

2011 ANNUAL

Director's Report

Dedicated to Excellence in Catholic Education

New Beginnings

A New Year: A New Look

On August 29, 2011 the Kenora Catholic District School Board unveiled its new board logo to a gymnasium filled with educators, administrators, trustees, support staff and members of the public. The group was thoroughly impressed (reacting with gasps and applause) as the new logo was revealed. It was an exciting element of our new visual identity package.

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to all of our parents and guardians, students, teachers, stakeholders and administrators who provided valuable feedback into the consultation process, designed to reshape our board's visual identity. We are very proud of our new logo and the results of the redesign process. We believe this new logo will be easily identifiable in the community and will serve our board for many years to come.

What it Means: The Logo Rationale

The focal point of this logo is the Cruciform Cross, which signifies the importance of the Kenora Catholic District School Board's faith, and demonstrates stability and permanence. Serving as a backdrop to the cross are a series of wave designs which may be interpreted as waves and sky, grass and trees, and the setting sun; the colours of nature and elements symbolic of the Kenora Catholic District School Board's geographic location. Moreover, the waves may be interpreted metaphorically, suggesting movement, progression, and the continuous flow of knowledge, learning and possibility that passes between educator and student.

Color is arguably the most powerful non-verbal form of communication, offering a powerful, instantaneous method for conveying meaning and message. The blue color palette has been used because it represents concepts of success, security, trust and authority and projects a sense of calm, confidence, dignity and professionalism. The colour orange is often associated with joy, enthusiasm, fascination, creativity and happiness. The colour green symbolizes growth, harmony and hope, as well as having a strong emotional correspondence with safety.

Catholic Education has been the foundation for millions of students to develop their full spiritual, academic, physical and social potential. The images and colours employed within this design have been chosen because they represent the core vision and values of both the Kenora Catholic District School Board and the Catholic faith. This logo will serve as a constant reminder that we must all strive for excellence in education.





Director's Message

It is my pleasure to bring you the 2011 Director's Annual Report which highlights some of the many achievements of the Kenora Catholic District School Board as we continue our journey in Catholic education while "Walking in the Light of Christ". This report is a celebration of success as it is lived out in our every day settings within our Catholic schools and in our community. Each of the stories shines a light on an important aspect of our journey in the light of Christ and allows us to give you a glimpse of what happens in a school year.

Student achievement in a caring Catholic learning environment remains at the heart of our planning and decision-making. We continue to work within our Catholic professional learning communities to foster a collaborative spirit and to make student achievement our collective responsibility. Our accomplishments create optimism about the journey that lies before us, particularly as we wish to help every child succeed. This is truly how we can follow in the footsteps of Christ.

This year we are also proud to share our new visual identity and one key aspect of this identity, is our new logo. It is our opportunity to display the key elements of our board through a visual symbol that represents faith, growth and a connection to our beautiful environment in the Lake of the Woods region.

This is my fourth year as director, and as I visit our Catholic schools, I am continually inspired by the energy and determination of our staff, parents, trustees, and community partners. They continually set high expectations for themselves and for our students. They create Catholic centers of excellence where young people are encouraged to celebrate and appreciate who they are today, and are nurtured and guided toward who they aspire to be in the future. My gratitude and congratulations are extended to all of you for your commitment, support and passion in this worthwhile mission.

These stories are like a scrap book of the events of 2011. By reading this report, you take the time to walk a few footsteps in the light of Christ as it is seen in our Kenora Catholic District School Board community and I thank you for sharing in the journey.

Phyllis Eikre
Phyllis Eikre
Director of Education

Chair's Message

The trustees are proud to provide a strong, formative Catholic education to our children in the communities we serve. Our growth in enrolment and programming as well as in our system-wide successes in academics, arts and athletics are surely true reasons to celebrate, and aid us in forming meaningful partnerships with the Church and all of our educational partners.

I have been both blessed and honoured to be the Board Chair this past year, by having the opportunity to help lead the trustees, staff and the school communities. With the development of a vision for the best possible Catholic education the Board is able to put into place all the supports we need to continue on our current successful path. This is all possible when we "Walk in the Light of Christ" and work to be advocates, guardians and stewards of Catholic education.

We must remember that the children are our hope for the future, and as Pope John Paul II told us at the World Youth Days in Toronto in 2002 "with their gifts of intelligence and heart our young people represent the future of the world, our responsibility is to teach them how to profess their faith, bestow their love and impact their hope on others". In this task we must succeed.

This success was never more evident than in the 77 students who graduated this past June from St. Thomas Aquinas High School. As the students crossed the stage wearing their red and white gowns, with diplomas in hand, the pride, tears and joy on the faces of the parents, guardians, grandparents and friends affirmed our success and instilled commitment.

Another achievement we were blessed with in 2011 was the completion of the Catholic Education Center, located at 1292 Heenan Place, that now forms a key part of our Catholic education campus. This move to the Catholic Education Center completed a long awaited plan to help provide centralized services to our students and our community.

In closing let me state what a great pleasure and privilege it is to work alongside such a dedicated team of trustees, staff and administration who all share one common goal, providing the best possible Catholic education to all the children God has entrusted to our care.

Michael Favreau
Michael Favreau
Chair



Our Students Say it Best...

At the Kenora Catholic District School Board we cherish, value and respect our students. We love their giggles, singing, and laughter heard down the hallways of our schools. Thank you to all of our students for the excitement, enthusiasm, and eagerness that you bring every day to classrooms across our board. We believe the best reflection of our schools is how our students feel. We are happy and successful only when our students are happy and successful. We believe our students say it best:



I like coming to a Catholic school because

...the teachers care about more than just the academics, there is a genuine care for the whole student. St. Thomas Aquinas High School has a welcoming environment that is open to the needs of the student in all areas.

– Olivia Neill, grade 12, St. Thomas Aquinas High School.

...the teachers are very kind and they care for us. They work hard each day to provide many extra-curricular activities. My favorite subject is computers because you can learn to do so many cool things. We have a Smart Board in our classroom and we really enjoy learning on it because it's so interactive.

– Evan McDonald, grade 3, École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys.

... I hear about God and that helps me keep more of what I learned in my 1st Communion. I like when my teacher talks about how God connects with us.

– Skylar Jodouin, grade 8, St. John's Separate School.

...the teachers are very nice and supportive and so are the other students. I enjoy going to the Church and singing with my friends and celebrating Christ.

– Hannah Henderson, Grade 5, St. Louis School.



...we sing our prayers in the morning. I like being with all my friends and learning about animals, bunnies and monkeys and even ducks. Mrs. Chisholm is a great teacher because she is nice. She makes us monkeys. She sings songs to us and reads to us and I like the stories she reads. Mrs. Chisholm takes us outside for walks and I like all the little trees. I like Mrs. Chisholm because she smiles at me every day.

– Arona Skead, Kindergarten, Pope John Paul II School.

Walking in the Light of Christ
The sun is a light. God made the sun, so when I walk in the sun I feel like I'm walking in the light of Christ.
– Chloe Iris MacNeil, grade 3 student.

Celebrating and Recognizing Catholic Educational Excellence in our Students

Each June our Board awards one student in each of our schools with the Director's Award of Excellence. This award is presented to students who demonstrate excellence in education by excelling in sports, the arts and academics. These students show exemplary behaviors such as empathy, compassion and respect for their fellow students and their teachers. We are very proud to present the 2011 recipients of the Director's Award of Excellence:



Julia Mesto
St. John's
Separate School



Adrian Boivin
St. Thomas Aquinas
High School



Jenna Camire
Pope John Paul II School



Sarah Frankcom
École Ste-Marguerite



Daniel Armstrong
St. Louis School



Melissa White
St. Thomas Aquinas
High School

Strengthening our Catholicity

As a Catholic school system we are communities wherein the Catholic faith permeates every aspect of the life of our schools and all efforts are directed towards the integral formation of the human person. We advocate for individual and collective faith development. We strive to live and model the gospel values.

Catholicity

is not just a word...
we Live it

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 Ste-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 School, St. John's Separate School and Pope John Paul II School 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.

The Catholic Campus is Realized

On April 13th the Catholic Education Center made the journey from the former facility located on 200 First Street North to the new Catholic Education center at 1292 Heenan Place. The move was a culminating moment for the board as it has been a long-time dream to have the Catholic Education Center located on the Catholic Campus to provide more of a centralized service to families, students and schools. The center was open for business again on Monday, April 18th in the new facility.

The board took the former St. Thomas Aquinas High School Annex and completely renovated the inside to create an open-concept office environment. The new facility has two meeting rooms, a chapel, a board room with new audio visual equipment and a very spacious training room. The increased meeting space was very important to us as we were lacking that in the former facility.

Walking in the Light of Christ

Teachings and the life of Jesus Christ are meant to touch every part of our life, just as light touches everything around it. The light helps us find our way safely as we go forward and encounter changing circumstances. The same light allows others to see how we make our way.

– Suzanne Chartier-White, Principal.



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Every year the Kenora Catholic District School Board hosts a System Wide Spiritual Development Day in one of our school gymnasiums. It's a meaningful and important time for all of our system staff to come together and celebrate the gift of Catholic Education and receive professional development focused on enhancing the spirit. When we say everyone, we mean it. Teachers, principals, custodians, librarians, education assistants, secretaries, early childhood educators, trustees and administrators all come together and participate in this sacred time of unity and learning.

This year our teacher was Sister Claire Fitzgerald.



Intentionally, Fundamentally and Radically Catholic

The dynamic and engaging Sister Claire Fitzgerald, ssnd, Ph.D., inspired an entire gymnasium filled with educators, administrators and support staff to be **intentionally, fundamentally and radically Catholic** in these challenging and changing times. She challenged the Kenora Catholic District School Board to define and articulate what makes us Catholic and then celebrate and enhance those attributes.

Within 30 seconds of Sister Claire Fitzgerald's opening keynote, the audience was absorbed in her animated story-telling style of teaching as well as her Boston accent. It was a rare honor and a pleasure to be able to hear such a brilliant Catholic leader speak. Sister Claire truly was a gift.

The Kenora Catholic District School Board's Spiritual Development Day was hosted at Pope John Paul II School on Friday, October 21st.

Cranes Across the World

Last fall, Marie Lundin's Grade 5 class read the story *Sadako and the 1000 Paper Cranes*. Together they explored the Japanese teaching that says if a person is to make a thousand cranes they will be granted a wish.

In March 2011 the tsunami hit Japan and devastated the country. The effects rippled across the ocean to the little town of Kenora. The Grade 5 students wanted to help, and conceived a plan to make a thousand paper cranes, sell them for a dollar each, and raise money for the relief efforts for Japan. The industrious little hands of the students of Pope John Paul II School and St. Thomas Aquinas High School made the cranes. Each crane was placed into a box, and a prayer or wish was made for the people of Japan. The cranes were made and placed in the foyer of Pope John Paul II School.



The magic of the tale was that only 500 cranes needed to be sold because the Red Cross matched each dollar raised.

The gift of the cranes was \$1000 donated to tsunami relief efforts in Japan. The cranes continue to fly high in the foyer of Pope John Paul II School as a reminder of our commitment to serve others and follow in Jesus' teachings.

Walking in the Light of Christ

I think it is interesting that sometimes I perceive that I'm in the dark when really it is only that: my perception. Jesus is always walking with me but sometimes I close my eyes to the light and miss out. When I see students learning, growing, having fun, becoming more themselves my eyes are opened to the light of Christ and I walk with a happier step!

– Mary Cunningham, Superintendent of Instructional Services.

Strengthening our Catholicity

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Walking in the Light of Christ

To me, Walking in the Light of Christ, means to be a light to someone or even to yourself. In the Bible, 2 Corinthians 4-6 it says, "For it is God who said, Let light shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

– Shyla Fleter, grade 6.



“Catholic Schools Are Supportive, Encouraging and Compassionate”

Our very own, Nicole Kurtz, a Guidance Counselor by AM (STA) and a Vice Principal by PM (SMB), serving two different schools at the same time and wearing many different hats provided a very meaningful and heartfelt presentation to Catholic School Trustees

from across the region at the 49th Annual Diocesan Conference.

Kurtz was invited to share her story about her personal experience with Catholic education and how it has shaped the person she has become today. “In preparing for this presentation I realized that out of my 40 years I have spent 27 of those years in a Catholic School. From a student and graduate at St. Thomas Aquinas High School to a teacher and then the roles I perform today”, says Kurtz.

“Catholic Schools are supportive, encouraging and compassionate and my Catholic education has impacted every aspect of my life,” says Kurtz as she told her story shaped around the past the present and the future. “I try to aspire to be a great Catholic role model for our students and I am open to seeing the signs of God’s presence in my daily life”.

Kurtz presented at the 49th Annual Conference which was held in Thunder Bay. This year’s conference was entitled “Celebrating our Successes”. The conference was comprised of a series of workshops featuring best practices in Catholic education and brought together clergy, trustees and school and system leaders from Northwestern Ontario.

Hearing Nicole speak about her experiences as a student and now as a valued member within the Kenora Catholic District School Board was very meaningful. She made an impact on the audience at the conference. We are extremely proud of Nicole for sharing her personal story. She is an asset and a valued Catholic role model with our board.

System Retreat

Father Jack Lynch, Superior General of the Scarboro Missions, won the hearts of the fifty participants attending the Kenora Catholic District School Board System Retreat at Andy Lake Resort on Saturday, May 7th. Using “Celebrating the Spirit” from the 2010 Catholic Education Week theme across Ontario for Catholic schools, Father Lynch engaged us with his personal stories and reflections that demonstrated the workings of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives. He used a very powerful DVD by the well known National Geographic photographer DeWitt Jones “What’s Right with the World”. It is a stunningly beautiful video that teaches what a powerful force having a vision of possibilities can mean in our lives if we are open to recognize the beauty and goodness present before us in the simple ordinary things of creation and people. It was a valued lesson and formed a renewed sense of spirituality for all those who attended.



Fostering Relationships and Partnerships

As a Catholic school system we nurture positive relationships to become true partners with our community, which we believe will truly help us better serve our students. We are committed to involving all of our stakeholders as we develop, implement and review programs, decisions and services. We encourage cooperation and collaboration to create an environment which supports trust and encourages teamwork and partnerships.



Advisory Council on First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education

The Kenora Catholic District School Board is very proud of the relationships that have been fostered and developed through our Advisory Council on First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education. This committee has been meeting now for three years. This group of people was instrumental in allowing the Kenora Catholic District School Board to be one of the first boards in Ontario to develop and implement a First Nation, Métis and Inuit Self Identification Policy. The group, who comes together at least four times per year and represents all stakeholders in our community, has also begun to have a direct impact on the programming we are able to offer to our students.

This winter students from École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys, Pope John Paul II School, St. Louis School and St. Thomas Aquinas High School were able to enjoy First Nations Elders' stories from within a tepee erected on our school properties. Community members from Wauzushk Onigum First Nation came to the schools and set up the tepee and hosted stories inside. The students learned from the Elders and were able to grow in their appreciation of our rich culture and heritage in Kenora. Without the council we might not have forged the bond that allowed this collaboration.

The committee is a partnership and collaboration to ensure the best education for all of our students.

Thank you to all members of the Advisory Council on First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education for your dedication to our students.

Equity and Inclusive Education

The Kenora Catholic District School Board recognizes that all people are created equal in the image of God, with inimitable characteristics deserving of dignity (Genesis: 1:27). In accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church, it is the procedure of the board to provide in all its operations an educational environment which supports and enables diversity within its Catholic school community.

We have created a procedure for Equity and Inclusive Education in our schools and have been working on ensuring that it's not just a document on paper but that it is a living, growing initiative in all of our schools. The procedure and the aims of the provincial strategy dovetail with our Catholic Graduate Expectations perfectly so we have been making sure that these connections are clear and evident in all of our everyday working in all of our schools.

The progress towards implementation of the Equity and Inclusive Education Procedure is shared with the trustees at a board meeting once a year.

Walking in the Light of Christ
To me, "Walking in the Light of Christ" means that you will never walk in darkness because Jesus is always with you and will never leave you or forsake you. "Walking in the Light of Christ" can also mean because Jesus loves us so much, he died on the cross and doing good deeds is "Walking in the Light of Christ".

– Amelia Sutherland,
grade 6 student.

Lights, Camera, Action

On February 24th the Kenora Catholic District School Board was honored to have a videographer from the Ministry of Education come to St. Louis School and film our Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program. The video is posted on the Ministry of Education website at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/kindergarten/videos.html>.

The 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 Nation communities. The board is tremendously proud of what the teachers and administrators have done at St. Louis School.

The students and teachers were filmed as part of a commercial message being promoted by the Ministry of Education to show parents and families about the new way of offering the Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program in the Kindergarten classroom. Our teachers and resource people were filmed along side of Elders who were visiting as well as our first Early Childhood Education worker who is an integral part of the learning team. This video opportunity also led to our Kindergarten team at St. Louis to be invited to speak at the Circle of Light Conference in November 2011 in Toronto.



Teaching and Learning Excellence

As a Catholic school system we truly believe all students have the ability to learn within the proper environment and be able to work to their full potential. We value knowledge in the context of faith.

The Learning Continues

All Day, Everyday

We are very excited to have three of our schools offering full day, every day Kindergarten programming this year.

St. John's Separate School in Red Lake is offering a full day program for Junior and Senior Kindergarten students. The school is excited to be able to continue this program for the Senior Kindergarten students who have been doing this for many years now. Our Junior Kindergarten students will now also have the opportunity to have more continuity and longer periods of time to devote to the important literacy, numeracy and social skills of our Kindergarten program.

Pope John Paul II School is also offering a full day, everyday program this year. This is a new adventure for this school and the staff, parents, administration and students are all excited to have a full day program. "It means that students will be able to focus on the skills they need to be successful for longer and more effective blocks of time," says principal of the school, Maureen Frankcom. "We are very excited to have the opportunity to have our youngest learners here for more time!"

The full day program continues at St. Louis School this year as well. St. Louis School teachers have been real pioneers in implementing this new curriculum in their school. This program is the only one in our board to be officially following the new Kindergarten curriculum and is providing ground breaking learning for our students and for our staff in all of our schools. The use of the emergent curriculum and a focus on play-based learning has given us all an excellent model to follow. The work at St. Louis School has been featured on the Ministry of Education web site as a short promotional video along with our coterminous board partners at the Keewatin Patricia District School Board. We are so proud to be doing such great work here in the Northwest. The work of the Kenora Catholic District School Board rivals any of that done in the province. We know we have a wonderful program and we are very excited to be able to share our success with others.

The full day Kindergarten program at all of the schools features a focus on the learning needs of the students and looks at ways of providing the right stimulus at the right time in order to move student learning forward.



Walking in the Light of Christ

Walking in the Light of Christ means walking beside God, even when we can't see Him. He is helping us to make good choices, to help and share, and to be good. The light reminds us He is there in our hearts.

– La Classe Senior Kindergarten de Mille Kat.



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The Ontario First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Policy Framework

The Ontario First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Policy Framework is alive and flourishing in the Kenora Catholic District School Board.

We are implementing the four guiding principles in our work in our schools everyday. We have focused on building capacity for our teachers to bring a high level of achievement to our students by ensuring that we know who our students are and by helping our teachers to use data in the most effective way possible. Teachers and Senior Administrators attended training on the use of the Policy Framework document in October this year. This training helped to solidify knowledge and skills and pointed out how we can further enhance our learning about First Nations, Métis and Inuit culture. We continue to use the Self Identification Policy we established years ago. We are now also able to share our information with EQAO and to gather data and compare it to other areas in the province. It has been through our strong partnerships in the community that we have been able to move this forward.

Our Native Language and Northern Studies curriculum allows all students to gain an understanding and appreciation for the First Nation, Métis, and Inuit culture and we have been able to help all students see themselves in our curriculum and in all of the work we do.

Our board has built strong positive connections with local First Nations and other Aboriginal organizations, and we engage in shared planning with First Nation, Métis, and Inuit families and communities through continuous dialogue and a high level of transparency and accountability. We have made it a priority that we research and promote effective practices for helping First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students succeed in school.

Walking in the Light of Christ

It means welcoming all members of our school and our community in the same way as Christ would, on a day to day basis. Accepting, caring and forgiving each other and seeing the positive light shining through in each other.

– Mary Sinkiewicz, Education Assistant.

patience



Teaching and Learning Excellence

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Curriculum and Programs

Inside, Outside: the Students are Learning Everywhere

You cannot keep the learning at the Kenora Catholic District School Board boxed into one classroom or even inside of a school. With our Native Studies program, our coop experiences and our outdoor education program, the learning spills out all over the district.

This year our high school outdoor education program grew into an even more dynamic experience for our students. They were involved in data collection by casting moose, deer and other animal tracks. Canoeing, cross country skiing, building quinzee and emergency shelters, snowshoeing, food preparation and survival tricks and tips were also part of the curriculum. The students also learned how to create their own survival kits for specific expeditions. The final projects of the course that really tested their skills were overseen and rated by judges from the MNR, Trappers Association, Ornge Air as well as personnel from ambulance crews, the Ontario Provincial Police and our own Mr. White and Mr. Valentini.

While the students were out on trips they also had the benefit of First Nations and cultural heritage teachings from Peter White, Cyler Cotton and Adolphus Cameron.

The students learned that the course was not only about going out in the wilds of our beautiful environment. Our students were also learning to be stewards of the earth by performing trail maintenance. (We are considered "friends of the Rabbit Lake Trail System" and are recognized at City Hall and in tourism brochures for our work.)

As the first Ontario high school to have guided fishing trips as part of a course, we had to have some rules re-written for us and so we partnered up with Whitefish Bay and Sioux Narrows guides to help us work through some of these issues. Of course it was done with a lot of support from local area people and that is part of what makes the course so exciting.

The excitement certainly has been spreading as some of our dog-sled, ice-fishing and winter survival day was featured on "Points North".

The students have all learned that being outdoors and taking part in the environmental issues of our area is worth the time and effort. Learning takes place wherever you are!

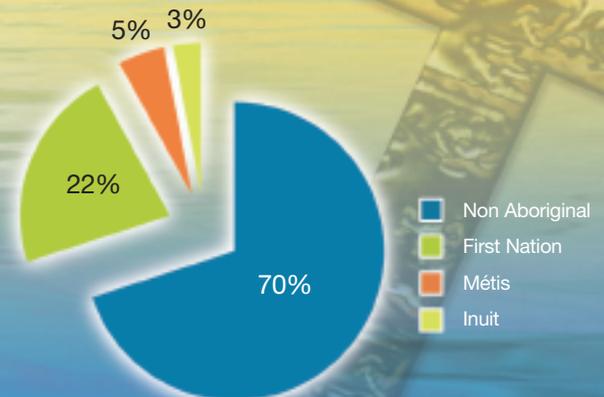


Photograph courtesy of the Dryden Observer



Celebrating our Student Diversity Demographics

The Kenora Catholic District School Board welcomes and celebrates our diverse student population. Through our self-identification procedure, students are able to voluntarily identify themselves as First Nation, Métis, or Inuit. This allows our board to track the results of our students and thus design and implement strategies to ensure success for all of our students.



Walking in the Light of Christ

I think Walking in the Light of Christ means that you are following God's lead, doing what God has asked us to do, and being a light to others.

— Jillian Turcotte, Grade 6 student.

Teaching and Learning Excellence

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Achievements

Credit Accumulation

One of the ways to measure whether students are on track to graduate is to look at how many credits they are accumulating as they go through each grade. Students in grade 10 should have a total of 16 credits if they are on track to graduate in four years. As the pie chart below shows we have 84% of the students in grade 10 who are meeting or exceeding the target of 16 credits. We are very proud of this accomplishment as we know that it means that we are meeting the needs of our students in those first two years of high school, and beyond.

- 16 or more credits
- less than 16 credits



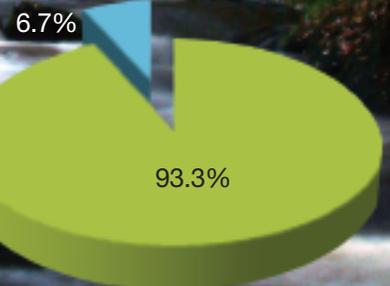
Target for Reading, Writing and Mathematics

Our data shows that we have had a slide in our Junior results. This has taken us off of our pathway to meeting the 75% target for Reading, Writing and Mathematics. We have created a Board Improvement Plan that focuses on working on improving our Junior scores. We are working with teachers to ensure that best practice and research-based, high-yield strategies are being followed. We are gathering teachers by school and in networks of grade groups so that they can focus their work on ensuring that student needs are being met. Our work in the Collaborative Inquiry Learning – Mathematics (CIL-M) is helping us, for example, to hone our skills with the three-part Math lesson and to enhance our understanding and use of the curriculum expectations and Big Ideas of Mathematics.

The Director is focusing on ensuring that collaborative work is ongoing in each of our schools as we focus on ensuring that the student work is central to our investigations and that all teacher learning is based on the needs identified in our students' work.

Primary Class Size Data

- Primary classes 20 students or less
- Primary class size over 20 students



Walking in the Light of Christ

We know we are walking in the light because we are living a life of holiness and a life completely surrendered to the Lord Jesus Christ. May I be the candle that removes the darkness wherever I go.

– Johnathan Walters, Kindergarten Teacher.

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Teaching and Learning Excellence

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The Living Arts: They are Everywhere

There are many things happening that involve the artistic talents of our students at the Kenora Catholic District School Board. Not the least of which is our annual calendar art contest. Students from across the board submit art that becomes a part of a competition for our annual calendar of events. The winning artists are featured each month in the calendar along with their picture. The students get an opportunity to have their artwork shared in homes across our district. This year's cover winner was Miss Hayley Biggs, a Kindergarten student from St. Louis School. Our judges of the art contest really loved Hayley's use of color and her abstract art style. Great job Miss Hayley!

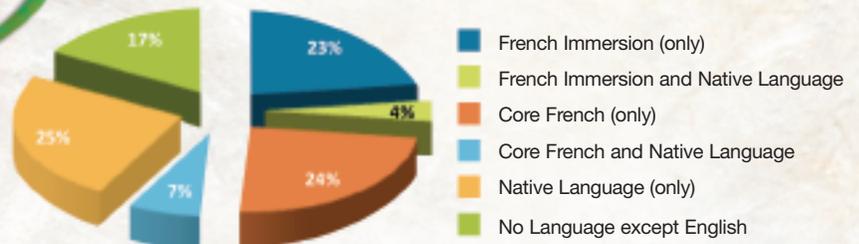
Another exciting event this year was the grade 2 musical at École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys. The students performed the Wizard of Oz, starring Kierra Bazelo as Dorothy. Across town the entire school of St. Louis took part in the school's production of The Jungle Book. Both of these musicals were exciting and featured the many talents of our students.

At St. Thomas Aquinas High School the artistic talents of the students were celebrated at the annual arts banquet also known as The Stellars. Students in all forms of artistic pursuit were given awards and opportunities to have their work on display and in the spotlight. The performance of Charlie's Aunt and the Christmas and Spring concerts by the band at St. Thomas Aquinas High School were also terrific artistic showcases for our students. The band even took their show on the road this year and did a tour of schools in Northwestern Ontario, performing for their fellow students.

Programs for Students Unable to Attend Regular School

We have not had many students who have needed to have programming outside of the regular school schedule. However, we are prepared for this possibility and have trained our high school Guidance and eLearning staff in ways to help students who may need courses outside of the regular school setting. We have had the Ministry of Education training and continue to plan for all eventualities in our school day.

Percentage of Students Enrolled in Language Instruction



Special Education

We have been doing a special education review to ensure that our students are getting the best possible service. We started with our largest school (St. Thomas Aquinas High School) and have been able to find ways to be more effective and efficient with our programs and with our transition plans.

Walking in the Light of Christ

Walking in the Light of Christ means that when you are Walking in the Light of Christ, you are walking in God's light. Every time you do something good, you are walking in the Light of Christ.

– Tanner Alexander, Grade 6 student.

Championing Continuous Improvement

As a Catholic School system we believe in excellence. To achieve excellence, we must strive for improvement by establishing goals, clear planning, aligning of resources, effective implementation and assessment of progress.

Moving Forward

Ensuring Student Outcomes

We have implemented successful professional learning communities in every school and they are focusing on areas of need as identified in student work. We have used our Schools in the Middle funding to ensure that Pope John Paul II School and St. John's School are given a priority for funding and for support. We have provided them with a teacher who works with students in the primary level who have fallen behind in learning to read. These students are being brought up to benchmarks so that they will have a better chance for success in the Junior level.

Notable Accomplishments in the Health of Our Students

The Kenora Catholic District School Board is committed to ensuring that our schools and workplaces are safe and healthy places to learn, grow and thrive.

Our student health has been enhanced enormously this year by the new food and beverage policy that is now being fully implemented in all of our schools. In our classrooms, students are being given the knowledge and understanding to help them make healthy choices in their everyday eating habits. Schools have looked at their hot lunch and breakfast programs and made changes to provide children with nutritious options. Students now enjoy whole wheat pasta with veggie sauce and low fat cheese on their whole wheat pizza as just two of their many choices for healthy eating.

The cafeteria staff at St. Thomas Aquinas High School have embraced the new School Food and Beverage Policy and the menu has a new and healthy look. Students are offered a wide variety of healthy food alternatives from fresh fruit and salads to slushies that are made with 100% fruit juice.

It is not better summed up anywhere than by this quote from one of our high school students: "I thought that we were losing

our French fries this year. I am glad that someone changed their minds. This food is still great!" This was said in response to being asked about the new changes in the cafeteria in the high school. Our students do not believe that we have made the changes because the food is still so good!

The trustees and the parent involvement committee have both had presentations on the new School Food and Beverage Policy. They have had the opportunity to discuss the changes and make suggestions for healthy eating in our schools.

The Evolution of Our Nordic Ski Team

The St. Thomas Aquinas High School Nordic Ski team started in 2006 and has been gaining momentum since. The first year of the program 4 skiers qualified for the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA) and in 2011, 11 skiers qualified.

The program has been so well received that in 2010 OFSAA approved a motion put forth by the 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 OFSAA where she won the gold medal in the 3 km event, almost 3 minutes faster than her nearest competition. Congratulations Jamie Triskle!



compassion

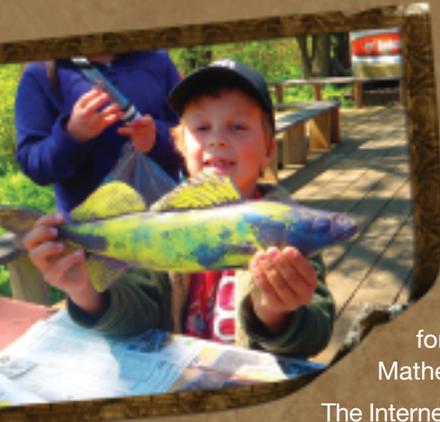
Walking in the Light of Christ

Walking in the Light of Christ means that when I am feeling uncertain of the path I am on or decisions I have to make, the Light of Christ will guide me at all times. I can always trust that I will not be lost in the dark because there is light. "If God brings you to it, God will bring you through it."

Quotation by Author Robert Schuller
- Becky Gartner, Education Assistant.

Championing Continuous Improvement

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Learning After Hours?

The Kenora Catholic District School Board was chosen as one of 16 boards in Ontario to participate in the Ministry of Education's e-Learning Homework Help Initiative. The focus of the pilot project was to improve student success and provide supports for students in Grades 7 to 10 Mathematics.

The Internet Learning Community (ILC) has created a website dedicated to online Homework Help. This anonymous and FREE Math tutoring provides Grade 7 to 10 students with a safe way to get help with their Math homework. During the school year, students could create a username and password and log onto <http://homeworkhelp.ilc.org>, pick a chat room and ask their questions to a certified Mathematics teacher. The chat room is equipped with audio capabilities, a chat board, and an online white board which allows students to better understand the solution to their question.

Since the launch of the project in September 2010 the Kenora Catholic District School Board has successfully registered approximately 450 Grade 7 to 10 Mathematics Students on the Homework Help Website and provided Professional Development to over 100 teachers on the Ontario Education Resource Bank (OERB).

Students were seeing the benefit of the resources, and as a grade ten student stated "The tutors are great. I left the chat room really understanding the concept. I especially found the chat rooms with audio helpful".

This year St. Thomas Aquinas High School hosted a new event. They provided a day for students from all of the surrounding schools to come to the high school to enjoy the first fruits of summer. The day featured student talent, a dunking machine

whose proceeds went to help cancer research, face painting and many summer time treats. Students loved the opportunity to spend a little time basking in the glow of summer and seeing and hearing the voices of fellow students.

The Northern Studies program was able, this year, to purchase snow shoes for our students. The snow shoes will mean that there will be more opportunity to enjoy the Northern beauty of our area in the winter. In previous years students have gone ice fishing, dog sledding and snow shoeing but have always had difficulty finding enough equipment. Now that the equipment is there, the possibilities are endless.

What are we learning today, Mom?

Being in a small school means that sometimes you have your Mom as a teacher. At St. John's Separate School in the grade 1 and 2 class, Erica Thesenvitz-Orwald teaches her own daughter as well as the child of a colleague.

This winter during the Professional Learning Community, Erica shared this story:

As she was writing the learning goals for the day, her daughter looked up and said, "Oh what are we learning today, Mom?" Kendall is only in grade one and she is already understanding the learning goals and why they are important. This gave us the idea of explaining the PLC from the eyes of a child.

Mrs. Thesenvitz-Orwald reads aloud to us. She shows us how to use our own ideas with the words from the text to explain our thinking. She's taught us how inferencing is like making a smart guess and how I can use the author's clues, pictures and words and my own knowledge. We call that schema. We talk about clues plus schema equals inference. So, what are we learning tomorrow, Mom?



Walking in the Light of Christ

Walking in the Light of Christ means to me that believing in Christ is like a big lamp that lights and guides my path through life. God is my lantern!

– Jacqueline Rivard, teacher.

Championing Continuous Improvement

As a Catholic School system we believe in excellence. To achieve excellence, we must strive for improvement by establishing goals, clear planning, aligning of resources, effective implementation and assessment of progress.

It Is a Framework, But It Is Not Common!

This year at École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys we have hired a new half time position to offer help and guidance in implementing the new Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) model in our French Immersion Program.

Schools use many different methodologies and many ways to describe and measure language proficiency levels. As educators we need a common method by which we can describe language learning, teaching, and assessment. The Council of Europe has developed the Common European Framework of References for Languages to establish international standards for learning, teaching, and assessment for all modern European languages. This standard has been adopted by schools to measure and report on the French language levels of our students.

At École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys the new teacher is helping to establish a model classroom that will be open for demonstration lessons in the new year. Meanwhile the CEFR teacher and the grade four classroom teacher are working collaboratively to build lessons that focus on authentic oral communication. The creativity is not limited to the efforts of the teachers! Our students are learning to enjoy the nuance of language and are becoming confident and competent users of the French language as they push themselves to speak more often and more fluently.

empathy



Hip Hop Dancers Hit the Floor

The Hip Hop dancers hit the floor at St. Thomas Aquinas High school, implementing their brand new group. The group of dancers are a completely student driven group, with Grade 12 student Cheyenne Kennedy choreographing the dance routines and leading the group. The team traveled to Vancouver last winter to participate in the Hip Hop Dance Team Championship.

"It's wonderful to see these types of leadership activities happening in our school. It's something we really encourage", says Principal, Paul White.

Walking in the Light of Christ

Walking in the Light of Christ means when you walk through the light of Christ you walk beside God.

– Abby Smith, grade 3 student.



Saints Win Silver at OFSAA

On November 25 – 27, 2010 the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association hosted OFSAA in Mississauga, Ontario. The host school was Mayfield Secondary School.

The St. Thomas Aquinas High School team brought home a silver medal to add to their collection of medals won over the years. The team won a gold medal in 2008 and 2009.

"I am so proud of this team and our accomplishments over the past few years. Capturing the gold medal the last 2 years and the silver medal this year at OFSAA is truly remarkable." says Coach Joanna Krisko.



Communicating Effectively

As a Catholic school system we are committed to open and honest communication based on respect and integrity. We also believe communication is only effective if it is two way. Effective communication of ideas and information promote our core values and our vision for our students.

The Road Goes Both Ways

At our board we use a number of different techniques and strategies to ensure we are communicating effectively in our schools, within our Catholic Education Community, and with our parents and students. We communicate through numerous meetings, forums and celebrations, press releases, Director's Monthly newsletters, system wide annual calendar for families, our website and our Annual Director's Report.

All of our board policies and procedures are just a few mouse clicks away and fully available for viewing on our website at www.kcdsb.on.ca. This past year we initiated a consultation process to review our procedures. Thank you to everyone who participated and provided meaningful input.



The Perfect Storm

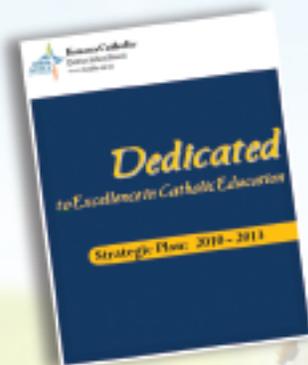
Storm Baker is the "perfect storm". He is the only student in Northwestern Ontario chosen to attend the Circle of Light Conference as a student panel representative. "We are very proud of Storm", says Shelly Tom, Aboriginal Resource Teacher for the board. "Storm was able to be the voice of our community and our region". It is important to be able to have the voice of our youth heard in these authentic and important venues and we are very proud that Storm represented our board at this important conference.

The Circle of Light 2011 First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Conference was hosted in Toronto November 14 - 16, 2011. The conference provided an opportunity for educators in both provincial and First Nation School systems to participate in joint professional development. The conference is designed to share best practices and effective strategies on Aboriginal Education, and Storm spoke of his view of best practices in our board.

Walking in the Light of Christ

I think Walking in the Light of Christ means that you are following God's lead, doing what God has asked us to do, and being a light to others.

— Jillian Turcotte, grade 6 student.



We have a Three Year Plan!

The Kenora Catholic District School Board has a three year Strategic Plan that is available on our board website under departments/administrative services/board operating plans.

Our plan highlights priorities and goals that we will be focusing on in all areas of our board from Academic Services, Human Resources, Leadership, Finance, Governance and Capital to Information Technology. Please visit our website at www.kcdsb.on.ca to view our plan. If you have any feedback you would like to share with us regarding our plan please e-mail us at info@kcdsb.on.ca.

Student Voice, Parent and Community Engagement, Safe and Healthy Schools

Our schools have embraced the concept of listening to and amplifying our student voice.

We have been able to have our Tell Them From Me survey put in to place this fall so that we can systematically gather and analyze what our students are saying about our school climate and culture. We have also had specific projects in the schools that have brought our students the opportunity to speak out loudly and clearly.

At St. Thomas Aquinas High School we have had a Speaker's Corner built into the cafeteria. Students have been able to voice their thoughts on key issues and share them with others. We have also been working on increasing our oral language program in our French Immersion school, École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys, so that they can express themselves more clearly in their second language.

Our parent and community engagement was highlighted and celebrated in two spectacular events. The first was an Ecological Film Festival that featured Bob MacDonald (of Quirks and Quarks fame) and was created in response to our parent and community groups wishes to focus on more "green" living. The second was the final meeting of the Parent Council Advisory Group that found our parents being highlighted and treated to the Arts Festival and banquet at the high school. The parents and the school were pleased to be able to share this night and to focus on each other's accomplishments.

On November 23rd over 40 students from St. Thomas Aquinas High School attended We Day at the MTS Center in Winnipeg. The 16,000 students attending We Day were challenged to create a greater relationship between students on and off reserve. Young people can create "a shift in consciousness" that shows all Canadians the potential of Aboriginal young people, says founding member Mark Kielburger. "There was such a positive energy throughout the whole day and I think We Day really motivated us to start making a difference however we can", says Student Trustee and We Day Participant Beth Williams. We Day was started by Free the Children, a Toronto-based organization founded by brothers Craig and Mark Kielburger. We Day engages youth to help others in their own communities and around the world to learn about global issues and participate in the drive to create a positive change.

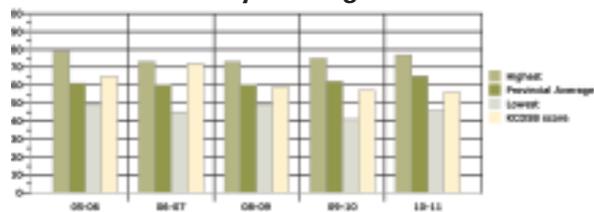
Kenora Catholic District School Board and Provincial EQAO Results

Throughout our Annual Director's Reports you will notice that we reference EQAO tests, data or results. The abbreviation EQAO represents Education Quality and Accountability Office. The EQAO is an advisory board legislated into creation in 1996 by the government of Ontario to provide greater accountability and assurances of quality in a publicly funded education system. The EQAO tests students' skills in reading, writing and mathematics at key points in their elementary and secondary school education to ensure all students are receiving a quality education.

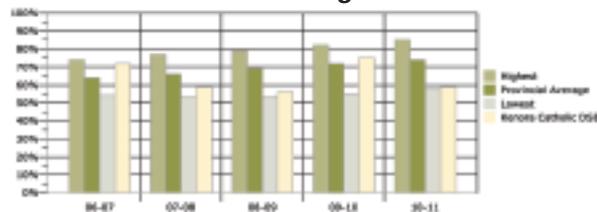
The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) is a provincial assessment administered to grade 10 students to test their reading and writing skills. Students are required to meet the standards by the end of grade 9 in order to successfully complete the assessment in grade 10. Successful completion is required for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

Hard Work Pays Off

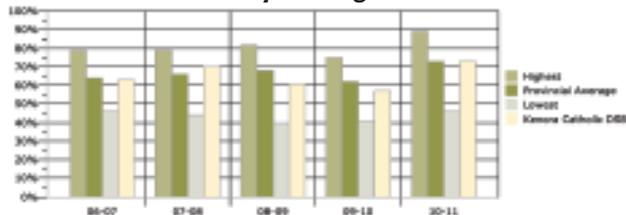
Primary Reading



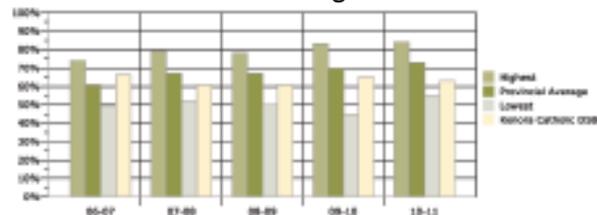
Junior Reading



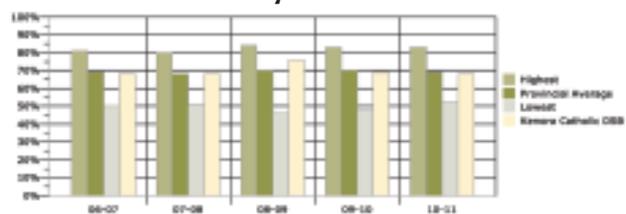
Primary Writing



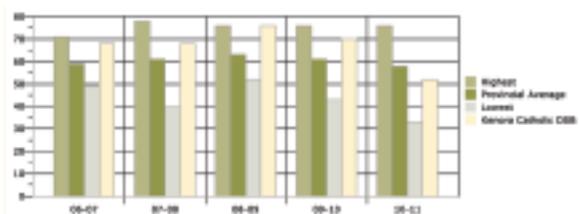
Junior Writing



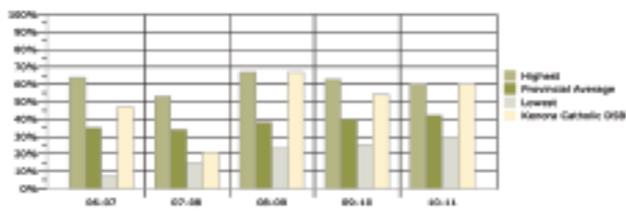
Primary Math



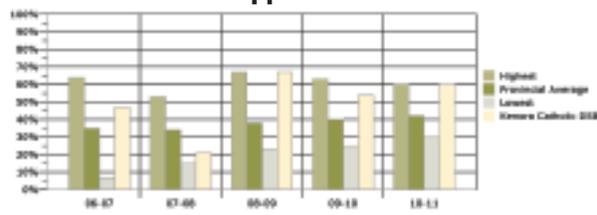
Junior Math



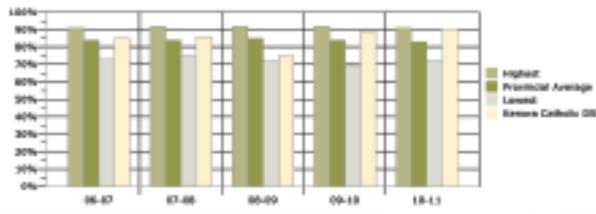
Grade 9 Academic Math



Grade 9 Applied Math



OSSLT - Grade 10



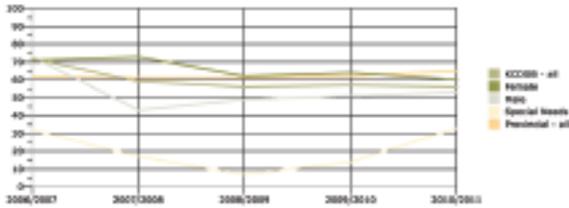
Kenora Catholic District School Board EQAO Results Over Time

The Kenora Catholic District School Board's EQAO results provide the board with an overview of our achievement in comparison to the provincial standard and allows for a chance to reflect on the practices and achievement of our students over the year. The results enable our board to better target our resources to support our students to achieve their full academic potential.

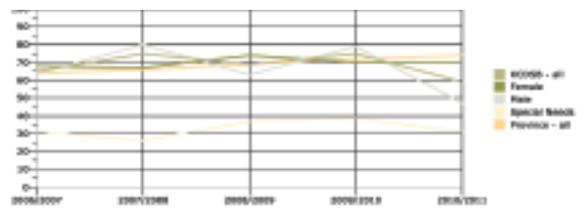
At the Kenora Catholic District School Board we are focusing on student engagement and increasing the amount of time that students are able to truly, actively engage with the curriculum in a meaningful and authentic way. We continue to do this through the lens of the Catholic Graduate Expectations and we strive to foster high levels of social capital within our Catholic environment through the use of professional learning communities and other inquiry based models.

respect

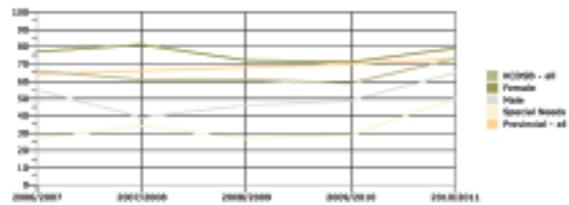
Primary Reading - Gender and Special Needs



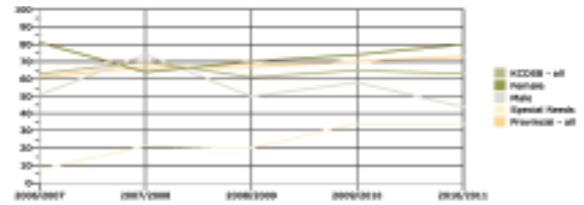
Junior Reading - Gender and Special Needs



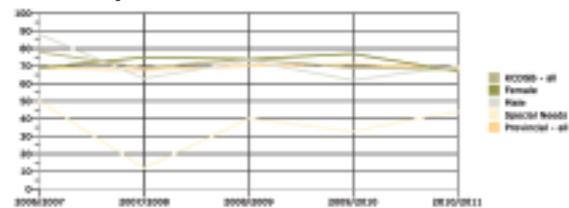
Primary Writing - Gender and Special Needs



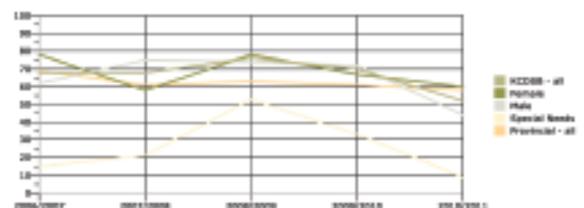
Junior Writing - Gender and Special Needs



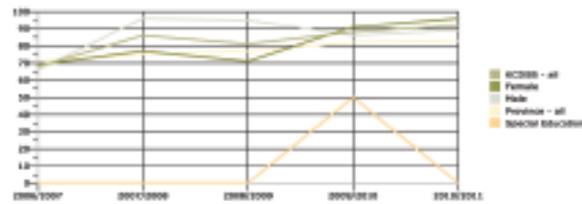
Primary Math - Gender and Special Needs



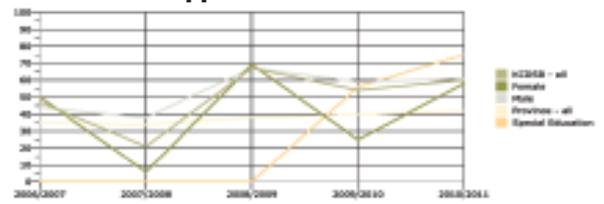
Junior Math - Gender and Special Needs



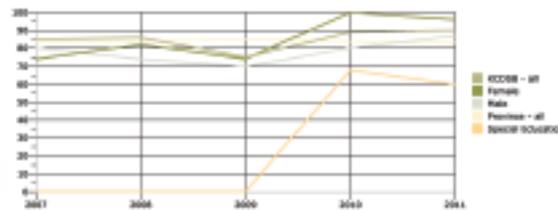
Grade 9 Math - Academic Over Time



Grade 9 Applied Math - Gender



OSSLT - Gender





Michael Favreau
Chair

Frank Bastone
Vice Chair

Vaughn Blab
Trustee

Josie Kipling
Trustee

Brenda Bye
Trustee

Paul Landry
Trustee

Teresa Gallik
Trustee

Beth Williams
Student Trustee

Kenora Catholic District School Board Profile

Enrollment 1,587

*Elementary Students 1,188

Secondary Students 399

Our Family of Schools:

Elementary:

- St. Louis School
- Pope John Paul II School
- École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys
- St. John's Separate School

Secondary:

- St. Thomas Aquinas High School

Facilities:

- 1 Multi Skills Training Centre of Excellence
- 2 Daycare Facilities
- 1 Full French Immersion School

Staff

** Instructional Staff 170

Non Instructional Staff 60

* 308 elementary students totally immersed in French K-12

** includes active teachers, LTO's, EA's, ECE's, Librarians, Chaplain, Speech Language Pathologist

Area

The Kenora Catholic District School Board provides education in the communities of Kenora, Keewatin and Red Lake, Ontario.

Community Use of Schools

The Kenora Catholic District School Board offers access to school space at a minimal cost to not-for-profit groups to help provide additional opportunities for children and youth to access activities such as sports, arts and recreational programs. Please call us at (807) 469.9851 to learn how our Community Use of Schools Program can support your community initiative.

Our Board Meetings

Our Board meetings are open to the public and we would love you to join us. Board meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m., excluding July and August. All meetings are held at the Catholic Education Center located at 1292 Heenan Place.

SUPPORTING YOUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS THROUGH YOUR PROPERTY TAXES

Please check your property tax bill to ensure your support is directed to the English Catholic School Board. You may not know this but by default your property taxes are automatically directed to the public school board unless you take the time to notify The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation that you want your taxes directed to the Catholic school board.

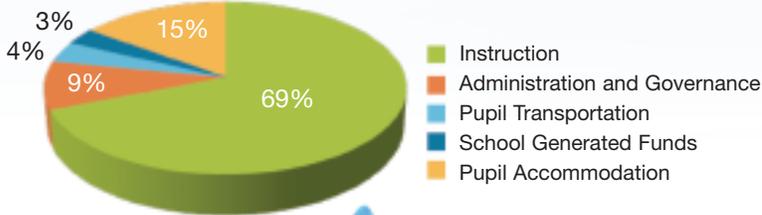
By ensuring that you are accurately recorded as a Catholic school supporter you can help to deliver a powerful message about the level of support for publicly funded Catholic education in Ontario. You will also be eligible to vote for your local Catholic school board trustees once you are registered as a separate school supporter.

To verify your support or if you have questions about how to change your taxes or about the Request for Occupant Information Form, please contact the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation at 1.866.296.6722.

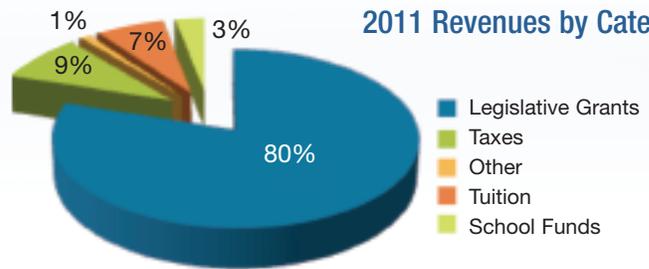
Thank you for taking the time to ensure that your support is directed to your Catholic school board.

Financial Facts at a Glance

2011 Expenditures by Category



2011 Revenues by Category



We Welcome and Value Your Comments

This Annual Report was produced by the Kenora Catholic District School Board. Student photos were taken at our schools: St. Louis School, St. Thomas Aquinas High School, St. John's Separate School, Pope John Paul II School and our French Immersion school École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys.

Minimal copies of this report are printed. Our report is available online at www.kcdsb.on.ca. If you would like to receive additional copies of this report, or for more information about anything you've read within this report please call (807) 468.9851 or e-mail us at info@kcdsb.on.ca.

