

Catholic Community Newsletter



COMPLIMENTS OF THE BRUCE-GREY CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

FALL 2009

Bruce-Grey Board hosts annual Diocesan celebration of Catholic education

SOME 600 people attended a Eucharistic Celebration at Immaculate Conception Church in Formosa as a demonstration of their support for Catholic education.

The Most Reverend Anthony F. Tonnos, Bishop of Hamilton and the Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, Auxiliary Bishop of Hamilton, along with many priests from the Diocese were present to celebrate the special mass.

The mass was part of the second annual Diocesan Celebration of Catholic Education, hosted by the Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board.

The theme of this year's event, held October 15, was "Catholic Education – Embracing the Treasure".

"As a people, we are called to embrace the treasure of God's loving presence in our world," said Director of Education, Bruce MacPherson, in announcing the event, "the treasure of our Catholic faith, and the treasure of Catholic education, whose mission it is to proclaim and witness to these realities to our youth."

The celebration began at 3:30 p.m. with a presentation by Dr. Mark McGowan, renowned historian, teacher, and Principal of St. Michael's College, University of Toronto. Dr. McGowan is well-known for his passionate commitment to Catholic education in Ontario.



Formosa's "Cathedral of the North"

More than 250 representatives of the seven Catholic school boards in the Diocese attended the afternoon session. "The idea for the event was born two years ago after a discussion between the Catholic directors of education within the Hamilton Diocese and our Bishops," said Mr. MacPherson. "Last year's event was held at St. Mary's Parish in Kitchener."

The seven Catholic boards in the Diocese operate 236 schools serving more than 100,000 elementary, secondary and continuing education students.

"We are proud to continue our 150-year tradition of delivering quality, inclusive, and faith-based learning to the leaders of our future," said Mr. MacPherson.

One participant summed up the event this way: "Wow. What a terrific spiritual, emotional experience that was felt at the Diocesan mass. I was so proud to be a part of such a great event. We can truly stand proud to say that we are the treasure that makes our Catholic faith shine through all we see."

Of the venue, another participant commented: "We are lucky to have such an historic and wonderful church in our area; 'Cathedral of the North' has a wonderful ring to it."



Bishop Anthony Tonnos



St. Mary's Principal Glen Miller, Bishop Bergie, Vice-principal Alex Van Wieringen and members of the student council pose for a photo following the official opening of the school's new addition.

St. Mary's addition officially open

FRIDAY, October 2 marked the official opening of the new addition to St. Mary's High School in Owen Sound.

The day's highlights included mass for students and staff of the school, celebrated by Bishop Gerard Bergie, the official opening cere-

mony attended by Board and government officials and guests, and the official blessing and ribbon cutting.

Following the official ceremonies, refreshments were served by students and staff in the school's new Food and Nutrition classroom.

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Bruce-Grey Catholic District
School Board
799 – 16th Avenue
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Director's Message

"Diocesan Mass a highlight of the fall"

WELCOME to the 2009-2010 school year. We have had a great fall with many exciting spiritual and academic opportunities for students and staff.

The Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board hosted the Hamilton Diocesan Mass in October. We welcomed over 600 people to Immaculate Conception Church, Formosa to celebrate our Catholic faith.

Professor Mark McGowan provided a very informative presentation of our Catholic history. A portion of Mark's presentation included his own personal family history and his connections to Bruce County. We were pleased to see so many staff members from the six Catholic boards in the Hamilton Diocese. The Staff and Parent Community of Immaculate Conception School demonstrated true rural hospitality to all of our guests. Our visitors were in awe of the beautiful Church, School,

Musicians, and People who went above and beyond to help make this such a memorable occasion.

Bishop Tonnos and Bishop Bergie along with over 15 parish priests representing all of the school boards created a truly spiritual evening.

Our student trustees this year are Bridgett King, who attends Sacred Heart High School and Joe Cassidy, from St. Mary's High School. Both students have contributed very well to our board meetings and we appreciate their efforts representing the students in our Board.

Whether it is taking part in polar explorations, presenting in Paris, France, achieving grade level in Reading Recovery, participating in social justice events, maintaining our facilities in top condition, or being recognized for their efforts in providing an inclusive learning environment, we are certainly proud of our students and staff and thank them for demonstrating their God given potential.



Bruce MacPherson
Director of Education

Laurissa Christie: Youth Science Canada Student on Ice

FEW Canadians realize the beauty and diversity of the Arctic, says Laurissa Christie, and they have to recognize the environmental impact they have in the North.

Laurissa, a Grade 12 student at St. Mary's High School in Owen Sound, spent 16 days last August in Canada's polar region as a representative of Youth Science Canada.

"I saw the effects of global warming, the impacts we are having on our planet, and how it affects the Arctic people," she said. "I am changing my lifestyle to 'protect the poles, protect the planet'."

The Arctic people are being forced to change their ways, to adapt to climate change as they experience the temperature rise, icebergs and caps melting, and

the decrease of sea ice and wildlife sightings, she said.

"Due to the lack of sea ice, polar bears are moving inwards endangering citizens."

Elimination of summer sea ice will increase traffic and urbanization that will "further destroy habitat for wildlife and bring change to the Arctic people."

A 30 km. trek to the Arctic Circle and a visit to the community of Kimmirut were two of the trip's highlights for Laurissa.

The hike, she said, was full of hazards including river crossings, freezing glacier water, rapids, rocks, currents and sand dunes.

"It was amazing but physically exhausting. The visit to Kimmirut inspired me. The people were excited to see us, embracing our presence and inviting us to participate in their traditions.

"The children loved us and showed us around town. There were piggy back rides, hugs, photos and lots of laughter.

"When it came time to leave," she said, "we were sad to say goodbye to our new friends. The children stood on the beach waving and screaming 'stay here, you can live with me'."

As a result of her trip, Laurissa has decided to live her life "greener" and is encouraging others to do the same.

"Students on Ice was the best education. The Arctic was my classroom."

Laurissa plans to pursue a career in environmental science.



Students experience WW 1 conditions

ALMOST 100 Sacred Heart High School students experienced some of the struggles and hardships endured by Canadian Expeditionary Forces during a World War One re-enactment day in late October.

Under grey skies with drizzle and cool winds, the students were divided into sections that had to complete a series of tasks, including preparing a meal, erecting a shelter, constructing antipersonnel entanglements and digging trenches.

In the afternoon, the students re-enacted the battles of Ypres, Beaumont Hamel and Vimy Ridge.



Let your light shine.



Board receives major scholarship

Mildmay teacher to attend Reading Recovery training program and conference

SACRED Heart School teacher Carrie Girdler and the Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board are the recipients of a \$15,000 scholarship from the Deluxe Corporation Foundation and the Reading Recovery Council of North America.

The Deluxe Corporation Foundation Teacher Leader Scholarship will defray the cost of sending Carrie to the Central Canadian Institute of Reading Recovery Yorkhill Training Centre in Thornhill as a reading recovery teacher leader.

The Deluxe Corporation is an international company providing marketing services to small business and the financial sector.

As part of the year-long program, Carrie will also attend the 2010 National Reading Recovery and K-6 Classroom Literacy Conference in Columbus, Ohio in February.

Reading Recovery is a highly-effective short-term program of one-to-one tutoring for low-achieving students in Grade 1 reading and writing.

Walkerton teacher gets inclusion award

NORA COWE, a Family Studies teacher at Sacred Heart High School in Walkerton, has received the 2009 Inclusive Educator of the Year award for her dedication to inclusiveness and understanding that students need more than just academics and that school is a place where all these needs can be met.

She readily designs individualized educational programs in collaboration with colleagues and families that address a wide variety of needs – physical, social, emotional, academic and spiritual.

Her programs emphasize specific, authentic goals and expectations that match students' individual strengths and needs. As her students master skills, the goals reflect the new growth so that students are always challenged and empowered to move ahead.

She is also compassionate and non-judgmental and is always willing to support and help her students, in and outside of the classroom. She co-leads a



weekly girls' group to offer support with the goal of improving self-esteem, good health and social skills.

"She models inclusivity to her fellow colleagues," said her nomination, "as she reminds others of the positive qualities our students possess. She always demonstrates a positive attitude and an open mind, which inspires others to become positive and accepting as well. She does this with humour and humility."



The Progression of St. Peter's & St. Paul's School in Construction Location

DURING the summer of 2009, H. Bye Construction from Mount Forest, came to start building the new additions for St. Peter's and St. Paul's Catholic School in Durham.

I have been tracking the progress of the construction by visiting the school almost every day in the summer, and about once a week now that school has started. There were different dates when interesting events happened in the construction.

On August 18th, H. Bye had mapped out where the walls were going to be on the north side of the school. Then two days later, they filled it with cement.

On August 26th, Bye had ripped up the front parking lot and were going to repave it. On September 3rd, they started to make the rafters for the roof. Then, in the beginning of October, they began to brick the front of the school. Little by little, the school was being put together like a delicate puzzle.

The students and staff at St. Peter's and St. Paul's are coping very well with the new changes.

The Church hall of St. Peter's Parish is currently being used as the school gymnasium, and the students and staff are very fortunate and say thanks.

–By Julia Grein, Grade 8

SHHS student represents Canada at EU science fair

MEAGAN Schlorff, a Grade 11 student at Sacred Heart High School in Walkerton, had the honour of being the only Canadian invited to attend the European Union Contest for Young Scientists, held in Paris in September.

She was selected to attend the international event from the participants at the Canada-wide Science Fair held in Manitoba earlier this year. Megan presented her research – on antibacterial compounds found in waste water entering and leaving sewage treatment plants – during numerous jury rounds.

She also had the opportunity to interact with other young scientists from Europe and around the world.

A number of sightseeing activities were also on the agenda



Megan Schlorff

including visits to historical sites, a cruise on the Seine River and dinner in the Eiffel Tower. "Paris is great! I'd go back again," she said.

Not surprisingly, Megan plans a career in the sciences – "in health care or medicine".

Faith Formation Day 2009

AT the heart of our Catholic schools, lies the call to form our young people as authentic citizens and faithful disciples, deeply committed to serving the most vulnerable members of our local and global community, through works of social justice.

Poverty, locally and internationally was the theme of the Board's faith formation day September 3. Staff members were challenged and motivated to seek "The Face of Christ Among Us", by responding to Christ in the person of those in our midst who are experiencing poverty.

The poor are great. We have to love them, but not with pity love. We have to love them because it is Jesus who hides under the likeness of the poor. They are our brothers and sisters. They belong to us, and all of them are Jesus. – Mother Teresa

The day began with a Eucharistic Liturgy celebrated by Father Earl Talbot, pastor of St. Anthony Daniel Parish in Kitchener. Engaged for many years with the indigenous people of the Global South, Fr. Talbot called us as disciples, to understand, and better, the conditions of those in our world who are hungry, thirsty, imprisoned, lacking clothes or adequate goods.

Keynote speaker was Paul Johnson, Executive Director of Wesley Urban Ministries, a faith-based justice and advocacy organization for those who

experience poverty in Hamilton.

Referring to statistics about poverty in Bruce-Grey Counties, he gave a message which challenged and affirmed participants in their work as Catholic educators, as well as giving them tools for addressing the needs of those within our schools and communities who experience poverty.

Over the lunch hour, participants were able to support the indigenous women of third world communities by purchasing handmade items from "The Faces of Fair Trade." Members of our community also contributed to the local foodbank and the Durham Relief Fund, in the aftermath of a tornado which took place there in August.

In the afternoon, participants could attend two of 16 workshops offered on a variety of national and international social justice issues.

These included Rural Women and Poverty, the Women's House, Habitat for Humanity, the Foodbank, Children's Aid Society, St. Vincent de Paul, the Canadian Foodgrains Project, Development and Peace, Holy Childhood, Friends of the Orphans, Free the Children, and the Interfaith Coalition for the Elimination of Poverty in Ontario.

Staff gatherings concluded the day, with a focus on building a school plan to focus on some aspect of mission/poverty elimination.

bgcdsb.org

Walkerton's Sacred Heart High School honours athletes

SACRED HEART High School in Walkerton recently held its annual athletic banquet to recognize team and individual accomplishments over the past school year.

Kyle Bross was awarded the Heart Trophy for dedication to sports and academic achievement. Kyle was recognized not only for his demonstrated outstanding athletic ability, but also his exemplary dedication and effort to his studies and his sports.

Female and Male Athletes of the Year are recognized for their athletic ability, frequency of participation, value as a

team member, sportsmanship and acting as role models. The winners were: Junior Girls', Becky Busby; Junior Boys', Jeff Ruttan; Senior Girls', Alanna Anstett; Senior Boys', Ethan Mount.

The Coaches' Awards for dedication and effort recognize athletes who are considered model players.

The awards went to: Breann Glasier, Junior Girls'; Sean Desjardins, Junior Boys'; Aven Hoffarth, Senior Girls'; Ian Eckensweiler, Senior Boys'.

Some 55 awards were presented at the banquet.



Sacred Heart students.

Schools participate in food drive

Sacred Heart School in Mildmay, and Mary Immaculate School in Chepstow, were two of the schools that participated in Farm Credit Canada's Drive Away Hunger Campaign. Sacred Heart's Grade 7 class collected some 600 pounds of food donations, while Mary Immaculate collected 300 pounds.



Athletic award winners left to right are: Becky Busby, Ian Eckensweiler, Alanna Anstett, Ethan Mount, Breann Glasier, Kyle Bross, Sean Desjardins, Aven Hoffarth, Jeff Ruttan.



St. Anthony's raises money for well

A "Slime the Teacher Day" was one of a number of events at Kincardine's St. Anthony's School which helped raise \$5,000 to build a well in Sierra Leone.

Organized by the school's Student Council, the fund-raisers included duct tape the teacher to the wall, soup and a bun for a Toonie, bubble gum blowing contest, school dances, tea party, Mother's Day / Father's Day bingo, penny drive and Valentine candy grams.



Terry Fox Run

Two of the schools participating in the annual Terry Fox Run raised, between them, more than \$4,600.

Sacred Heart School in Mildmay raised \$600, while Walkerton's Sacred Heart High School raised over \$4,000. Mildmay's students had running shoes in each class for donations and sold ice cream bars during lunch.

The school's Grade 5 students counted and rolled the money.

Questions?
519.364.5820

Participate in the Future of Catholic Education

WHEN you designate your tax support for Catholic schools, you help sustain a right that Ontarians have enjoyed for over 150 years.

Help us preserve the tradition of publicly funded Catholic education in Ontario. It is our constitutional right. Be sure you have the rights to vote for a Catholic School Trustee in the next municipal election.

TO BECOME A SUPPORTER, please verify on your property tax bill that you are registered as a Catholic school supporter, or fill in our "Application for Direction of School Support" form, available from your local Catholic School or School Board.

DID YOU KNOW, every time you move, you must re-declare yourself a Catholic school supporter, as your tax support will not follow you?

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact the Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board at 519-364-5820, ext. 239, or call the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation at 1-866-296-MPAC (6722).

