



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

Student Trustee Report - April 3, 2018

I hope everyone had a wonderful time with their friends and family during this blessed, Easter season. This liturgical season is one of rebirth. Throughout the Lenten season there have been weekly liturgies and masses in all schools to help students prepare their hearts for Easter. I can't help but mention that I also hope that the Easter Bunny was generous and kind to all of you. We now begin to prepare for Catholic Education Week in May. As your Student Trustee I am working diligently with fellow senate members to proclaim, preserve and protect Catholic education through various activities and discussions. Our next Senate Meeting is scheduled for April 13, when we will have the election for next year's Student Trustee. I am excited to begin sharing this wonderful journey and supporting him or her in this role. I have learned much through this leadership experience.

As many of you might also be aware, the grade 11 students across our board have been participating in a Financial Literacy Summit. Many students heard about post-secondary responsibilities, OSAP, credit cards, and debt. The response was overwhelmingly positive. The presenters were amazing and the students felt that the information was extremely useful. I hope that this summit will continue next year. As we prepare to graduate and move on to post-secondary opportunities, or the world of work, we will be much better-equipped to deal with financial responsibilities.

Various experiential learning opportunities continue to happen for our students. Some groups are participating in a trip to Italy to develop a better understanding of culinary opportunities, pathways and experiences. Some of our schools are travelling to Ireland to further develop their skills in Rugby, and to meet other students with a passion for this sport. These opportunities are welcomed by all CDSBEO students. Many of our sports teams are participating at a high level of competition. I wish them luck as they wrap up the winter season and begin training for the spring and summer sports.

Prom preparations are well under way. There is most definitely a constant buzz around "the what, when, and where?" Details are being worked out with our committed and hard-working teacher leads. I will continue to inform you as plans develop across our board in all ten of our high schools.

Student Trustee Report - April 17, 2018

As people here may know, the last student senate meeting of the year took place last Friday, April 13, and it went extremely well! The students were really engaged in our discussions, and the meeting was very productive. Elections took place with three different candidates running for Student Trustee for 2018/2019. Each candidate had to fill out an application and provide various references. All three were called to prepare a 2 to 3 minute presentation, and each of them was excellent. Student senate voted and they have appointed Michael Fenn as the new Student Trustee for September. Michael is a grade 11 student at St. Mary Catholic High School. He is presently the secretary for Student Senate. Michael brings a great deal of enthusiasm and experience to the role. We also voted in the vice-chair Emma Patterson from St. Thomas Aquinas, and the secretary Madelaine Hubbard from St. Michael. I wish all three candidates great success as they lead Student Senate and represent CDSBEO. You are in great hands for the 2018/2019 school year.

Our last SASS reports were completed with many activities to be discussed and shared among student senate members. Some of our schools are participating in the Sandy Lake Exposure Trip! These schools continue to be focused on raising money for this wonderful opportunity. Some of our schools are preparing a coffee shop day. This coffee shop will sell coffee and other goodies for their end of the year trips.

I would also like to mention the tragedy that we have all felt in the last weeks. The deadly bus crash that took the lives of 16 students and teachers and injured many more hit home for many of us. I was so proud of our schools for sharing a message of love and unity by wearing a sports jersey, saying special prayers and donating money to the Humboldt community last Thursday. We are one in power and love as we pray for these families. We will continue to keep them in our prayers as we move forward.

CDSBEO truly is an amazing community as I have witnessed so many acts of love and kindness throughout our large geographic region. We look out for each other as friends, as a family, and as a team. We care for each other and the support shown for the hockey team is another example of how we continue to demonstrate our Gospel values.

Thank you for allowing me to represent our CDSBEO students. It has been an amazing opportunity that has changed me as a student and as a leader.