



InTouch

Collaborative Learning Journeys

The District Review process has begun for seven of our schools. Learning teams comprised of Senior Administrators and Principals are visiting classrooms in the schools, talking to students, and reviewing student work. The purpose of the reviews is to promote a culture of reflection, collaborative inquiry and shared responsibility for continuous improvement. The review supports collegial and respectful interactions in an open, honest and transparent process, while informing school and board improvement planning. To date, reviews have been completed at St. Jude and Bishop E.Q. Jennings. Upcoming reviews are planned for St. Vincent, St. Pat's, St. Bernard, Holy Cross and St. Margaret schools.

Preparing for Interviews

All Principals and Vice-Principals attended a workshop this week on the upcoming LTO Roster interviews. The administrators were oriented to the Multi-Mini Interview (MMI) process by Director Joan Powell. They were also provided training in post-competition debrief practices led by WSIB Manager Christina Brassard. The interviews will be held on February 20 and 21, with more than 100 candidates participating.



Principals Jackie Fredrickson and Jan Bazaluk participated in the Interview Workshop.

Enrolment Statistics Presented

Every year, Associate Director and Superintendent of Corporate Services, Tom Mustapic, takes Trustees through an extensive report on enrolment, looking specifically at 5-year trends. "Over the past 5 years, our overall enrolment has declined by 5 per cent (433 students), with elementary enrolment declining by 6 per cent (379 students) and by 3 per cent at secondary (64 students)," he said.

While the numbers show a steady decline in most areas, Mr. Mustapic provided reasons for optimism as reflected in our Kindergarten numbers and our French Immersion numbers.

Enrolment facts:

- North ward enrolment has declined more rapidly (7 per cent) than the South ward (3 per cent)
- The number of male and female students are almost identical for all five years
- After reaching a low of 504 students in 2008, Junior Kindergarten enrolment has trended upward to 546 students in 2012
- JK-6 French Immersion enrolment has increased by 19 per cent over the past five years
- City-wide enrolment has declined by 8 per cent over the past five years
- Aboriginal Self-Identification numbers have stabilized at 13 per cent
- After years of decline, the birth rates in Thunder Bay have stabilized to about 1,500 per year

Breakfast With High School Staff



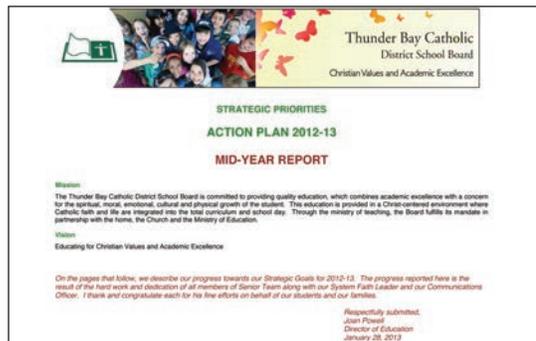
Director Joan Powell chats with St. Pat's teacher Sandra Caputi

It was certainly a case of food for thought last week as members of Senior Team had breakfast with both high school staffs. During “turnaround” days between first and second semester, secondary teachers enjoyed breakfast and chatted with our Director, Superintendents, Education Officer, Faith Leader and Secondary Coordinator. Thanks to Principals Barry Quarrell and Francis Veneruz for hosting the events, and thanks to all the teachers who made Board staff feel welcome.



Mid-Year Report on Strategic Actions

Trustees were provided an update on the Board's Action Plan on Monday night. Members of Senior Team spoke to the various areas, including “Living Our Catholic Faith”, “Equity of Outcomes for All Students”, “Improving Aboriginal Student Outcomes”, “Sustaining a Culture of Professional Excellence”, “Good Places to Learn and Work” and “Organizational Stewardship”. Director Joan Powell congratulated the team on their significant progress. Board Chair Bob Hupka was obviously impressed with the report and offered thanks for the update. “On behalf of the Board, I want to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone of you for doing such a fine job,” said Mr. Hupka.



Where Are They Now?

Lindsay Churchley graduated from St. Patrick High School in 2000. Prior to that, she attended St. Margaret, St. Vincent, Sacred Heart and St. Martin schools. She obtained her Honours B.Sc. and Masters Degree in Medical Physics from McMaster University then moved back home to attend the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, graduating in 2011. She is currently in her second year of her postgraduate studies, specializing in Obstetrics and Gynecology, through the University of Ottawa. Her long-term plan is to practise medicine and do research in Thunder Bay.



“I will never ever forget the teachers and coaches I had at St. Pat's and the elementary schools I went to. They truly did mould the person I am today. Thank you so much for everything! Your hard work and dedication to teaching did not go unnoticed,” she says.