



InTouch

Reporting Our Progress

Director of Education, Joan Powell, presented Trustees with her annual report on Monday night. The Education Act requires the Director of Education, at the first meeting in December, to submit to the Board a report on action in a number of areas. The report describes our excellent progress as well as a long list of initiatives we have undertaken to support student well-being and academic success. Ms. Powell gave credit to our Board and school staffs for the positive content of the report. Hard copies of the report will be sent out to all schools and an electronic copy will be posted on the board's website.



Congratulations to Our Winners

Since 2008, students in Grades 1 through 12 have been invited to submit artwork for our Board's annual Christmas cards. This year we had a tremendous response with more than 250 entries submitted. Staff in the Director's Office selected four winning submissions, and the Director noted that it was not an easy process. "This year's submissions were excellent! We had a really tough job selecting just one winner in each category." This year's winners are Sophia Amato, Grade 1, St. Pius X; Zoe Syrja, Grade 4, St. Margaret; Marisa Kamalatisit, Grade 7, Bishop Gallagher; and Dylan Parsons, Grade 9, St. Patrick. The winning entries appear on our website and have been emailed to a wide variety of friends of the Board.



Chair Hupka with this year's Christmas card winners.

Making Our Schools Accessible



The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act became law in 2005. Its primary goal is to have an accessible Ontario by the year 2025 and it outlines a series of standards related to services, facilities, accommodation, employment, buildings and premises. Safety Officer Karen McKissick presented Trustees with the Board's five-year plan, which "identifies our strategies to remove barriers to accessibility in our schools and the CEC. We have established an Accessibility Working Group that will meet on an ongoing basis to ensure that our plan is reviewed and updated," explained Ms. McKissick. The Accessibility Plan will be posted on the Board's website.

Year of Faith Committee

The Year of Faith Ad Hoc Committee was brought to a close at Monday's board meeting. Committee Chair Eleanor Ashe spoke of our Board's participation in the Diocesan's **Year of Faith** Mass on Nov. 24 at St. Patrick's Cathedral. "It's important for each of us to realize that we did make a difference by trying to connect home, school and parish as the congregation experienced a sense of closure to a Year of Faith. Our efforts did result in a sense of achievement for which we can feel quite proud," said Trustee Ashe.

Enrolment Down But Predicted

“Overall, current year enrolment is 209.1 FTE students fewer than last year. This represents a decline of approximately 2.75%, which is consistent with our budget projections,” said Tom Mustapic, Associate Director and Superintendent of Business and Corporate Services. “Our actual enrolment is 20.4 FTE students more than expected as results at both the elementary and secondary panels were close to projections,” he added.

Capital Projects in Great Shape

Mr. Mustapic reports good news on the construction front. “The additions at St. Bernard and St. Jude schools were completed on budget and on time. In fact, the project at St. Bernard ran so smoothly that we were able to get into those classrooms a month early,” he said. “The government’s commitment to Full Day Kindergarten has led our Board to build additions at four schools, including St. Martin and Holy Cross. The latter will be completed by September 2014.”



Moving Ahead with Consultations

This fall, we began a consultation process to gather input from our staff and external stakeholders with the aim of informing our Multi-Year Strategic Plan. Director Powell provided Trustees with a summary of work to date as well as plans for the coming months. Two public consultation sessions will be held in the new year and two online surveys – one for students and one for adults – will be launched shortly. In addition, focus group sessions and individual interviews will be conducted across our community.

Successful On and Off the Pitch!

Kaitlyn Quarrell recently took home the All-Horizon League First Team honours from the University of Detroit Mercy. Last year she was named Offensive Player of the Year. A graduate of St. Ignatius High School and daughter of Principal Barry Quarrell, Kaitlyn was pleased to be named to the First Team for the third straight year and is serving as its captain. Kaitlyn is a seasoned athlete with a long list of awards to her name. Prior to attending school in Detroit, she won awards in volleyball, track & field, badminton, indoor and outdoor soccer, and hockey. Kaitlyn lists her biggest thrill in sports as winning the Canadian National Midget AA Hockey Championship in 2010 and capturing the Most Sportsmanship Player at the tournament. Kaitlyn is currently an economics and business major at the University of Detroit Mercy.



***Best Wishes for a Joyous Christmas
and a New Year filled with Peace and Happiness!***

~ from your Senior Team ~

