

Director's Monthly Report



Content * Design * Layout: Trina Henley, Executive Assistant to the Director of Education

Kenora Catholic District School Board (807) 468-9851

Highlights:

- TA10 = 350
- Au Revoir Mousache, Au Revoir!
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- STA Students Celebrate Hope in our Community
- Board Meeting Highlights

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.



Welcome Interim Director of Education



Carlos Silva was nominated by his peers as Principal of the Year for 2010 for The Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario.

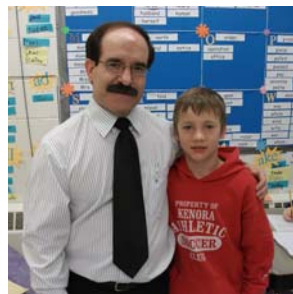
In a presentation to trustees at the Regular Board Meeting of May 18th Principals Paul White and Andy Graham both shared that it's been a great privilege to work with Carlos over the years.

"Carlos has spearheaded many initiatives and is a leader in French Immersion and is well respected within the province for his contributions", says Andy Graham. Paul White explained that he's been Carlos Silva's prodigy and has been learning from Carlos since he started working at the board. "I'm proud to call Carlos my colleague and friend", says White.



Carlos Silva began teaching with the Kenora Catholic District School Board in 1982 as the Core French teacher and later as the senior French Immersion Teacher.

Carlos was dedicated to ensuring the existence of a French culture amongst staff and students in the French immersion program, while co-existing in a predominately English-language school.



In 2001 Carlos was appointed principal of École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys. Today, in large part due to Carlos' dedicated Catholic leadership, École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys is a thriving and successful school community dedicated to providing excellence in a Catholic, French Immersion School. The school boasts high academic standards which are demonstrated through EQAO results. École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys is the only single-track French immersion school in Ontario West of Thunder Bay.

Congratulations to Carlos Silva. We are proud to have you on our team!



TA10 = 350



TA10 = 350. Strange math? Not according to Steve Mastromatteo and his Grade 9 Outdoor Education Class. TA10 represents the class' culminating project on survival skills and distress signals. This signal was wonderfully executed on May 6th on the St. Thomas Aquinas High School sports field. The photo shows the largest distress signal created by the class and is comprised of approximately 350 Grade 7 – 9 students.

"The photograph was taken by crew 435 Search and Rescue Squadron as they flew over to assess the class' signals" says Mastromatteo. "The signal included a very large signal fire and other ground signals that were created and constructed by the students."

"Unfortunately, the Search and Rescue Technicians could not parachute into our prepared landing zone as planned, because of cloud cover, but we did have a really nice meet and greet with the pilots and crew at the Kenora Airport", says Mastromatteo.



Au Revoir Moustache, Au Revoir

What started out as an innocent challenge ended in a razor and a very tender upper lip for Principal, Carlos Silva.

At the Board Meeting of May 18, 2010 Carlos Silva explained that he was approached by one of the teachers with an idea to raise more money for Jump Rope for Heart. The idea was that if the school raised \$500 more than last year he would shave his moustache. Carlos said *"I felt pretty confident that it couldn't happen – there was simply no chance"*.

The school did better than \$500, they raised a total of \$4,729.75 which is \$2,618.00 more than last year.

Carlos said *"It was a lot of fun and the students and staff all wore fake, black moustaches to raise money. We chose 2 students to do the honors of trimming my moustache and after it was gone and I unveiled the new look, the entire school came at me like a tsunami. It was an extraordinary feeling. I'm so pleased with the school spirit and I'm proud to not have my moustache. Although I plan to grow it back right away."*



Before



During



After



SMB Students coming at beloved principal like a tsunami following the unveiling of the shaved moustache.



There is a Princess Amongst Us



Ryanne White, grade 11 student at St. Thomas Aquinas High School was crowned 2009 Miss Manito Ahbee Princess at the November Manito Ahbee Festival.

The Miss Manito Ahbee Princess Pageant is awarded to a young lady between the ages of 13 – 17 years of age of Aboriginal/North American decent. Candidates must promote a positive image and uphold high moral standards that include refraining from alcohol, drugs and smoking.

When Ryanne was asked how she deals with the pressure of maintaining an alcohol and drug-free lifestyle she said...*"growing up on a First Nation community there can be a lot of pressure because it's a small community and there isn't very much for the youth to do. I've always had a good head on my shoulders and been on the Pow Wow trail. I'm really into volleyball and basketball and if you are on drugs or alcohol it can really slow a person down. People respect my decision and I really don't get pressured anymore. I'm too busy with sports and academics. Last year I was on Team Ontario on the basketball team and attended the North American Indigenous Games in Cowichan BC."*

Paul White, Principal at St. Thomas Aquinas High School says *"Ryanne is a pleasure to have at St. Thomas Aquinas High School. She is a great student and is a fantastic role model. Ryanne let the eagles allow you to soar and may you stay safe in the years to come"*.

Students Celebrate Hope in our Community

Students at St. Thomas Aquinas High School rolled up their sleeves, put on their rubber boots and got to work revitalizing the Rabbit Lake Trail System - all part of celebrating Catholic Education Week and the theme "Hope in Our Community".

"My classes spread out woodchips on the trail that were donated from Professional Tree Service, that came from a 100 year old Cottonwood tree", says Outdoor Education Teacher, Steve Mastromatteo. *"The before and after pictures are astounding. The students have made such a huge difference."*

Dean Woodbeck and Kelly Sundmark were noted by Principal Paul White as doing a great job in making sure all of the events during Catholic Education Week at St. Thomas Aquinas High School were appropriate for the theme "Rejoicing in Hope".



A portion of the Rabbit Lake Trail System before the students got to work.



What the trail looked like after the students had completed - dry and inviting.

U2a RABBIT LAKE TRAIL SYSTEM, JAFFRAY MELICK

DESCRIPTION The Rabbit Lake Trail System includes a main trail and several feeder trails which provide access to the natural beauty and peace of the south shore of Rabbit Lake. St. Thomas Aquinas High School students are diligently developing a portion of this trail, check out their hard work.

DISTANCE 2 – 10 km **USES** Hiking, Cycling, Skiing

TERRAIN Moderate to High **WEB** www.kenora.ca

SEASONS All Seasons

STA students receive an honorable mention in the Lake of the Woods Trail Guide for work on Rabbit Lake Trail System.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The highlights below are from presentations made at the May 18th and June 23rd Board Meetings. For more detailed information please visit our website at www.kcdsb.on.ca and review the minutes of the meetings.

May 18th

St. John's School Report

The May 18th Board Meeting was hosted in Red Lake Ontario at the board office of St. John's Separate School. Interim Director of Education, Kevin Debnam and Trustees traveled to Red Lake while the rest of the team joined the meeting via videoconferencing from the Catholic Education Center. This represents the first time that a Board meeting has ever been hosted out of Kenora. Principal Suzanne Chartier-White provided a heart-felt presentation on the accomplishments of St. John's Separate School for the year. Chartier-White explained that since 1996 she has been driving to work 1 hour each way everyday, despite the fact that there is a public school within walking distance of her home. She does this because of the Catholic virtues and values that are imbedded into the curriculum of Catholic Schools and that makes the Catholic School experience unique.

System Retreat

Darryl Michaluk, Chair identified that Sister Maria Ciccarelli, Religious Education Coordinator did a tremendous job on coordinating this year's System Retreat which was hosted at Andy Lake Resort on May 8th. Father Pat Stilla facilitated the day based on the theme Rejoicing in Hope. Approximately 60 participants from the Kenora Catholic District School Board took part in the retreat.

Cafeteria Contract at STA

The Trustees passed a motion to approve the proposal from David Blake and Dino Stathopoulos for the provision of cafeteria services at St. Thomas Aquinas High School effective August 31, 2010.

June 23rd

School Effectiveness Framework Leader Position

Kevin Debnam, Interim Director of Education shared with Trustees that he was pleased to present the new School Effectiveness Framework Leader – Mary Cunningham. Mary will be starting her new position effective August 30, 2010.

St. John's School Shared Site Agreement

The Kenora Catholic District School Board and the Conseil Scolaire de District Catholique des Aurores Boréales Board currently share resources at St. John's Separate School. Kevin Debnam in a presentation to the trustees explained that the KCDSB owns 75% of the school while the French board owns 25%.

Debnam explained that the negotiations were very successful with the KCDSB securing 100% of the Board Office along with full use and ownership of the library. The French board secured additional square footage, a meeting room and an area to store resources. *"The negotiations were very positive and amicable"* – says Debnam. *"This allows the two boards to maintain unique cultures and languages but to share Catholicity under one roof"*.

2010/11 Budget

Erica Bailey, Superintendent of Administrative Services presented to the trustees that internally the board was able to balance the budget in operations by taking surpluses in non-classroom funding and shift it over to operations. However, the board will be observing a \$56k deficit in transportation. *"It's very small in comparison to the overall funding"*, states Bailey, *"however there are ongoing discussions with the Ministry of Education on how to resolve the shortage and balance the budget."*

EQAO Grade 10 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) Results

Murray Delorme, Assistant to the Director identified that it's been a great year with 89% of students passing the EQAO testing, which represents a 14% improvement over the previous school year. 97% of Special Education Students wrote the test. *"We have much to celebrate"* notes Delorme.