



# InTouch

## Empowering our Secondary Students

Maria DePalma, researcher and trainer from Toronto Sick Kids recently trained high school teachers, Jennifer Mulligan and Leann Joseph, in a highly successful approach called Empower Reading. The comprehensive literacy program that transforms students from struggling readers, spellers and writers into strategic, independent and flexible learners. It also reshapes students' maladaptive beliefs about learning and their own abilities. The program is already running with great success in a number of our elementary schools.



Maria DePalma, Jennifer Mulligan and Leann Joseph

## Giving Thanks



Max with his prize turkey

On a beautiful fall day and in the spirit of Thanksgiving, Our Lady of Charity School held its first ever Turkey Trot. All students from SK – Grade 6 competed in a race that encouraged fun and fitness. At the end of the race, two students in each grade were awarded a turkey! The two winners included the first student to cross the finish line, and the student who demonstrated the best effort and sportsmanship. The turkeys were donated by Trustee Rob DeGagne of Surenet Insurance and Dave Maltese of Maltese Grocery. On the other side of town, the Grade 6 classes at St. Jude School put more than smiles onto the faces of the less fortunate as they prepared sandwiches, baked pumpkin pies, and generally pitched in at the Thanksgiving Dinner at the Dew Drop Inn.



Grade 6 students at the Dew Drop Inn

## Toonies for Tuition

In 2005, the Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association established a campaign, called Toonies for Tuition, to help students in provinces with limited or no public funding for Catholic schools. Full public funding for Catholic schools exists only in Ontario, Alberta, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories and Yukon. Partial funding (approximately 50%) occurs in Manitoba and British Columbia. Meanwhile, Catholic schools in Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, PEI, Newfoundland and Nunavut receive no government funding. In many of these places, donations and fundraising are the only financial source for Catholic schools. This year, the **Toonies for Tuition** campaign will run the week of **October 28 – November 1**. All our schools are encouraged to run a fundraising event in support of this important Catholic cause.





## 21st Century Learning: Video Goes Viral

At Monday night's Board Meeting, Trustees learned about an exciting project focused on the role of leadership in technology. Charlene Cavanagh, Coordinator of Elementary Programs and Cindy Carr, e-Learning Contact, told Trustees that our board was named project lead of seven boards in the province who received an \$80,000 grant to investigate the use of technology by our system's leaders.

The team used a portion of the money to hire a film crew to document our successful strategies. "The

Ministry of Education is thrilled with the video and is now using it to promote 21st Century teaching and learning across the province," said Mrs. Carr.

## Supporting our Aboriginal Learners

Superintendent Omer Belisle presented Trustees with a comprehensive plan for increasing the academic success of our Aboriginal students. Noting a wide range of projects, Mr. Belisle reported, "We're constantly looking at new opportunities to bridge gaps for our Aboriginal learners." One important initiative is training for teachers provided by Dr. Lisa Korteweg from LU's Faculty of Education and our board's Native Language Resource Teacher, Tesa Fiddler. The training incorporates historical and cultural knowledge with successful in-class strategies.



Dr. Lisa Korteweg

## Your PIM Team

The Board's Managing Information for Student Achievement (MISA) project supports schools, staff and board departments in the use and handling of information. An important component of MISA is privacy and information management (PIM), and a team has now been formed to create a shared understanding of the importance of PIM. In the coming months, the PIM team will lead awareness sessions, provide practical resources, and expand representation on the team. Currently, the PIM team includes Chris Hanley, Glen Harwood, David Midwood (consultant), Terry Hibberd, Clara Bonazza, Cindy Carr, Paul Mackett and Pino Tassone.



## Catholic Education: A National Conversation

Trustee Eleanor Ashe reported on the Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association annual conference held in Ottawa earlier this month. "Very simply stated by presenter Father James Mallon, the new Evangelization is a renewed effort for each of us to proclaim the Good News," said Trustee Ashe. She also spoke about the importance of maintaining important linkages. "In connecting home, school and parish, we can celebrate our past and present, as we move to participate in the New Evangelization, in the realm of the Year of Faith."



Dr. Katz with Pino Tassone

### Interrupting with Purpose

Educational psychologist, Dr. Steven Katz, addressed our school administrators, superintendents, instructional leaders, and resource staff on the messages of his book, *Intentional Interruption*. He reminded us that student achievement is influenced primarily by classroom practice, and classroom practice is most influenced by teacher learning. Sometimes learning barriers need to be removed in order to transform professional practice. “We believe that continued improvement in our board will depend on our opportunities for strategic and targeted professional learning,” said Pino Tassone, Superintendent of Education.

### Diversity is a Good Thing

Earlier this month, Dr. Rich Villa travelled from San Diego to confirm our approach to inclusion, reinforce the importance of differentiation, and introduce us to four different approaches to co-teaching. To give every child the opportunity for life chances and authentic belonging, our schools must be places with visionary leadership; good professional development; collaborative in planning and teaching; flexible use of time; quality differentiation; and assessments that tells us how children are smart and how they learn.



Dr. Rich Villa and Tina Corness

*We will never successfully restructure schools to be effective until we stop seeing diversity in our children as a problem.*

~ Grant Wiggins

### The Business of Law

Mark Mikulasik graduated from St. Patrick High School in 2003 then headed to Lakehead University for an Honours Bachelor of Commerce degree, majoring in finance. His education not yet complete, he attended Cardiff Law School in Wales. In 2011, Mark returned home to join the law firm of Weiler Maloney Nelson and is currently practising corporate and real estate law. Mark is dedicated to serving his community and he currently sits on the Board of Directors of YES Employment Services and the Canadian Mental Health Association. Mark believes very strongly in the growth potential of Thunder Bay, and this belief was a driving force for Mark’s decision to return home. Mark combines youthful energy with the skills, experience and background needed to help Thunder Bay businesses thrive and grow.

