

# Catholic Community Newsletter



COMPLIMENTS OF THE BRUCE-GREY CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPRING 2011



## Students complete certifications for job entry

**W**HAT was little more than an idea some five years ago, has grown into a major annual event for the two school boards of Grey and Bruce.

The First-Time Full-Time Conference (FTFTC), now in its fifth year, attracted over 250 senior high school students to its two-day program May 4 and 5.

The Conference, which began as a one-day event, now covers two days, and was held this year at Georgian College's Owen Sound Campus.

"Some five years ago, our board and the Bluewater Board realized that many of our senior (Grade 11 and 12) students were preparing for entry into the workforce, but they required certifications for employment," said Jerry Casey, Bruce-Grey Catholic's

Superintendent of Student Success (Secondary).

"This program gives those students a leg up by providing them with an opportunity to take and complete a certification that allows them to get a full-time, part-time, or a summer job," he said, "which can also lead to a college education as well."

Certifications offered this year include:

- First aid and CPR (C)
- Fork truck safety and operation
- Food handling
- AG grower pesticide safety
- AG livestock medicines

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## Catholic Education Week

### Mary Immaculate School raises funds on Mission Day

Students, parents and staff of Mary Immaculate School in Chepstow participated in an afternoon of mission activities which demonstrated the "spirit of gratitude." In the process, they raised \$1,000—\$500 for the Holy Childhood Association and \$500 for the school's Breakfast for Learning Program.



Events included bingo, a cake walk, raffles, Wii, golf, face painting, popcorn, a white elephant table, Minute to Win It, touch and take, guessing jars, fish pond, raffles for stuffed animals, money trees, and a door prize, all donated.

### Applause Breakfast recognizes efforts and achievements of students

The Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board held its third annual "Applause Breakfast Awards" event May 2 at the Klages Mill in Chesley.

The "Applause Breakfast Awards" Program honours selected students and their parents for their ongoing contributions to their respective school communities.

The following students were recognized with a certificate and an award:

#### Mary Immaculate School, Chepstow

Lydia Martin  
Cody Flett

#### St. Peter & St. Paul's School, Durham

Selena Inacio  
Cassandra Johnson

#### Immaculate Conception School, Formosa

Ally Lang  
Matthew Schmidt

#### Holy Family School, Hanover

Samantha Byers  
Mehtao Burrell

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more info at **519 364 5820**

## Catholic Community Newsletter



### Comments from student participants...

*"I had heard about the program for a while and decided to take it this year. There was some classroom time, but most of our time was spent outside on a forklift. If it wasn't for this program, I would have had to find a company that would take me on and train me. Now, I am fully qualified to operate a forklift. I also got to meet people I never would have met before."*

– Nate Wismer, St. Mary's High School, Owen Sound

*"This was my first time attending this conference. I took the First Aid and CPR workshop. I learned a lot about how to take care of people and their injuries. The instructors were very friendly and I would encourage other students to attend this conference."*

– Michael Spitzig, Sacred Heart High School, Walkerton

*"First-Time Full-Time was an inspirational experience that taught me many great life skills that will be helpful in my future career."*

– Samantha Andonian, Sacred Heart High School, Walkerton

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# Director's Message: Safe and Healthy Summer

It is amazing how quickly the school year goes by. It seems we are welcoming students and staff back to a new school year, Christmas, March Break and then June.

What is truly inspiring though is to reflect upon the fantastic learning opportunities that have occurred for our students during the school year.

Staff continues to focus on the three priority goals:

- ♦ High levels of student achievement
- ♦ Reduced gaps in student achievement
- ♦ Increased public confidence in publicly funded education

all within a Catholic faith environment. When visiting our schools it is very obvious that students are being provided a supportive learning environment where staff have worked in

collaboration to ensure student achievement and well being are a key priority. Trustees have commented numerous times following school visits that they are amazed that our school assessment teams can report on the progress being made for individual students and the variety of support networks in place to ensure continued student success.

It is a privilege to serve in a Catholic school board but especially the Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board. We continue to celebrate our faith through our actions which is evident by the involvement our schools have in the areas of social justice.

Another wonderful benefit of being part of a Catholic school system is our partnership with our parish priests and our Bishop. This partnership, along with the efforts of our Catholic School



**Bruce MacPherson**  
*Director of Education*

Council, helps to reinforce the strength of the parish, home, and school.

Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable summer.

God bless,  
Bruce MacPherson

## Awesome Alumna Chef Griffiths

**D**EREK Griffiths, a successful Kincardine businessman, credits much of his success to his high school and its teachers.

That school is Walkerton's Sacred Heart High School, and Derek is one of a growing number of Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board alumni who are making their mark in their communities and beyond.

Derek and his wife Dianne, have owned the Harbour Street Brasserie, a casual fine dining establishment in Kincardine, Ontario, for the past nine years. But the story begins many years earlier.

"When I was 16 years old, I had a summer job working in a restaurant," he said, "and that experience stuck in my head for a few years."

Derek resumed his studies at Sacred Heart High School that fall, and the idea of being a chef was overshadowed by school work, and extra curricular activities such as playing the guitar and playing rugby and soccer.

While his parents were quite involved with the local Catholic community, Derek chose Sacred Heart because of the numerous "positives" about the school he had heard from his friends and others in the community.

"They were right," he said. "The teachers were amazing. If your grades started to slip, for example, they were always concerned. They would stay after school to give you extra help.

"I would recommend Sacred Heart to anyone."



Following graduation, the idea of being a chef resurfaced once again and Derek travelled to Toronto to spend the next two years in Humber College's Culinary Management program, followed by an apprenticeship at Benmiller Inn in Goderich. By age 23, Derek was Head Chef at Benmiller, the youngest Head Chef in the Inn's history.

Looking to add to his culinary experience, in 2000 he moved south to the Little Inn in Bayfield where he was Sous Chef for a year.

Next stop in his career was Victoria, British Columbia, where he worked as Executive Chef at the Executive House Hotel.

But Ontario's "west coast" beckoned once again, and in 2002, Derek and his wife Dianne, purchased an existing restaurant in Kincardine, which would become the Harbour Street Brasserie.

Derek describes the restaurant as "casual fine dining, featuring French country cuisine using fresh local ingredients wherever possible." Grey and Bruce farms provide much of the

produce and meat used by the restaurant, and some of the fish served comes from nearby Sarnia. "Off the boat at 4 p.m. and delivered to the restaurant the next morning by 10," he said.

As well, most of the herbs used by Chef Griffiths are grown in the restaurant's adjacent garden.

Since taking over the restaurant some nine years ago, Derek and Dianne have become active in community events, and particularly the Catholic community.

Even though they have no children, Derek has served on the St. Anthony's School Council. "I was blown away by what the Bruce-Grey Catholic Board has been doing in the areas of literacy and numeracy."

The Brasserie has held an art auction

where the children have created paintings which were displayed at the restaurant, followed by a live auction. Proceeds of the event went to purchase playground equipment for St. Anthony's School.

Over the years, the restaurant has also cooked pancake lunches and Christmas turkeys for students at St. Anthony's.

Demonstrating responsible environmental stewardship, Derek points out that the restaurant composts 99 per cent of its food waste on-site, including much of its paper waste.

Community involvement is also evident in the fact that the Brasserie has hired Co-op students for eight of the nine years of its existence and currently has three apprentices on staff.

## Sacred Heart High School student, science fair winner plans medical career

**M**EGAN Schlorff attended her first Canada-Wide Science Fair (CWSF) in 2006 when she was in Grade 7 and won a gold medal. The Grade 12 student at Walkerton's Sacred Heart High School went on to attend five more Canada-Wide events where she received additional gold and bronze medals as well as many other honours.

The young scientist also participated in a number of other scientific events over the years. In 2009 she represented Canada at the European Union Contest for Young Scientists in Paris, France, and in 2010 was one of six students to represent our country at the Sustainable World Project Olympiad in Houston, Texas where she won a silver medal.



That same year she went on an expedition to the Canadian Arctic with the organization, Students on Ice.

Most recently, Megan was one of 20 students who represented Canada at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Los Angeles, California earlier this year. This event is the largest science fair competition in the world.

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## St. Michael's College Principal speaker at Catholic Education Week Dinner

THE Spirit of Courage, Creativity, and Innovation. These were hallmarks of the heroes of Catholic education's past in the Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board.

So said Dr. Mark McGowan, Principal of St. Michael's College, University of Toronto who came to address a crowd of over 200 staff, parish and community members at the Board's annual Catholic Education Week Dinner, held on May 3 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Walkerton.

As a child, inspired by the stories of his grandfather about the early days of Catholic education in our area, Mark in turn passed on some of these stories to his audience. He spoke of the early struggle to establish Catholic schools because of the pre-eminence of Protestant families in the area, and the widely spread farms of the early Catholic settlers.

"The earliest days of Catholic education in Bruce-Grey were in fact, largely domestic, without an established school," he stated. The children of Catholic families gathered mostly in homes where they received a basic education.

Dr. McGowan pointed to the innovation of our ancestors, for example, in places such as Vesna in North Brant, where the community gathered around the local pastor to

establish a small school area within their parish church of St. Michael's. He also spoke of the tremendous creativity, intelligence, and self-sacrificing spirit of religious communities that established Catholic schools in Bruce-Grey. These include the Jesuits and Basilians, as well as the School Sisters of Notre Dame, many of whom donated their entire salaries back to the school. "These women have been a living endowment to Catholic Education," he said.

Modern day heroes of Catholic Education in Bruce-Grey include Robert Dixon, the first Director of Education of the Board, who came to the area in 1969. Faced with the impending closure of Sacred Heart High School in Walkerton, he developed and succeeded in a multi-faceted innovative plan to keep it alive, and help make it as it is today.

In thanking Dr. McGowan, Harold Zettler, Principal of Sacred Heart, Teeswater, challenged us to be an Alleluia People - a people who proclaim the Good News of the Resurrection, as well as the Good News of Catholic education.

He also challenged us to employ the same spirit of creativity, courage and innovation to our work today, as did those who have walked this Catholic educational journey before us.

## Applause Breakfast *Continued from front page*

### St. Anthony's School, Kincardine

Jordyn O'Connor  
Steven Travale

### Sacred Heart School, Mildmay

Cameron Pfeffer  
Ashley Waechter

### St. Basil's School, Owen Sound

Madison Jensen  
Arianna Whalen

### Notre Dame Catholic School, Owen Sound

Daniel Graham  
Jamie Struthers

### St. Joseph's School, Port Elgin

Kimberly Edwards  
Emily Feit

### Sacred Heart School, Teeswater

Caitlyn Grubb  
Shawn Latteau

### Mother Teresa School, Walkerton

Leah Kittel  
Cody Weiler

### St. Mary's High School, Owen Sound

Jake See  
Laura Sawka

### Sacred Heart High School, Walkerton

Brittany Doersam  
Ryan Walsh

We would like to thank the following sponsors who made this event possible:

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## St. Mary's students visit, work at orphanage in El Salvador

FOURTEEN students from St. Mary's High School in Owen Sound travelled to El Salvador in March. One of those students, Charlotte Curley, who is also a Student Trustee of the Bruce-Grey Catholic Board, describes her experience in her own words. Her story has been edited slightly for space considerations.

### A Good News Story by Charlotte Curley

I am currently a fifth year student at St. Mary's High School and I have the privilege of sharing the amazing experience of the El Salvador Mission Trips (2010 and 2011). I had the amazing honour of travelling to El Salvador in March of 2010 for our school's first ever mission trip. The experience was indescribable.

There is a place in El Salvador called Hogar del Niño. This is a home for people of all ages with mental and/or physical disabilities. Hogar holds over 100 residents ranging in age from toddler to 50 plus.

This year, the 14 students who went on this mission trip helped out by landscaping the property, sanding and painting the cribs and beds, as well as feeding and cleaning.

The presence of God's Love is so apparent in this home. Every person living in Hogar has a smile and hug ready for every single person they see, even if they have never met them before. Even the simple layout of Hogar shows how Christ is central in every moment of every

day. The place is set up with a beautiful Chapel in the centre with dorms, kitchen, cafeteria, laundry, etc., set around the Chapel in a circular fan...

I brought donations of clothing, toys, and hand-made bracelets that I handed out to nearly every resident ... I realized that everyone shared clothing and toys. No one had anything that they could truly call their own ... These bracelets were tied onto wrists and didn't come off. Each day I had someone new come to me showing me their simple bracelet that they could call their own.

Many of the residents could not speak and so when I brought out face paint, I painted images on my arms so that they could point to the specific thing they wanted for themselves. Every day in Hogar was spent playing, laughing and most especially loving.

In returning home, every student ... realized how privileged they are and what is truly important in life. It is not important to have material possessions that give us a false sense of happiness, but rather it is important to keep family, friends and most definitely our God, close to us at all times.

When times get hard and life seems to be impossible, I remember the people of Hogar del Niño and how happy they are with so little. Life really isn't all that difficult for us. We need to learn to live not for ourselves, but for Him, our God and Father...

I will finish with a quote from our school Chaplain, Ms. (Lydia) Foch who was the organizer of these past two trips. "I am my real persona when I am with the poor - they allow me to be who I truly am and I am loved on this basis as well, no judgements, all a heart-to-heart relationship..."

## Sacred Heart students visit Dominican orphanage

March 2011 marked the third Sacred Heart High School trip to the NPH orphanage in the Dominican Republic.

Eighteen students, led by Joy King and Samantha George, took on two weeks of mission work, including building a playground, a sidewalk, a shelving system, clotheslines, and more.

Students had the opportunity to interact with children by helping in the classroom, organizing a sports day, playing with them after school, and going to the local Batey (village) to relax after a hard day's work. The trip was an opportunity for the students to open their



minds to the reality of the world, as well as to grow both spiritually and emotionally.

As the trip was such a success and well-received by the school community, the Sacred Heart team will shift its focus to Nicaragua in March 2012.



## Full Time Conference

Continued from front page

- Behaviour management systems
- Fall arrest
- High five
- Customer service
- Who's got your back?
- On your feet.

Programs offer both theory and practical "hands on" components.

Thirteen high schools from both school boards participated in this year's conference. Where time permitted, students were given a tour of the College's facilities.

Students were charged a nominal \$20.00 participation fee. Bruce Power contributed \$5,000 in additional funding for the conference.



## Kincardine students raise funds during Lenten project

Grade 5 and 6 students at St. Anthony's School fasted for 24 hours during Lent to raise awareness for world hunger. They raised more than \$1,650 in the process.

The students consumed nothing but liquids and a small quantity of rice over the 24-hour period.

"I learned not to take food for

granted, because there are many places in the world and even in our community, where there is not enough to go around," said one student after the fast.

Another said, "I learned empathy. I fasted in order to be able to understand in a very small way what it is like to be hungry."

The money raised went to two organizations, Sick Kids Hospital, which received \$287 and World Vision Canada, which received \$1,364.

## Science Fair

Continued from page 2

In July, she will participate in the MILSET Expo-Sciences International in Slovakia. Young scientists from 75 nations will participate in this non-competitive exhibition.

In addition to her interest in science, Megan plays the piano, step dances and sings in a choir. She also volunteers with a number of local organizations.

Megan will pursue her interest in medicine and the environment this fall at McMaster University in Hamilton, in the Bachelor of Health Sciences program.

## B-G Catholic teacher runs in marathon

Sacred Heart High School teacher, Christian Hambrock, ran in the famous Boston Marathon on April 18. He placed 5814 out of 25,000 runners with a time of 3:23.

The course consists of 26.22 miles (42.195 km) of winding roads, and city streets through eight Massachusetts cities and towns finishing in the centre of Boston.

## Formosa choirs win at music festival

Immaculate Conception School in Formosa sent two choirs to the Walkerton Rotary Music Festival and both choirs won, scoring 86 points each.

The Intermediate Choir with students from Grades 7 and 8, sang Ordinary Miracle, while the Grade 1 to 6 choir sang Chercher Avec Toi.

## Port Elgin school raises money for cancer

St. Joseph's School in Port Elgin held its bi-annual Cops for Cancer Shave-Off in early May. Twenty students, one teacher and two parents either cut their hair or completely shaved their heads. In addition, the school was able to donate hair from four of its students to be made into wigs for people undergoing chemotherapy.

After the donations were tallied, the school community had raised \$15,832 for the Canadian Cancer Society.

## Chess champions

Two Grade 5 students from Formosa's Immaculate Conception School won medals at the 2011 Grey Bruce Regional Chess Challenge in April in Owen Sound. Alexander Lachlan received a silver medal while Brett Wagner won bronze.

There were 45 competitors from four secondary and 15 elementary schools. Players compete by grade and the winner from each grade qualifies to represent the local area at the Provincial Chess Challenge. The event is sponsored by the Chess n' Math Association of Canada.

## Holy Family School celebrates the arts

Students of Holy Family School in Hanover presented a Celebration of the Arts in May at Holy Family Church.

All the students participated in the event, which also raised funds for the arts in the school, through music and an art show.

In addition to the class performances, individual students, chosen through auditions, presented several vocal and instrumental numbers throughout the event.

more info at  
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We welcome your comments on how well your expectations are being met.

We invite you to complete our Online Accessibility Survey at [www.bgcdsb.org](http://www.bgcdsb.org), or you can request a paper copy by calling 519 364 5820.

More information on accessibility at the BGCDSB is available on our website under About Us, Departments, Facilities.

## Bruce-Grey Catholic Community Newsletter

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