



InTouch

Special Olympics Champs Recognized

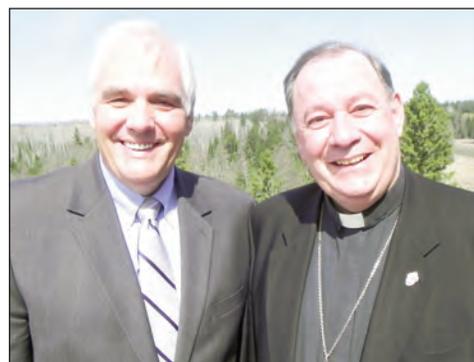
Last year, Special Olympics Ontario introduced a new school program called 4 Corners and established basketball tournaments around the province for high school students with an intellectual disability. In November, a team from St. Patrick High School won all of their qualifying games at Lakehead University, and were subsequently invited to attend Provincials at York University along with 23 other teams. The St. Pat's team brought home the gold! At last Monday's Board meeting, the team was recognized for their impressive accomplishment. Accompanied by their coaches, Leena Harnden and Jeff Bevilacqua, the team of Kennedy Gregory, Justin Kwisses, Edwin McCauley, Patrick McGuire and John Legall were applauded and congratulated by the board.



St. Pat's Champs

Building Catholic Communities

On May 15th, Faith Ambassadors and Aspiring Leaders joined our Principals and Vice-Principals at a learning session led by John Kostoff, Director of Education at the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. John's presentation centred on his book, *Auditing Our Catholic Schools*, which he used to help participants articulate the actions and attitudes that are essential to the distinctive community we call a Catholic school. The central elements of John's presentation will guide discussions with staffs as they begin to work on School Improvement Plans for next year.



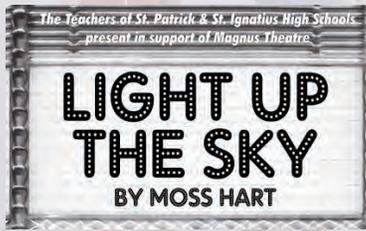
John Kostoff and Bishop Colli

Eco-Certified Schools



St. Bernard School

The Ontario EcoSchools program brings an environmental perspective to how we plan our classroom programs and operate our schools. Five of our schools now join hundreds across Ontario that have earned the designation "Eco School" through their commitment to reducing energy consumption, minimizing waste and greening school grounds. Congratulations to Bishop E.Q. Jennings, St. Bernard, St. Martin, Pope John Paul II and St. Elizabeth for their eco-accomplishments!



Teachers Act Up

A group of teachers who love to ham it up recently performed at Magnus Theatre in the Moss Hart comedy, *Light up the Sky*. The cast included Laurie Foster, Dan Puiatti, John Zussino, Jeff Bevilacqua, Kim Yesno, April Westover, Mike Zussino, Kathy Tolone, Don Harris, Timothy Bernardi and Greg Johnsen. The production was a big success, bringing in approximately \$22,000 for Magnus. Bravo!

Inspiring the Ministry

Ministry of Education officials who toured our schools last week to see 21st Century tools and practices were excited by our progress. “We are impressed by the quality of your 21st Century systems thinking and leadership. The rich conversations and insights offered by your students, teachers, and school leaders has provided us with information that will be useful for the provincial-level work on 21st Century teaching and learning. We returned to the ministry inspired and invigorated by each of you and your achievements,” said Janet Murphy and Catherine Sim. They also commented at length on our technology video, “Making Learning Real”, which they have shown to the Minister of Education, the Deputy Minister and the Assistant Deputy Minister. They made a point of telling us that they share our video regularly at Ministry meetings and school board visits across the province.



Ministry officials with Director Joan Powell

Making the Big Time

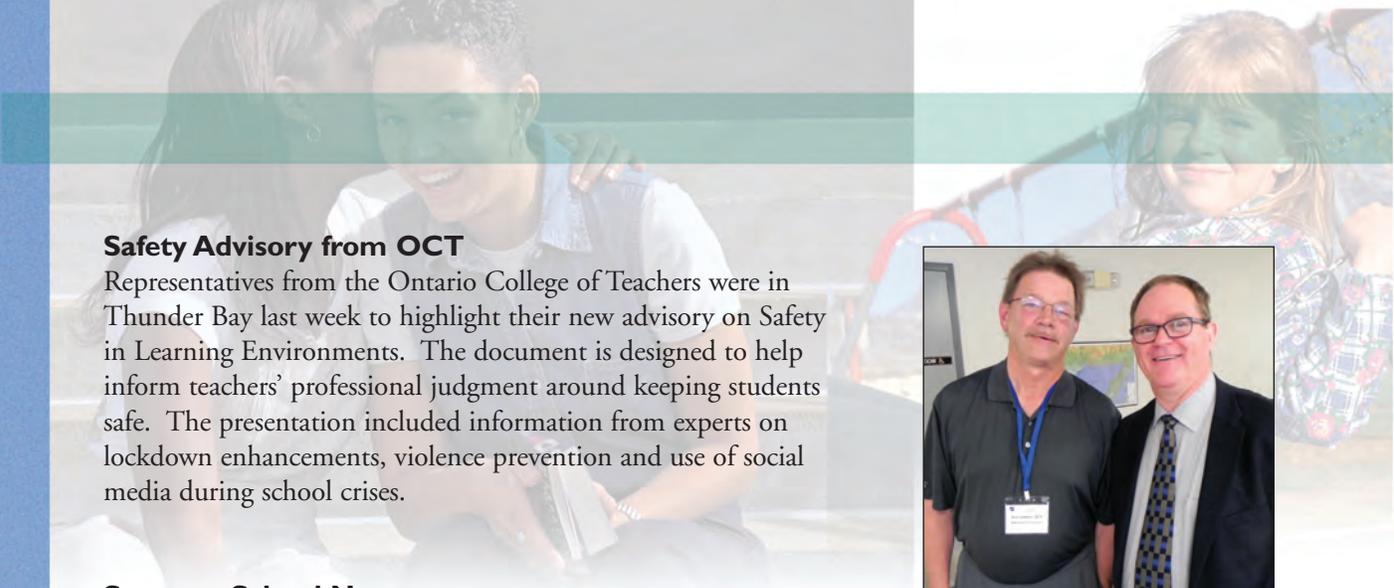


After graduating from St. Ignatius in 2009, Jade Willoughby moved to Toronto to attend George Brown College and pursue a career in modeling. Jade was born in Whitesand First Nation and as a child was diagnosed with a rare kidney disorder. Despite her health challenge, Jade has stayed focused on her dreams, which recently came true when she signed with the world-class Wilhelmina Models in New York City. In her free time, Jade is a youth facilitator for Canadian Roots Exchange, which delivers youth-led workshops to raise awareness of Indigenous history, culture and current realities. Jade is also a motivational speaker with a focus on inspiring and encouraging youth. Her main message is that in order to succeed in life, exceptional drive, determination and passion are required. Jade clearly practises what she preaches!

Board Leadership Strategy

Joan Powell, Director of Education, updated Trustees on this year’s Board Leadership Development Strategy. “We’re in great shape, with an impressive number of committed individuals working toward leadership in our Board,” she said. Currently there are 12 teachers in our Vice-Principal Pool and six principals who have, or are working on, their Supervisory Officer qualifications.





Safety Advisory from OCT

Representatives from the Ontario College of Teachers were in Thunder Bay last week to highlight their new advisory on Safety in Learning Environments. The document is designed to help inform teachers' professional judgment around keeping students safe. The presentation included information from experts on lockdown enhancements, violence prevention and use of social media during school crises.



Trustee and former OCT Chair, Don Cattani, with Brian Jamieson, OCT official.

Summer School News

St. Pat's High School Principal Francis Veneruz has been named Summer School Principal. Beginning in July, students will enjoy classes on the campus at Confederation College.

New Faces at Board Table

Newly-appointed Catholic Student Trustees Olivia Jean (St. Ignatius) and Larissa Warywoda (St. Patrick) attended their first Board meeting last week. The students were elected by their peers and confirmed by the Board to replace outgoing Catholic Student Trustees, Stephanie Strachan (St. Patrick) and Kelsey Huezo (St. Ignatius). Congratulations to all four student leaders!

Review of Native Language Program

Currently we offer Native Language classes in three elementary schools; two senior elementary schools; and in grades 9-10 in both our high schools. The program focuses on spoken language, reading and writing, as well as an appreciation of Native language and culture. "We are currently gathering information from parents about interest in Native Language classes at new locations," said Omer Belisle, Superintendent of Education. "Our goal is to develop a sustainable model for Native Language that is responsive to the needs of students and families."

Taking the Prize

Chair Bob Hupka presented student videographers, Lindsay Clويدt and Abby Gould with a certificate and \$150 gift card to Best Buy in recognition of their second place win in the provincial Faith in our Future video contest. The team also included Sarah Cupello and teacher advisor, Mary DeLuca. Their winning submission can be viewed on the board website and is also featured on the OCSTA website.



Chair Bob Hupka presents prizes to students Lindsay Clويدt and Abby Gould, with teacher Mary DeLuca.