



# InTouch

## Enhancing Our Faith at Thunder Bay Catholic Schools

Our annual Faith Ambassador Dinner was held at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Wednesday, November 4th with 70 members of our Board attending. Bishop Colli was our keynote speaker and gave an inspirational presentation to our Faith Ambassadors, Trustees, principals and administrators on how we can model our faith on the life of our Holy Father, Pope Francis.

“It really was an enjoyable and joyful evening experienced by all present,” said Fr. Ciarán Donnelly, the system Faith Leader.



## TBCDSB Announces Increased Enrolment Figures Augmentation at both elementary and secondary levels

Despite a North America-wide phenomenon of declining enrolment of school-aged children, the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board announced Monday night an increase in enrolment.

Sheila Chiodo, Superintendent of Business and Corporate Services, said that although the numbers are preliminary “they are very positive”. “Perhaps the most encouraging issue is that we have more than 562 junior kindergarten students enrolled this September,” she said.

Mrs. Chiodo added that there were also increases in elementary and the high schools. “We find these numbers very encouraging, not only for today but for years to come,” she said. “The bottom line is that it’s good news for our board and the community as a whole, as we look to hire more staff,” she said.

ELEMENTARY	No. of Students
Actual Opening Day 2015	5,558
Projected 2015	5,436
Difference (from projections)	+ 122
SECONDARY	No. of Students
Actual Opening Day 2015	2,287
Projected 2015	2,201
Difference (from projections)	+ 86
TOTAL ENROLMENT	No. of Students
Actual Opening Day 2015	7,845
Projected 2015	7,637
Difference (from projections)	+ 208

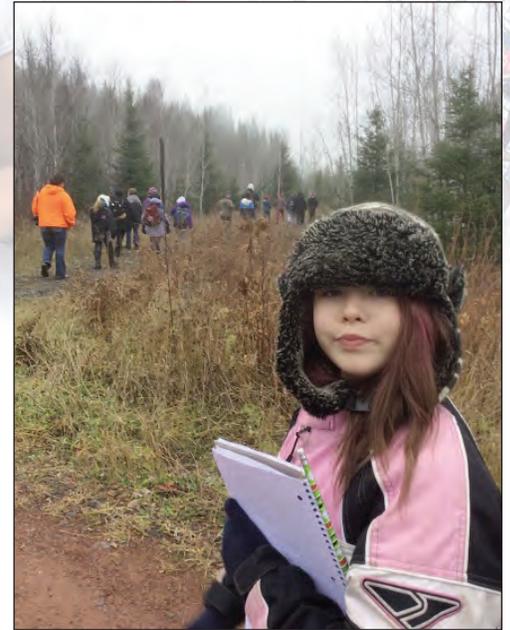


## Land-based Pilot Project Profiles Indigenous Heritage and Culture

St. Ann School is participating in a pilot project that focuses on traditional Indigenous knowledge and land-based learning. The learning project provides students opportunities to explore and learn about traditional Indigenous knowledge, skills, values, language and culture and make connections to their learning in the classroom.

The field trips are designed and intended to enhance the curriculum units of study and some of the expectations for all classes.

Last week, Mr. Janiec's grade 6 class travelled to the trapline of a local Métis trapper. Students learned about the habitat of the beaver and other small game in the area. They discussed the influence of the fur trade and other events of historical and current interactions between First Nations and non-First Nations people in Canada. Students came on the field trip fully prepared with questions for the trapper. They were able to document their learning through video and photos. The students at St. Ann will participate in activities including snowshoeing, ice fishing and dog sledding throughout the winter months, as well as tracking and spring harvesting in the warmer months.



## Report on External Committees

Trustees at the Thunder Bay Catholic School Board often sit on external committees.

Trustee Eleanor Ashe sits on two city committees; *Age Friendly Thunder Bay* and the *Thunder Bay Public Library*.

"Age Friendly Thunder Bay has 41 members representing various community partners. After presenting a deposition to the City, Age Friendly Thunder Bay was awarded \$50,000 to help achieve a fully Age Friendly community," reported Trustee Ashe.

Trustee Ashe also sits on the Thunder Bay Public Library Human Resources sub-committee, which works together to develop various policies. "The learning curve in this involvement is motivational as each personal interaction verifies the significance that many community disciplines all care about making a positive contribution to our citizens, no matter the age!" said Trustee Ashe.

## Board Improvement Plan Unveiled

Each year, boards across Ontario are asked to develop a Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (BIPSA), designed to improve student well-being and academic success.

"The plan is developed with input from our Student Achievement team members and is closely linked to the work of our schools," explained Director of Education, Pino Tassone.

Superintendent of Education, Omer Belisle, said that schools use the Board-level document as a guide when they prepare their respective school plans.

"On a more local level, School Improvement Plans (SIPs) incorporate key elements of the BIPSA, based on individual school needs. Similarly, the BIPSA is designed to provide guidance to school improvement planning," he said.

Superintendent of Education, J. P. Tennier, said the document clearly sets out the goals and objectives for the Board. "Ministry of Education officials visit our board twice annually to review our BIPSA, discuss progress towards our goals, and offer support to staff."

