

Director's Monthly Report



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Highlights:

- SMB Presents The Wizard of Oz
- The Board is Thinking Green
- Books for Breakfast
- Catholicity is Not Just a Word – We Live it

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.



SMB Presents The Wizard of Oz



On May 13th the Grade 1 and 2 students of École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys were transformed into the characters of the beloved musical play of Frank Baum, The Wizard of Oz.

The City of Kenora has been lucky enough to have seen The Wizard of Oz performed at both St. Louis School and Lakewood School. However, this year École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys put their own twist of the play presented as Le Voyage Vers Oz and musical in French with English improvisations. The Grades 1 and 2 classes presented a modern version of this play, which included robots who depicted the Tin Man's desire for a heart, and cupids who represented the sadness of Dorothy, going back home and leaving her new friends behind.

"It was really exciting and fulfilling for me to watch our students transform into the characters of the play. A special thank you to all of our students and parents for all the costumes and the many hours of rehearsal", says Mme Froese.

This is the first time that the Grade 1 and 2 students accomplished such a musical play especially with live dog to play the part of Toto.

The story of young Dorothy living in Kansas, brings back memories of a simple yet difficult life in the days of the Great Depression. Dorothy eventually discovers that what she was searching for was right in her own back yard....the love of friends and family and that good will always prevail over evil.

"It makes me feel really proud to watch the talents of our students come alive in the arts. On behalf of the board I'd like to say Bravo SMB" says Phyllis Eikre, Director of Education

Through a collection at the door the students were able to collect \$200 that was donated to the Kenora Cat Shelter.

The Board is Thinking Green

At the Board Meeting of May 17, 2011 Andrew Poirier, Operations Manager provided the trustees with an energy efficiency report on the initiatives administration has recently implemented to save the board money and lessen our footprint on the environment at the same time.

Poirier explained that through implementing many energy savings measures across the board the \$529,000 grant from the Ministry of Education the board is able to observe a return of \$34,000 - \$36,000 savings per year by reducing energy consumption. Poirier stated that the board is already seeing a reduction in the monthly hydro bill with the retro lighting that was installed at École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys and St. Thomas Aquinas High School.

Poirier shared that they are currently working through a feasibility study to determine the viability of implementing rooftop solar panels on some of the schools within the board. The intention is to sell some of the energy back to the grid at 80 cents per kilowatt hour. "The revenue generation is quite significant and would warrant the board borrowing to leverage the expense of the solar panels" says Poirier.



BOOKS FOR BREAKFAST



JK Teacher Kat Prystai and her fellow teachers of École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys hosted a family reading and literacy event at the school in May. "We really wanted to promote the importance of reading to children and bring family members into the school so they could read with their children and leave with the books they were reading as a gift. We are really pleased with the success of the event." says Prystai

The theme of this year's event was Ontario Provincial Parks. The entire gymnasium of the school was decorated in the wildlife theme with reading tents set up for students and their families.

Activity books were donated by Rushing River Provincial Park. The Ministry of Natural Resources lent the school a black bear to add to the theme.

CATHOLICITY IS NOT JUST A WORD – WE LIVE IT

There are many places and examples of Catholicity in our system. Everywhere you look you can see examples of students and staff living out the Catholic precepts of Faith, Hope and Charity.

At École Sainte Marguerite Bourgeoys the students have been learning about empathy and how to be emotionally literate - recognizing, understanding, sharing one's own feelings and being aware of the feelings of others – by taking part in the Roots of Empathy program. Working with Firefly and a new Mom and baby, the students are able to learn how one of God's greatest gifts to us all – babies – are able to help us learn about ourselves and each other.

At St. Louis, St. John's and Pope John Paul II the students took part in many fund raising activities designed to help others in need. They were able to raise money for victims of the disasters in Haiti and Japan as well as helping to build schools and to contribute to cancer research. At St. Thomas Aquinas High School these activities were enhanced by the work done by students on a weekly basis at the local agape table. Across the Kenora Catholic District School Board one can see the effects of living a life that reflects the Catholic Faith.

