



## Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic 2017

Each year, students from the CDSBEO participate in various mission trip experiences to international destinations. This year, three staff and 23 students from three CDSBEO Catholic secondary schools (St. Thomas Aquinas CHS, St. John CHS, and St. Michael CHS) travelled to the Dominican Republic to carry out missionary work, and to gain a greater understanding of life in a developing nation, as well as to reach out in service to others.

Associate Director of Education John Cameron, introduced the group of students and three staff members who participated in this year's trip, which was based at the NPH (Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos) Orphanage of Casa Santa Ana. The orphanage is home to over 250 orphaned, abandoned and/or at-risk children, ranging in age from newborns to young adults. Each participant gave their own account of their enriching experiences and discussed how the journey was an excellent opportunity to reach out and help those in need.

Cassie Racicot, a grade 12 student from St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School, spoke about the fulfillment she felt from participating in the trip. "Every single day, I woke up feeling energized and excited to start the day. Each day had a purpose and I felt as though I truly was living as God intended. Seeing your hard work pay off makes every part of you feel proud and happy."

Holly Berkers, also from St. Thomas Aquinas, echoed the same sentiment. "I met beautiful people, with big beautiful smiles. This was an experience that I believe was extremely educational. It was educational in the sense that I was always learning - I was learning about new people, about their culture, their food, and learning the difficult parts of life, as well as their joyful moments."

Celine Roy, a student from St. Michael CHS, spoke of the feelings of hope that each of the participants left with. "The trip, for all of us, allowed us to experience so many different feelings, however the one we felt that remains still heavy in our hearts is a joyous feeling of hope. We went to what many of us believed to be a hopeless place; an orphanage filled with abandoned children, in a developing country no less, and yet their sense of hope, love and joy is unmatched."

Conor Veinotte, a student from St. Thomas Aquinas CHS, wrote and performed a song for the Board of Trustees about his experience in the Dominican Republic.

Director of Education, Wm. J. Gartland, thanked the group. "This is always one of the favourite presentations that comes before the Board. Thank you for your excellent presentation. I would also like to extend thanks to the staff who give their time to make this a reality, without their participation, this learning opportunity would not have taken place."



## CDSBEO Indigenous Education Day 2017

Ongoing exposure and education about First Nations, Métis and Inuit traditions and culture remain an integral part of our Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement. This year, the CDSBEO Indigenous Education Day celebrates the rich history and culture of our First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities.

On Wednesday, May 3, all schools in the CDSBEO will celebrate Indigenous Education Day as part of Catholic Education Week. Superintendent of School Effectiveness Natalie Cameron, introduced Marian Lawson-MacDonald, Indigenous Education Lead, and Brent Bovaird, Principal of Curriculum.

"This year, the day will focus on the Seven Sacred Teachings. We will be providing schools with various resources and activities for classroom teachers. Both English and French read-alouds and learning experiences for grades 1-8, focusing on First Nations, Métis and Inuit traditions and cultures, have been created to support teachers in celebrating this event," began Mr. Bovaird.

"To support and uncover the Seven Sacred Teachings in their lives, students will look at how they are connected to the four seasons. This is a practical way of understanding how the teachings affect us throughout the year," noted Mrs. Lawson-MacDonald.

At the secondary level, teachers are using OneNote to share education plans for the day. The resource includes information for teams on what was presented the previous year, as well as a space to share ideas to enrich learning experiences for the students. Secondary planning teams have invited Indigenous role models into the schools to present, including Grandmother Workshops on the Seven Sacred Teachings, drumming and dance performances, traditional Indigenous food preparations, and many other Indigenous experiences, performances and keynote presenters.

"When we look at feedback from last year's event, educators and students were extremely engaged in the activities. One teacher noted that the activities truly helped to reinforce Canada's Indigenous People as the foundation of our country, and as such, they should be given greater appreciation and respect," noted Mrs. Lawson-MacDonald.

The Board plans to continue the tradition of the CDSBEO Indigenous Day, with next year's theme focusing on Métis culture, and Inuit culture in 2019.

## Interim Financial Report

Manager of Finance, Ashley Hutchinson, provided the interim financial report covering the period from September 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017 with comparative figures for 2016. Mrs. Hutchinson shared a summary of the financial results, including a description of key variances



along with details of accumulated surplus. The report also highlighted the non-financial indicators including summary of enrolment and summary of staffing.

## Pupil Accommodation Review – Cornwall Area – Final Staff Report #3

The Pupil Accommodation Review process for the Cornwall Area commenced on October 4, 2016. On this date, the Board of Trustees received the Initial Staff Report and approved the commencement of the Pupil Accommodation Review for the Cornwall Area. The process includes a series of three Staff Reports which were brought before the Board of Trustees. Staff Report (Report 3), was presented at the May 2 meeting for a final motion and vote by the Board.

Superintendent of Business, Bonnie Norton, introduced Jack Ammendolia, Director at Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. to review Report #3 for the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Ammendolia began by highlighting the premise for the Pupil Accommodation Review.

“Boards are required to follow their Pupil Accommodation Review Policies & Procedures, which are in compliance with the Ministry’s Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline, when dealing with surplus space in schools. Populations have been in decline across the province, and significant declines in birth trends have been taking place across the province. The City of Cornwall experienced a significant decline in Births through the late 1990’s to the early 2000’s, which led to a 21 per cent decline in the 4 to 13 year old population between 2001 and 2011. This decline has resulted in approximately 500 surplus spaces at the Cornwall elementary schools, with several schools projected to have utilization rates below 60 per cent.”

The Accommodation Review Committee has met five times, approximately every month since October. In addition, Board staff, along with Mr. Ammendolia, met with the City of Cornwall, and hosted public meetings with the community of Cornwall to provide updates and gather input from the community on the Accommodation Review.

“At the April 4 public meeting, where delegations were to be presented, no delegations from the community were submitted. School closures are an important issue, and a very emotional issue, and I commend the board for the thoroughness of the process.”

The final draft recommendations presented to the Board of Trustees include:

- 1) Consolidate/Close Immaculate Conception effective June 30, 2018, and redirect enrolment to Bishop Macdonell and St. Peter in accordance with the Proposed Modified Option 2 Attendance Boundary Map identified in Appendix 19 of the Staff Report;
- 2) Declare Immaculate Conception surplus to the Board’s needs effective June 30, 2018;



- 3) Consolidate/Close St. Columban's effective June 30, 2019, and redirect enrolment to the new Sacred Heart school;
- 4) Declare St. Columban's surplus to the Board's needs effective June 30, 2019;
- 5) Consolidate/Close Sacred Heart effective June 30, 2019 and build a new JK-6 Sacred Heart dual track facility to replace the consolidated Sacred Heart/St. Columban's, preferably on an alternate site, or, if possible, find an alternate facility in close proximity to the existing Sacred Heart school;
- 6) Declare the existing Sacred Heart surplus to the Board's needs effective June 30, 2019;
- 7) Modify the current St. Anne and Sacred Heart attendance boundaries north of Highway 401, effective September 1, 2019, to be included in the new consolidated Sacred Heart/St. Columban's boundary, in accordance with the Proposed Modified Option 2 Attendance Boundary Map identified in Appendix 19 of the Staff Report;
- 8) Convert the existing St. Joseph CSS to a grade 7-12 facility effective September 1, 2019 to take in grades 7/8 from St. Anne, Bishop Macdonell, and the consolidated Sacred Heart/St. Columban's, and
  - a. Accommodate the grade 7/8 enrolment at St. Joseph CSS through the use of alternate space, if this is an option, or,
  - b. Build an addition to the existing St. Joseph CSS to accommodate grades 7/8
- 9) Convert St. Anne to a JK-6 dual track facility effective September 1, 2019, with grades 7/8 redirected to the existing St. Joseph CSS;
- 10) Convert Bishop Macdonell to a JK-6 dual track facility effective September 1, 2019, with grades 7/8 redirected to the existing St. Joseph CSS;
- 11) Modify the current secondary boundaries for Holy Trinity CSS and St. Joseph CSS, effective September 1, 2019, to mirror the new proposed boundaries in accordance with the Proposed Modified Option 2 Attendance Boundary Map identified in Appendix 19 of the Staff Report, so that students from Bishop Macdonell are not split between the two secondary schools;
- 12) Pursue the acquisition of an alternate location for St. Matthew CSS, if possible, and effective September 1, 2019, so that the program can be expanded to accommodate grades 7/8.

All trustees voted in favour of the recommendations as presented.

Todd Lalonde, Board Chair noted, "In closing, I would like to thank administration first and foremost, for all of the work that has gone into this endeavour. Our objective is to put students first. We have to make sure we give them the best facilities, the best resources, and this decision undoubtedly puts our students first. "