



CDSBEO Introduces New Board Spiritual Theme

The new CDSBEO Board Theme *Be Holy – Joy Springs from a Loving Heart!* is inspired once again by scripture; by the Saints and by the Holy Father Pope Francis. The theme, which will be implemented over the next three years, was formally presented to the Board of Trustees at the August 29th meeting.

Students from the choir at St. Joseph's Catholic Secondary School in Cornwall began the presentation by singing a song written to accompany the theme entitled *Be Holy*. The song will be incorporated into celebrations, liturgies, and masses throughout the CDSBEO.

Theresa Lalonde Pankow, Principal of Religious and Family Life Education, provided an outline of the new theme, how it was inspired, and how it will be lived out throughout schools.

"We have been blessed in our board to have wonderfully engaging themes that have allowed us to access, unpack and bring to life our board's vision: Inspired by the teachings of Jesus Christ, we transform the world with justice and peace through Catholic education," began Mrs. Lalonde Pankow.

"Our new theme is a personal call to be inspired and transformed within our intimate relationship with Jesus, and at the same time to move outside of ourselves to acts of kindness, where we respond to the call to let Jesus inspire and transform others, through us."

Each year of the theme will be a balance of contemplation and action. Constant reflection on God's presence will be a focus, which will be counter balanced by recognition of the needs of others. Schools have been provided with resources to help bring the new theme to life in CDSBEO classrooms and in student life. It will also be a focus to inspire and inform social justice initiatives and acts of kindness throughout the Board.

"Three sub-themes build upon each other and each will be studied for one year," noted Mrs. Lalonde Pankow. "In year one, we will explore scripture and experience prayer. We will develop an understanding of our personal call to holiness and through this experience a deeper relationship with our God."

"Year two will provide an opportunity to deepen our understanding of holiness through the study of the Saints, and in year three we will apply our understanding of our call to holiness through action and devotion."

The Board will be providing professional development days for educators, as well as implementing a new "*CDSBEO Week*" to help engage students in the new theme and its messages.



Capital, School Renewal and School Condition Improvement Projects for 2017-2018

Over the past three years, the Ministry of Education increased its annual investment in school renewal and school condition improvement funds allocated to school boards. This increased funding will continue for 2018-2019.

Over the past year, the Plant and Maintenance Department has completed work on projects in all Board facilities, including 4,500 work orders and more than 100 projects under School Renewal, School Condition Improvement, Capital and AODA.

Associate Director of Education Bonnie Norton introduced Roger Cauley, Manager of Plant and Maintenance to the Board of Trustees.

"This year, we have had a number of large projects, which has been challenging for the Plant and Maintenance Department, who have worked extremely hard over the summer to ready our schools for September," noted Associate Director Norton. "The Board has focused on transitioning to new facilities, as well as carrying out many upgrades to existing facilities."

"The largest project has been our new JK-8 school in Smiths Falls," began Mr. Cauley. "The St. Francis de Sales facility cost 14.5 million, and includes 19 classrooms, a 5,000 square foot Child and Family Treatment Centre and 3,500 square foot toddler and preschool centre, both supported by Lanark County. The school will facilitate an enrolment of approximately 430 students, and is situated on 6.28 acres. We are very excited to welcome students to this amazing new facility in September."

Renovations to the General Vanier Secondary School were also completed over the summer to accommodate the new consolidated JK-6 school for Sacred Heart and St. Columban's, as well as the new intermediate program for St. Joseph's Catholic Secondary School. The 2.2 million renovation includes four new JK/SK classrooms, washroom upgrades, new acoustical ceilings and lighting, paint, and flooring. In addition, a new elementary bus loop and work to the school yard were completed.

Several schools will also be receiving upgrades for childcare facilities. St. Finnan's daycare project includes renovations to accommodate daycare for 15 toddlers at a cost of \$262,000, and will be complete for September. St. Joseph Catholic School in Gananoque will receive a three room daycare addition to accommodate 10 infants, 15 toddlers, and 24 preschoolers, in additions to an EarlyON Family Support Centre. Funding for this project is approximately \$1.6 million, and the scheduled date for completion is spring 2019.

Holy Name of Mary Catholic School will undergo renovations for a six classroom addition and a three room daycare centre that will accommodate 15 toddlers and 48 preschoolers. The project will cost \$4.9 million and is scheduled for completion in spring 2019.



"Other renovations to many facilities have been completed over the summer," continued Mr. Cauley. "St. Luke Catholic High School, now located in the facility which was previously St. James the Greater, has received interior renovations to provide a hospitality area, as well as upgrades to existing classrooms to accommodate secondary and adult learners."

"St. Joseph's Catholic Secondary School will also receive renovations to their hospitality program space."

Hundreds of other projects including upgrades to roofing, heating, ventilation and climate control systems, painting, washroom upgrades, and other interior and exterior renovations were completed during the summer months.

"Thank you for the opportunity to highlight our progress this summer," Mr. Cauley concluded. "I am thrilled and excited about the work we've completed, and I look forward to continuing to improve our facilities."

Overdrive

OverDrive is a service offered by the CDSBEO that allows students, parents, and school staff to borrow digital content such as eBooks and audiobooks. It helps to support learning and engagement with the students and allows teachers to access a variety of digital resources for use in the classroom. OverDrive helps to enhance curriculum, provides resources related to professional development, and promotes pleasure reading for students.

CDSBEO began a partnership with OverDrive in January 2017, to enhance the collections of school communities and to tailor the resources to the interests and needs of the students. CDSBEO is a member of the Eastern Ontario Catholic Schools Shared Collection, and shares its content with other Catholic school boards in the region. There are more than 4,700 titles in the collection.

Principal of Curriculum, Dawn Finnegan, presented information to the Board about the OverDrive service and how it will impact learning in CDSBEO classrooms, support student achievement in literacy, and foster a love of reading.

"OverDrive is a digital reading platform offered by the CDSBEO, that allows students, parents, and school staff to borrow digital content, such as eBooks and audiobooks," began Mrs. Finnegan. "Members can read on their iPhones, iPods, computers and other devices in the classroom, at home, in the car, or anywhere else they like."

The tool helps to support learning and engagement with students and allows teachers to access a variety of digital resources for use in the classroom. Available in both English and French, the resources support various curricula including religious education, Indigenous education, mathematics, science, technology, engineering, coding and robotics.



“Educators can also access a variety of ebooks to enhance their professional knowledge and practice with titles from renowned educational researcher Michael Fullan, and mathematics educator Marian Small.”

Users can search OverDrive titles by subject, reading level or type of book. Students can engage with many audiobooks and read alouds as they include visually appealing graphics and sound effects. The tool also has features to support all types of learners such as customized fonts, the ability to highlight, take notes, and add bookmarks. Audiobooks are also available in the collection.

“OverDrive has also developed a new mobile app entitled Sora. The Sora app was designed around the modern student reading experience,” explained Mrs. Finnegan. “Sora supports exportable notes, highlights, and definitions from the text. This allows students to engage more deeply with the text and in turn enhance their learning. It also supports students with various learning needs, including dyslexic fonts.”

“We are extremely excited that the Board is able to offer this resource to our students,” noted Chair Lalonde. “It is clear that it will be a great benefit to support and improve student achievement.”