



Board meeting report from Catholic Student Trustee, Andrew D'Alessio

Student Trustee Report - May 1, 2018

The last few weeks have been quiet as schools continue to wait for the warm weather. The sun has arrived today but will it stay for tomorrow and the day after that? It has been a struggle as we begin spring sporting events. Playing soccer on a wet field can complicate things for sure. I think we all are in need of some sunshine.

Many of our schools hosted a dance this past week. They were a resounding success with many, many students in attendance. Dances are an opportunity for students to meet and enjoy each other's company. I recognize that our teachers give of their personal time to support these types of events. I would like to publicly thank them for doing so. Dances build on school culture and bring everyone together as a community.

Most of our schools have also been participating in mental health activities and the feedback has been positive. Defeat Depression is a great way to raise awareness. Students are continually learning about mental health and how help can be accessed when needed. This learning will go a long way to support CDSBEO students in the future. Talking and sharing can only help us to become stronger and more resilient. Thank you to Dr. Hawes and the Special Education Department for working diligently on these initiatives.

I attended a trustee conference this past weekend with my fellow trustees. This meeting took place at the Crowne plaza in Kitchener Ontario. The conference was highly beneficial. The workshops were quite interesting, and I really enjoyed having the opportunity to meet other student trustees around the province. I heard many great ideas from other boards. It was most definitely a worthwhile experience. Thank you to my fellow trustees for supporting me during this conference.

As we move closer to the end of the year, please keep all of our grade 12 students in your prayers as they are awaiting post-secondary news. The stress of exams and keeping their averages up is a constant worry. This is a very stressful time of the year for them as they prepare to transition to the next phase of their life.

Student Trustee Report - May 15, 2018

As many of you know, teacher appreciation day was May 8, and our schools did many wonderful things for their teachers! There were goodies, handmade cards, and much, much more! Our wonderful students truly demonstrated their love and appreciation for their educators. The small things that we do truly demonstrate our Catholic faith. It's during those times that I really appreciate being part of a Catholic community. Teachers have the power to change our lives, and they do every day. They have a strong hand in influencing and creating positive, loving citizens of tomorrow.

Some schools are currently working on organizing end of the year trips! These trips are for many of our students the only trip they will take. For many schools it's a culminating activity that reinforces the many concepts covered in the Curriculum. It's an experiential opportunity that solidifies the learning. Who doesn't remember the trips they took as a student? I know I remember each one of my trips. They were memorable and full of learning opportunities.

Many schools are also organizing their end of the year masses. Special graduation masses are also taking place for our grade 6, 8 and 12 students, as they prepare to transition to the next phase of their educational journey.

Catholic Education Week began with a very special mass in Kemptville last Monday. All schools were represented. I felt honoured and touched to have been part of this important event. Michael Fenn, next year's Student Trustee, also participated by reading intentions. Holy Cross did an absolutely wonderful job in making us feel welcome after the mass. Also, a big thank you to the beautiful choir from St. Mary Catholic High School in Brockville. Their voices were most definitely a gift from God. The week was full of special activities to highlight Catholic education. We most certainly celebrated and proclaimed our Catholic faith. We were loud and proud this week. Many of our schools hosted Catholic Education Coalition Events that highlighted who we are and what we do. Bravo to all for a job well done.

At the end of this month I will be participating in the OSTA AGM! I believe this will be the first time a Student Trustee from our board will attend. This is truly an honour. I look forward to continuing to make new connections with other trustees across the province. I will most definitely represent our board with great pride.