



InTouch

Board Introduced to New Staff in September

Each school year brings change, including new staffing after retirements and other staff movement. At Monday night's Board meeting, Trustees were introduced to our new staffers.



NEW BOARD OFFICE STAFF

From left, Kristie Sinclair, Internal Auditor, Adrienne Bodnarchuk, Accounting Supervisor, Christina Pepin, Payroll Clerk, and Jennifer Melchiorre, Math Resource Teacher K-8



NEW ADMINISTRATORS

From left, Anthony Rizzo, Vice-Principal, St. Ignatius High School, Carol Pascuzzo, Acting Vice-Principal, St. Martin School, Cynthia Gordon, Acting Principal, St. Jude School, Tracey Rabachuk, Acting Vice-Principal, Bishop E. Q. Jennings School, Dorothy Basaraba, Principal, St. Paul School, Michelle Donato, Vice-Principal, Bishop Gallagher School, Kris Bragnalo, Vice-Principal, St. Patrick High School. Missing Alma Provenzano, Acting Principal, St. Vincent School

New Playground Equipment for All Elementary Schools

Administration gave elementary students lots to smile about after they unveiled that all JK-6 schools will have playground equipment.

“We’re hoping that all of our schools will have them in place by the end of October,” explained Superintendent Omer Belisle.

While some of our schools already have equipment, a total of 12 schools will have the new structures installed this fall.

“The installers started on Sunday the 13th and it is approximately 2 days per structure. The first 4 schools will be St. Ann, St. Vincent, St. Jude and St. Francis,” added Mr. Belisle.

He said that the contractor will continue with the southside and then move on to the northside later in the month.

“The response to this initiative has been very positive throughout the school communities.”

The entire project, which Trustees approved last spring, will cost about \$800,000. “I want to personally thank our Trustees for approving this project and allowing all of our elementary schools to be equitable,” said Director Pino Tassone.



Computer-generated design of the playground equipment coming to Thunder Bay Catholic schools

Three-Year Math Plan Launched

Taking a pro-active approach, administration has established a three-year math plan, following a recent decline in provincial math scores.

“This plan will really help guide us for the next few years and beyond,” said Superintendent Omer Belisle.

Mr. Belisle explained that the plan has five elements including a Mission Statement based on core values, fostering passion and confidence, establishing a partnership with Lakehead University, providing opportunities for additional qualifications for our math teachers, and establishing “Growth and Development” classes.

“Throughout the next three years, we will be constantly monitoring the plan and adjusting it to ensure that all of our students become more confident and competent when it comes to math.”

More comprehensive information, detailing the plan, will be released to schools and parents shortly.



Early Childhood Educators Receive Roots Training

For the first time within the Board, eleven Designated Early Childhood Educators were trained as Roots of Empathy instructors in early September. Roots of Empathy is an evidence-based program that has shown dramatic effect in reducing levels of aggression among school children while raising social and emotional competence and increasing empathy. At the heart of the program is having a local baby and parent visit the classroom several times over the school year. The trained Roots of Empathy instructor



coaches students to observe the baby’s development and to label the baby’s feelings. In this experiential learning, the baby is the “Teacher” and a lever that the instructor uses to help children to identify and reflect on their own feelings and the feelings of others.

Congratulations to the eleven Designated Early Childhood Educators who will be delivering the Roots of Empathy program back at their schools in the Kindergarten classroom this year.