

# Director's Monthly Report



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Kenora Catholic District School Board (807) 468-9851

## Highlights:

- New Minister of Education
- St. Louis School Presented with Dr. Bette Stephenson Award of Recognition
- Petition for Additional Trustee
- St. Louis School Approved for Full Day Learning
- Leading Change into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with Pope John Paul II School

**We are a Roman Catholic school system dedicated to excellence in education, the Christian formation of youth, and strong partnerships with parents and the church.**



## System Wide Olympic Torch Celebration



Students Cassidy Swejda-Joseph & Ryan Polischuk both of PJPJII School, carry the Olympic torch out of the gymnasium of St. Thomas Aquinas High School following opening ceremonies.

On January 4<sup>th</sup>, the first day back to school after Christmas Break, students all across the Kenora Catholic District School Board enjoyed a day of friendship, unity and excitement being part of the KCDSB's "Carry the Torch" Celebration in commemoration of the 2010 Olympics being hosted in Canada.

Project organizers Kathy Valentini and Jacqueline Duhaime worked in collaboration and partnership and together submitted a proposal to The Canadian Heritage Grant under the Celebrate and Commemoration Program Application program and were approved for \$6,110.

Valentini and Duhaime wanted to provide an opportunity for students all across our diverse and culturally rich board to come together in celebration of the Olympics. *It provided a unique opportunity for us to have our whole system come together and have St. John's Separate School in Red Lake, feel part of our Catholic Education Community. The money provided the opportunity to finance the bussing of students from St. John's School and St. Louis School comments Duhaime.*

Activities started with a celebration of diversity with a multilingual, multicultural opening ceremony with student led prayers in English, French and Ojibway, a multi-school Torch Relay and various sporting competitions such as hockey, skating, snowshoeing, skiing, curling and so much more. Senior students were provided with an opportunity to hone their leadership skills in coordinating and facilitating activities for younger peers.

Murray Delorme, Assistant to the Director of Education comments that there was a real sense of excitement and anticipation leading up to the Olympic Torch Celebration. The event provided students with a sense of community, unity and inspiration. It couldn't have been a better way to start the New Year after Christmas break. Delorme extends sincere appreciation to Kathy Valentini and Jacqueline Duhaime for writing the proposal and organizing the event, as well as everyone who made January 4<sup>th</sup> such an exciting and educational day for our students.



## New Minister of Education Sworn In

On January 18<sup>th</sup> Leona Dombrowsky was sworn in as Minister of Education.

In a welcoming letter to the Minister of Education dated January 21<sup>st</sup> the trustees wrote... "we are extremely pleased to read in your personal biography that you are a former Catholic school trustee and also served as director of the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association. Based on your rich background and experience in the education field we have full confidence that you also share a deep appreciation and respect for all the benefits a Catholic education can provide Ontario students".

To read Minister Dombrowsky's full biography please visit:

[http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/biography/edu\\_minister.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/biography/edu_minister.html)



## REGULAR BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The stories below are from presentations made at the January 18, 2010 Regular Board Meeting. For more detailed information on any of the stories you read below please visit our website at [www.kcdsb.on.ca](http://www.kcdsb.on.ca) and review the minutes of this meeting. The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16, 2010 at 8:00 p.m. at the Catholic Education Center.



### St. Louis Awarded Dr. Bette Stephenson Award

At the Regular Board Meeting of January 18, 2010 Chair Darryl Michaluk "officially" presented St. Louis School with the extremely prestigious Dr. Bette Stephenson Recognition of Achievement Award.

In a presentation to the Board, Director of Education, Phyllis Eikre explained that only a small handful of schools across Ontario are presented with the award which demonstrates notable student achievement gains through Education Quality Assessment Organization (EQAO) scores. Eikre explained that this award is a testament to the quality of teaching happening at St. Louis School year after year.

The beautiful black lacquered award now hangs proudly on the wall at St. Louis School for parents and community members to see. Great job St. Louis. We are proud of you!!!

### Petition for Additional Trustee

On January 18<sup>th</sup> Trustees approved Motion#7 which was a petition to the Minister of Education for (1) additional trustee due to the increased geographic territory of the Kenora Catholic District School Board. The Board is requesting an additional trustee due to the amalgamation of St. John's Separate School in Red Lake, Ontario. The Kenora Catholic District School Board will know on or before April 16<sup>th</sup> if the request has been approved by the Minister of Education.

### Pope John Paul II – Leading Change into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

In a PowerPoint presentation to the board on January 18<sup>th</sup> Andy Graham, Principal and teachers Jamie Robertson and Travis Batters provided the trustees with a presentation entitled Leading Change into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century at Pope John Paul II School.

The small team provided a detailed overview about how the school is not implementing any new programs this year but instead enhancing and consolidating existing programs. The team provided an overview on 5 key areas: Environmental Stewardship, Identification of Student Needs, Communication and Safe and Caring School Communities. Please read the minutes of January 18<sup>th</sup> for a much more detailed overview of Pope John Paul II School's presentation.

#### ST. LOUIS SCHOOL APPROVED FOR FULL DAY LEARNING

In a presentation to the board, Phyllis Eikre explained that the Kenora Catholic District School Board's proposal for full day learning for 4 and 5 year olds for St. Louis School was recently approved by the Ministry of Education.

Eikre explained that the Ministry of Education has introduced a phased-in approach to ensuring that every school across Ontario has full day learning for 4 and 5 year olds implemented by 2015.

St. Louis School will officially implement the program in September 2010. In addition to full day learning, parents will also have the additional support of utilizing a before and after school program.