



InTouch

Plan Impresses Ministry

At Monday night's board meeting, Trustees were presented with this year's Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (BIPSA). Developed by our Student Achievement team of Charlene Cavanagh, Rob Murphy, Dave Bragnalo, Omer Belisle, Pino Tassone and Joan Powell, the plan focuses on the two key areas of student well-being and student achievement, and is closely linked to our School Improvement Plans. Ministry of Education officials were very impressed with what they describe as our board's "clear, focussed and well-supported plan". A special insert, developed by our resource staff for classroom teachers, details a comprehensive approach to literacy and numeracy K-12. The BIPSA will be presented to school administrators later this week and copies will be distributed to all teaching staff.



Summer School Relocation Pays Off

Relocating our Summer School program to Confederation College resulted in significant increases in credits and vocational opportunities for high school students this year. "I can't begin to tell you just how positive it has been for both our students and staff to move our Summer School to the College. Many students earned dual credit programs by attending secondary classes in the morning and then college credit programs in the afternoon," reported Superintendent Pino Tassone. Credit Recovery and Specialized Summer Co-op credits were also offered to a wide range of students. The number of credits earned moved up from the usual 30 to an all-time high of 124.5! Mr. Tassone recognized Summer School Principal Francis Veneruz and Secondary Coordinator Rob Murphy for their contributions to the success of the program.

Year	Number of Students Enrolled	Number of Classes/Sections
2012	22 in Make-up Courses	1
	16 in Summer School Co-op	1
2013	72 in Credit Recovery	23
	44 in Dual Credits	3
	16 in Summer School Co-op	1

Strategic Planning Sessions Underway

Consultation sessions began on the October 11 PD day with board staff participating in an engaging activity designed to inform our next Strategic Plan. The sessions continued this month with our Special Education Advisory Committee and Board of Trustees. Up next is a session with our Catholic School Councils, the priests and Bishop of our Diocese, and our school administrators. Individual interviews, a public survey, and a community-wide consultation session will also allow our stakeholders to contribute thoughts and ideas to our board's Strategic Plan 2014-2020.



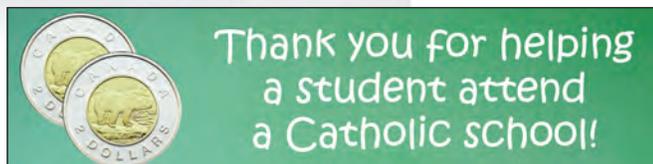
Preparing for Tragic Events

In a report to Trustees, it was noted that “suicide is the most common tragic event impacting schools in North America. The suicide of one young person can trigger other suicide attempts by other vulnerable youth.” Tragic Events Teams are now in place in each of our schools, and this fall, new practices were introduced to better support our preparedness for critical incidents. Training sessions are being delivered in suicide prevention and intervention, critical incident response training, and violence risk threat assessment training.

Toonies for Tuition

Thanks to the generosity of our families, staff and trustees, we recently sent off a cheque for \$1,230 to the Canadian Catholic School Trustees’ Association in

support of Catholic schools that receive no government support, such as those in Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, PEI, Newfoundland and Nunavut.



The Advent-age of Catholic Education

Even as a small child attending St. Francis School, Michele Advent knew she wanted to be a dentist. After graduating from St. Patrick High School in 2003, she studied Applied Bio-Molecular Science at Lakehead University then went on to Dental School at the University of Alberta. Now as Michele Spooner, she practices dentistry in Calgary.



Younger brother, Byron Advent, is a 2005 graduate of St. Patrick High School. He followed his sister’s path to Lakehead University, earning a degree in Applied Bio-Molecular Science before entering the Optometry School at the University of Houston, Texas. After completing two clinical internships, one focussed on eye care for the underprivileged and the other on pediatric eye care, Byron remains in the Lone Star State and is now practicing optometry in Corsicana, south of Dallas.

