

# Director's Monthly Report



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## Highlights:

- The Evolution of Our Nordic Ski Team
- Hip Hop Dancers head to Vancouver
- Full Day Kindergarten Video at St. Louis School
- Leadership and Academic Services Presentations

We are a Roman Catholic school system dedicated to excellence in education, the Christian formation of youth, and meaningful partnerships with family, community and the Church.



## The Evolution of our Nordic Ski Team



2007 – 2008 Nordic Ski Team at their first OFSAA Nordic Championship in North Bay.

At the February 15, 2011 Board Meeting Kathy Valentini, Physical Education Teacher from St. Thomas Aquinas High School provided the trustees with a presentation on the history of the St. Thomas Aquinas High School Nordic Ski Program. Valentini explained that the Nordic Ski Program started in 2006 when the high school put forth a motion to NWOSSA to adopt the sport of Nordic Skiing in the NorWOSSA league. The first year of the program 4 skiers qualified for OFSAA and this year 11 skiers qualified.

Valentini explained that the program has been so well received that in 2010 OFSAA approved another motion submitted by St. Thomas Aquinas High School to recognize Paralympics as a high school sport. St. Thomas Aquinas High School student Jamie Triskle was the first of three paralympic skiers to register for this year's OFSAA where she won the gold medal in the 3 km event, almost 2 minutes faster than her nearest competition. Congratulations Jamie Triskle!!



Jamie Triskle with her helper Ellina Goodz



Jamie Triskle photographed with Kathy Valentini

## Hip Hop Dancers Head to Vancouver

Kathy Valentini Physical Education Teacher from St. Thomas Aquinas High School provided the trustees with a video presentation on the St. Thomas Aquinas High School Hip Hop Dance Team at the February 15, 2011 Board Meeting. Valentini explained that Cheyenne Kennedy is choreographing the dance routines and leading the group. Valentini explained that the team is a completely student coordinated program. Valentini explained that the team is preparing for a Hip Hop Dance Team Championship in Vancouver, B.C. and they are fundraising \$6,100 to cover their travel costs to the event. At the time of the meeting the team had fundraised \$4,417.25. Valentini then showed the trustees a video of the Hip Hop Dance Team practicing their routine.



## Full Day Kindergarten Video at St. Louis School

On Thursday, February 24, a videographer from the Ontario government visited St. Louis School to create a short video about full-day kindergarten. The video is posted on the Ministry of Education website <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/kindergarten/videos.html>.

The Kenora Catholic District School Board is very proud to share that the Ministry of Education feels that St. Louis School has a great story to tell about the students that are enrolled in the full day kindergarten program and the partnerships with First Nations communities. The Board is tremendously proud of what the teachers and administrators have done at St. Louis School. We believe our program is amazing and we believe our students are receiving an amazing education. We are pleased that the Ministry of Education also recognizes this, says Phyllis Eikre, Director of Education.

To follow Mrs. Kerri Favreau's One Full Day blog please visit: <http://web.me.com/onefullday/Site/Blog/Blog.html>



## Leadership & Academic Services Presentations

Murray Delorme provided the Trustees with a PowerPoint presentation on the Leadership Services Plan, providing an overview of the Board Leadership Committee and the Board Leadership Development Strategy. Delorme explained that when the board has inspired leaders that in turn inspires students.

Mary Cunningham provided the trustees with a PowerPoint presentation on the Academic Services Plan. Cunningham shared samples of excellence in academic services in First Nations, Métis and Inuit Programs, Secondary Pathways, Elementary Pathways, and many other important programming areas such as Special Education, MISA, Faith Formation, Equity and Inclusive Education and student voice. Cunningham shared some very positive results from St. Thomas Aquinas High School with regards to credit accumulation. Cunningham explained that the initial numbers indicate a credit accumulation of 96% + in grades 9 – 11 and a 98% credit accumulation in grade 12. Cunningham explained that the work that Paul White, Principal and his team at St. Thomas Aquinas High School is truly an amazing team effort. Cunningham explained that the board is focusing on student achievement particularly focusing on boys. Both of these plans are available on our board website at [www.kcdsb.on.ca](http://www.kcdsb.on.ca).