

Director's Monthly Report



Kenora Catholic District School Board (807) 468-9851

Highlights:

- A Lesson on Civics with Howard Hampton
- A Bird's-Eye-View at SMB School
- Concepts about Print CAP) Camp is a Hit!
- Relocation Celebration
- Please watch for the Special Supplement entitled: "Supporting Your Catholic Schools Through Your Property Taxes"

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.



A LESSON ON PARLIAMENT FROM HOWARD HAMPTON



Not every class gets to have a guest speaker representing parliament, but that is just what Mrs. Lundin's grade 5 class experienced on September 24th when Mr. Hampton stopped in for a visit. The grade 5 class at Pope John Paul II school received a first-hand lesson from a Provincial Member of Parliament, Mr. Hampton. While on a tour of the school Mr. Hampton learned that the students were studying civics. Being a former teacher and an active member of parliament he then engaged the students in a personalized lesson and quizzed the students on their understanding of politics. He was impressed that the students understood the concept of debating in cabinet.



Although Howard Hampton, trustees and key board administration spent the morning touring the schools and facilities of the Catholic Education Campus, conversations focused on the key successes and challenges of the Kenora Catholic District School Board. Items discussed included the recent announcement of the amalgamation of St. John's Separate School in the Kenora Catholic District School Board, the cost of special education programs to enhance student achievement, and the new Northwestern Ontario Student Services Cooperative bussing consortium.



Phyllis Eikre Director of Education says it's important to host these types of tours and visits with our members of government to ensure that when they are in parliament and lobbying for services in the North that they have first hand knowledge of the Kenora Catholic District School Board.





A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

You can't sneak up the front steps anymore.....Carlos Silva and Carrie Koch now have a bird's-eye-view of all the comings and goings at the front of École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys. The newly renovated reception area cost the board \$49,000 from the School Renewal Budget and was completed during summer holidays so there would be no disruptions to student learning. Chris Poate Construction did a great job, both on the finished product and managing the schedule as the project was completed 1 day earlier than anticipated says Andrew Poirier, Manager of Operational Services. Nelson Architects designed the drawings with lots of input from École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys faculty. From office layout to selecting furnishings and deciding on a color scheme Carlos and Carrie were involved every step of the way.

The renovation addressed a long standing safety issue with visibility and security in the school says Carlos Silva, Principal. "I am very happy with the renovations in our office for many reasons. Firstly, because it improves the safety of all students and staff by opening the view of the main doors. Secondly, because it gives our school a touch of class, welcoming visitors, with an open space decorated with good taste. Thirdly, I enjoy enormously all the "wow's" from first time visitors. I would like to invite anyone who hasn't seen our new office to come over and see what I mean". It is definitely a lot brighter and more user friendly comments Carrie Koch, School Secretary. It's light, airy and spacious.....it makes me want to go home and do a home makeover, says Linda Boivin, Teacher.

Even the students are feeling a sense of pride with their new office area. I like the new office because it looks more organized says Robyn. I like the new office because it's bigger and we no longer have to go through a gate comments Alexandre. I like it because it looks more welcoming and the visitors can see where the office is located – Eva.



Concepts About Print (CAP) Camp Is a Hit!

On September 11, 18 intrepid adults (teachers, principals, learning resource teachers, and Special Assignment Literacy Support workers) banded together to host the first ever CAP camp, says Mary Cunningham. The camp was held for 20 students who came to the Lakeside Inn for the afternoon to learn all about how to start to read a book. The group focused on reading concepts such as one to one matching and directionality that form the basis for understanding how print works.

The theory may sound dull and dry but the afternoon was anything but! The students enjoyed a read aloud then took part in a shared reading and then spent time working one on one (or nearly so) with the adults present to read and enjoy books at their level of understanding. The day was filled with laughter and learning and the students left telling us that they were going home to read their books and share their new knowledge with their friends and family. (And, of course, to wear their new "thinking caps" that they got as part of the CAP camp!)

Data to determine if the camp was successful in promoting the concepts that were taught will be collected on September 14 when the students return to class.

Thanks to all who participated and helped to make everything run smoothly.

Maintenance Shop Relocation Celebration

On September 3, 2009 the Board hosted a Maintenance Shop Relocation Celebration in the parking lot of the new maintenance shop, which is now located at 434 Melick Avenue. The maintenance shop moved to the new location following the sale of Our Lady of the Valley School where the shop was previously located, tucked in behind the school. Although the move was a lot of work for the maintenance team, Gerard Dufresne says....the new shop location is great because we have a building that is 800 square feet larger, the office is under the same roof as the shop, we have more useable property for outdoor storage and we are still in close proximity to our school facilities. After all is said and done we are very fortunate to have come upon this building. The timing was perfect.

Phyllis Eikre says....the new maintenance shop is a wonderful new facility providing the board with a larger parcel of property for outdoor storage. It's an excellent, permanent home for our maintenance team to work on all the projects that happen every single day. We wanted to host this celebration not only to mark the move of the maintenance shop but also to take the opportunity to let our maintenance team know how much we appreciate everything they do to keep our schools and facilities running smoothly. Thank you maintenance team!

