



Bruce Grey Catholic District School Board
Board of Trustees
Meeting Highlights

December 12, 2011

The Board of Trustees held elections for Chair and Vice-Chair for the upcoming year. Norm Bethune was re-elected as Chair, while Bev Eckensweiler was re-elected as Vice-Chair by unanimous decision.

Director's Annual Report

Bruce MacPherson, Director of Education, presented an overview of his annual report. A copy of the Director's Annual Report will be available on our website in the new year.

Wellness Committee Update

Suzanne White, Assistant to the Director – Human Resources, provided an update from the Wellness Committee. The committee has met twice since September. New Initiatives will include an 8 week program in the new year to get people walking and running.

The utilization rate for the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) was high this past year, indicating that individuals are accessing this very worthwhile program. The committee will continue to advertise so people are aware of the program, and to share resources provided regularly by Sheppel-fgi. Statistics and data gathered through the EAP and the public health unit help in planning for future initiatives.

A wellness survey was completed in 2005 with the assistance of Brock University. Data from that survey has also allowed the wellness team to provide services based on feedback from staff. The committee has contacted Brock University to conduct a followup survey to help focus future programs.

Other supports included a workshop held at the CEC on stress and mental health, flu shot clinics at each school, the attendance support program and training on mental health through the Jack Project.

Organizational Culture Meeting Update

Suzanne also reported on the recent meeting of the Organizational Culture Committee. The meeting opened with an update on Catholicity from Bruce, and a review of the Wellness Committee minutes. Discussion included a review of the strategic direction and expected outcomes. It was agreed to repeat the Healthy Workplace Survey as discussed by the Wellness Committee, to provide direction and ensure that the needs of all staff and students are met.

Herb Miller Peace and Remembrance Project at National War Museum

SHHS students Jocelyn King, Andrew Zettel and Stephanie Hess, provided the Board with an overview of their recent trip to Ottawa to perform the *Herb Miller Peace and Remembrance Project* at the National War Museum. A group of very talented students from Sacred Heart High School in Walkerton performed 5 shows in Ottawa over two days. During the experience in Ottawa the group met many veterans and service personnel who expressed gratitude to the students for putting on the show. On behalf of everyone involved in the production, Jocelyn, Andrew and Stephanie thanked the board for their support. In closing, Stephanie demonstrated the amazing talents that were displayed through this production by singing a beautiful rendition of "The proud Canadian Soldier".

Notes of interest from the Student Trustee reports:

Sacred Heart High School Walkerton ~ Joceyln King

Catholicity

- A mass was held on Saturday December 10th at 5pm at Sacred Heart Parish in Walkerton for the intentions of the staff & students of Sacred Heart High School.
- Sacred Heart High School will be participating in the 6th annual Christmas Angel Tree. This tree is designed to support students who have been identified by staff as needing a little extra over this Christmas season.
- Advent Mass will be held December 21, 2011.

Academics

- Grade 8 parent and student information nights will be held at Sacred Heart High School Thursday January 19 and Tuesday January 24th at 7pm.
- The HOBY Leadership Conference applications were due and applicants are currently in the interview process.
- Free Online Math Homework Help-Chats take place Sunday to Thursday between the

hours of 5:30-9:30 pm.

- Interim Reports will be sent home December 19.

Extra Curricular

- The Heart of Art Cabaret 2011 was held Wednesday December 7 at 7:30. The production had a great turn out and was very entertaining. It was a great display of the various talents we have at Sacred Heart
- SAC will be putting on a Christmas Assembly December 22nd
- The Girl's Hockey Team sold Poinsettias as a fundraiser. Thanks for your support.
- December 19-23 Is Christmas Spirit Week.

St. Mary's High School Owen Sound ~ Katie Walsh

Catholicity

It is that time of year again when the snow begins to fall and stores have placed fabulous holiday displays in their windows. However, despite the temptations of the season St. Mary's students have not forgotten the true meaning of Christmas and through their actions they have shown it is better to give than to receive.

- On Friday, December 3rd, thirty two students attended an outreach excursion to Toronto. Students toured some of the poorest areas of Toronto and had the opportunity to assist at a soup kitchen. Since their return, students have gone to homerooms to share experiences, and inspired by the things they witnessed, they have organized a sock drive for the Toronto homeless.
- Although many people outside our region need our help, students have not forgotten the less fortunate of our community. On December 6th just fewer than seventy students helped to pack over 600 hampers for the Salvation Army in Owen Sound. Religion classes are continuing to collect food items for the Salvation Army.
- Mrs. Foch is doing her part to educate students on topics such as Advent, the Advent wreath, the Liturgical Calendar and the meaning of Christmas by touring homerooms over the upcoming weeks.
- A Pizza Fundraiser is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14th at Boston Pizza to raise money for those students attending El Salvador in the spring.
- On Thursday December 15th St. Mary's will be hosting their Advent mass led by Ms. Foch's Grade 12 ethics class.
- As well, over the summer Ms. Foch attended a pilgrimage in Spain, and within the last

month Ms. Gariepy participated in a retreat to the Holy Land. In January, they hope to hold an assembly to share their experiences with senior students.

Academics

- The mathematics EQAO for grade nines will take place the week of January 16th. Grade nines enrolled in math this semester are working hard to prepare for this assessment.
- Recruitment efforts for grade nine students are currently underway. Mr. Miller, Ms. Majury and Mr. Chaisson have been making visits to feeder schools accompanied by past graduates of the feeder schools to recruit students. A joint school transition committee is also collaborating to retain one hundred percent of students.
- St. Mary's has more planned over the upcoming month to connect with feeder schools. On Monday December 12, feeder schools will come to St. Mary's to see the girls' hockey game against Sacred Heart. St. Mary's kinesiology class will also be leading some activities in the gym beforehand. On Wednesday December 14 the Visual Arts class will be visiting Notre Dame to make Christmas cards. And on Thursday December 15 feeder schools will be attending the Christmas cabaret put on by the drama department.

Athletics

- Sports that are currently underway are girls' volleyball, boys' basketball, girls' and boys' hockey, badminton, swimming, gymnastics and Nordic skiing.

Extra-Curricular Activities

- The ceramic club, yearbook club, school advocate and band are all underway.
- Recently, Owen Sound won \$32 000 to put towards their local food bank through Kraft Canada. On Wednesday, November 30th CTV weatherman Jeff Hutcheson visited the Owen Sound Bay shore to do a live broadcast. Many St. Mary's students along with our new mustang mascot attended the event and a few of our students even got the chance to do the weather with Jeff.
- St. Mary's Student Advisory Council has taken on a number of events over the past month and is busy planning events for December. Semi-formal dance is planned for the beginning of December. The theme this year is "The Queen of Hearts' Ball". Christmas spirit week is planned for the last week of class and includes a hat day, PJ day, red, green and jean day, and well as numerous activities throughout the week.
- In the Christmas spirit the drama department is busy preparing for their Cabaret on December 15th, the band is busy preparing for their concert December 19th, and the Christmas assembly will be held on the last day of classes hosted by a couple of senior students.
- In other exciting news, our very own Laurissa Christie will be venturing to Antarctica this Christmas with the organization Students on Ice. In the past, Laurissa went to the Arctic

with the same organization and she has been inspired to undertake a similar experience. Laurissa is a victory lap student who is very involved in her school community, and environmental initiatives. She is most looking forward to seeing the impacts of climate change, and ice bergs as tall as you can see.

- A reminder that a visual arts field trip to the Royal Ontario Museum is scheduled for March 30th. Students will be given the opportunity to view the "Maya: Secrets of their Ancient World exhibit," featuring 250 artifacts and a discussion of the Maya calendar.

Policy and Administrative Procedures

The following policy was approved by motion

- BP 5-17 and AP 5-17 on Safe Disposal of Hazardous Waste

The following Policies and Procedures are currently under review:

- BP 6-3 on Secondary School Compulsory Credit
- BP 6-4 on Co-operative Education Programmes
- BP 8-15 on Email Use
- BP 6-32 on Acceptable Use
- BP 6-9 on Computer Technology
- BP 5-16 and AP 5-16 on Video Surveillance in Schools and School Buses
- AP 5-11 Privacy Breach Protocol
- BP 8-4 on Workplace Harassment
- BP 8-22 on Workplace Violence

Next Board of Trustees meeting is January 24, 2012 at 10:00a.m.