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From the Director's Desk:

Happy New Year everyone and welcome to 2010!



Once again we are off to a tremendous start as we continue to implement many new and exciting initiatives that form the framework of an outstanding Catholic Education here at the Sudbury Catholic District School Board. Full day Junior Kindergarten in every school and the implementation of the Early Learning program with a before and after school component in three schools, along with the building of the Holy Cross School are just a few examples of what we have to look forward to.

Catherine McCullough

As part of our commitment to enhancing effective communication and as a celebration of all of the great activities in our schools we have decided to publish a shorter *Partners in Spirit*

newsletter that will be sent to you electronically at the end of each month. We welcome your feedback. We are certain that you have noticed, participated and engaged in the enhanced promotional campaign our communications team has undertaken that focuses on showcasing the quality Catholic Education that we collectively deliver in our schools. Thank you to all for your efforts in the month of January in conducting Kindergarten Information Nights, Secondary School Open Houses, Family Literacy Days, support for the crisis in Haiti to name just a few.

As always your contributions to Catholic Education in the Sudbury Catholic District School Board are appreciated and valued.



Lucie Cullen, Principal of Marymount Academy poses with two of her students who will be eligible for the school's AP program in the fall.

Marymount Academy Introduces Advanced Placement (AP) Program

Beginning September 2010, Marymount students in Grades 11 and 12 will be able to register in the *Advanced Placement* or AP courses. "Advanced Placement courses offer university level content to our students at the high school level making them

feel more comfortable and more confident when entering university," says Lucie Cullen, Principal of Marymount Academy.

Marymount Academy will roll out the *Advanced Placement Program* by offering English, Math and French at the AP level with additional courses being added the following year. The AP courses will be taught concurrently with the curriculum, and students will write the university exams at Marymount in May.

Jody Cameron, Chair of the Sudbury Catholic District School Board is very impressed with the school's *Advanced Placement Program*. "The AP Program is a perfect fit for Marymount Academy," Cameron told the student body and the media. "It's innovative, progressive and meets the needs of our students by providing them with opportunities and challenges beyond their grade level."

JK Open House and Registration Night a Huge Success



St. James French Immersion JK Teacher Mme Gaudette looks on as new registrant Carter tries out the scented sampling activity in the classroom.

Parents and potential students visited the Sudbury Catholic District School Board's elementary schools on January 18, 2010 to share in the "Open House" celebrations that were taking place at all of the Board's schools to promote Full Day Kindergarten and the Early Learning Kindergarten Program. Many of the schools had different activities planned and worked very hard in preparation for the evening. The St. James Catholic School staff planned a "child-centered and child-friendly" JK Open House and Registration Night. Besides visiting the JK classrooms and meeting their teachers, the new registrants had their picture taken with the St. James' mascot, received a St. James t-shirt from the fish pond among other fun activities. The St. Benedict's Mascot "Benny" also made a guest appearance at the Open House.

Congratulations to all of our elementary schools and staff for a very successful JK Open House Night!



Three year-old Owen Turner gets some help from his dad, Shawn in working with the SmartBoard at Pius XII's Catholic School JK Open House. Owen had a great time moving the shapes around with just his finger on the SmartBoard screen.

Sudbury Catholic Schools...
Creating hopes and dreams through excellence.



Sudbury Catholic Schools Aid Haitian Relief Fund

Sudbury Catholic District School Board's elementary and secondary schools have raised more than \$7,000 in donations to support the Haitian relief. Monies raised came from school bake sales, PJ dress-down days, "Hats for Haiti" days, and staff luncheons. One student in particular, Rayden Recollect, a Grade 1 student from St. David Catholic School, brought his piggy bank to school and decided to donate every single cent that he owned!

Thank you to Rayden Recollect for his generous donation to the Haitian relief efforts.



Olympic Torch Bearer Visits St. Benedict's

Edith Vigna, a teacher at St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School invited Karen Luczak, an Olympic torch carrier in Sudbury to speak to her students regarding this honour.

St. Ben's staff and students stand with Karen Luczak who carried the Olympic torch in Sudbury. Luczak had a positive influence on the students who will be volunteering their time at the St. Benedict's new breakfast program.

Luczak credited her selection to her numerous volunteer hours dedicated to serving the Sudbury Community.

Sacred Eagle Ceremony Held at Board's Outdoor Environmental Education Centre



Students from the Native Studies and Native Language Programs at Sudbury Catholic Schools participated in an Eagle Ceremony at the Board's Killarney-Shebanoning Outdoor Environmental Education Centre (KSOEEC). Vince Pawis, a traditional Elder who works with the Catholic Board invited students as well as other community Elders and traditional teachers to help him feast an eagle that had perished on a highway.

The eagle is considered the great illuminator and sits in the east on the Medicine Wheel with the Elders and the direction of wisdom and guidance. Through the strength of the eagle's spirit students learned that they can find the courage to execute change. Each student that participated in the ceremony was given an eagle feather by the Elders to take home and cherish.

Annie Wemigwans, a grade 5 student from St. David Catholic School holds on to her Eagle feather gifted to her by an Elder at the Eagle ceremony in Killarney.

Sudbury Catholic School Staff, Published Authors in National Magazine



Dawn Wemigwans, Aboriginal Lead and Christina Raso, Special Education Consultant at the Sudbury Catholic District School Board have earned national recognition in sharing best practices with other boards across Canada. Mrs. Wemigwans and Mrs. Raso wrote an article highlighting the value of providing authentic aboriginal learning experiences to students and how it has been implemented at our Board.

Dawn Wemigwans, Aboriginal Lead (left) and Christina Raso, Special Education Consultant for the Sudbury Catholic District School Board display a copy of their article *Engaging Young Children in Our Schools*, in the national magazine, "Leaders and Learners."

Board Highlights:

- St. David Catholic School Students Create Cultural Crafts
- St. Andrew Catholic Elementary School Celebrates Hockey Sweater Spirit Day
- St. Francis on Board with Supporting Haitian Relief
- St. Benedict Hosts Annual Bear's Classic

For more information on these and other stories visit the Sudbury Catholic District School Board website at www.sudburycatholicschools.ca

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