toronto.

"This accolade is a reflection of the outstanding work, leadership and innovation that takes place each day in all our schools across our system," said Director of Education, Pino Tassone.

The winners also benefit from an exclusive five-day executive leadership training program at one of Canada's top business schools, the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management. The program will introduce them to leadership and management practices presented by business leaders and Rotman instructors.

Congratulations Jan!



Principal Jan Bazaluk

JK Information Nights Continue to be Successful

Superintendent of Education, Omer Belisle, shared his enthusiasm over, yet another, strong showing at the Board's two JK Information Nights in late January with Trustees Monday night.

"We had over 540 attendees at both events and more than 100 surveys returned," said Mr. Belisle.

"When asked how they found out about the JK Information Nights, our top 3 responses were: from family and friends, their school newsletter and finally radio commercials. Furthermore, they rated the evenings as "informative" to "extremely informative".

He added the reasons parents are considering Catholic schools were as follows: focus on faith and moral values; followed by strong EQAO scores and in third was "innovation and technology".

"Going forward, we will continue to have a registration table at the events and we will definitely be looking at using more social media like Facebook and Twitter," he said.



Mid-Year Strategic Plan Update

Director of Education, Pino Tassone, presented Trustees with an extensive mid-year update on the Board's 5-year Strategic Plan: "Our Values, Our Vision".

"This is truly a living, breathing document that is, by design, constantly changing and moving forward," said Mr. Tassone.

"It is also a true team effort on behalf of Senior Administration and Board staff members."

