



Trustee News

CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

Volume: XII
Number: 1
October 2017

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Summer Learning Program 2017

For the past eight summers, the CDSBEO has had the opportunity to offer a Summer Learning Program for primary students in a number of our schools. The program focuses on building literacy and numeracy skills, while integrating physical activity, the arts and recreation, as well as coding and robotics instruction, which was added this year. The Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) continues to coordinate and provide funding and leadership for these summer programs.

The program is intended to support students in the primary grades who would benefit from engaging and interactive literacy and numeracy instruction during the summer months. In conjunction with the summer learning program, a significant research study is in place to examine the factors that minimize summer learning loss, and close the achievement gap. Key components of the program included opportunities for students to: increase their literacy and numeracy skills, develop social skills through small peer group interaction, and enhance leadership and mentorship skills. The learning environment is fun and positive, with low teacher-pupil ratios and engaging materials such as field trips and experiential opportunities, classroom guests, computer technology, manipulatives, and varied text forms.

Each year, students in the Summer Learning Program complete STAR testing, which measures their reading and numeracy level upon entering the program. Students are then revisited by board staff in September to complete the testing again which allows for an analysis of how well the program helped students to retain academic skills over the summer months.

The program was held at five CDSBEO school locations, with 173 students from grades 1, 2, and 3 participating for four weeks during the month of July. Students had the opportunity to learn about self-regulation, breathing techniques to help manage emotions, and elements of spiritual meditation through weekly yoga classes. The experiences offered through the program also helped to engage learners with community experiences, Indigenous teachings, and history through hands-on opportunities.

Information and Communication Technology Update

The CDSBEO has invested heavily in capacity, reliability and equipment relating to Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Through a strong partnership with Microsoft, ICT has established a solid infrastructure where students and teachers seamlessly integrate cloud tools in the classroom to help meet curriculum expectations. This infrastructure has allowed the Board to leverage cloud technologies, such as Microsoft Office 365. One of the Board's largest partnerships is with Microsoft, whose software helps to manage more than 7,000 devices, 150 servers, and 100 software titles for nearly 15,000 users in schools and administrative offices.

Microsoft provides a complete computer ecosystem with tools that help to control infrastructure, such as malware tools, business systems, and desktop software. The Board's partnership with Microsoft has also streamlined the migration to Microsoft cloud based storage, software services, and infrastructure services.

CDSBEO Appoints New Director of Education

The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario is pleased to announce the appointment of John Cameron, as its new Director of Education for the Board, effective January 1, 2018. Mr. Cameron, who was appointed to the position on September 19th by the Board of Trustees, is currently the Associate Director of Education, with responsibilities that include supervision of Catholic schools in the Cornwall area.

Over his 26 year career as an educator, Mr. Cameron has held positions including secondary teacher, vice-principal, principal, superintendent and most recently Associate Director of Education. His career began at St. Joseph's Catholic Secondary School in Cornwall where he taught religious education. During his time as an administrator, Mr. Cameron has gained experience overseeing the Religious and Family Life Education Department, the International Education program, the Adult and Continuing Education program, and the Student Success portfolio. He has acted as a mentor and guide for the CDSBEO Catholic student trustees, and as key facilitator for the CDSBEO Parent Involvement Committee. Mr. Cameron earned his Masters of Education from the University of Ottawa.