



## Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board

### Board of Trustees

### Meeting Highlights

October 25, 2011

#### Celebrate Music 2011

Caroline Renaud, teacher at St. Joseph's School Port Elgin, and representing Music Teachers from across the board, spoke to the trustees about Music in our schools. She thanked the board for their support in the past and encouraged them to continue to support music and the arts in all of our schools.

Ms. Renaud shared results from a 2010 survey of the state of music education in Canadian schools by the Coalition for Music. The survey concluded that there are many perceived benefits of music education, and that funding of music education is a key challenge in schools and has not kept pace with demand. Qualified music educators are crucial in creating and implementing strong, sustainable music programs, and schools across the country identify a need to invest in music facilities, instruments and equipment.

Ms. Renaud provided testimonials from a number of grade 5, 6, and 7 students at St. Joseph's:

*"Music inspires me because it helps me think. Its lots of fun. It brings people together."*

Gr 5 student

*"What I like about music is that it is nice. Like sugar in your mouth."*

Gr 5 student

As well, three students accompanied Caroline to speak personally about the impact music and arts programs have had on their lives, and one young student played a beautiful rendition on her alto sax that she wrote herself. This student has only been playing this instrument for a short 5 weeks!

Ms. Renaud thanked the board for their support of such programs as *Celebrate Music...*

*"Celebrate Music is a day for children to celebrate and share their joy for music through a fun, learning environment. We had specialists come in for vocal, brass, woodwind, hip hop, social dance, percussion, orff and guitar. The children also learned two Mass Band pieces that were played at the final closing of our day! Imagine over 200 young students playing together!"*

A video prepared by students of Notre Dame School Owen Sound following *Celebrate Music 2011* will be available on the Bruce-Grey Catholic DSB You Tube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/user/BruceGreyCatholicDSB>

This presentation was a demonstration that the arts are alive and well in our schools. All are encouraged to attend the many concerts hosted at the schools throughout the year, and support our young musicians.

#### Director's Report

Bruce MacPherson, Director of Education, gave an overview of PD delivered at the recent Ontario Catholic School Trustee's Association (OCSTA) conference. The session, Module 6 of the Trustee training program, was titled *The Strategic Role and Multi-Year Strategic Planning*. Bruce reviewed key points of

interest for the trustees. He noted that the Bruce-Grey CDSB is ahead of many boards in the province, as we have already developed and implemented our multi-year strategic plan, and are monitoring progress and communicating results as recommended in this training.

Bruce emphasized that the strategic plan becomes the “face” to the community, and informs constituents what the board intends to achieve, identifies its priorities and how it plans to achieve them. Our Strategic Priorities reflect the vision, mission, beliefs, and strategic directions of the board and assist in establishing goals.

## **Catholicity**

Amy Kieffer, Religious and Family Life Consultant, was introduced to trustees and asked to share some of the feedback from our Faith Formation Day. Evaluation forms completed by staff were very positive, with many comments related to the impact of the mass and the importance of celebrating together as a community. Staff values the “chance to worship together and reaffirm our commitment to Catholic Education.”

The morning began with Mass celebrated by Bishop Crosby who delivered a powerful homily centered on being grateful and having trust. Following Mass, the group was treated to a keynote address by Michael Way Skinner, who challenged us to be “an alleluia people”. Michael reminded us that “we may be the only bible our students ever read”, so we must make sure our actions and words match what we stand for. In the afternoon, school staffs met to make connections between the messages of the morning and their school improvement plans.

Another adult faith formation opportunity will be available for all in the form of an advent retreat. The theme of the retreat will be “What are YOU waiting for?” and it will be delivered by Joan Daly-Martin and Ralph Peter from the Toronto Catholic DSB, Thursday December 8 at the CEC.

The second annual board wide Family Advent Mass is scheduled for Sunday December 11, at 2pm at Holy Family Church Hanover. This is an opportunity for all students, staff and community members to come together to celebrate as a family. Donations of food items for local food banks and toys for the Children’s Aid Society Christmas toy drive will be accepted at the door. All are welcome!

Amy concluded her presentation by sharing some of her background with trustees, in particular her vast experience working actively for social justice throughout the world. Amy has visited communities in many countries including Mexico, Peru, and Africa, and most recently travelled with *Free the Children* to the Narok district of Kenya this past summer. Amy has had the opportunity to learn firsthand about *Free the Children’s* philosophy of sustainable development and to see the impact this organization has had. Chair of the Board Norm Bethune commended Amy for her example... truly social justice in action.

## **School-College-Work Update**

Jerry Casey, Superintendent of Education, presented an update on the Central Lakes Regional Planning Team. The team represents a partnership between the Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board, the Bluewater District School Board, Georgian College, Simcoe County DSB, Simcoe Muskoka DSB, and Trillium Lakelands DSB. The partnership began in 2002 with just 2 events scheduled, and this school year has grown to represent over \$1 million in funding, over 20 sections of dual credits, 8 regional forums and 11 outreach activities. A new dual credit course *Environmental Concerns* is being offered at Georgian College in Owen Sound this year, as well as dual credits running through the Flex School in Owen Sound and Night School.

Flex School is held at Georgian College Owen Sound, and is for students who have not had success with the regular structure of high school. Their day starts a little later than normal, and the program incorporates co-ops, credit recovery courses, e-learning, and regular high school courses. One day per week students take a dual credit course. The program has been a huge success and has resulted in students completing the program and earning their Secondary School Graduation Diploma.

Night school also works well for BGCSB due to our size and the rural nature of our schools. Two other models of program delivery that we haven't explored yet include the Dual Credit Top Up model and the Compressed model.

The top-up model makes seats available for a student to attend a course at Georgian College and achieve a high school credit and a college credit. This would be advantageous for a student who only needs one credit to graduate, or who is working and needs to balance work and school. We currently do not have any students who wish to take advantage of this option.

The compressed model allows students attend the college one day a week for 7 weeks to complete a course and achieve a dual credit.

Who are these programs intended for? Students facing the biggest challenges in graduating, students disengaged from school who are at risk of not graduating, under achieving students with the potential to succeed but are at risk for not graduating, and students who have left high school before graduation. There is also a focus on first generation students, students in the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs and Ontario Youth Apprenticeship (OYAP) students.

Among the many benefits - students earn a secondary school credit and a college credit, most college credits are transferable to other colleges, there are no tuition fees or apprenticeship classroom fees for the students, students receive a college student card and enjoy the benefits of being a college student, and experience college life.

### **Provincial Mental Health Strategy and the Jack Project**

Cathy Montreuil, Superintendent of Education, presented information on Ontario's Comprehensive Mental Health and Addiction Strategy ~ *Open Minds, Healthy Minds*. The overall plan has 4 key goals: to improve mental health and wellbeing for all Ontarians; to create healthy resilient inclusive communities; to identify mental health and addictions problems early and intervene; and to provide timely high quality integrated person-directed health and other human services.

The first 3 years will focus on children and youth, with the goal to provide children, youth and families with fast access to high quality services. This goal requires that we identify and intervene in child and youth mental health and addictions issues early, and close critical service gaps for vulnerable children and youth, in particular children and youth at key transition points and those in remote communities. Funding for the program is flowing down to us through Keystone Child and Family Services.

Mental health and addictions often begin in childhood/adolescence, and young people often turn to substance abuse in the absence of adequate counseling. Statistics show that 15-24 year olds are 3 times more likely to have a substance use problem than people 24+, and 24% of deaths in 15-24 year olds in Canada are due to suicide.

Actions outlined in the strategy include:

- identify mental health needs as early as possible and provide coordinated , high quality programs and services closer to home;
- reduce the stigma by promoting equity and diversity, physical activity, healthy eating and self-esteem

- develop parenting and peer support programs for families
- implement more mental health promotion and anti-stigma practices for children/youth, educators, health providers, workplaces
- develop appropriate common screening and assessment tools
- implement mental health literacy and cross-sectoral training on early identification and intervention for educators
- implement programs through schools and community-based agencies to enable early identification and referral for treatment
- enhance mental health resources in schools

How do we support children's mental health in schools? Schools will provide universal mental health promotion programming. Our existing programs such as Rainbows, Tribes, Restorative Practices, and social skill building strategies will be included in this level of programming. There will also be selected interventions programming for at-risk students, and targeted interventions for high risk students.

Bruce Grey CDSB will continue its work and partnership with WRAP to provide timely and effective support to children and families, as well as providing Child and Youth Workers in partnership with Keystone Child and Family Services in both secondary schools. Additional mental health supports will be available through Keystone, and mental health nurses will be assigned to each of the area LHINs (Local Health Integration Networks).

Other supports being implemented in our schools are mental health first aid training and the Jack Project. Just like first aid training aims to save lives, mental health first aid training will enable people to provide aid to a person developing/experiencing a mental health problem until appropriate treatment is found or a crisis is resolved. The Jack Project was created following the death of Jack Windeler, a first year student at Queens University who committed suicide in 2010. Jack and his parents wanted to help others in need, so they started a program to support youth as they transition from late high school into post secondary. The Jack Project is an awareness program and support system that reaches youth through online chat and mobile applications, and links them to trained professionals through the Kids Help Phone. 22 schools have been accepted to pilot the program this year, including Sacred Heart High School Walkerton and St. Mary's High School Owen Sound. Schools will receive a comprehensive model of care and best practices toolbox for transitioning teens and young adults. More information is available at [www.thejackproject.org](http://www.thejackproject.org)

### **Accessibility Committee Update**

Cathy Colton, Superintendent of Business, reported on the October 19 Accessibility Committee meeting held at Holy Family School Hanover. The committee reviewed the results from a recent survey conducted with students, parents, staff and community groups and partners. During the meeting members also assessed the schools accessibility and gained an overall awareness of the level of accessibility of the school. Being mindful of these barriers will help when planning future projects to ensure that these barriers are overcome. The committee will have a guest speaker at the December meeting, and the first meeting of 2012 will provide an opportunity to look at the work done at St. Basil's School and St. Mary's High School in Owen Sound to assess the accessibility of these newly renovated facilities.

### **Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (CPIC) Update**

CPIC met on October 5 at the Catholic Education Centre. Norm Bethune, Chair of the board was in attendance, and notes that a trustee is needed as representation on this committee. Norm noted that many relevant topics were discussed and the session was very interactive. Cathy Montreuil began the evening by presenting to

parents the new *Guide to Assistive Technology*, a resource for parents of students using board equipment such as iPads and laptops. Doreen Schultz, Community Relations & Outreach Coordinator provided a brief introduction to the board website, and Cathy Colton, Superintendent of Business, outlined guidelines for school generated funds. Bruce MacPherson provided information for parents on PPM 150, the new Ontario Food and Beverage Policy. Nola Collins, Principal of Mother Teresa School in Walkerton, with the assistance of several students from Mother Teresa, outlined an excursion opportunity for students at Kings University College. The excursion provides an alternative to expensive class trips to such destinations as Ottawa and Quebec. Those in attendance also received a CPIC toolkit for parents. CPIC, comprised of chairs from all 13 schools Parent Advisory Councils, meets four times per year.

### **Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Update**

SEAC met October 13 at Holy Family School Hanover. Principal Marion Massaloup hosted the meeting, and spoke to the group about the adoption of a new lunch hour schedule. The lunchtime bell rings at 11:45, and students proceed outdoors for recess until 12:25. They then return to the classroom to eat their lunch. This new schedule is also being implemented at St. Basil's School in Owen Sound, and has been very successful. Marion also discussed the school's data wall, and strategies in place to transition students from Kindergarten to Grade 1 more successfully, including providing summer reading bags for students. The group also heard from Cathy Clark of Keystone Child and Family Services who spoke about the Jack Project.

### **First Nations/Metis/Inuit (FNMI) Update**

Bruce MacPherson and Cathy Montreuil attend the first FNMI bi-board meeting of the year with partners from Saugeen First Nations, and Cape Croker and Metis Nations from Owen Sound. The group reviewed supports for creating welcoming communities in our schools, and how are we supporting success rates for FNMI students. It was decided that the group would focus more on the achievement rates and success rates of FNMI students in Bruce Grey for the coming year. It was also noted that representation from Bruce-Grey will be attending the Circle of Light conference later this week. Our board has the opportunity to send 7 participants to the conference, 3 from St. Joseph's School Port Elgin, 3 from St. Mary's High School in Owen Sound, and Amy Kieffer, the board Religion and Family Life Consultant and FNMI contact.

### **Notable Achievements**

Congratulations is extended to **Mother Teresa School Walkerton** for recognition from EQAO as recipient of the **Dr. Bette M. Stephenson Award**. The school is also honoured to have Principal **Nola Collins** receive the CPCO (Catholic Principal's Council of Ontario) **Principal of the Year Award**. Well done!

The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities recently announced the recipients of the Province's **Queen Elizabeth II Aiming for the Top Scholarships**. 16 Students from Bruce-Grey CDSB will receive scholarships worth up to a maximum of \$3,500 per year for up to four years. This year's recipients are...

Sacred Heart High School:	Jonathan Anstett Britt Gamble Katelyn Kittel Kristen Ruetz	Natalie Campbell Caleb Good Brock Mount Brock Weigel
St. Mary's High School:	Amanda Alpaugh Rachel Campbell Brittney Herron-West Celina McLeod	Elliot Campbell Jodi Dreise Katherine Hillyer Brittany Ouderkirk

## **Notes of interest from the Student Trustee reports:**

### **Katie Walsh, St. Mary's High School Owen Sound**

#### **Catholicity**

- Our Thanksgiving Liturgy was presided at St. Mary's Church by Fr. Franjo from Port Elgin and Deacon Ron Johnson from Cape Croker earlier this month.
- Students attending El Salvador will be attending meetings over the next few months and they are encouraged to take on leadership roles throughout the school.
- Eric VanTrigt will be receiving the Father Fogarty Award at the Marriot Hotel on October 29<sup>th</sup>. He will be accompanied to the ceremony by his parents and Mr. Miller.
- The Remembrance Day Prayer Service has been planned for November 11<sup>th</sup> in Hillyer Hall.
- All the retreats have been planned for this semester: Grade 9 (October 31<sup>rd</sup>) – theme "Belonging", Grade 10 (October 26<sup>th</sup>) – fasting and community service, Grade 11 (October 25<sup>th</sup>) – will take place at Harrison Park, Grade 12 (October 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup>) – will take place at Outdoor Education Centre in Oliphant. Ms. Foch makes a continued effort to mix up the retreats each year.

#### **Academics**

- The First Annual Academic Excellence Awards Night was held on Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. It was an overwhelming success with a great turn out of students and parents alike. The Hillyer Awards were awarded to Kaitlin Marck, Laura Sawka and Vivian Campbell. The Doctor Endowment awards were presented to Laura Sawka and Marcus Ott. Other awards such as science fair, yearbook, band, visual arts, chemistry contest, math contest and Skills Canada and were also given out. Thank you to the school band under the direction of Mr. Willmus for opening the ceremony, and thank you to Jake See and Mary Cassidy who MCed the event. Special thanks to the Parent Council for their donation of \$500, and the organizing committee, which consisted of Tim Currie, Glen Miller, Brad Lacey, Kim Sadler, Sean Arnett, Miss Weber and Miss Knox.
- The Trinity Peer Leaders have been visiting grade nine classrooms within the last month to help grade nines transition to high school.
- Guidance counselors met with senior students this month to remind them to complete their graduating requirements. Information about post-secondary education was also discussed. Last week hopeful college and university students attended the college and university fairs held in Owen Sound.
- Parent Teacher interviews were also held on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Athletics**

- Mountain biking, cross country, boys' volleyball, girls basketball, football and girls rugby are all underway.
- The basketball, volleyball and rugby teams have all been busy participating in tournaments recently.
- The football team has had a great start to their season. Despite a disappointing loss against SDSS at their first away game, they have been otherwise undefeated against Grey Highlands, West Hill and John Diefenbaker.

- The cross country team will be competing in Brantford at CWOSSA on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **Extracurricular**

- Ceramic Club, yearbook, improv and band are well underway
- St. Mary's students attended the annual water festival on September 30<sup>th</sup>. High school students were given the opportunity to teach elementary students about the importance of water. Thank you to Mr. Lacey for continually organizing this event.
- Despite cold weather and a little bit of snow, the senior science camping trip to Algonquin Provincial Park at the beginning of the month was successful. Thank you to Mr. Ward, Mrs. Solinger and Mr. Hogan for chaperoning.
- This month student Council raised almost \$300 for the Alzheimer's Society at their monthly coffee break. Student council have also donated \$3000 to the library, \$1500 to Goderich relief efforts and \$1000 to the new recreation centre. Student council also organized a fashion show to display the new school clothing line for the season.
- On October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> St. Mary's held a Student Vote. An all candidates meeting was held leading up the school wide vote and was attended by representatives from the Conservatives, Liberals, NDP and an independent party. All students were able to cast a ballot at lunch for one of the five politicians running. It was well organized however there was a disappointing 20% voter turnout. The winner of St. Mary's student vote was Shane Jolley. In comparison, the NDP took the most seats winner of the provincial wide student vote.
- The drama department has been hard at work this month planning several events including a coffee house, talent show and student written production.
- New microwaves were placed in the cafeteria, replaced the old and overused ones. Students are very grateful of this addition and are reminded to keep them clean so everyone can use them.
- The new Health Ambassadors for St. Mary's this year are Shelby Hunter, Devin Reynolds, Mandy Clark, Sabrina Boers, and Jordan Lumley.
- Grade 12 students Nadia Chiaramonte and Karlie Beany will be leading a campaign called the Jack Project over the upcoming school year to raise awareness of mental health issues and treatment. Last year Karlie and Nadia did a similar campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of tanning beds.
- In the upcoming month there is a visual arts field trip to the Art Gallery of Ontario. Masterpieces from the Collection of the Centre comprises of 118 works from a broad array of media, including painting, sculpture, works on paper, photography, and film. Special thanks to Mr. Arnett for organizing this field trip.
- As well, students will be attending a Youth Forum in Toronto on Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup>.
- As student trustee, I was asked by the student trustees' association to submit video footage for a provincial wide equity documentary. The following are the views of equity in our schools, shared video, can be viewed on youtube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zbkbB2czPGM>

## **Jocelyn King, Sacred Heart High School Walkerton**

### **Catholicity**

- We had a thanksgiving food drive last week and collected a significant amount of food for our local food bank.
- Student Council is working on a project through Free the Children this year, it has not yet been decided which initiative we will partake in.
- Our social awareness committee is also working on educating students about the social and environmental effects of bottled water.
- Remembrance Day Liturgy November 11 th
- Youth Forum when faith meets pedagogy conference is this Thursday and I am a facilitator, while other students from Sacred Heart are attending.

### **Academics**

- Interim reports were sent home on Monday October 17th.
- Parent teacher interviews were held on Thursday October 20th from 5-8 in the gym. The school council meeting was held on October 17th at 7pm. The deadline for ordering yearbooks was October 21st.
- During the month of October and November there are University and College information sessions happening, and the students are finding these very helpful for applying to post secondary education.
- Rockclimbing was held in the gym the week of October 31<sup>st</sup>

### **Athletics**

- For the fall season we have many sport teams including Sr. and Jr. Boys Volleyball, Boys and Girls Golf teams, Sr. and Jr. Girl's Basketball, Sr. And Jr. Girls 7's Rugby, Jr. Boys Soccer and the Cross Country Running team.
- A Sr. Girls Basketball pep rally was held on Monday October 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **Extra-curricular**

- Cabaret is being held on December 7 at 7:30 pm.
- A bake sale was held during parent teacher interviews to raise money for the upcoming cabaret.
- Take your kids to work day is coming up on November 2<sup>nd</sup> for all grade 9 students.
- Our spirit week is being held the week of October 24-31 and dressing up for the days will get you points for your grade. This point system is called the grade race. You try and get points for your grade by participating in spirit weeks, assemblies and other events that we have going on. At midterms the winning grade or possibly the teachers will receive a reward, and then it starts over until the end of the semester.
- The outdoor education class partook in a canoe skills course at the Hanover P & H Centre before travelling to Isaac Lake for a day of canoeing and camping skills.
- There are 3 driver education sessions this semester.
- Our newest club is the Glee Club where students sing Karaoke. We hope to have this club perform at assemblies and pep rallies. It has had a big turnout so far. We are really excited to see where this goes.
- Semi Formal November 17th
- Remembrance Play Ottawa, Evening Rehearsal November 4<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

## **Notes**

Katie and I attended the Annual Fall General OSTA-AECO Conference. It was a great experience as we heard from guest speakers on topics ranging from boardroom etiquette to peer pressure and leadership. There were around 65 other students trustees there from a variety of boards around the province. It was very helpful to have this support system, as we can discuss what works and what doesn't in our schools.

We learned about the role of a student trustee and also the role of a Catholic student trustee. The student and parent survey was released with over 7000 students participating. Bruce-Grey was in the top 10 for participation in this survey and we are striving for even more next year. Also for student vote, Bruce-Grey had 80% of our schools participate.

We also both attended St. Michael's for mass on Saturday, and actually met Archbishop Collins who gave us a private tour of the Sacristy and Residency areas. The next morning the Catholic Board Council went out for breakfast with Archbishop Collins, where we could discuss and ask questions about Catholic Education from a Bishop's perspective. He was very appreciative to have the opportunity to talk with young people about various issues centred on Catholic Education.

## **Board Policy and Administrative Procedures**

Amendments to the following Policies were approved by motion:

- BP 8-1 on Employee Relations
- BP 8-2 on Fees Employment Equity

The following Policies are currently under review:

- BP 6-25 on Emergency Plan in the Event of a Contingency At The Bruce Nuclear Power Development
- BP 8-5 and AP 8-5(proposed new procedure) on Hiring and Promotion
- BP 5-4 and AP 5-4 on Expenses for Travel, Meals, Hospitality, Conferences and Out of Pocket Expenses (replacing the former Policy and Procedure 5-4 *Travel* and current policy and procedure 5-5 on Conferences Workshops & Seminars)
- New BP 5-5 and AP 5-5 on Perquisites

Policies and Procedures under review can be viewed on the board website at [www.bgcdsb.org](http://www.bgcdsb.org)

## **Dates of Interest:**

A **Special Board Meeting** will be required the week of November 8<sup>th</sup> at 3pm, to approve the Long-Term Financing Arrangement for the portion of St. Peter & St. Paul's School addition that is to be funded by the Ministry of Education New Pupil Place Grants.

Next Board of Trustees meeting is November 22, 2011 at 10:00a.m, at the Catholic Education Centre.