Amalgamation Update
A motion was passed that the Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board authorizes senior administration to prepare a plan for the amalgamation of the Bruce-Grey, Huron-Perth, and Wellington Catholic District School Board’s, and seek the assistance of the Ministry of Education in the development of the plan.

Director’s Report
Bruce MacPherson, Director of Education, commented on the success of the recent 5th Annual Hamilton Diocesan Celebration of Catholic Education mass. The celebration took place Thursday September 20 at the Church of Our Lady Immaculate in Guelph, and the event was hosted by the Wellington Catholic DSB.

Bruce also extended an invitation to trustees to attend the Bruce-Grey CDSB Faith Formation Day on Friday September 28 at Sacred Heart School Walkerton. Our theme for the day is: Igniting the Light of Christ. We will begin our day by celebrating mass with Father Con O'Mahoney, Vicar for Education for the Diocese of Hamilton and Pastor at St. Michael’s Parish in Waterloo. Our morning keynote speaker is Father Murray Watson, Vice-Rector at St. Peter's Seminary in London who will talk about the Year of Faith, which starts on October 11th. Our afternoon will begin Ashley Gialelem, a recent graduate from the St. Clair CDSB. The last hour of the afternoon will offer sessions for elementary, secondary and custodians.

Dual Credits
Jerry Casey, Superintendent of Education provided an update from the Central Lakes Planning Team for School College Work. The School College Work Initiative and the Ministry of Education fund dual credits as part of the Student Success strategy aimed at increasing the graduation rate and the participation rate in post-secondary education in Ontario.

Dual Credit Programs are intended to assist secondary students in the completion of their Ontario Secondary School Diploma and successful transition to college and apprenticeship programs. Upon successful completion of the course, the student receives a college credit and a high school credit. The primary focus is on students facing the biggest challenges in graduating. Approved Dual Credit Programs also include students in Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM) programs and Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Programs (OYAP).

The Central Lakes Planning Team is comprised of representation from the Bruce-Grey CDSB, Bluewater DSB, Simcoe Muskoka CDSB, Simcoe County DSB, Trillium Lakelands DSB, and Georgian College.

Dual Credits are offered through night school at Georgian College, school within a college (also offered at Georgian), and off-site night school.
Catholic Curriculum Corporation (CCC)

The Bruce-Grey CDSB has benefited from its involvement with the Catholic Curriculum Corporation for many years, having access to a wealth of valuable resources for our teachers. Over the last few years we have had the opportunity to contribute to the CCC through the work of two writing teams here at BGCDSB.

In 2010, a team comprised of Theresa Harrietha, Christine Pfeffer, Stephanie Fortney, Erika Werger, Lesley Boercamp, Nicole Batte & Amy Kieffer developed a resource for K-8 media literacy titled “Listen and Hear My Voice”. Theresa and Amy Kieffer will present the resource at the When Faith Meets Pedagogy conference in October.

A second writing team comprised of Paulette Lippert, Mary Adele O’Gorman, Cathy Fritz, Amy Kieffer, and Ann-Marie Deas, have just completed “Mental Health: Hope, Dignity and Our Compassionate Response”, a series of lessons for grades 9 and 10.

Our board is very proud of this opportunity to contribute to the wonderful resources available through the CCC thanks to the dedication and exemplary work of our writing teams.

Teachers can download “Listen and Hear My Voice” and many other Catholic resources from the Catholic Curriculum Corporation website at: http://www.catholiccurriculumcorp.org

EQAO Overview

Cathy Montreuil and Jerry Casey, Superintendents of Education, presented a summary of the 2011/2012 EQAO data.

Grade 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BGCDSB</td>
<td>72 (+10)</td>
<td>82 (+7)</td>
<td>66 (+3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROVINCE</td>
<td>66 (+1)</td>
<td>76 (+3)</td>
<td>68 (-1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Year Change</td>
<td>+19</td>
<td>+24</td>
<td>+8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Boys continue to improve, this year by 14% in both Reading & Writing and 7% in Mathematics
- Students with Special Needs continue to improve, this year by 20% in Reading; 9% in Writing; 1% in Mathematics
- Students with Special Education Needs are achieving at the Provincial Standard (75%) in Writing
- Almost 50% of our student report reading outside of schools (novels, comics, emails)
- 19% report reading with parents
- We continue to identify successful growth in Mathematics to inform improvement efforts across schools

Grade 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BGCDSB</td>
<td>78 (+3)</td>
<td>82 (+9)</td>
<td>58 (-1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROVINCE</td>
<td>75 (+2)</td>
<td>74 (+1)</td>
<td>58 (no change)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Year Change</td>
<td>+9</td>
<td>+17</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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- 19% report reading with parents
- We continue to identify successful growth in Mathematics to inform improvement efforts across schools
Boys continue to improve, this year by 9% in Reading; by 14% Writing; and by 4% in Mathematics

Students with Special Needs have improved in Reading & Writing with 2% & 14% respectfully

The percentage of students achieving at Level 4 has increased from 8 to 17% & from 7 to 11% in Mathematics

62% report using the internet outside of school

21% of students report watching 3 hours or more of TV; 20% report using the Internet 3 hours or more

We continue to identify successful growth in Mathematics to inform improvement efforts across school

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 9 Math</th>
<th>Applied</th>
<th>Academic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BGCDSB</td>
<td>52 (+4)</td>
<td>82 (+3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROVINCE</td>
<td>44 (+2)</td>
<td>84 (+1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Girls continue to close the gap between the boys in Academic Math; 9% increase over last year for the girls and the boys stayed the same. Girls 81%; Boys 85%

Girls continue to improve in Applied Math by 3%; Boys improved by 5%. Girls 43%; Boys 59%

69% Applied; 75% Academic students use the Internet

79% Applied; 86% Academic students try to do their best in Mathematic class

The Bruce-Grey Catholic DSB is pleased with the improvements our students have made in Reading, Writing & Mathematics in Grade 3 and in Reading & Writing in Grade 6. We continue to: demonstrate growth over time in Reading & Writing as students move from grade 3 into grades 4, 5 and 6; increase achievement for boys & girls while decreasing the gap for boys in literacy and girls in numeracy; close the achievement gap for students with special needs; target resources and training to ensure that we are strengthening teaching and learning to ensure success for every student.

We will study carefully the EQAO summary of individual school results and will involve our communities in working together for our students. We cannot do this alone and rely on the strength that is evident when our communities, schools and parishes work together to support our students and families.

All EQAO results are available on their website at eqao.com

Summer Camps

Christine Pfeffer Literacy Consultant K-8, provided a report on the many camps that were held this summer across Bruce-Grey. Locations included Owen Sound, Walkerton, Kincardine, and Hanover. Camps were also offered in Port Elgin and Saugeen First Nations, but unfortunately there were not enough students to run these two camps. Overall, 133 students were served through literacy and tech camps this year. This number included some students from Bluewater DSB, as well as students from across the province who had connections with the area and chose to take advantage of what Bruce-Grey had to offer.
The Summer Literacy Learning Program (SLLP), held August 6-24 in Owen Sound, received $15000 funding from CODE (Council of Ontario Directors of Education) as part of a research project to determine summer literacy loss. This full day camp included 21 students and two literacy teachers. Mornings included whole group read aloud/shared reading, small group reading instruction, modeled/shared writing, small group/independent writing opportunities, as well as snack and daily physical education (recess break). Through a partnership with the Owen Sound YMCA, students spent the afternoon in Harrison Park participating in daily swimming and camp activities that promote a healthy lifestyle.

One parent commented “if your school board did not offer this program, I would not be able to send my child to a summer camp. Thank you.”

Additional Literacy Camps were held in Hanover, Kincardine, Walkerton and St. Basil’s School Owen Sound. These were two week camps offering a morning program of whole group/small group instruction in reading, writing, and oral language. Highlights included local author visits and a Summer Olympic Theme.

Tech camps were also held in Walkerton and Owen Sound. The students spent their time working on iPads and new apps were explored and introduced daily. During the 2 week camp students used over 30 familiar and new apps in their learning, and demonstrated much excitement and learning.

Cathy Montreuil noted that Summer Camps provide an important intervention for kids who need time and practice to improve literacy skills. The camps used to run in July, but improved carry forward into the classroom indicates that the sessions are more effective when held in August.

SEAC Nomination

Each year the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) reaches out to communities to get new and different members. This year, Catherine Montreuil brought forward two nominations for the board’s consideration, and both appointments were approved by motion.

Mrs. Elizabeth Groenwegen will join SEAC as the representative for Voice, while Carole Zoldy will represent the Downs Syndrome Association of Owen Sound.

Catherine also noted that Tammy Ruth, parent and representative for the Autism Society of Owen Sound, who has served on SEAC for many years, including several years in the capacity of chair, has recently submitted her resignation. Catherine requested that the chair acknowledge her service and extend thanks on behalf of the board.

Audit Committee Report

The Audit Committee met on September 18. At this meeting trustee Bev Eckensweiler was elected chair for the coming year, while Bonnie Brown Stevenson was elected Vice-Chair. The internal auditors were present and gave a report including suggestions for improvements in our School Generated Funds and Enrolment Recording procedures. The external auditor was also present. Dennis Kraemer of BDO outlined the work to be done for year end, as well as some of the accounting changes with respect to their audit. The committee examined the preliminary enrolment summary. Financial Analyst Alecia Lantz presented information about a new pilot project involving 4 schools which will provide tools to align school budgets with school improvement plans.

Trust Fund Report

Cathy Colton, Superintendent of Business, presented the Annual Report on Trust Funds for approval by the Board. The Report included a Multi-Year Analysis of Trust Fund Balances, Recommendations for 2013 scholarships, bursaries, and miscellaneous awards, a list of investments maturing in 2012-13, and funds available to invest. The board approved by motion the Annual Report on Trust Funds as presented.
**Preliminary Enrolment Report**

Cathy Colton, Superintendent of Business, reported a summary of enrolment for the 2012/2013 school year. The summary includes a revised forecast based on September enrolment, though it is noted that projections are based on very preliminary numbers.

Revised projections show an increase of 29 elementary students and 6 secondary students from the budget forecast, resulting in a just 3 students less than 2011/2012 in elementary enrolment, virtually a 0% decline. This is an indication that the decline we have experienced over the past several years is leveling out.

Total enrolment for all pupils is down 1.6% or 57 students, with the large majority of decline in secondary.

This summary is now available on the board website under About Us ~ Departments ~ Finance

**School Generated Funds Report**

Cathy Colton presented the annual *Report of School Generated Funds* as per board policy. All money that flows through a school flows through one account and must be reported, and numbers are consolidated into the financial statements of the board.

The report includes revenues and expenses, and calculates an average revenue per pupil of $424 for 2011/2012, down slightly from $473 in 2010/2011. The annual *Report of School Generated Funds* was approved by motion as presented, and is available on the board website at [www.bgcdsb.org](http://www.bgcdsb.org)

**Healthy Workplace Employee Survey**

Suzanne White, Assistant to the Director Human Resources, presented the results from the May 2012 employee survey. The survey was conducted by Metrics@work through Brock University, and was similar to the survey completed in 2005, although the format was changed somewhat to reflect the four areas of focus in our strategic plan – Catholicity, Communications, Organizational Culture, and Effective Learning Environments.

58% of employees responded, and indicated our key organizational strengths as: a safe work environment; co-worker cooperation; physical work environment; healthy place to work; and (they are) treated with respect. The results also indicated an improvement from our last survey with more employees feeling that they are treated fairly, enjoy their physical work environment, have a healthy place to work, and note improvements in spirituality and catholicity.

Overall organization satisfaction scored at 74%, up from 67% in 2005, while job engagement scored 81.2%.

The Wellness Committee will now use the results to plan initiatives to further engage staff and continue to build a positive workplace.

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

**Shannon Kelly, St. Mary’s High School Owen Sound**

**Catholicity**

- St. Mary's first school wide mass was held on Friday September 21st and was lead by Father McSharry. The readings for the mass focused on humility and gentleness
- Morning prayer is held in the chapel at 8:30 every morning
- Ms Foch has been to all homeroom classes introducing herself as Chaplain. She has also requested a student from each homeroom class to be a "Chaplaincy team leader". These students are responsible to keep their class updated on school masses or any faith related events
•Ms Foch has started a reconciliation schedule for all classes this semester
•A guideline has been established for religion retreats this Semester:
  -Grade 9: The grade nine retreat theme will be: "Blessing of Relationship with Self, others and God." This will take place at the St. Mary's Church Parish hall.
  -Grade 10: The grade ten theme will be: "Outreach Actively Serving in the Community". This will take place at a variety of locations some of which being the Soup Kitchen, Community Living and Safe and Sound.
  -Grade 11: The World Religion classes will be studying Aboriginal spirituality and beliefs. This will be held on Tuesday September 25th at Cape Croker.
  -Grade 12: The grade 12 classes will participate in cooperative and leadership games. This retreat will be held will on Friday October 5th.
•Preparations for the annual mission trip to El Salvador are in the works but are still waiting for final approval

Athletics
•Junior and Senior boys volleyball teams have been created.
•Junior and Senior girls basketball teams have been created.
•The St. Mary's football team is off to a successful start. The team remains undefeated.
•Cross country team practices have begun.
•St. Mary's has made cuts for their first ever tennis team.
•The St. Mary's boys golf team competed in the CWOSSA qualifier on Thursday September 20th. The entire team will be advancing to CWOSSA in Port Elgin on Thursday September 27th. Special recognition goes to the top golfer of the CWOSSA qualifier Mathieu Boucher.
•Girls rugby has started into their fall season

Extra-Curricular
•Student Advisory Council has created an outline of events for the new school year
•Student Advisory Council is planning to have a St. Mary's gives back month this coming October
•Ceramic club, yearbook, card club and band are underway
•St. Mary's Student Advisory Council is getting prepared for their first dance on September 27th with the theme "Small Town Hoedown"
•Several student volunteers took part in the annual Children's Water Festival in Chesley on September 24th. A special thank you goes out to Mr. Brad Lacey for organizing this.
•St. Mary has started open Improv games on Wednesdays after school. Try-outs will begin at the end of September to create this year's improv team
•St. Mary's art student Elizabeth Cain has been selected to paint a mural for the school this year.

Academics
•Time table changes for semester one are complete.
•College and university presentations for grade twelve and victory lap students have begun.
•The Trinity Peer Leaders will be presenting a workshop on respect to grade nine students on Thursday September 27th.
• Math help is being offered to students every Tuesday and Thursday at lunch by the St. Mary’s math teachers
• The Mustangs Academic Awards Night of Excellence is to be held on Tuesday October 9th.
• Parent teacher interviews will be Wednesday October 17th.

Lauren McLean, Sacred Heart High School Walkerton:

Catholicity
• Our first mass of the year was on Wednesday September 12.
• The Terry Fox Run for Sacred Heart will be on September 27 during homeroom for any student that raises at least $10.
• The Grade 9 religion retreats have begun. They go offsite, usually to the church and Father Jason Charron and the classroom teacher attend.

Academics
• Grade 9 parent info night was held on September 6.
• Trinity has started for the year again. The main focus of this program is for the grade 11 and 12 students to help the grade 9s adjust and deal with any problems they might be having, and also to give advice.
• Mr. Casey is leading PLC (Professional Learning Communities), which looks at student achievement at Sacred Heart and ways it can be improved.
• On the OSSLT, 79% of grade 10 students achieved a level 3 or 4.
• In mathematics, 54% of students were at levels 3 and 4 in applied math, and 84% of academic students were at levels 3 and 4.
• On October 11, Sacred Heart is launching its first annual celebration of student excellence. This event is being organized by Mr. Miller and the purpose is to recognize our students and say thank you for all of their contributions to our great school.
• Parent teacher interviews are being held on October 18. It is early this year because we want to capture any students that may be at risk of falling behind in their credits.
• The student success team is up and running. Mr. Miller met with team to look at supporting any student at risk in a particular course. The team meets bi-weekly.

Athletics
• Girls basketball tryouts have started and the team is being selected.
• Cheerleading tryouts are done and the team has been selected. Practices are held Friday mornings.
• The boys and girls golf teams are now up and running.
• Boys volleyball has started, the teams have been selected. The seniors have a tournament on September 22.
• The cross country running team has also began practicing.
• Every Friday at 4 there is shinny hockey at the arena, everyone is welcome.
Extracurriculars

• Youth for life club has started for the year, it is led by Father Jason Charron.
• Father Jason has also started up the chess club, who play during lunch in the library.
• Yearbook and SAC have both started and meet on Tuesdays after school.
• Grade 9 orientation was held August 22 and 23, there were 140 grade 9s in attendance.
• Picture day was held on September 7, and once again yearbook did an excellent job running that.
• Grade 9 appreciation day was on Friday, September 14, it was ran by SAC
• SAC had their kick-off assembly in the gym on September 21.
• There are 11 exchange students here from France, Italy, Spain and Belgium. They are here until November.

Board Policy and Administrative Procedures

• Draft procedure on Disposal of Surplus/Obsolete Assets (for information only)

Policies and Procedures under review can be viewed on the board website at www.bgcdsb.org

Dates of Interest:

When Faith Meets Pedagogy, October 25-27, 2012

Next Board of Trustees meeting is October 23, 2012 at 10:00a.m, at the Catholic Education Centre.