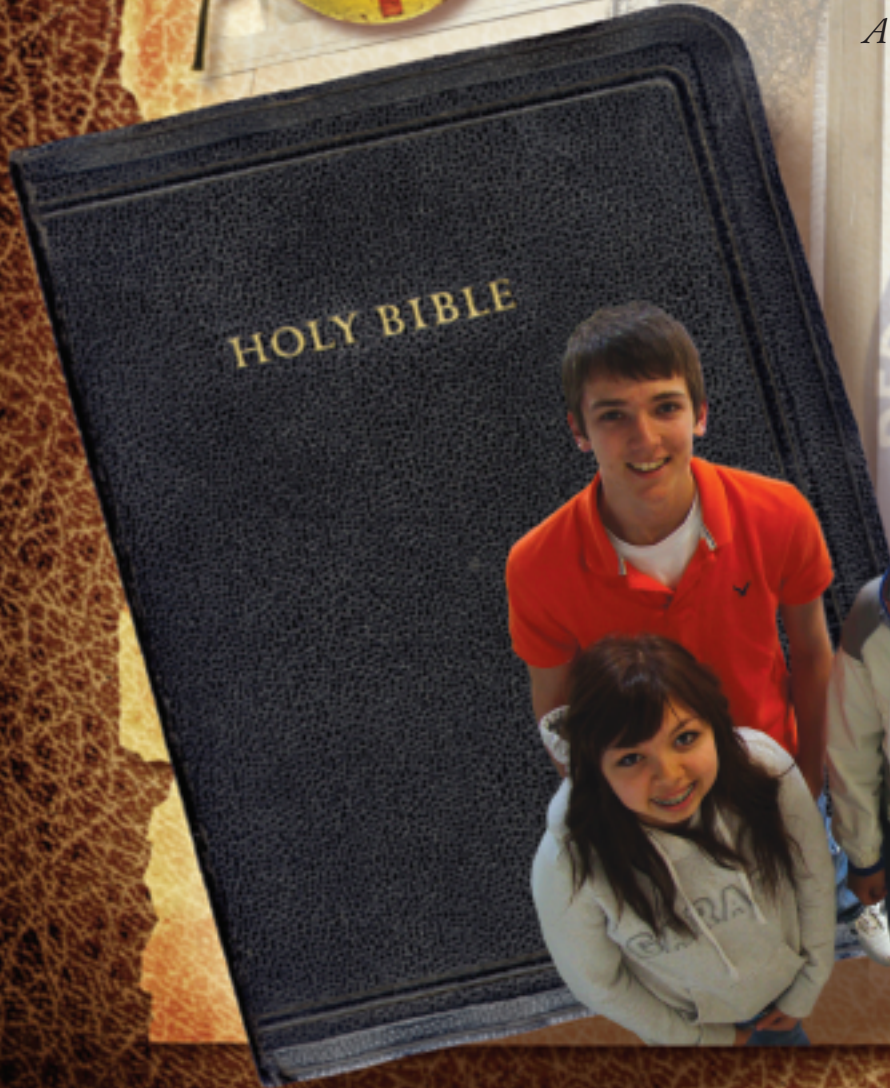




**Kenora Catholic District School Board
2009 ANNUAL**

Director's Report

*A Faith-Based Catholic School
Community Rejoicing in Hope.*



2009



Director's Message

I am proud to present to you the Kenora Catholic District School Board's 2009 Annual Report.

Our team at the Kenora Catholic District School Board continues to focus on student achievement and increasing community confidence through aligning our strategies, goals and careful planning with our guiding pillars:

- † Strengthening our Catholicity
- † Fostering Relationships and Partnerships
- † Teaching and Learning Excellence
- † Communicating Effectively
- † Championing Continuous Improvement

Each of the stories that we have featured in our report highlights an important aspect of culture, values and foundation in educational excellence. We have stories about board enrollment, learning achievement results in literacy and numeracy, credit accumulation for secondary students as well as highlights of student, parent and community engagement and partnership.

As you read through our 2009 Annual Director's report you will notice that we are taking this opportunity to prepare ourselves to celebrate Catholic Education Week on May 2 – May 7, 2010. We are taking this time to really think about what Rejoicing in Hope means to us as a Catholic Education community. As Director of Education for the Kenora Catholic District School Board, I have so many reasons to Rejoice in Hope. Simply put, Rejoicing in Hope to me is the bright light I see reflected in a student's eyes. Each student has that light. Take a moment to quietly notice it. That light.....is Rejoicing in Hope.

At the Kenora Catholic District School Board we are blessed with a dedicated team of trustees, staff, teachers and administrators who model each day in the light of their own calling to Catholic Education and love and dedication to children. I want to thank all of the members of our Catholic Education community, including the Diocese of Thunder Bay and all its parishes for their continued support. I want to thank our Catholic Education community, recognizing that our work is distinctive and formative, that we make a difference every day in the lives of children. What better work is there? What better way to serve our Lord.

Chairperson's Message

The 2009 school year has been a year of continued growth, innovation and success for the Kenora Catholic District School Board.

As Chair of the board I feel such a sense of pride and personal gratification whenever I have the opportunity to speak about our students and our school board. Our students never cease to amaze me in their continued growth and development in all areas of study; academically, athletically and spiritually. The successes of our students are based on the dedication and focus of every member of our system. Each member of our Catholic Education team plays a key role in the development of our students. Thank you to everyone for your dedication to the success of our students in 2009.

In 2009 we saw the completion of two major capital projects: the new Multi-Skills Training Center of Excellence and the new north wing addition to St. Thomas Aquinas High School. In 2009 we also saw the opening of the new daycare facility to support the families of Pope John Paul II School and welcomed a new school into our board, St. John's Separate School in Red Lake, Ontario. Since our amalgamation, St. John's Separate School community has enhanced and enriched our board.

Our EQAO results demonstrate that we are working diligently toward the provincial standard of 75% of our students to be at level 3 or 4 in all 3 indicators (reading, writing, and math) as well as in grade nine Mathematics and the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). We encourage our students to aim high and to work at achieving a level of performance that will reflect the needs of the 21st Century learner as they progress through our school system. Our Catholic graduate expectations combined with our rigorous curriculum will help to prepare students for a future that will see them thinking creatively and working independently.

As we move into 2010 and all that it brings, we are definitely a school board that is Rejoicing in Hope. Rejoicing in Hope to me, means realizing the fulfillment of the potential God has always had planned for us. It's important for each of us to make time to rejoice. There is much to be celebrated.

As a team of trustees for the Kenora Catholic District School Board, we rely on prayer and guidance from our loving God to empower us to make decisions that provide the best possible learning environment for our students, who have been entrusted to us by our heavenly Father. To each of our Trustees, Teresa Gallik, Josie Kipling, Frank Bastone, Paul Landry and Vice Chair Mike Favreau I thank you for your leadership and dedication to our students in 2009.

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.

Character Education

In November 2007, the Ministry mandated all Ontario schools to implement Character Education. The document the Ministry put forth describes character education as “the deliberate effort to nurture universal truths upon which schools and communities find consensus”. The initiative was not to be a new program but rather “attributes that provide a standard for behavior” which “permeate all that happens in schools”.

In keeping with the Ministry’s mandate and faithful to our vision and mission of Catholic education, we continue to make deliberate efforts to nurture in our students the virtues that arise, not from a consensus or survey, but from a specifically Christian anthropology and from a vision of the human person in relationship with God.

In Catholic education we strive to integrate our faith in God into the entire curriculum and life of the school. “The heart and soul of Catholic education is Jesus Christ, and our school system finds its very reason for existence in its communication of the Christian message.” (Fulfilling the Promise, OCCB)

To assist us in doing this, we have excellent Religious education programs from K-12, approved by our Ontario Catholic bishops that are regularly revised to meet the highest expectations at appropriate levels of human development; as well as a family life program for grades 1-8. Since education informed by gospel values is what Catholic schools are about, we also have the Catholic Graduate Expectations from the Institute for Catholic Education and many resources from the Catholic cooperatives to empower our teachers to integrate Christian values into all aspects of school life and the curriculum.

Spiritual Development Day

On October 19, 2009 all employees of the Kenora Catholic District School Board attended the Spiritual Development Day which was hosted at École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys. The morning keynote presentation was led by Father James Mulligan the author of **Catholic Education: The Future is Now**. Father Mulligan identified that the benefit of a publicly funded Catholic education system that we all enjoy today continues to be questioned as there is a shift taking place in Ontario – a change in perception regarding publicly financed Catholic schools. Ontario is becoming more secular now than it was in 1867 and as a Catholic Education community we have to be prepared with the answers and to make a shift to move more towards becoming big “C” Catholics. Big “C” Catholics are Catholics that take ownership, leadership and stewardship in maintaining a Catholic Education identity.

The afternoon keynote presentation was led by the very lively and animated Shannon Hogan who is the Provincial Coordinator for OEETA/OCSTA Religion Education AQ courses. Shannon talked about a shift that took place in her life from simply believing in God to a deep and profound knowing of God’s evidence of love in her life through her account of the Blue Coffee Mug story.

Shannon talked about not being apologetic for being a Catholic School Teacher, that the source of all that we do through our Catholic education curriculum comes from the God of our lives. That teachers do not simply love their students, but they are compelled to love their students through the Jesus of our lives.

The day was closed with a Eucharistic Liturgy led by Rev. James Mulligan.



Catholicity Day – An Inspirational Event!

On Monday, February 23rd the Kenora Catholic District School Board did something unprecedented. We closed each of our schools and our Catholic Education Center and held a day of professional development focused on Catholicity where everyone, in each and every role, system wide, was asked to attend and participate.

This was an extraordinary day spent together as a team dedicated to sharpening our awareness of what a precious gift we have in Catholic Education. It provided the opportunity to dialogue as we seek new ways to respond to the challenges in sustaining and nurturing our distinctive identity, vision and mission for excellence in education within a Christian environment.

The quality of the speakers was quite evident throughout the day with our keynote speakers Sister Joan Cronin, the Executive Director of the Institute of Catholic Education (ICE) who spoke on “Re-imagining Catholic Education for the 21st Century” and Michael Reist, a secondary school teacher from Dufferin-Peel CDSB, who spoke on “Character Education from a Catholic Perspective”. The breakout workshops were hosted by two keynote speakers as well as Msgr. Pat Stilla from Thunder Bay, Sister Mary Coswin from St. Benedict’s Monastery in Manitoba, and Mariette Martineau from Kenora. Each of our speakers really provided us with much food for thought to think and reflect upon. The information was very thought-provoking and resonated long after the workshop had ended for the day.

A common message that was carried through the day was the importance and the challenge for each of us to model gospel values and virtues in our daily lives, thus empowering our students to be role models for the future. It’s not enough to just talk about Catholic education. We need to make ourselves living, breathing models of our vision as disciples of Jesus Christ, being transformed and enabled to transform the world through the power of the Holy Spirit.

One person wrote on the evaluation: “I believe that in these challenging days for Catholic education in Ontario, it is of extreme importance that we work together as a Catholic system – including teaching and non-teaching staff, priests and parish pastoral workers – if we want to succeed.”

To rejoice in HOPE is to be reminded that with every challenge in life, God must be the One to guide our way, that with God’s love anything is possible, solutions are imminent and there WILL be time to REJOICE.

– Gisele Dufresne, Grade 6 Teacher at École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys.

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.



Welcome St. John's Separate School

On Monday, June 1st the Ministry of Education advised the Kenora Catholic District School Board of the government of Ontario's decision to amalgamate the Red Lake Combined Roman Catholic Separate School Board into the Kenora Catholic District School Board, effective September 1, 2009.

Since that announcement the amalgamation team at the Kenora Catholic District School Board has been very busy in all aspects of transitioning the new school into all the administrative and procedural practices of the Kenora Catholic District School Board.

St. John's Separate School is a vibrant, warm community-based school. There are 111 students from grades JK – 8. There are 9 teaching staff, 1 principal, 1 school secretary, and 12 non-teaching staff employed at the school. The school offers full day learning in Kindergarten and also has a municipally operated daycare center.

Phyllis Eikre, Director of Education states in a letter to all St. John's Separate School employees following the announcement. *... "will there be challenges and obstacles that we will need to overcome over the coming month as we amalgamate our boards together? Absolutely, but as long as we can meet each challenge and obstacle with an open heart, a hefty dose of humor and a sense of integrity, while always keeping the best interest of our students at the forefront of our minds we will do just fine. What a unique opportunity. What an incredible gift to have St. John's Separate School join our team. We welcome you."*



Through Partnerships We Offer Another Option for Working Families

On August 31, 2009 Circle of Friends Playcare Center officially opened the doors of their brand new facility. The Kenora Catholic District School Board accepted the expression of interest from

Circle of Friends Playcare Center for the operation of daycare spaces to support the families of Pope John Paul II School.

The facility is located ten meters from Pope John Paul II School in the former St. Thomas Aquinas High School Annex. The daycare facility provides 24 spaces for children aged 18 months to 5 years of age, and is operating at full capacity.

The Kenora Catholic District School Board believes that having a daycare facility onsite will support young children in transitioning into a school setting. *"It's absolutely ideal for families"*, comments Phyllis Eikre, Director of Education. *"We are very pleased to be able to provide additional service and support to our families."*

Charlotte Brown, Owner of Circle of Friends Playcare Center comments, *"The partnership and relationship with the Kenora Catholic District School Board couldn't be more ideal for us. We have lots of opportunities to share resources with Pope John Paul II School. We are able to share the use of the library, the playgrounds and gymnasium. We are also able to participate in the Christmas concerts, pow wows and have classes from the school come and do skits and plays for the children at our center. The relationship is very much one of inclusion and allows us to provide a much more diverse service to our families."*



Farewell Mount Carmel School Farewell

On November 24, 2009, the same day the Kenora Catholic District School Board celebrated the opening of the new North Wing Addition to St. Thomas Aquinas High School and the Multi-Skills Training Center of Excellence, the board signed a motion to seal the deal in selling Mount Carmel School and associated properties.

Following the announcement of the sale, Principal Trudy Cederwall stood in front of the school and reminisced about how wonderful and vibrant the school was when the facility was still operating and she was the Principal there.

"A lot of really great kids walked through those doors: students that went on to become doctors, lawyers and writers", says Cederwall as she looked on fondly at the school. *"That school holds a lot of great memories for me, a lot of laughter and lots to be celebrated."* Cederwall was the Principal at Mount Carmel School for 4 1/2 years when the school was still operating.

"The sale really moves the Board one step closer to finally realizing the concept of the Catholic Education Center Campus" comments Andrew Poirier, Manager of Operational Services. The Board intends to renovate the former St. Thomas Aquinas High School Annex and relocate the Catholic Education Center to the campus, thus creating the ability to provide centralized services to the 3 schools and 2 daycare centers currently at the campus.

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.

Curriculum and Programs

Safe Schools

The safety of all students is a major concern for the Kenora Catholic District School Board; to this end a Board team was formed to assist in the implementation of the Ministry's new Safe School legislation. A review of the existing Equity and Inclusion education and safe school procedures was conducted and the policies were updated to meet the new Ministry guidelines. A Board Safe Schools Team was organized and school teams were trained using the Train the Trainer model. Training on the changes to the procedures for all staff, parents, students, and community members started in December and will continue into 2010.

Specialist High Skills Major

The Construction Specialist High Skills Major has a new look this year. The focus is on a full day Coop/Dual credit program in partnership with Confederation College, local contractors, and employers. Students earn industry standard certificates, high school credits, and college course accreditations throughout the semester, while working side-by-side with qualified tradespersons.

School College Work Initiative

Four School College Work Initiative projects were successfully implemented this past year. The programs blended with the Specialist High Skills Major programs and assisted in the delivery of Advanced Placement credits. One Advanced Placement course on introduction to Drafting was provided in the grade 12 Construction course, while three concentrated on the Hospitality & Tourism sector, specifically the tourism related skills, marketing strategies, and culinary programs. The projects for this Board were presented at Mohawk College in Hamilton in January as an exemplary model for other small school district to use for program delivery.

A partnership with Lambton College has resulted in several students visiting the college for a variety of science, career, and trades

presentations. The focus for this program is on developing an energy sector program. Four students were able to earn dual credits from the college which assisted them in achieving their graduation requirements. We are starting small but growing quickly.

Aboriginal Education

As a quarter of our school board population is self-identified as Aboriginal, it is essential to consider how the board and its programs can meet the needs of our students. The Kenora Catholic District School Board's Striving Toward Achievement transition program provided 24 students over the course of the year with the opportunity to experience a gentle entry into the grade 9 high school program. The program is designed to create a safe and welcoming environment for students entering high school from intermediate/elementary school settings with very small classes. The students were provided with one teacher for the majority of their first semester courses and were able to experience a high degree of success. The majority of the students in the program were successful in obtaining all of their first semester credits.

The donation of a traditional Aboriginal drum provided the initiative for a voluntary lunch time drumming group to be organized for any boys interested in learning the techniques and skills of this traditional practice. Girls were engaged with learning how to quilt a star blanket with the assistance of donations from the local community. We value all community contributions to help build our culture.

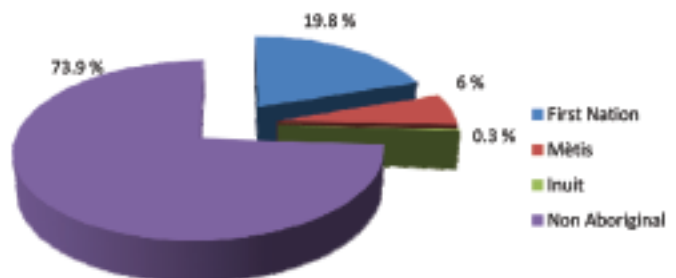
The Northern Studies program was introduced as an elementary cultural awareness program with a focus on the Aboriginal perspective. Elders, First Nation groups and local Aboriginal artists were engaged in delivering a number of workshops and fieldtrips for students. The field trips included ice fishing, fall harvest celebrations, spring feast celebrations, year-end Pow-Wows, dog sledding and several local Elder presentations integrating the Ojibway language and culture into the curriculum.

The Kenora Catholic District School Board's Northern Studies Program is recognized as a successful educational practice and has been highlighted at both the Aboriginal Conference sponsored by Confederation College in February 2009 and the May 2009 79th Annual General Meeting and Conference of the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association.

Rejoicing in hope
means your heart beats
faster because you're
loved by somebody
(God, Jesus, our
families)
- Alyssa, Grade 2

Through our Self-Identification procedure, students are able to voluntarily identify themselves as First Nation, Inuit or Métis. This allows our board to track results by these diverse groups and thus design and implement strategies to ensure success for all of our students.

Student Diversity Demographics



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.

Curriculum and Programs

Environmental Education

The new Environmental Education curriculum has been integrated into all curriculum documents from kindergarten to grade 12. An Environmental Education Committee was struck and has developed an Environmental Education procedure for all schools. Student engagement and collaboration between the key stake-holders has set the stage for future Environmental Symposia and school projects. Community clean-up events and school beautification projects were the focus for the school year.



Teaching Learning Critical Pathways (TLCP)

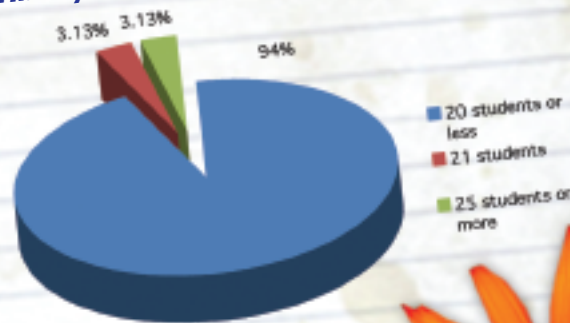
In the last year the Kenora Catholic District School Board has been using the Teaching Learning Critical Pathway (TLCP) model for our Professional Learning Community meetings. This is an important element in improving student achievement because we are not only focusing on the group data of our students' achievement but we are also focusing on the actual individual

student work. This model of professional development allows us to get into the classroom and to look at specific tasks that students are completing. It allows us to really see how to move a level two piece of work to a level three. It brings us as a community of educational workers to common understandings and it allows us to form professional communities that are working on the difficult questions of precision and personalization within the classroom setting and for the system as a whole.

Parent Involvement Committee

In November 2009 the Kenora Catholic District School Board implemented a Parent Involvement Committee to provide a unique perspective that only a parent could bring. The committee meets on a regular basis to discuss a parents' perspective on Catholic educational issues affecting their children in the classroom as well as provide input and perspective on board procedures.

Primary Class Size



A Very Grand Event



November 24th marked the culmination of many years of hard work and a vision that was finally realized. The Grand Opening celebration of both the new north wing addition to St. Thomas Aquinas High School and the state-of-the-art Multi-Skills Training Center of Excellence.

The celebration was truly a grand event with over 100 guests in attendance and a dual, ribbon cutting ceremony and opening prayers and blessings by Father Rudy, Pastor of Notre Dame du Portage Church at both the entrance of the new wing and the industrial doors of the MSTCE. The procession of guest speakers and dignitaries was led by the Knights of Columbus in full color guard.

Community Partners and stakeholders came together to provide greetings and participate in the celebration. Father Rudy brought greetings on behalf of the Most Rev. F. Colli, Bishop of the Thunder Bay Diocese. The Honorable Minister Wynne sent a personal video greeting that was introduced by Bob Greer, Education Officer from the Thunder Bay Regional Office, Tammy Laws, Northern Outreach Assistant spoke on behalf of The Honorable Minister

Gravelle, Northern Development and Mines as well as many other speakers from our local government and community such as Grand Chief Diane Kelly, Rick Moore, Confederation College, Mayor Len Compton and Howard Hampton.

The Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation and Confederation College are both partnering organizations in making the Multi-Skills Training Center of Excellence a reality for our school system. Through the NOHFC, the Ontario government invested \$1 million in the construction and establishment of the facility as well as supported program and curriculum development. Confederation College invested approximately \$500,000 towards construction costs and the upgrading of tools and other equipment in the facility.

*Rejoicing in hope
helps me share the
Good News*

- Halle, Grade 2

Teaching and Learning Excellence

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Curriculum and Programs

Summer Coop Program

This past summer a number of our students were provided with a unique opportunity to work and earn high school credits. Funding from the Ministry of Community and Social Services enabled local employers to hire students for summer work experiences. The Kenora Catholic District School Board hired four Coop teachers to oversee the first ever, Summer Coop Program for our region. Fourteen students took advantage of the paid Coop Program to earn high school credits while gaining valuable employment experience. Many of the students were behind in their accumulated credits and were able to use this opportunity to catch-up. Some students were able to acquire three high school credits over the course of the summer.

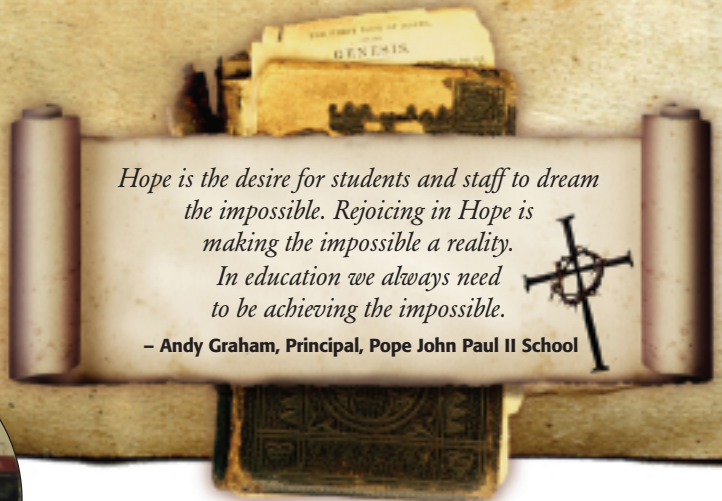
Differentiated Instruction

We have also been using more differentiated instruction in our classes. At the grade seven to twelve levels in our system, we have had several differentiated professional development sessions. These were about differentiation and were actually differentiated as well. The sessions used choice boards to allow teachers to identify their own learning needs and to select professional development that fit those specific needs. The teachers have reported that these sessions have helped them to start to build class profiles in order to match readiness levels, student interests and learning styles to work being done in class, as well as trying to build in strategies that would allow for more student choice and flexibility in areas of content, process and product.



Oral Language Initiative

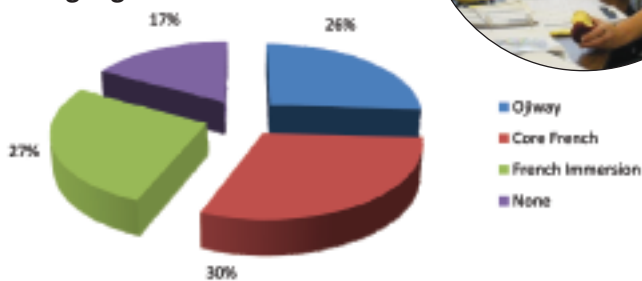
Our students have gained from our involvement in the Oral Language Project run by the Northern Ontario Education Leaders (NOEL) group of boards here in the Northwest. Junior Kindergarten to Grade two students have been shown specific oral language strategies that have helped them to increase their productive language as well as for our teachers to learn how to adjust their level of language used to meet the students' receptive language needs.



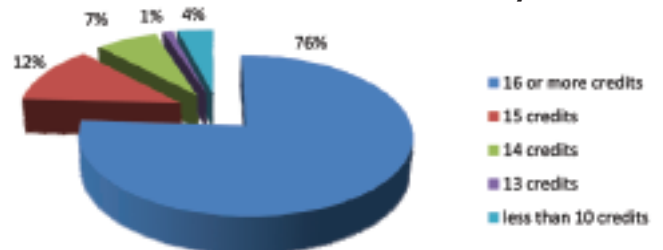
Hope is the desire for students and staff to dream the impossible. Rejoicing in Hope is making the impossible a reality. In education we always need to be achieving the impossible.

– Andy Graham, Principal, Pope John Paul II School

Percentage of Students Enrolled in Language Instruction



Percentage of Students Who Have Achieved 16 or More Credits by Grade 10



Credit Accumulation

We know it is important to closely monitor our students to ensure they stay on track for graduation. We are very pleased to show that our credit accumulation rates for our students in grade 10 are in line with our student's goal for graduating in four years. By grade 10, 76% of our students have achieved 16 or more credits. We are very happy to see the trend of increasing numbers of students who are achieving 16 or more credits by the time they are 16. We will continue to work with students who are not finding success in school through our Student Success Initiatives and by offering differentiated instruction in all classes to increase the potential for success for all of our students.

Teaching and Learning Excellence

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Let us Not Overlook the Wonderful in Every day Learning

Sometimes in our efforts to capture the unique and outstanding events of the year we forget to shine our light on the wonderful things that are happening everyday in our classrooms across the school board.



Daily we see students working with energy and creativity to be ready for the challenges of the 21st Century. They are reading multiple types of text with meaning, predicting, questioning, visualizing and making connections.

They are interacting together in respectful learning communities, creating meaning and critical responses to information as well as adapting and applying it.

Our teachers are busy providing support, guidance and knowledge that lead them to enthusiastic experiences with success. They work with colleagues, educational assistants, our literacy coach and coordinators to ensure that all students are moving forward.



Collaborative Inquiry Learning - Math

Every month teachers from the Kenora Catholic District School Board and the Keewatin Patricia District School Board meet to talk about Mathematics and to co plan and co teach in each others' classes. Teachers focus on the three part Math lesson and provide students with opportunities to use a problem solving model.

These sessions really exemplify collaboration at all levels since teachers, principals, superintendents, coaches and coordinators all work together with Ministry Student Achievement Officers as well as having our two local school boards working so closely together and getting to know each other.

The partnerships from this project are having lasting effects as new relationships bring new ideas and help improve learning.



Writing Workshop - It's Work Well Worth Doing!

Teacher Jamey Robertson has worked with our literacy coach, Dallis Novelli to create a writing workshop in his grade four classroom. The grade four students started out by creating writing notebooks that captured all of their ideas and thoughts throughout the day. They then created anchor charts to show how they could work with different forms of writing. Then the students as authors created work that reflected their interests and writing skills. Each student published work that was meaningful and important to him or her. The students chose work from the variety of pieces they created in their portfolio and shared the best with their peers.

"It has been exciting work," says Jamey Robertson. "I have seen my students' growth in ways that I did not think were possible by using their strengths and tapping in to their abilities."



"The students are showing their best work and are proud to be able to prove that they are truly authors," says Dallis Novelli. "These students are excelling because they have choice, empowerment and engagement in their writing class."



Rejoicing in hope means making loving choices
- Mason, Grade 2

Computer Communicators

Grade six students were turned on and tuned in to the environmental issues in their world last year when they started using the computer to communicate their ideas and to share their learning. Miss Melenchenko's grade six class began to write opinions and to justify them using a site called Green Learning. Students tailored their messages to their audience and sent eCards to persuade people to take better care of God's creation.





Teaching and Learning Excellence

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Social Justice in Action

For the past five years, every week, students from St. Thomas Aquinas High School work at the Agape Table Soup Kitchen at the Knox United Church in downtown Kenora. They prepare food, serve and clean. The project is in response to our call to serve in our communities with our time, talent and treasure. Students spend their time working. They spend their talents as enthusiastic young people to make the soup kitchen a friendly place and they have spent their treasure in fundraising efforts to help out with some of the soup kitchen's expenses. Dean Woodbeck, Chaplaincy Leader says "it's been a great experience for the students to understand more about life realities and it has been a good message for the community to see the generosity and caring of our young people. It has given our students the opportunity to truly respond to the call to be the hands and feet of Christ in our world." All across our board there are students every day making contributions to world peace and trying to make a difference in their own world and the lives of those around them.

Do you hear voices?

Do you ever listen to the voices in your head? Across the board, in classes everywhere, our students are listening and responding to those voices. Sound crazy? Well, it is not. Our students are learning to listen to their thoughts and to monitor their comprehension as they read, write and think. They are finding out that you need to know when you have stopped paying attention. You need to ask questions to yourself and make predictions. You need to connect to the written and spoken word around you in order for real comprehension to occur.

If you look in classrooms across the board you will see anchor charts with strategies for understanding. You will see examples of student questions. You will see how students are connecting to what they see and read and making their own knowledge fit with the information they have already learned. It is exciting!

"Students know that they have to re-read, read in context and visualize," says Murray Delorme, Assistant to the Director of Education. "They are able to talk about how they are learning and to verbalize complex processes that they are being taught. It is a wonderful thing to behold." Delorme sites teacher use of comprehension strategies as the biggest boost to student learning and encourages teachers to continue to get students to use all of the tools in their comprehension toolkits as much as possible.



The Dr. Bette M. Stephenson
Recognition of Achievement

St. Louis Recognized for Improved Student Learning

On Monday, November 2, 2009 the Education Quality and Accountability Office honored 15 Ontario elementary schools with the Dr. Bette M. Stephenson Recognition of Achievement Award. Our very own St. Louis School was one of the schools honored with this prestigious award.

This recognition program was established as a tribute to Dr.

Bette Stephenson's lifelong commitment and contribution to education. As minister of both Education and Colleges and Universities from 1978 to 1985 and as an original member of EQAO's Board of Directors, Dr. Stephenson has made an enormous contribution to education in the province.

St. Louis School was recognized for using provincial assessment results contributing to improvement planning based on their unique circumstances and working toward improved student outcomes.

"I couldn't be more honored to accept this award on behalf of our school. It takes a whole team and really a community to make a positive difference in a student's outcome and I'm proud of the team of teachers, education assistants and our parents at St. Louis School!" says Trudy Cederwall, Principal.

Phyllis Eikre, Director of Education says that St. Louis School is a shining example of educational excellence within the Kenora Catholic District School Board. Eikre extends heartfelt congratulations to all the staff and parents at St. Louis School. "We're so proud of you!!!"

What I Think I Can Say,
What I Say I Can Write,
What I Write I Can Read!



Kindergarten children at École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys worked with our board literacy coach, their teacher and the special assignment literacy support worker to create the perfect opportunity for our young authors to show that this phrase rings true for all of our students.

Just before Christmas, students created books as gifts for their families. These books documented the students' own life experiences in special ways. The students each took home disposable cameras and took pictures of places, people and events that were important to each of them. Then students came back to school and added themselves to the pictures by drawing themselves and pasting their pictures onto the photographs. Then they told the story of how these two elements (the drawings and the photographs) went together. The students were able to create wonderful stories of their family lives, and as authors and illustrators they were able to control and share the story from their own unique point of view.

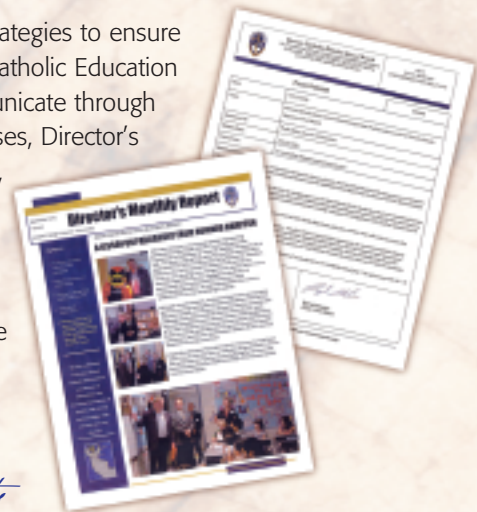


Communicating Effectively

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.

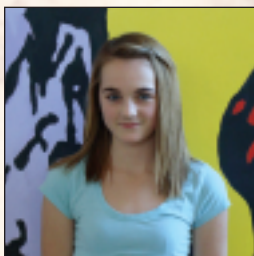
At our board we use a number of different techniques and strategies to ensure we are communicating effectively in our schools, within our Catholic Education Community, and with our parents and students. We communicate through numerous meetings, forums and celebrations, press releases, Director's Monthly Newsletters, Annual School Calendars, our website and our Director's Annual Newsletter.

For example, it is our goal to have all of our policies and procedures posted to our website and just a few mouse clicks away. Our website is www.kcdsb.on.ca

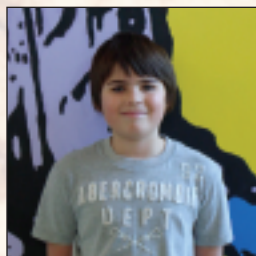


Celebrating our Students

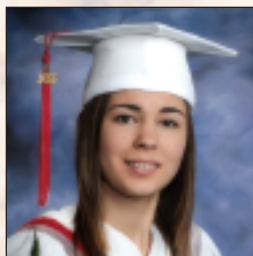
Each June our Board awards students for outstanding achievement and excellence in education by presenting a student from each of our schools with the Director's Award of Excellence. This award is presented to students who demonstrate excellence in education by excelling in sports, the arts and academics. 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 2009 recipients of the Director's Award of Excellence:



Emme Thompson
École Ste-Marguerite
Bourgeois



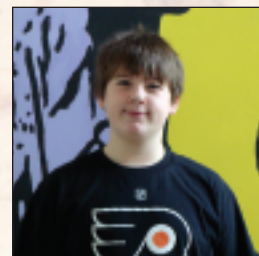
Chace Laffin
Pope John Paul II



Kailee Seniw
St. Thomas Aquinas



Rowan Humphrey-Schott
École Ste-Marguerite
Bourgeois



Logan Ginn
St. Louis

Second Year in a Row, Senior Boys Volleyball Team Wins OFSAA Championship

For the second year in a row, the St. Thomas Aquinas High School Senior Boys Volleyball team won the championship for the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA). OFSAA is a federation of 18 school athletic associations geographically spread across the province, committed to the philosophy of education through school sports.

Joanna Krisko, Coach comments on the win.....
"I think coaches always dream of having a big moment in their coaching careers. This year's OFSAA championship was mine. Obviously winning the OFSAA gold medal was the biggest moment at both of the championships, but the journey along the way was incredible too. Being ranked number one (for the second year in a row), being the defending champions, going undefeated and not losing a set (even



Back row L-R: Marlon DeGagne, Mac Fregeau, Steve Caron, Ben Van Belleghem, Jacob Boutwell, Matthew Arnell, Blake Lundin, Grayfox White.

Front row L-R: Graeme Ford, Andrew Moore, Joanna Krisko.

though some were awfully close), having other teams and coaches scout us out. The journey along the way really made the win remarkable. It has been an honor to have this

experience and be able to coach this particular team over the past 3 years. Of the 10 players, 6 experienced their first OFSAA gold win on last year's team and now have their second OFSAA gold medal but were major players on the team this year. I'm really proud of this team".

Grayfox White, Team Captain comments.....
"I can't even explain the feeling. It's a great feeling.... winning two years in a row at the provincials."

"Congratulations on your gold medal at the 2009 OFSAA Boys Volleyball," says Paul White, Principal of St. Thomas Aquinas High School. "You represented our Catholic school in a very positive manner on and off the court. Our community is very proud of your team effort and all the leadership and dedication Joanna Krisko provided to the team. Go Saints Go!!"



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.

Technology in Our Classrooms

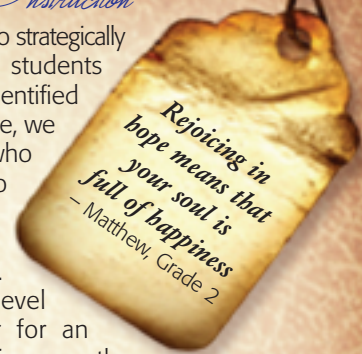
We have been using technology more innovatively in the Kenora Catholic District School Board. As an example, we have been using iPods and voice recorders for all students in a class that was studying a variety of texts in a book club. The students were able to follow the text and listen to audio versions of their books as they were reading. All students had access to the iPods instead of using them only for students with specifically identified needs. The "what is necessary for some, but good for all" approach has been a successful addition to their book club study. We are trying to introduce good assistive technology practices to all students so that they can be used to benefit student abilities.

This past year the Kenora Catholic District School Board entered into a partnership with the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board to provide e-learning opportunities to our secondary students. Four e-learning courses were offered to students who could not fit courses into their timetables who wanted courses not being offered at St. Thomas Aquinas High School due to low enrollment numbers. One highlight from this past year was the Grade 11 Accounting e-learning course which had a 90% pass rate with a class average of 75%.



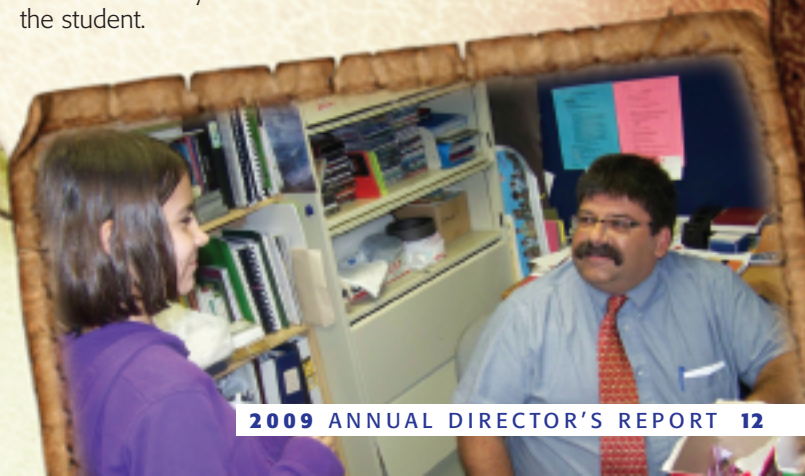
Improving Our Instruction

EQAO data is being used to strategically improve results when students have not met specific identified critical targets. For example, we worked with students who have not been able to achieve a level one in PM Benchmark testing by the end of Kindergarten. Students still at a pre-level were brought together for an intense session focusing on the *Concepts About Print* (by Marie Clay) and then were given support for their learning after this intervention through additional time on reading behaviors with their classroom teachers, learning resource teachers and with our educational assistants. We are using more efficient methods of data collection at the school level and finding more specific strategies to use to bring interventions that guide our daily work in the classroom.



Successful Programs for Students Unable to Attend Regular School Programs

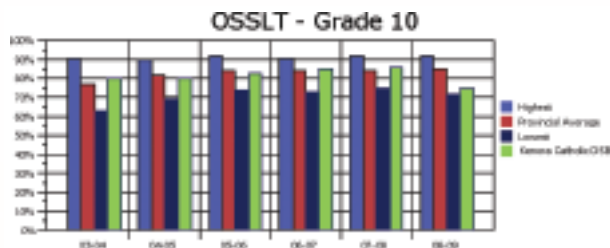
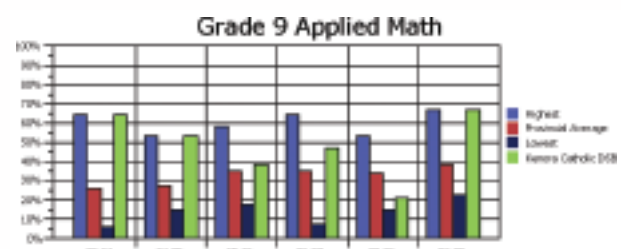
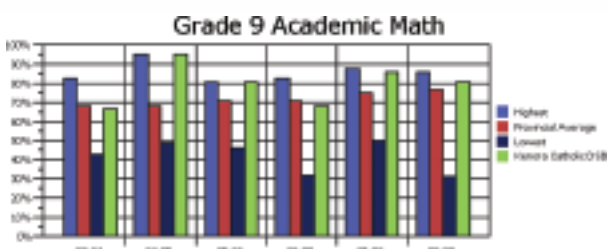
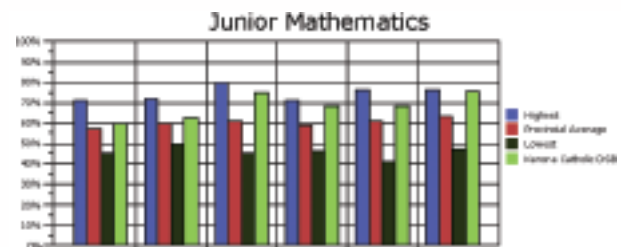
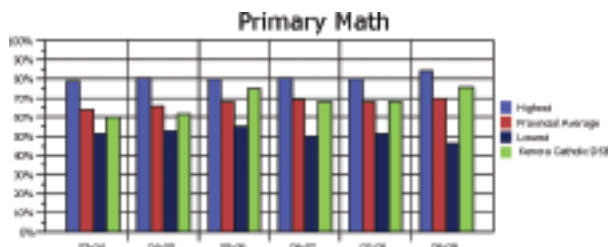
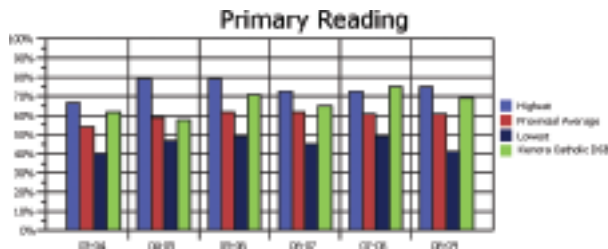
Our board provides a variety of programs for students who are unable to attend regular school programs. As a small board we can tailor the program to meet the needs of the individual student using a multi-disciplinary team approach. Programs consist of an academic component which is delivered or monitored by teachers during the school day or after school. Co-operative education and other forms of experiential learning are provided as needed, depending on the age of the student. Counseling and other social services are provided through community agencies tailored to the needs to the specific student involved. Parents are involved in planning prior to the student's re-entry into the school to ensure success for the student.



Kenora Catholic District School Board and Provincial EQAO Results

Throughout our Annual Director's Report you will notice that we reference EQAO tests, data or results. The abbreviation EQAO stands for the 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 publicly funded education systems. The EQAO tests students' skills in reading, writing and mathematics at key points in their elementary school education. We are proud to present our results from the Kenora Catholic District School Board on these pages.

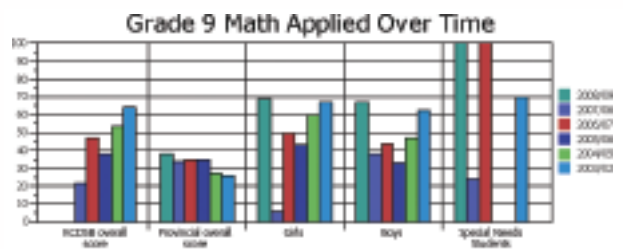
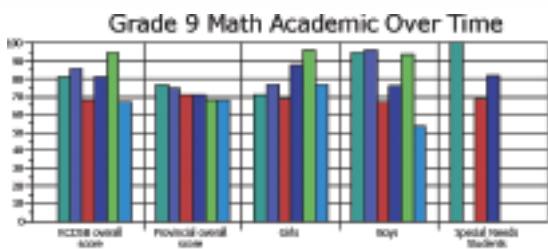
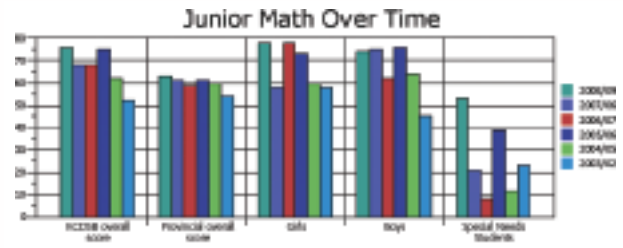
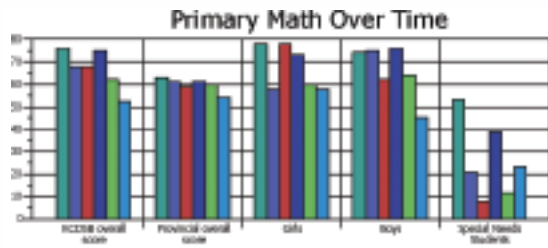
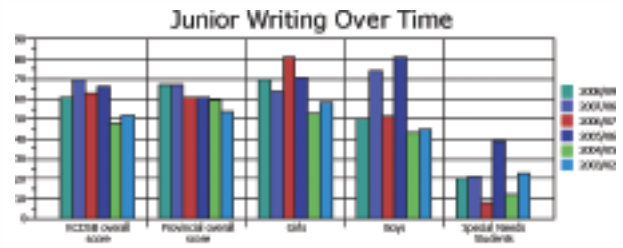
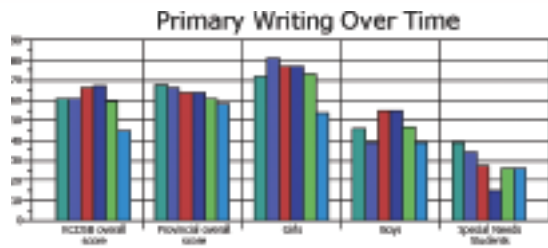
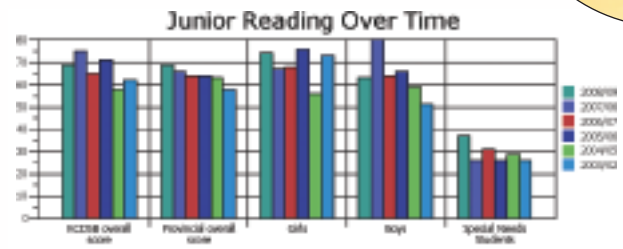
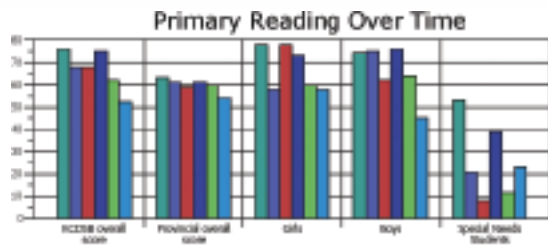
The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) is a provincial assessment administered to grade 10 students to test their reading and writing skills. Students are required to meet the standards by the end of grade 9 in order to successfully complete the assessment. Successful completion is required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



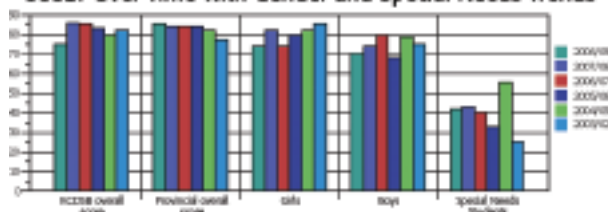
Kenora Catholic District School Board EQAO Results Over Time

The Kenora Catholic District School Board's EQAO trends over time since 2004 indicate that our students are on target to attain the Ministry of Education's goal of 75% on EQAO assessments for grade 6 reading, grade 6 writing and grade 6 mathematics by 2011. The results provide evidence that the target has been achieved in the areas of Grade 3, 6 and 9 math and grade 10 literacy. A more concentrated effort is being targeted for the primary and junior reading and writing areas in our Board Improvement Plan and School Improvement Plan for the 2010 school year.

It is essential to look at trends over time. This data helps us to see that we need to focus on our primary reading scores, especially for boys. We also are looking at our special needs students to ensure that we are providing the best programming possible to meet their unique learning needs.



OSSLT Over Time with Gender and Special Needs Trends





Darryl Michaluk
Chair



Michael Favreau
Vice Chair



Josie Kipling
Trustee



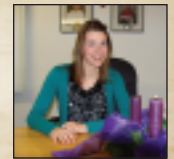
Paul Landry
Trustee



Frank Bastone
Trustee



Teresa Gallik
Trustee



Jennifer Williams
Student Trustee

Kenora Catholic District School Board Profile

Enrollment:1475
*Elementary Students1113
Secondary Students362

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
- 3 Elementary Schools
- 1 Dual Track High School
- 1 Catholic Education Centre

Staff:

*Instructional Staff168
Non Instructional Staff50

- * 258 elementary students totally immersed in French
- * Teachers, LTO's, EA's, Librarians, Chaplain, Speech 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) 468-9851 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. Board Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month at 8:00 p.m., excluding July and August. All meetings are held at the Catholic Education Center located at 200 First Street North.

SUPPORTING YOUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS THROUGH YOUR PROPERTY TAXES

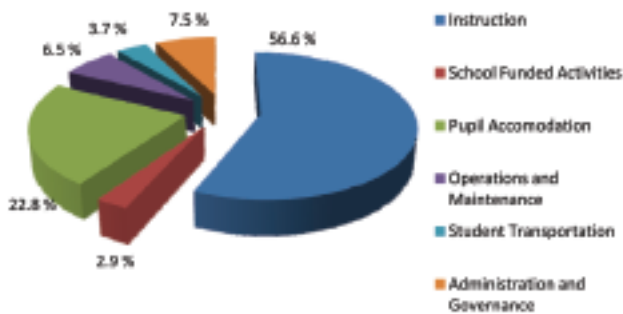
Please check your property tax bill to ensure your support is directed to the English Catholic School Board. You may not know this, but by default your property taxes are automatically directed to the public school board unless you take the time to notify the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation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

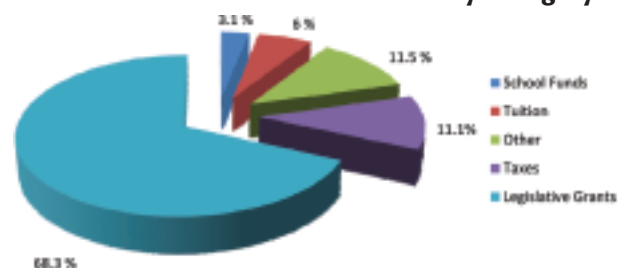
To verify your support or if you have questions about how to change your taxes or about the Request for Occupant Information Form please contact the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation at 1 (866) 296-6722. Thank you for taking the time to ensure that your support is directed to your Catholic school board.

Financial Facts at a Glance

2009 Expenses by Category



2009 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.

