



InTouch

Assessment for Learning Grows in our Schools



The Assessment for Learning (AFL) project continues to expand in our Board, with funding provided by the Ministry of Education's Assessment Branch. Last year, 20 teachers from five schools worked on making explicit connections between what they teach and what students learn. This year, the 20 teachers have returned to the project and 40 more educators have been added. With AFL funds largely assigned to job-embedded learning, teachers enjoy observing each other teach, talking to students about their new learning, and building capacity in the area of assessment.



Something Old ~ Something New

After a look at storytelling in various cultures (including fairy tales and Anishnaabae legends), 16 Grade 9 students enrolled in the Native Language class at St. Patrick High School brainstormed a very contemporary take on the Brothers Grimm fairy tale, "Snow White and the Red Rose" and spun it into their own short film entitled, *Rose Red*. Working with director Lila Cano, the students wrote the screenplay, sewed the costumes, built the set and props, acted out the script, and finally, filmed and edited their work. The main themes of the film are choices we make in life, the importance of family, and forgiveness. Following a daytime screening for more than 700 Grade 9 and 10 students, approximately 60 family and friends enjoyed the evening premiere of *Rose Red*, held on January 10 in the St. Patrick library. Congratulations to our young filmmakers!

Bullying Prevention Activities

The Ministry of Education requires that school boards have bullying prevention strategies in place in all schools. At Monday's Board Meeting, Superintendent Pino Tassone shared dozens of examples of how schools are combatting bullying. "There are numerous ways our schools are confronting the issue," he said. "From morning announcements to presentations to prayers and pledges by the students, our schools address bullying not only during November's Bullying Awareness Week but throughout the year. We continue to do a good job on this front."

Our Board Gets Age-Friendly!

A local coalition called Age Friendly Thunder Bay in partnership with Lakehead University's Centre for Education and Research on Aging and Health has been successful in having Thunder Bay designated as Age-Friendly by the World Health Organization. Age Friendly Thunder Bay has also worked with LU's Faculty of Education to prepare intergenerational class modules for schools. At a recent Board Meeting, they talked to Trustees about these modules and asked for board representation and support. On Monday night, Trustees approved the appointment of Trustee Eleanor Ashe as their representative to the Age Friendly committee and Rob Murphy, Coordinator of Secondary Programs, to sit on the Intergenerational Education Task Group.

Director's Annual Report 2012

On January 14, Trustees were presented with the Director's Annual Report 2012. A requirement by the Ministry of Education, the report is designed to encourage Boards to review their EQAO scores over a five-year period as well as enrollment statistics, class sizes, credit accumulation, improving outcomes for students at-risk, special education and providing education that is inclusive and equitable. A copy of the report will soon be available on the Board website.



Local Teacher Receives Prestigious Honour

June Rysinski, a Teacher-Librarian at St. Paul and Corpus Christi has been named **Teacher-Librarian of the Year** by the Ontario School Library Association. The award is given to a teacher-librarian who “has demonstrated leadership in the implementation of school library programs... that incorporate the philosophy of resource-based learning and co-operative program planning and have had major proven impact on student achievement and on teaching effectiveness.” We are all very proud of June's work and congratulate her on this prestigious award!

Architect Selected

A familiar name has been selected to design the Full Day Kindergarten expansions at St. Martin and Holy Cross schools. Form Architecture was chosen over two other local firms in a rigorous board selection process. The company is based in Thunder Bay and is currently the architect for the St. Bernard and St. Jude projects, which are now under construction.

