



Dear Parents and Students,

The end of the school year is quickly approaching and as always we want to gather to celebrate the numerous achievements of our students over the course of the year.

**On Thursday, June 21st, at 9:30 am, we will host our Grade 7 and 8 Awards ceremony.** During the evening of the 21st, **Grade 8s are invited to a celebration dance from 6:30—9:00 pm.** Finally, our **Grade 12 Graduation Ceremony** will take place on **Wednesday, June 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.**

Congratulations to our two STA Envirothon teams who placed first and second at the Regional Competition at MacSkimming. Both teams - 10 students, will be going on to the provincial competition at the University of Waterloo from May 27th to May 30th.

We wish our Junior and Senior girls soccer teams good luck at EOSSAA on Wednesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. Also, three of our high school Track & Field students qualified for the East Regionals. Keely Zandbelt, Dakota Aubin and Amelie Buma will represent STA in Kingston on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Our Grade 9 students enrolled in Grade 9 applied or academic math this semester will be writing their EQAO assessment on June 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> in the morning. Please reschedule any appointments if scheduled on these days.

Enjoy an evening of the Arts skit including a visual display from our student artists, music by the Yardbirds, as well as a three course meal capped off by a dramatic performance on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Please call the school if you would like to reserve a ticket. Also, please join us for our Annual Spring Grade 9 Music Concert on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

Exams will begin on Thursday, June 21<sup>st</sup>. It is a requirement that all students attend and complete culminating tasks and examinations in their courses in order to achieve credits. The final day of school for Grade 7 and 8s is Wednesday, June 27th.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Wishing all of you a peaceful, restful and safe summer!

Yours in Catholic Education,

Danny Palumbo, Principal



The Chaplain's Corner

Go to the Chaplaincy website: [www.sta-russell.com](http://www.sta-russell.com) and click on the Chaplaincy link

The End of another School Year

Thanks be to God—it's June! A lot has happened this year, and our St. Thomas Aquinas community has made a huge difference in the world. Together we gave 3,300lbs of food to the Good Neighbour's food bank in Embrun, visited with the seniors at the Osgoode Care Center, gave over \$16,000 to help families in our local community through the STA Christmas Angel Program, and donated more than 50 backpacks filled with essential items to the homeless in Ottawa/Gatineau—and all of that before Christmas!

It doesn't end there either. A generous donor to the STA chaplaincy program\* has made it possible for us to help a poverty-stricken family in the Philippines. We helped the family purchase cooking utensils and supported the mother in developing a small business selling delicious baked items. We also paid the high school tuition for three of their children to attend a highly reputable school, because education is the only sure way of helping the family reach outside the cycle of poverty. If you are interested in being part of exciting projects like this, talk to us about making donations to STA chaplaincy! Donations to the chaplaincy program make it possible for us to reach out and impact even more people in need!

Then on Shrove Tuesday in mid-February we made pancakes for the entire school population of 600, and then collected almost \$3,000 during our Lenten coin drive to support our special student, Angelica Xie who lives with dystonic cerebral palsy! With this outstanding fundraiser, in conjunction with a trivia night on June 9 and a RAPA dinner theatre on June 15, we are helping Angelica's family purchase much needed equipment that will help her as she grows.

And of course each of our activities are made richer and more complete when we celebrate them in the context of our faith! Mass in the school chapel is a weekly occurrence on a rotating schedule, as is our presence at Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Parish down the road. And we always make time to celebrate as an entire school community, like when we have a school-wide prayer service or mass every month in the atrium. And with Confessions, prayer, retreats and other faith opportunities in the midst of our studies we attempt to live up to our motto: "Faith Seeking Understanding."

And now it's time to breathe, take in a little R&R, and enjoy the summer! To all of our staff and students, as well as to the families in our community, I will continue to pray for you during the summer and may God bless you always!

\*tax-deductible charitable donations to STA chaplaincy can be made through CDSBEO. Please contact me if you would like to set up a monthly donation!

Chris Vonesch

EXAM SCHEDULE:

**June 21st, Week 1, Period 1 Exam**  
**June 22nd, Week 1, Period 2 Exam**  
**June 25th, Week 1, Period 3 Exam**  
**June 26th, Week 1, Period 4 Exam**

## June Dates to Remember:

June 01, PD Day  
June 04, Gr 9 to 12 Athletic Awards in AM  
June 05, Yardbirds visit the feeder schools  
June 07, Gr 7 & 8 Track & Field  
June 07, Arts Gala @ STA, 5:30 to 7:30 PM  
June 08, BYOBanana  
June 08, Dress Down Day (Student Senate)  
June 09, Trivia Night for Angellica Xie  
June 13, Gr 9 Math EQAO test  
June 14, Gr 9 Math EQAO test  
June 14, Gr 7 & 8 End of Year Mass, 10 AM  
June 15, Spirit Wear Day  
June 19, Gr 7 End of Year Trip  
June 21, Gr 7 & 8 Awards, 9:30 to 11:30 AM  
June 21, Gr 8 Dance, 6:30 to 9:00 PM  
June 22, Gr 8 Report Cards go home  
June 25 & 26, Gr 8 End of Year Trip  
June 26, Gr 7 Report Cards go home  
June 27, Gr 12 Graduation Ceremony at 7 PM  
June 28, PD Day

## EQAO Math Assessment

Attention all grade 9 students/parents and guardians. The EQAO math assessment dates have been set: students taking **MFM 1P & MPM 1D semester 2** will write their assessment on **Wednesday, June 13th and Thursday, June 14th, 2018.**

**Attendance is mandatory for these dates. Please do not plan any holidays or appointments during these dates.**

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The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario is currently accepting International Students for the Fall of 2018. The school board in partnership with MLI Homestay is seeking families to host international students ranging from Grades 7-12. Hosting an international student is a unique way to share our culture and local communities, while learning about international culture and customs from these students. Whether you have children at the Elementary or High School level it could be a very fulfilling experience for all ages. You will be paid a monthly fee from MLI Homestay for hosting these students to compensate you for the costs associated with hosting.

More information about the Homestay Program can be found on the MLI website at [www.mlihomestay.com](http://www.mlihomestay.com) under Be a Homestay.

If you are interested in this rewarding opportunity please contact either the CDSBEO International Education Program or MLI Homestay:

Cindy LaRocque  
Secretary  
CDSBEO International Education Program  
[International.education@cdsbeo.on.ca](mailto:International.education@cdsbeo.on.ca)  
Phone 613-284-2613

Kristi Ash  
National Homestay Manager  
MLI Homestay  
[kash@mlihomestay.com](mailto:kash@mlihomestay.com)  
Phone: 1-888-623-6216 ext. 515

## ENVIROTHON

Congratulations to our two Envirothon teams. Teams "One, Two, Tree" and "Climate Change is Real" competed at the regional competition at MacSkimming outdoor education centre and placed first and second. Team "One, Two, Tree" also won the provincial video challenge which earned a berth to compete at the provincial competition that will be held at the University of Waterloo from May 27th to May 30th. Winners from this level will move on to the North American Championship to be held in Idaho in July.



Best wishes to both teams as they compete, we are very proud of you!



Dear St. Thomas Aquinas parents,

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School is doing a fundraiser for a very special student of ours, **Angelica Xie**, whose family lives right here in Russell. Angelica has **dystonic cerebral palsy**, and it can be difficult—sometimes impossible—for her to control her own movements. It is also painful. There are resources and assistive devices which can significantly improve the quality of Angelica's life, but unfortunately these things are very expensive. This is why we have decided to help Angelica and her family, and we invite you to join us!

***We are proud to present the STA Trivia Night fundraiser on Saturday, June 9, 2018 at the Russell Arena!***

We are hosting this trivia night fundraiser to help Angelica's family purchase more than \$14,000 of equipment, including a hospital bed, ceiling lifts, slings, and other devices that will improve Angelica's quality of life at home as she grows.

***We are seeking your help! This could be items for silent or live auction, services, or even monetary donations. Most of all, please attend the Trivia Night on June 9! RSVP for \$10 per person.***

***To donate a gift, service, or product to the trivia night auction, please contact Claire Graham at 613-878-5789 or [weeboo@rogers.com](mailto:weeboo@rogers.com).***

***For tickets to the trivia night please call Connie Johnston at 613-445-3587, or email at [conjon57@gmail.com](mailto:conjon57@gmail.com).***

Thank you for your generosity!



# Trustee News

CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

Volume: XII  
Number: 9  
June 2018

Todd Lalonde, Chair (Cornwall-Glengarry)  
Ronald Eamer, Vice-Chair (Cornwall-Glengarry)  
Nancy Kirby (Lanark)  
Brent Laton (Grenville County and Elizabethtown-Kitley Township)

Karen McAllister (Stormont-Dundas)  
Robin Reil (City of Brockville, Town of Smiths Falls, and Leeds County)  
Sue Wilson (Prescott-Russell)  
Andrew D'Alessio (Catholic Student Trustee)

## Guatemala Service Trip 2018

The CDSBEO Board of Trustees had the privilege of hearing testimonials from Catholic secondary students who had the opportunity to participate in the Guatemala exposure trip in February. Clearly moved by their life-changing, profound experiences, the group gave an emotional and heartfelt account of their time in Guatemala.

Twenty-five students from St. Mary Catholic High School, St. Luke Catholic High School, St. John Catholic High School, St. Michael Catholic High School, and Notre Dame Catholic High School, along with six supervisors, participated in the experience. The students spent the majority of the week in a village called Anibal Archila, working in the community. Over the course of their stay, the students painted homes, and helped to build a road with interlock stones which will help to reduce mud in the wet season, and reduce dust in the dry season.

"Although we think we are privileged for all the materialistic things that we possess, we soon discovered that these children are the ones who are truly blessed," noted Alicia McBride, a student from St. Michael CHS. "All the joy and happiness that we shared was their gift to us. They have a contagious smile, and they never once complained."

"Whenever we bought treats from the local shops, we were giving back to the community. Our donations of basic necessities helped families through tough times, and also helped students go to school. Our monetary donations helped to pay for the road building supplies, the paint, and even the local construction workers wages to assist us with our tasks. Spending our week in this community taught us the true meaning of service," noted Mary Cowan, from St. John Catholic High School.

"There are not enough words to describe how amazing and life changing the Guatemala exposure trip was," began Elora Wales, a student from St. Mary CHS. "The second we arrived we were welcomed with smiles, firecrackers, dancing, tears of joy, and an overwhelming sense of community and love."

The students expressed their gratitude for having the opportunity to participate in the experience.

"I would like to compliment the students on their presentation tonight, and for sharing with us your emotions, and how this has affected your lives in a meaningful way," noted Vice-Chair Ron Eamer. "Thank you so much for sharing your experience with us."

"I would like to thank the staff. I know the dedication and leadership you brought will never be forgotten by these students," concluded Chair Todd Lalonde.

## Draft 2018-2019 Enrolment Update and Grant Revenue

Board administration is finalizing the preliminary draft grant estimates for the 2018-2019 fiscal year, compared to the 2017-2018 Revised Estimates. Manager of Finance, Ashley Hutchinson, presented an overview of the 2018-2019 draft enrolment and grant revenues to the Board of Trustees.

"Grant revenue is based on projected enrolment as at October 2018 and March 2019. A slight decline of approximately 165 FTE is predicted for the next school year at this time, however, registrations continue to be received on a daily basis," explained Mrs. Hutchinson.

Grant highlights for the 2018-2019 school year include funding associated with the provincially negotiated labour settlements, as well as all provincial plans for employee health, life and dental benefits, and local priorities funding for OECTA and CUPE.

In Special Education, new funding has been allocated in the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) for multi-disciplinary teams, as well as an application based EPO (Education Program – Other) to address current wait lists for assessments.

"Additional grants have been included for grade 7 and 8 teacher funding to help engage students in career pathways planning," noted Mrs. Hutchinson. "A new EPO has also been added for mental health workers in secondary schools, as well as continued investments to reduce class sizes for Kindergarten, and grades 4 to 8."

Additional funding has also been provided for the New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP). A new Program Leadership Allocation (PLA) was created which reallocates program leader funding from other areas of the Grants for Student Needs to Board Administration and Governance for Student Success, School Effectiveness, Mental Health, Early Years and Indigenous Education Leads. Other highlights include a 2 per cent cost update for plant operations to address rising utility and insurance, and a 4 per cent cost update for transportation.

"Some positive news is that two of the EPO's we've received in prior years have been transferred to the GSN," noted Mrs. Hutchinson. "Autism Supports and Training EPO, as well as the Early Years Lead EPO."

The Board will also receive approximately \$7.3 million in capital grants which will be used for various school condition improvement projects, school renewal, and retrofitting and accessibility priorities.

Board Meeting Dates: June 4 @ 3:30 p.m. and June 19, 2018 @ 6:30 p.m., Kemptville Board Office



# Trustee News

CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

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## 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.

Board Meeting Dates: June 4 @ 3:30 p.m. and June 19 @ 6:30 p.m., Kemptville Board Office  
Visit our website at [www.cdsbeo.on.ca](http://www.cdsbeo.on.ca) for information!