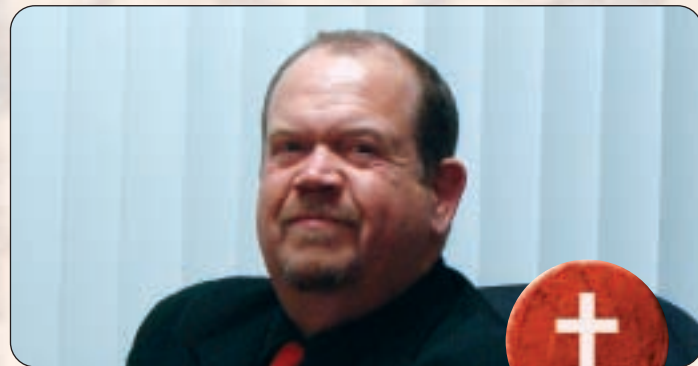




2010 ANNUAL

*Director's Report*





## Director's Message

It is yet again, my pleasure to bring you the Director's Annual Report and to welcome you to our annual review and reflection on the events that have shaped the lives of those who are a part of the Kenora Catholic District School Board. Our board has much to be proud of and thankful for and I am honored to be part of it.

This year's Catholic Education Week theme is: Celebrating the Spirit. I see aspects of this daily as I visit our schools and talk with students, teachers, support staff, principals, vice principals, clergy and parents. I see students learning, developing artistic and musical skills and competing in athletic events. I see classroom lessons, events and activities that enhance the faith formation of our students and staff. I can honestly say that every day is a blessing to me as Director of Education for the Kenora Catholic District School Board. As such, I am blessed to be able to see the Spirit at work as we work as a Catholic team to bring the best out in all of our students. It is with the Spirit that we celebrate all of our accomplishments. The Spirit has led us to our current place.

Each of the stories featured in our report highlight an important aspect of our Catholic culture, values and foundation in educational excellence. The report is structured under our guiding pillars:

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

These pillars provide the structure for all planning within the board and shapes our work as a team. It is with these pillars that we can build the supports to ensure that all students are achieving at their full potential.

I congratulate the trustees, staff, parents and community partners of the Kenora Catholic District School Board for their service, dedication to Catholic Education, hard work and Spirit. We celebrate the Spirit in our hearts, our homes, our schools, in our communities and in our world. We celebrate the gift of Catholic education. The Spirit helps us to live out our mission statement. We truly are a school system "dedicated to excellence in education, the Christian formation of youth, and strong partnerships with parents and the Church". Please enjoy our stories of Celebrating the Spirit as we reflect on the year we have lived with joy.

## Chair's Message

The 2010 School year has been one of spiritual growth, academic success, challenges and amazing resolve for the Kenora Catholic District School Board. In this time of economic hardship, government cutbacks and internal challenges our board has succeeded in growing in enrollment, achieving positive EQAO results and providing steadfast leadership to our Catholic Education Community.

Celebrating the Spirit is not a group of words but is how we operate every day. We celebrate the achievements of our students and staff from academic awards, athletic championships, artistic achievements and the celebration of our students realizing their own goals each and every day in the classroom. We celebrate the accomplishments of our staff who are recognized both here and provincially. Most importantly our celebrations are centered around the gratitude we give to God and Jesus Christ for blessing us with the opportunity to serve our children and our community.



To be blessed with the position of Chair of the Kenora Catholic District School Board has been very humbling and moving. I see how much the compassion of Christ is lived through our students and staff, through their social justice projects, daily activities and fellowship with their colleagues and simply being vessels for the Holy Spirit to work through. One particularly moving experience for me this past year was the graduation ceremony at St. Thomas Aquinas High School in June. I witnessed a group of students, who all being individuals, came together as one so that all would succeed. The valedictorian speech by Jerry Ossachuk was moving, inspirational and inspired by the gospel values that had been part of his education in our Catholic community.

As this year comes to an end so does my time as a trustee with the board. It has been my honor and privilege to work alongside an extraordinary group of people, custodians, education assistants, teachers, principals, secretaries, librarians, maintenance, board staff, administration, parents, advisory Trustee Vaughn Blab, Interim Director of Education Kevin Debnam, Director of Education Phyllis Eikre and especially my fellow trustees, Teresa Gallik, Frank Bastone, Josie Kipling, Paul Landry and Vice Chair Mike Favreau, who all have one common goal, to provide the best possible Catholic education for the children entrusted to us by God.



## *Our Students Say it Best...*

At the Kenora Catholic District School Board we cherish, value and respect our students. Without our students there would be no giggles, singing, or 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 school because me, Will and Ashton got to make a movie theater.*

– Caleb Lund, JK,  
St. Louis School



*I like coming to École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys because I like speaking French. I think it's cool to speak another language. My school is a great place to learn new things. I love Math because I like learning how to add.*

– August Hummelbrunner, Grade 2  
École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys



*I like coming to Pope John Paul II School because I really like my teacher Mrs. Lundin. My favorite subject is science. I really like learning how water can turn into a solid, liquid or gas. There are 2 really nice principals here and lots of nice teachers.*

– Emily Lachine, Grade 5 Student  
from Pope John Paul II School



*I love going to school at St. Thomas Aquinas High School because it's a very positive learning environment where I don't feel judged. I can be my own person, and come and learn in the face of God.*

– Payge Wesley, Grade 12 student  
at St. Thomas Aquinas High School



*Coming to St. John's School is good because the people are nice here. The teachers always say bello and often take the time to talk. They're friendly, and really kind. I often get to choose ways of doing things that suit me, like wearing my baseball cap on Hat Days. Those things help make school a good place to be.*

*My favorite subjects are Math and History. In Math, I see the work I've done, and feel good about it. During History Class, I enjoy hearing my teacher talk about real things that happened, how they happened and why they happened. Mr. Ambrocichuk is a good storyteller. He makes History interesting.*

*I'm happy coming to St. John's School. The people are respectful and they care about one another. I know there are people here who care about me. I feel like I belong.*

– Ethan Harper, Grade 7 Student at St. John's Separate School

*I think celebrating Spirit is belief in each other, in our students, celebrating that we have faith, being happy, being passionate, spreading positivity and loving life! Celebrating the Spirit is seeing the spirit open up in a child's eyes when they have realized their worth.*

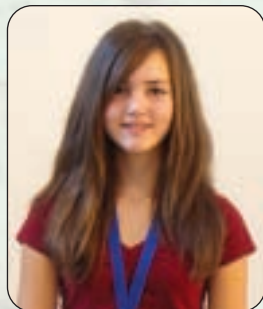
– Cindy Melenchenko, Grade 6 Teacher at Pope John Paul II School

## **Celebrating and Recognizing Catholic Educational Excellence in our Students**

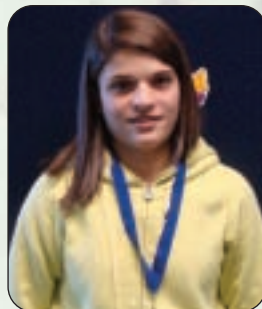
Each June our Board awards one student in each of our schools with the Director's Award of Excellence. This award is presented to students who demonstrate excellence in education by excelling in sports, the arts and academics. These students show exemplary behaviors such as empathy, compassion and respect for their fellow students and their teachers. We are very proud to present the 2010 recipients of the Director's Award of Excellence:



**Rebecca Valentini**  
St. Thomas Aquinas  
High School



**Cassidy Swedja**  
Pope John Paul II School



**Mikaela Harland**  
St. John's Separate School



**Jericha Major**  
École Ste-Marguerite  
Bourgeoys



**Kiera Riehl**  
St. Louis 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.



## Schools Building Schools

Schools Building Schools started with a presentation in October to the whole student body at St. Thomas Aquinas High School, which included a call for students to take a leadership role in coordinating a team effort to raise money for a school in Guatemala. Danielle Toth, Amanda Wiebe, Nicole Ransom, Karalea Cantera, Matthew Schottroff and Dana Borbely became that team. The goal for the school was to raise \$5,000. This goal was surpassed when the students raised \$6,400.

*"I'm glad I joined Schools Building Schools and was able to contribute my time, skills and efforts to make the dream of building a school come true. If there is one thing I value and appreciate, it is my education. I do not know where I would be without it, and where I would be going in my life. On top of that I have learned lots of useful skills such as managing money (I was the treasurer), time and communication skills,"* says Amanda Wiebe of her experience with Schools Building Schools.

*"I'm really proud to share that because of our student's efforts a two room school in Guatemala is being built,"* Paul White, Principal at St. Thomas Aquinas High School.

*"It broadens our perspective on our community and its members. It helps us to appreciate what we have. It allows us to expand our Catholic education beyond the classroom environment by giving us the opportunity to interact with people with whom we normally would not interact with. The experience can inspire some of us to take a more proactive role within our community."*

– Matthew Schottroff

*"I like it because it is what we are called to do. It feels good to be able to put a smile on someone's face and show them God's love."*

– Candle Kozak.

*"The Agape Table gives us an opportunity to show where our faith and beliefs come into the reality of our everyday lives. We all have the ability to contribute to meeting the needs of others and we are called by Jesus to do that wherever possible. The Agape Table allows us to meet people who are members of our community with whom we might not otherwise come in contact, in a positive sharing exchange. Our students have made me proud every week when I see them overcome their own fears and concerns and reach out to those we are serving,"* Dean Woodbeck, Chaplain at St. Thomas Aquinas High School.

## Students Serving the Community

For the past five years now students in Grades 9 - 12 at St. Thomas Aquinas High School learned about empathy, compassion, spiritual and character development through serving in our community's Agape Table Soup Kitchen in Kenora. The Agape Table Soup Kitchen is a unifying effort within the City of Kenora to respond to those in need. The soup kitchen runs on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Knox United Church. The soup kitchen serves an average of 55 – 60 members of our community each day, providing them with a hot meal and a warm place of hospitality. A special holiday meal is served in January which includes turkey and all the trimmings. At this meal a new pair of mittens, a toque and a pair of socks are given to each guest.

*"It is a good experience because we get to help out our community and we grasped a better understanding of what it might be like to not have the financial resources we have now."*

– Brittani Swail, Erika Lindquist and Emily Bernie

*To me celebrating the Spirit means that I can live out my baptismal call to share God's life with others. It means trying to follow in Jesus' footsteps by using the gifts God gave me, to make this world a better place for everyone I encounter in my path.*

– Maria Silva, Education Assistant at Pope John Paul II School.



## Strengthening our Catholicity

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### Building Bethlehem Everywhere

On Monday, October 18th, all KCDSB system staff gathered at Pope John Paul II School for the Spiritual Development Day with Fr. Patrick Fitzpatrick, C.S.Sp., an *“enlightening and captivating”* keynote speaker, who guided, inspired and challenged us to break open the message of the document of the Canadian Catholic School Trustees Association on *“Build Bethlehem Everywhere”* as part of our distinctiveness as Catholic schools with a Christ-centered vision and mission. The day provided opportunity for the entire system to “bind the diverse staff” through coming together for prayer, reflection and sharing of food for mind, body and soul to celebrate Catholic education and be strengthened to being faithful to our call to be *“significantly and fundamentally”* different.



### There is Much to be Grateful For – Our New Chapel is One of Them

Every day the students of St. Thomas Aquinas School are invited to stop and reflect or to pray quietly in the new chapel. There are many reasons to stop by. One is the beautiful location. The chapel is one of the first things you see as you enter the main doors. It is also filled with light and air and is open to the world through the many windows that look out on the rocks and trees that define our regional environment. Another is the table of intentions. All are welcome to write intentions to be remembered in the weekly prayer service. Right now the intentions are captured on leaves that are left out to invite participation for all – even those who cannot stop to attend the prayer service. Another attraction is the Scrabble game where anyone can leave a message for all to read in the creation of words and thoughts and feelings. We have much for which to be grateful. The new chapel is a symbol of so much of it!



*Celebrating the Spirit means to me an active participation in the world around me by not only sharing the gifts God has given me but by affirming the gifts the Spirit has so generously bestowed on others. It's like seeing the world through Spirit colored glasses: endless possibilities of goodness.*

– Mariette Martineau, Arts Teacher

## Strengthening our Catholicity

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## Catholic Education Community Conversation

On March 9, 2010 the Kenora Catholic District School Board hosted a Community Conversation evening. The event brought together community partners, parents, and stakeholders interested in talking about the importance of Catholic Education in our society and ways to protect this important gift.

Phyllis Eikre, Director of Education stated that there was a full house for the event at the Multi-Skills Training Center of Excellence. *"We've been enjoying a Catholic Education for 168 years and that is something to be celebrated. In Ontario there are 2.4 million ratepayers and 670,000 students that attend Catholic schools. That is 1/3 of all students in the province of Ontario"*.



*"The evening provided a great opportunity to bring people together so that everyone has the language and voice to share why a Catholic Education is so important to our society and our students"* Darryl Michaluk, Chair of the Board.

Spread the good news about Catholic Education! For more information about Catholic School Boards in Ontario please visit [www.ocsta.on.ca](http://www.ocsta.on.ca)

*All people are connected. ....what we do for ourselves we do for our families, communities and the world. The five sub-themes of spirituality: The Spirit of Hospitality, The Spirit of Understanding, The Spirit of Wisdom, The Spirit of Justice and The Spirit of Gratitude therefore all began in each of us as individuals. Once we can develop a spiritual self who is understanding, wise, just, grateful and hospitable we begin a cause and effect which will spread to our families, and then on to our greater community. It is then that everyone will be able to find themselves within a welcoming community, united in celebrating spirituality. Therefore, we need to take time to reflect on what we have in our lives. Do not dwell on negative things, identify and celebrate all of the gifts that we receive each and everyday in our lives. God is offering us greatness, which we need to accept and embrace.*

— Jared Ralko, Student Teacher Placement in the grade 1 – 2 class of St. Louis School

## Good News for Haiti

The Kenora Catholic District School Board is very proud to announce that in the 2010, collectively, our schools raised \$17,019. The money raised was donated to various programs such as the World Vision Haiti Relief, Save the Children and Red Cross for Canada to bring comfort and relief to those devastated in Haiti by the 7.0 magnitude earthquake that struck on January 12, 2010.

*"We are very thankful for the generosity and support of our students, staff, parents and community",* says Phyllis Eikre. *"This unfortunate event provided a firsthand opportunity for our students to learn about compassion, empathy and stewardship, which are some of our core Catholic virtues that we teach in character education and social justice. At the Kenora Catholic District School Board we take a great deal of pride in nurturing the academic, spiritual and character development of our students and this is another example of how that nurturing and care is then extended in a very meaningful way to help those in a time of great need."*

The Kenora Catholic District School Board has approximately 1,511 students spread out over 5 schools.

*Celebrating the spirit is being thankful for a sunny day, a family gathering or seeing a loved one. The Spirit guides you to do what Christ wants us to do. We celebrate the Spirit when we pray every day to thank God for the safety, love and freedom that we have. It means to spread the word of the Lord and to help make a difference in the world. It encourages us to make peace and to be what Jesus has said to the world. "Love one another as I have loved you." Helping the world, the ones in need and the ones who need a friend.*

— Annika Pedersen, Grade 6 Student at École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys.

## Equity and Inclusive Education



The 2009 Ministry of Education document, Ontario's Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy states, *"We believe that Ontario's diversity can be one of its greatest assets. To realize the promise of diversity, we must ensure that we respect and value the full range of our differences."*

The Kenora Catholic District School Board strongly supports these statements and has moved forward during 2010 to develop the Equity and Inclusive Education Procedure and the Religious Accommodations Procedure. Staff, trustees, parents and community members have been involved in the consultation and development of these procedures.

In future years these procedures will be reviewed regularly. Changes will be made and communicated to staff and other stakeholders as they occur. All procedures are posted on our board website. We encourage you to visit our website at [www.kcdsb.on.ca](http://www.kcdsb.on.ca) and review these new procedures. We welcome and value your feedback on how we can improve or enhance our Equity and Inclusive Education procedures.



## 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.

### 48th Annual Diocesan Conference Hosted in Kenora

The Kenora Catholic District School Board trustees were honored to host the 48th Annual Diocesan Conference in Kenora on October 1st and 2nd in partnership with the Diocesan Committee and the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board. *"It was a momentous event and a tremendous honor for our board due to the fact that the conference has been hosted in Thunder Bay for the past 47 years, leaving the city for the first time to be hosted in Kenora this year"*, says Darryl Michaluk, Chair of the Kenora Catholic District School Board.

The Diocesan Conference is an opportunity for Northwestern Ontario Catholic School Board trustees, Director's of Education and administrators to come together with members of the Ontario Catholic

School Trustees Association for professional development and a celebration of Catholic Education in the region.

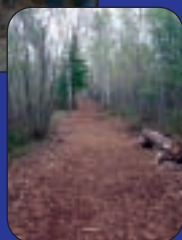
This year the conference theme was Diversity and Unity – Catholic Education and Enculturation. Archbishop Sylvain Lavoie and Sister Eva Solomon shared a depth of knowledge and personal insight about living in communities where they were able to see diversity and yet help to bring unity. The speakers led the group to examine questions of relevance for school boards and challenged participants to consider how school boards are working to bring unity and diversity to the heart of everyday thinking.

The conference ended with a banquet that featured musical talents of vocal and instrumental performers from students from St. Thomas Aquinas High School.



A portion of the Rabbit Lake Trail System before the students got to work.

What the trail looked like after the students had completed - dry and inviting.



### Students Celebrate Hope in our Community

Students at St. Thomas Aquinas High School rolled up their sleeves, put on their rubber boots and got to work revitalizing the Rabbit Lake Trail System - all part of celebrating Catholic Education Week and the theme *"Hope in Our Community"* during the week of May 3 – 5 2010.

*"My classes spread out woodchips on the trail that were donated from Professional Tree Service, that came from a 100 year old Cottonwood tree"*, says Outdoor Education Teacher, Steve Mastromatteo. *"The before and after pictures are astounding. The students have made such a huge difference."*

STA students receive an honorable mention in the Lake of the Woods Trail Guide for work on the Rabbit Lake Trail System.

This is just another example of how our students are making a difference in our community every day.

### System Wide Olympic Torch Celebration

On January 4th, the first day back to school after Christmas break, students all across the Kenora Catholic District School Board enjoyed a day of friendship, unity and excitement being part of the KCDSB's *"Carry the Torch"* Celebration in commemoration of the 2010 Olympics being hosted in Canada.

Project organizers Kathy Valentini and Jacqueline Duhaime worked in collaboration and partnership and together submitted a proposal to The Canadian Heritage Grant under the Celebrate and Commemoration Program and were approved for \$6,110.

Valentini and Duhaime wanted to provide an opportunity for students all across our diverse and culturally rich board to come together in celebration of the Olympics. *"It provided a unique opportunity for us to have our whole system come together and have St. John's Separate School in Red Lake, feel part of our Catholic Education Community. The money provided the opportunity to finance the bussing of students from St. John's Separate School and St. Louis School"* comments Duhaime.

Activities started with a celebration of diversity with a multilingual, multicultural opening ceremony with student led prayers in English, French and Ojibway, a multi-school Torch Relay and various sporting competitions such as hockey, skating, snowshoeing, skiing, curling and so much more. Senior students were provided with an opportunity to hone their leadership skills in coordinating and facilitating activities for younger peers.



## 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

### St. Louis School Opens Doors to Full Day Learning Program

In the fall of 2010 St. Louis School opened its doors to welcome their young students to the Kenora Catholic District School Board's first implementation of the Early Learning Program.

In the province of Ontario there are close to 600 schools offering full-day learning and in 2011 there will be almost 800 schools offering the program. The full-day learning program is designed to provide the best possible start for four and five year olds providing a seamless and integrated transition into the regular school day.

With an enrollment of 39 students (19 JK, 20 SK), the St. Louis School program is running with two teachers and one Early Childhood Educator. *"Our two classrooms are set up to provide a play-based environment designed to stimulate the whole child through exploration, investigation and discovery, engaging the child's natural interests. We are providing students with the opportunity to develop leadership skills as they work and play in a mixed age setting that promotes self-directed learning. The implementation of this program has been incredibly rewarding for me"*, says Kerri Favreau, Kindergarten teacher at St. Louis School.

*"I believe the implementation of the program at St. Louis School has gone so well because of the dedication of the team we have with Kerri Favreau, Marnie Buffett and Tamara Bond, because of the support of our parents and the very strong connection we have with the Ministry of Education during the entire implementation stage"*, Trudy Cederwall, Principal of St. Louis School.

*"We are very proud of our implementation team at St. Louis School for providing such a strong model of educational excellence for the full-day learning program. The program at St. Louis School will be used as a learning tool and model of excellence as we transition other elementary schools across the board into the full-day learning program over the next couple of years"*, Phyllis Eikre, Director of Education.

*I feel celebrating the Spirit means to stop and appreciate how every one of our students are so unique, and each one has been blessed with a special gift. I believe that part of our journey with our students is to help them uncover and cherish those gifts. "Celebrating the Spirit of our students."*

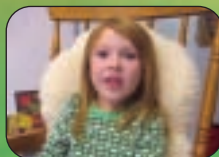
– Tracey Sinclair, Education Assistant at St. Louis School

## Why do 4 and 5 Year Olds Like Coming to School Every Day?



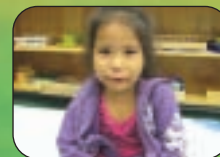
*I love coming to school every day because it's fun.*

– Dexter Freitag, 4



*I like to come to school every day because I like to play with my friends and learn more.*

– Lacy Livingstone, 5



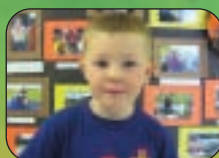
*I like to come to school every day because I really like my friends.*

– Alayna Dunsford, 4



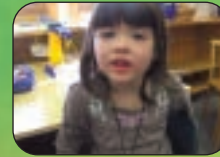
*I like coming to school every day because I'm learning to read and write.*

– Hayley Biggs, 5



*I like coming to school every day because I like playing and I like to learn.*

– Liam Forster, 4



*I like coming to school every day because I like really playing with my friends and I really like playing with the animals.*

– Keva Hebert, 4



## 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 Kenora Catholic District School Board's Safe School program has been successively implemented.

The program provided much needed support for students who require a one-to-one worker, outside agency involvement, and several program modifications to support the unique learning needs of individual students.

Several students who received suspensions for 5 days or longer were provided assistance to continue their learning and all students made a successful transition back into the school environment at the end of their suspension. Discussions with the parents of suspended or expelled students revealed that they were satisfied and grateful for the Safe School supports that were made available.

The board's Safe School procedures will be going through a review process in the coming year as new legislation and training becomes available. Schools have reviewed and updated their Progressive Discipline procedures to further take into account the needs of Special Education students and potential mitigating circumstances. Consultation with parents, teachers, principals, and administrators have assisted in the development of an inclusive procedure that is being reviewed on an annual basis.



#### Specialist High Skills Major

Our Student Success team has helped programs such as the Specialist High Skills Major expand and reach out into the community. The focus this year has been on the construction sector with a 95% student success rate. Both the Construction Sector course and Hospitality & Tourism Sector course continues to be popular with the high school seniors. The tourism portion of the program moved back to the high school setting, while the hospitality portion continued throughout the year at the Confederation College site.

#### School College Work Initiative

Our School College Work Initiative continues to provide much needed support for students considering the college or trades pathways. This year the program allowed students to receive dual credits, industry recognized certificates, and work experience. This year's initiative was developed in conjunction with the Specialist High Skills Major program. A college instructor was supported by a teacher to deliver a construction course with dual credits. Some of the students in the program were considered to be high risk requiring a personalized timetable to ensure their graduation.

The program encompassed a full semester, full day placement which resulted in a 95% success rate. The majority of the students were successful in securing summer jobs and several were offered apprenticeship opportunities. The program will be offered every other year in order to ensure sufficient enrollment.



### Saints Win Silver at OFSAA Girls "A" Volleyball Championship

Energy, enthusiasm and spirit radiated from of St. Thomas Aquinas High School on March 10th when the Saints Girl's Volleyball team won the Silver Medal during the OFSAA Girls' Volleyball Championship.

*"I feel very proud of the girls' volleyball team for winning the silver medal. It really means a lot to me as the coach to see the girls grow as a team and achieve this award. They really demonstrated fair game play throughout the tournament and showed incredible determination and perseverance",* says Bob Kowal.

*"It was an incredible experience" says Joanna Krisko who was part of a small team of approximately 15 teachers that organized the event as host school. "It's the equivalent of hosting a 3-day wedding with 300 guests. Our team gave 150% to this event. It's our sixth time hosting an OFSAA Championship in our school and it makes us proud to win the silver medal as host school".*



*Celebrating the Spirit means to me the hospitality of letting everyone into your arms and making them comfortable. Let them enjoy themselves in my home. Understanding them and being glad to have someone to talk to.*

– Luis, Grade 6 Student at École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys

Patience

## 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



#### Aboriginal Education

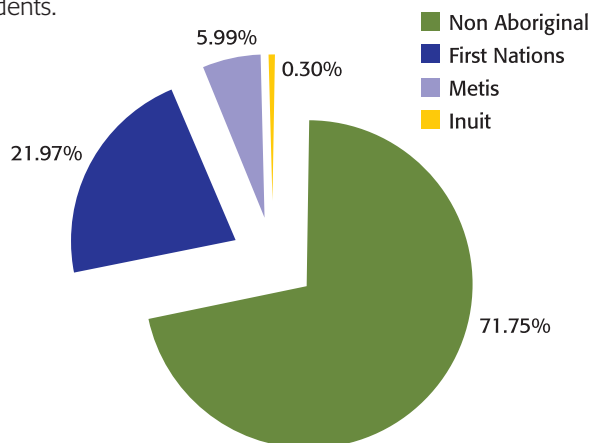
The Aboriginal programs continue to provide support for both the elementary and secondary panels. The Northern Studies program was expanded to all the elementary schools with many cultural activities happening throughout the school year. Community partnerships with agencies, cultural groups, and elders provided the students with fieldtrips and workshops.

The Striving Toward Achievement program entered its fourth year of implementation. The program allowed Aboriginal students coming from small elementary Federal schools to experience a gentle entry into the larger high school setting. All identified Aboriginal students are given individualized timetables to make a successful transition to the high school setting.

The new Aboriginal drumming program has added a new dimension to the high school celebrations and has led to a student led drumming group being formed with participation from students from across the school; Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal alike.

#### Student Diversity Demographics

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 of these diverse groups and thus design and implement strategies to ensure success for all of our students.



#### First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework



The use of self-identified student data has become a standard practice in all our schools and is being used to direct decision making when school and board improvement plans are developed. The self-identification procedures have assisted the board in identifying First Nation boys as a focus group in two of our schools.

The establishment of a new Aboriginal Advisory Committee is in progress with four meetings anticipated throughout the year. Progress reports on the implementation of the program are monitored on a monthly basis through the Executive Council Team.

Increased involvement with community organizations, the Ontario Provincial Police, and First Nation Elders have provided increased interest and attendance with our Aboriginal parents in school sponsored events.

Community initiatives are being directed to the school board as community networks expand at the local level.

*Celebrating the Spirit means doing good to others in the world.  
It means being God's messenger and being a light in the world.*

*To me it means making a difference in people's lives.  
It means to love and to care for those who are in need  
and those who don't have the things they need to live.  
This is what celebrating the Spirit means to me.*

— Grace Langlois-White, Grade 6 Student at École-Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys



## 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 Environmental Education Committee assisted École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys with the planning and implementation of the first school board Environmental Film Festival. The spring festival brought all the elementary schools to St. Thomas Aquinas High School. The event was extended out to the community and attracted displays from local environmental groups, special interest participants, and the Ministry of Natural Resources. A variety of long and short films were selected to be shown to each school division along with environmental displays that were opened up to the community in the evening.

Representatives from each school worked collaboratively to provide assistance in organizing the event. The success of this year has set the stage for next year's event. The committee has already begun to plan for this event which will take place during the Earth Day week in April 2011. Watch for it!

*I believe that celebrating the Spirit means loving one another as God has loved you. I also think that it means to give to others not only physically but also mentally by teaching others about God. That is what I believe celebrating the Spirit means.*

– Socorra Galusha, Grade 6 Student at École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys.



### St. John's "Save Our Earth" Challenge

As a response to their teacher's read aloud about local recycling, St. John's Grade 5/6 students recently challenged other students and adults throughout the school to "Get Green!" They emailed (to save paper) their message, and created a large, colorful banner to collect and display signatures in support of their project.

*"The response has been remarkable. Their discussions, decisions and actions have generated many questions about current practices in our school, and have encouraged students and adults to recycle and compost",* comments Suzanne Chartier-White, Principal of St. John's Separate School. The Kindergarten students emailed the Grade 5/6 students to share their "green" successes. They have stopped using paper towel as placemats, have a reusable cloth to wipe their tables, extra paper is reused in Creative Corner and the teacher uses chart paper less, and the whiteboard more.

In support of the Grade 5/6 initiative, Crystal Trull, representing Red Lake's Green Committee, visited the class to present them with a cheque for \$100. Students have decided to use the money to replace paper towels and plastic utensils with cloth towels and standard utensils in every classroom to continue helping everyone to "Get Green!"



### Parental Involvement Committee

Our Parent Involvement Committee was established early in the school year. Four regular meetings were held throughout the year and culminated in a year-end celebration at St. Thomas Aquinas High School. The committee was involved in the consultation process for several board policies and procedures. The School Council chairs were able to share best practices early in the school year and collaborated in sharing contact information. The year-end celebration brought samples of best practices from each school that were shared with the trustees.

Although we have had many years of working with all of our educational staff on school improvement, we have been fortunate in the last few years to be able to bring our parents on board, in a more interactive and involved role. In the spring of last year and again this fall, we have had parents attend the EQAO symposium in Toronto. This year the theme of the EQAO conference was teamwork and our parents were involved in workshops and keynote lectures that helped them to understand the role of assessment: both large scale and those done in the classrooms in our board. They were able to see how they might play a part in helping our shared resources (the students) to improve and grow in their achievement.

*"The parents have been able to see how the school improvement plans were formed based on the needs of the students and have gained a lot of knowledge,"* comments Maureen Frankcom, Principal of Pope John Paul II School. *"This conference helps our parents to see the provincial picture and how we fit into it."*

The Kenora Catholic District School Board would like to extend a heart-felt expression of appreciation to all of our Parent Involvement Committee members and School Council members for their dedication in our schools.

## 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

#### Summer Coop Program

There was no formal Summer Coop program organized this year, rather, the focus at the end of the year was to ensure the students in our Dual Credit Construction program were successful during the coop portion of the second semester. The hope was that the students would be hired on by their coop employers. In the end, all of the students in the program were offered summer employment. Half of these students were offered apprenticeships.



#### Notable Accomplishments and Engagement in Safety and Health

One important program that has had continued success this year is the Advanced Placement Biology class. The students enrolled in this year's course achieved amazing results. 66% of these students achieved the highest level possible (5) on their final exam. The remaining 33% scored a level 4. This means all the students are exempt from taking their first year university Biology courses.



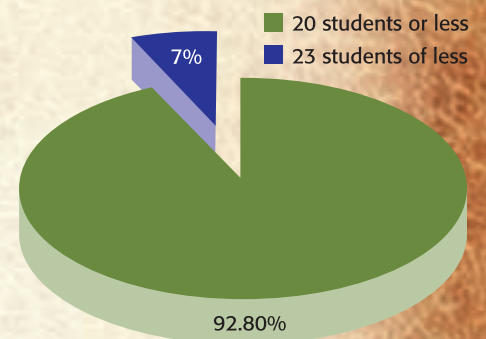
The use of differentiated Instruction continued to grow in our schools. This year there were more teachers using strategies that allowed for variation in content, process and product to ensure that all students were able to show their best work. Student and class profiles were created and used to help students and teachers to see the diverse needs and interests in their classrooms and to help all students reach their full potential.

*I am reminded of what celebrating the spirit means to me everyday as my students enter the school first thing in the morning. To me celebrating the spirit means accepting everyone for whom they are, where they have come from, and what they aspire to be.*

– Shawna Lamme, SK Teacher  
at St. John's Separate School

#### Programs for Students Unable to Attend Regular School

The board has established programs that have allowed for students to attend school in alternate settings when this is necessary for their continued success in achievement. The Supervised Alternative Learning for Excused Pupils, Safe Schools and home schooling options have been used with success when students have needed alternatives to the regular school program.



## Teaching and Learning Excellence

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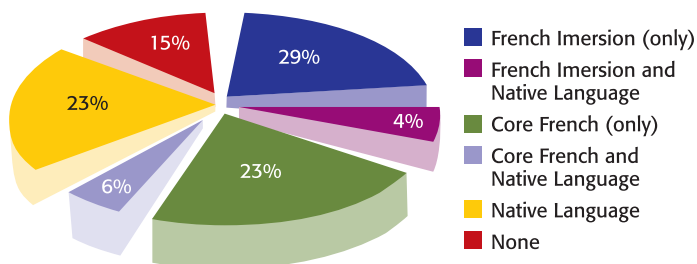
## Curriculum and Programs

### Critical Learning Pathways

This year the grade seven and eight classes participated in a collaborative project under the umbrella of our teaching-learning critical pathways. Using collaborative strategies, our teachers planned and implemented a unit on the Olympics that entailed a final product that was marked by the teachers en masse at a huge open house for students, parents, and the community. The students worked on a variety of activities throughout the Olympics and then created a final assessment of a sport they chose to follow throughout the project. Students from École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys were invited to attend the displays and all were invited to ask questions of the students and their work. The teachers co-marked the projects agreeing before hand on criteria that students were given to know exactly what was needed to achieve a level three or four (the provincial standard).



**Percentage of Students Enrolled in Language Instruction**



HOLY BIBLE

### Credit Accumulation

83% of our students in grade 10 have 16 or more credits as of June 30, 2010. This is a marked increase over the same statistic last year which was 76%. 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 students' goal for graduating in four years. 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.

*Celebrating the Spirit means seeing the joy in a student's face when they learn something new. When a child experiences the grace that comes when they help another child in need. When a student is truly grateful for that they have been given.*

— Darren Benson, teacher at St. Louis School



## Teaching and Learning Excellence

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### Curriculum and Programs

#### Author night

What is more hospitable than having your work appreciated and your talent highlighted? How about having that with pizza and cake and an open house? St. John's students set out their writing and shared their work with parents, teachers and community members on an evening in May this year. They gave oral recitations of their work, signed autographs and commented on each other's accomplishments as well as hosting the community in their very well decorated school. The event brought the spirit of hospitality to feed both the academic thirst of our student authors and to our community members who hungered for more at the end of the night!



#### Computers in the Classroom

It is not often that we are able to host an Additional Qualification (AQ) class in Kenora but this year we were able to host not only part one but also part two of the Computer course for teachers. The class was able to grow in their knowledge of technological advances and their implications in the classroom. But even more exciting for the system, their learning did not stop there. The students in the Part One AQ were able to share their growth by presenting sessions at the January professional development day that focused on technology as a differentiated instruction strategy. They also blossomed out and helped us all to grow our understanding by sharing the writing project in Pope John Paul II School's grade one class. Their blogs and a chance for teachers to visit during Catholic Education Week helped us to understand the power of using the right tools at the right time.

*To me celebrating the Spirit means that we as a community recognize the support we need to have for each other and in doing this we help each other make beneficial life decisions.*

— Victoria Lambert, Grade 12 Student at St. Thomas Aquinas High School

*Compassion*



## 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.

### Our Target is in Sight

We are deeply rooted in the belief that all students can achieve. As a team, our Catholic educators and administrators have a common goal: of improved results in student achievement. We are committed to carefully reviewing the EQAO data in order to effectively direct our energy, leadership, professional development and resources toward priority areas as we strive to help each child succeed.

This EQAO data continues to assist our educators and administrators to work collaboratively in identifying areas of strength and need and helps us to shape appropriate responses. Our improvements inspire us to grow with the province toward the Ministry of Education's 2011 target of 75% of Grade 6 students achieving Level 3 or higher in reading, writing and mathematics and all schools and the board improvement plan include targets of 75% in each of these areas.

### Improving Student Achievement: Working Together to Bring Success

By working closely together as a professional Catholic learning community, we continue to facilitate a nurturing learning journey for all of our students so that they may reach their highest potential academically, spiritually and socially.

To ensure that we see students growing in all areas, the board has determined several benchmark achievement targets.

If students are having difficulty in meeting these benchmarks, there are programs to help students. At the primary level we have

Early Literacy Intervention Teachers (ELIT) who work with students to meet the needs of specific students and decrease the gaps in their learning. Our Junior and Intermediate students have access to our Later Literacy program that targets student learning needs. Students who need extra help with math are able to use our new math homework help program. In addition to all of these programs we also have an extensive special education program that provides assistance to many students who have Individual Education Plans.

At a system level, the School Effectiveness Framework (SEF) has been an essential part of assessing the effectiveness of our individual schools. With all key players involved, the success of our system as a whole is fostered thanks to the careful review of the strengths and needs of each school. Each school has created an individual school improvement plan that is based on the specific needs assessment conducted by each school team. These in turn have been shared at the board level and a board improvement plan is built around the shared needs of the system.

All of these areas, from the class room to the board level support the provincial Ministry goals and form the basis for a system that works as a Catholic community to build sound practice, based on research and grounded in the experience of our teachers. Everyone is part of the learning community and all of the staff in every building in the board works to help ensure that all students are able to improve.



### RECORD BREAKING ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR OUR GRADUATING CLASS OF 2010

This year was not only the year when St. Thomas Aquinas High School had the highest number of graduates ever, it was also the year that we had a record number of special needs students graduate! Of the record-breaking 84 students who crossed our graduation stage, 12 of them were students who had been supported by special education throughout their academic career.

Our whole Catholic education team played a role in making this day come about. Parents, students, teachers, administrators, educational assistants, coordinators, and our Parish community all had a part in making sure that the best was achieved and more students than ever achieved a successful transition from the high school into the next phase of their lives. We could not be prouder!

*Celebrating the Spirit to me is about gratitude for all that is good. Gratitude makes for a good understanding of our own place in the grand scheme of things, the master plan. Understanding leads to wisdom about accepting what is or is not, and addressing those things that are within our sphere of influence. It also contributes to a sense of what is just and deserved. Where we are grateful, we are also in a better position to share with one another, so we will have recognized that we have so much.*

– Suzanne Chartier-White, Principal of St. John's Separate School



## Championing Continuous Improvement

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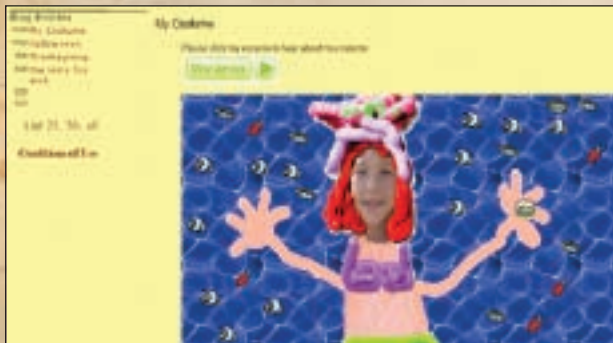


### IT = Innovative Teachers

The IT (Integrated Technology) department and the teachers of the Kenora Catholic District School Board have put their heads together in order to devise an individualized and personalized IT plan for each teacher and school. Instead of a "top down" approach that might mandate particular software or hardware for everyone to use, the IT department along with the help of the IT leaders in each school have been campaigning to help teachers find the best fit for their IT needs. Money has been put aside for the development of technology in each teacher's class and this money will be spent to meet the specialized needs of each classroom in the board. Some classes have identified the need for a mini pod of computers that students can access as a learning station. Other classes have determined that an interactive smart board would best suit their needs. Still others have asked for document cameras with projector units so that they can use "live" demonstrations or project work for the class to see.

In each case, the teachers' and students' needs are being put first and careful planning is being done to match the right tools to the right environment.

One example of a success story can be seen at the Cardinal One Blog site where grade one students from Pope John Paul II have now had visitors to their blogs from 3 continents and are watching in great anticipation to see if they can get readership from all areas of the world. Below is a screen capture of the blog:



### Student Health and Safety:

#### Our students become aware and care!

Healthy food has become a way of life for our students as our cafeteria at Saint Thomas Aquinas is moving towards a healthy menu. Students have commented on the good food and are willing to try new ideas as the food becomes healthier.



The students are also aware of the things they need to do in case of emergency situations. All students have had opportunities to learn and test safety procedures and are able to respond quickly, safely and efficiently in case of any emergency. Our schools are safer places because we are prepared for any eventuality. Students have also taken part in Workplace Health and Safety sessions for coop and have taken first aid training. They are able to provide assistance in case of needed first aid care.

Students in all schools have also been made aware of the progressive discipline cycle used in each building. Bullying and cyber safety have become important issues and all schools have put programs in place to ensure that these are issues that are contained and dealt with for the good and safety of all.

In keeping with our Catholic Graduate Expectations students are working hard at being good citizens who communicate well, care for each other and guard each other's well being.

*Celebrating Spirit means to be together with each other, whether you are in Church, at home or in our community. Being with others shows our celebration of one another which in turn allows us to feel loved and wanted. This idea of love is what Jesus did for us, showing us the Spirit.*

— Ben Van Belleghem, Grade 12 student  
at St. Thomas Aquinas High School



## 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, 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](http://www.kcdsb.on.ca). Over the 2011 school year we will be developing a process to invite our community members, teachers, parents and students to provide feedback and input on our procedures.

### We have a Three Year Plan!

Our Executive Council Team has been working very hard over the past year to develop our board's three year Administrative Operating Plan. 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](http://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](mailto:info@kcdsb.on.ca).

### Carlos Silva Recognized as Principal of the Year



Carlos Silva, Principal at École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys was nominated by his peers as Principal of the Year for 2010 for the Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario.

Carlos Silva began teaching with the Kenora Catholic District School Board in 1982 as the Core French Teacher and later as the senior French Immersion Teacher. In 2001 Carlos was appointed principal of École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys. Today, in large part due to Carlos' dedicated Catholic leadership, École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys is a thriving and successful school community dedicated to providing excellence in a Catholic, French Immersion school. The school boasts high academic standards which are demonstrated through EQAO results.

Congratulations Carlos Silva. We are proud to have you on our team!

# Empathy



### A Veteran's Tea

The students of St. Louis school were pleased this past November to invite local veterans to their classroom to share tea on Remembrance Day. They brought in several people who had served our country and served them tea, dainties, and respect. The students also invited their own grandparents and great grand parents to share in the remembering of a time when peace was a delicate quantity hard sought for by those who went before us.

*To me celebrating the Spirit means recognizing and rejoicing in the gifts God places in each of us – seeing Jesus in the deeds of others and in the eyes of my students.*

– Sharon Remmerswaal, Teacher Pope John Paul II School

### Man on the Street video

There is an old saying that truth comes "out of the mouth of babes". In our case, it was out of the mouths of our students of all ages that we heard some important truths. Jerry Ossachuck, a student at St. Thomas Aquinas took a video camera and went out to find out what students thought about the concept of choice when given assignments. Jerry asked students at the high school but also went to neighboring elementary schools for input. The message was loud and clear. Students appreciate real and genuine choice in the work that they are asked to do. They commented favorably on assignments where they had the chance to choose topics or group members. They enjoyed having the chance to choose from among many formats for completing the assignments they are given. They also commented on the need to make the expectations very clear from the beginning. Whether there is choice or not, students wanted to know what they needed to do to be successful and they wanted it in a clear and understandable format.

Wise beyond their years?  
Absolutely!

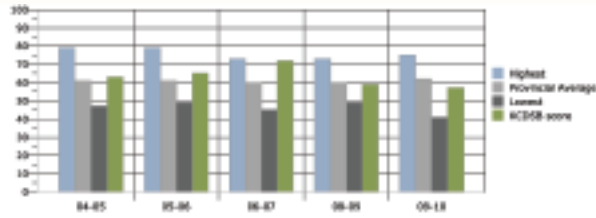


# Kenora Catholic District School Board and Provincial EQAO Results

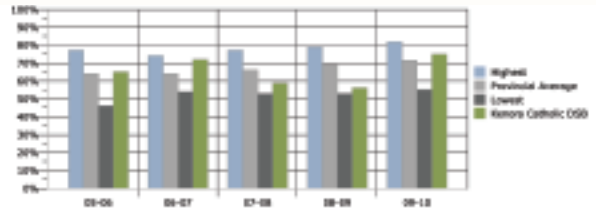
Throughout our Annual Director's Reports you will notice that we reference EQAO tests, data or results. The abbreviation EQAO represents, Education Quality and Accountability Office. The EQAO is an advisory board legislated into creation in 1996 by the government of Ontario to provide greater accountability 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 school 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. Successful completion is required for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

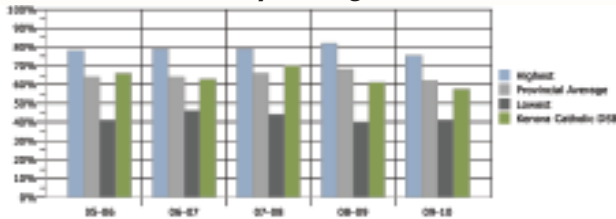
**Primary Reading**



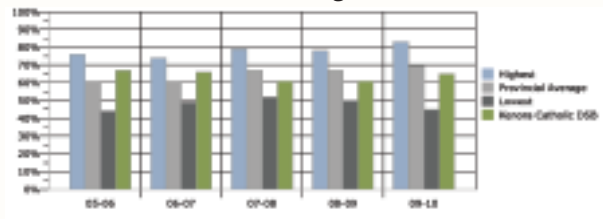
**Junior Reading**



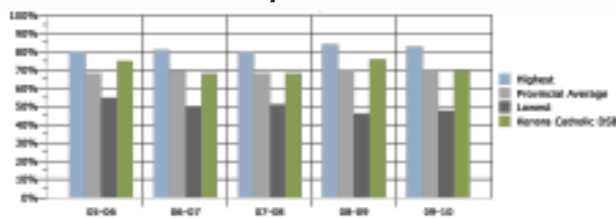
**Primary Writing**



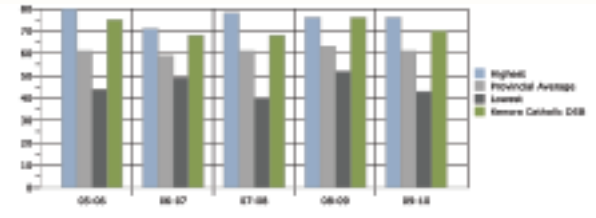
**Junior Writing**



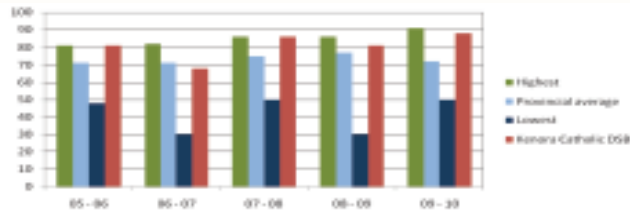
**Primary Math**



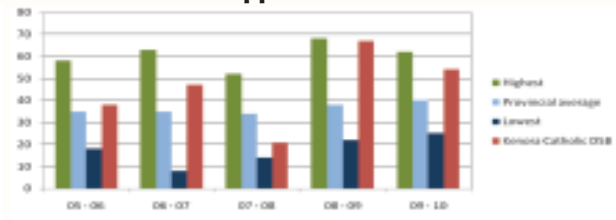
**Junior Math**



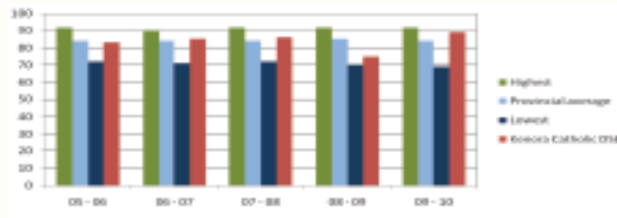
**Grade 9 Academic Math**



**Grade 9 Applied Math**



**OSSLT - Grade 10**



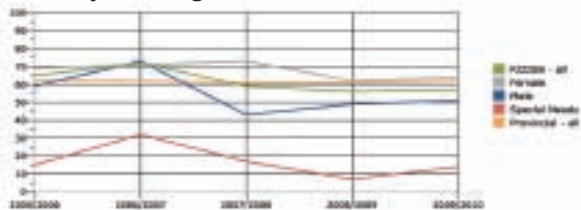
## KCDSB EQAO Results Over Time

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. This year we are focusing on boys in particular, as the data shows that there is a gap between their achievement and that of our girls, especially in reading and writing in the primary grades. We are also continuing to focus our efforts on primary reading and junior writing. Our teachers have identified areas of need in their professional practice based on these and other test results and are identifying strategies to enhance student learning in all areas.

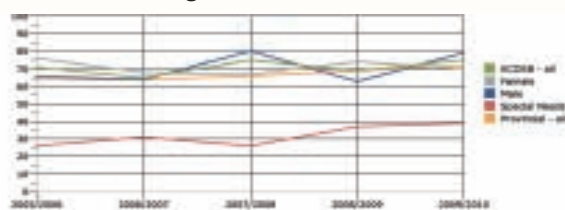


*To me celebrating the spirit means accepting the fact that you are Catholic and being proud that you are a Christian. Rejoicing in the love, care and help that God and Jesus have for us each day. That with all the things we've been given, we can help those who are less fortunate. Doing the things that God called us to do in everyday life.*  
 - Jierer Borna, Grade 6 student at École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys

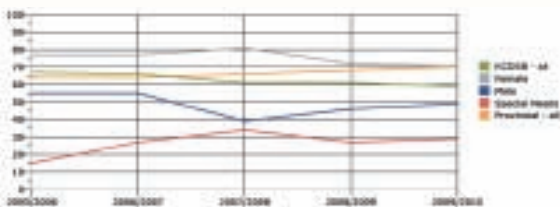
**Primary Reading - Gender and Special Needs**



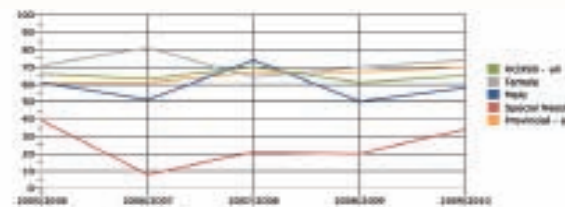
**Junior Reading - Gender and Special Needs**



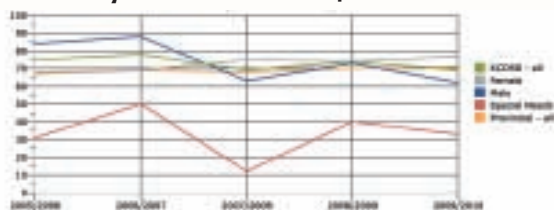
**Primary Writing - Gender and Special Needs**



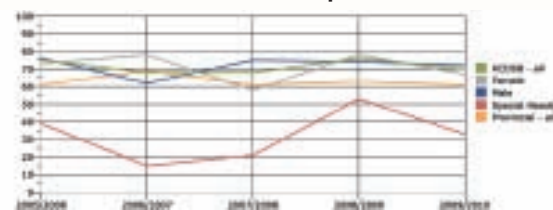
**Junior Writing - Gender and Special Needs**



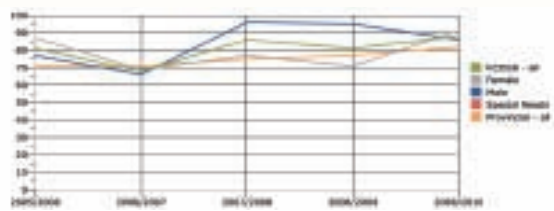
**Primary Math - Gender and Special Needs**



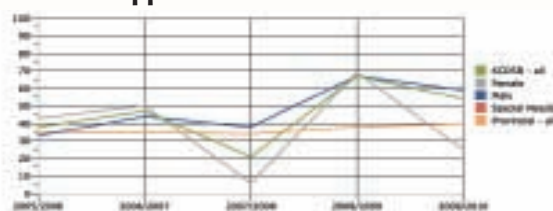
**Junior Math - Gender and Special Needs**



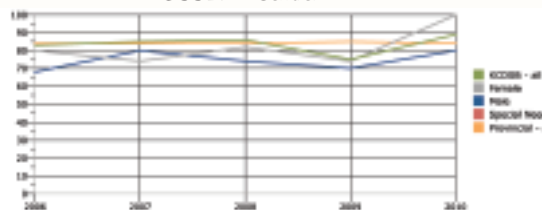
**Grade 9 Math - Academic Over Time**



**Applied Math - Gender**



**OSSLT - Gender**



*Respect*





**Darryl Michaluk**  
Chair

**Michael Favreau**  
Vice Chair

**Josie Kipling**  
Trustee

**Paul Landry**  
Trustee

**Frank Bastone**  
Trustee

**Teresa Gallik**  
Trustee

**Adrian Boivin**  
Student Trustee

## Kenora Catholic District School Board Profile

**Enrollment:** ..... 1,511  
 \*Elementary Students ..... 1,116  
 Secondary Students ..... 395

**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 ..... 160  
 Non Instructional Staff ..... 50

\* 298 elementary students totally immersed in French  
 \*\* includes active teachers, LTO'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. 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.

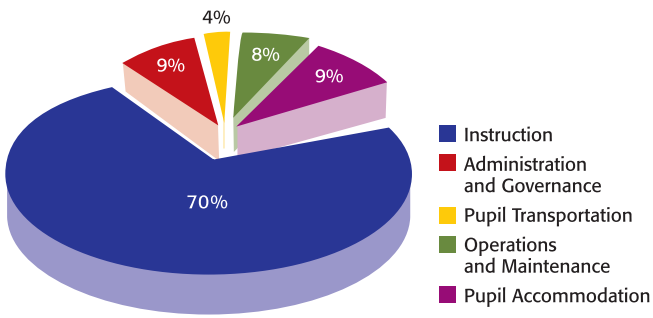


To verify your support or if you would have questions about how to change your taxes or about the Request for Occupant Information Form please contact the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation at 1.866.296.6722.

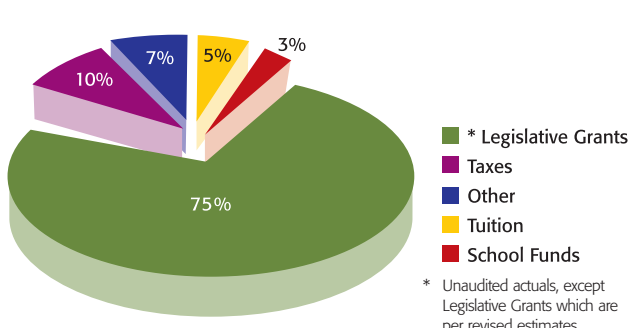
Thank you for taking the time to ensure that your support is directed to your Catholic school board.

## Financial Facts at a Glance

**2010 Expenditures by Category**



**2010 Revenues by Category**



\* Unaudited actuals, except Legislative Grants which are per revised estimates.

*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.

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Artwork provided for the front cover by Rebecca Taddeo during her graduating year at St. Thomas Aquinas High School

