

Catholic Community Newsletter

Compliments of the Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board



Fall 2012

Catholic organizations sign unique partnership agreement

The Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board has entered a unique partnership with its fellow Catholic boards in the Hamilton Diocese, as well as the Diocese itself and St. Jerome's University.

"The aim of the partnership," said Amy Kieffer, Religious Education Consultant with the Bruce-Grey Catholic Board, "is to be more than a simple exchange of resources. By working together we can plan activities that will support and benefit all partners, and especially students and parents in our school communities."

"The Partnership Agreement is an important expression of unity and mutual support for Catholic Education from conception to natural death," said His Excellency, Bishop Douglas Crosby. "We are committed to model and teach the highest values at home, in our own parishes, in the schools and in the University. In the Diocese of Hamilton we want to work together to make this happen!"

"The fundamental role of families, the parish, and the school in educating people in the Catholic Christian faith compels us to recognize the role and responsibilities that we have to promote Catholic education as a lifelong process, from kindergarten to university, and beyond," says the partnership agreement. "We are called to be full communities that serve the Church and the world. As partners in Catholic education, we commit ourselves to sharing human resources, facilities and programs."

A number of initiatives and activities are anticipated as a result of this new partnership, including:

- establish a steering committee to oversee partnership activities
- promote professional development for staff, including courses and staff exchanges
- develop joint opportunities for students and staff to experience voluntary service, work, bursary and education placements
- share physical facilities
- develop research activities that meet the specific needs of the partners
- cooperate in the development of curricula that meet the distinctive needs of Catholic education
- develop workshops, seminars and other programs and activities in religious education and faith development
- provide opportunities for the development of Catholic leaders

- communicate and sponsor activities that promote the education of students in the Catholic education system and of adults within the broader Catholic community.

Diocese introduces sacramental guidelines

The Diocese of Hamilton has introduced new Sacramental Guidelines for the initiation of children in the Diocese.

"This has been a key initiative of Bishop Crosby," said Amy Kieffer, the Board's Religious Education Consultant, "as we haven't had a formal set of guidelines in the Diocese."

These guidelines are "a result of months of wide consultation with all priests of the diocese, parish ministers, Directors of Education, principals and consultants in our Catholic school boards, and others," said Bishop Crosby in his introductory letter to educators. "I thank everyone for their candid and careful reviews."

"May our united efforts help children be welcomed to the Sacraments with the preparation necessary for them to feel the fullness of joy that comes with God's grace!"

Following, are highlights of the guidelines.

- Home, school and parish working together provide the best foundation for a child's faith development.
- Foundational and ongoing catechesis will continue to be provided in our Catholic schools. All teachers will continue to teach the grade-appropriate religion program written by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.
- Immediate preparation for the sacraments is the responsibility of, and coordinated by, the parish. However, the parishes will collaborate with the schools which is key to ensuring a beneficial outcome for children and their families.
- Sacramental preparation must never be onerous for teachers, parents, or students of the parish.
- Sacraments are gifts of God's grace. Admission to the sacraments is based on the desire of the child and his or her family to celebrate the sacrament.
- Grade 2 is the normal age for First Eucharist and First Reconciliation.
- Any child who has completed grade 2 or is older and seeks Baptism will follow a program of preparation through the parish to be prepared for full initiation – Baptism, Confirmation, and First Eucharist at the same celebration.
- Grade 7 is the normal age for Confirmation.



Faith Formation Day

We are to be salt of the earth and light of the world

The Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board's annual Faith Formation Day for its staff was held in September at Sacred Heart High School in Walkerton.

The day-long event began with the theme, "Igniting the light of Christ" in memory of two teachers who passed away during the 2011-2012 school year – Dianne Hay and Trish Holland.

Mass was celebrated by Father Con O'Mahoney, Vicar for Education for the Diocese of Hamilton. Father Con's homily reflected on Matthew's teaching that we are to be "salt of the earth and light of the world". Father Con asked those present to remember that the world is a place of light and possibility, and "we need to remember that we are called to be the light for our world." He also talked about the idea of salt as seasoning. "We must be the flavour of salt which spreads the Good news."

Following communion, the student choir let its collective light shine through the song, Amazed.

The morning's keynote speaker was Father Murray Watson from St. Peter's Seminary in London. His presentation contained three key messages:

- To explore and learn about the human and divine nature of Jesus, for by learning about Jesus' humanity we can feel a greater connection to God.
- The importance of our created world and our need to rediscover a connection with creation, and recognizing God's presence in our daily lives in creation.
- To develop an attitude of gratitude.

The afternoon's keynote speaker was Ashley Gialelem who spoke about her experiences as a student with special needs in the St. Clair Catholic DSB. Ashley reminded attendees of the importance of encouraging others and believing in ourselves and others so we can become all that God created us to be.

Following Ashley's presentation, elementary staff attended a session led by Catherine Montreuil on the topic "growing together in faith", while secondary staff were introduced to the new suicide prevention protocol.

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www.bgcdsb.org



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Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board
799-16th Avenue, Hanover ON N4N 3A1

Fogarty Awards presented



Kristen Berge

Kristen Berge, a graduate of St. Mary's High School in Owen Sound, and Sarafina Pagnotta, a graduate of Sacred Heart High School in Walkerton, are this year's recipients of Father Patrick Fogarty Awards. Sponsored by the Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario, the awards are presented annually in the fall at an awards dinner in Toronto.

Now in its 29th year, the awards recognize young people who best exemplify the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations. (See sidebar).

In addition, the awards dinner celebrates the achievements and contributions of Catholic educators.

"Kristen is a committed Catholic, not only in word, but in deed," said St. Mary's Chaplain Lydia Foch. "She is compassionate, empathetic and enthusiastic about any endeavour she pursues."

Kirsten was an active member of her school's SAC and attended the March for Life in Ottawa, the El Salvador Mission excursion, and was involved with chaplaincy events. She is currently studying Psychology in Guelph.

"Sarafina received the award for her excellence in living out her faith during her entire high school career," said Rev. Jason Charron, Sacred Heart's Chaplain. "Her demeanour was always faith-filled, other-directed and contagiously joyful. Most importantly, she practised her faith in her community."

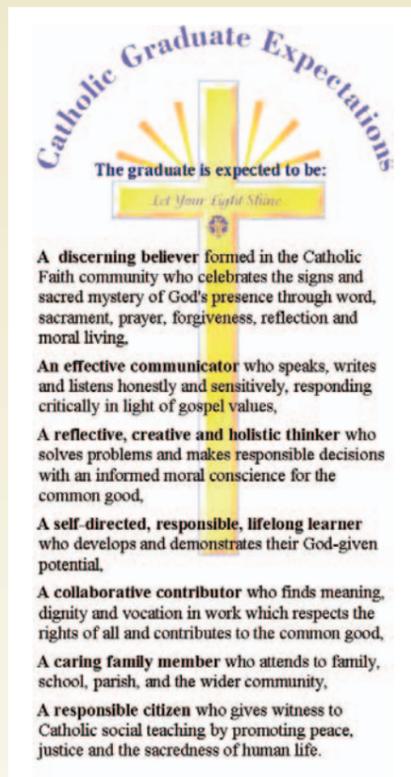


Sarafina Pagnotta

Sarafina was the spirituality chair on SAC and was responsible for assisting the Chaplain in Mass planning,

Father Patrick Fogarty, who died in 1985, founded two Catholic high schools and chaired many organizations dedicated to promoting full funding to the Catholic School system in Ontario.

Each Catholic School is invited to send one recipient and the Bruce-Grey Catholic DSB generously supports the event.



Leadership Day at St. Basil's School

What began as a proposal to fund a grade 3 leaders group at St. Basil's School in Owen Sound, resulted in a day long event at Silver Lake.

St. Basil's teachers Ashleigh Aponte and Tracey Walsh saw the need for a "younger student council" at the school and decided to seek a Michael Carty Award Financial Grant from the Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario to fund the project.

"In a primary school from junior kindergarten to grade 3, the cultural needs of our students differ from those in a kindergarten to grade 8 school," said Ashleigh and Tracey in their application. "Staff is challenged with finding ways to include children in leadership and extra-curricular activities that are developmentally appropriate."

"The recent development of a grade 3 rep group to help plan and organize school-wide activities has shown a very positive impact

on the culture and environment in the school. Therefore, this initiative would allow us to further develop this leadership program to further impact our entire school."

The application for funding was successful to the tune of \$1,200, and the grade 3 leadership program has developed to the point where a "leadership day" was held in October for 16 grade 3 students at Silver Lake Camp.

The day began with a short prayer service that focused on the theme "Let your light shine" and that by working together as a community, good things can happen. The students participated in a variety of team building and problem-solving activities and talked about the characteristics of a good leader, including the need to be kind and helpful, to set a good example, and how to be dependable, trustworthy and encouraging.

Guelph hosts Diocesan Celebration of Catholic Education

The fifth annual Hamilton Diocesan Celebration of Catholic Education was hosted by the Wellington Catholic District School Board in Guelph in late September.

Representatives of all seven Catholic school boards in the Diocese, including those from Bruce-Grey Catholic DSB, participated in the event at the City's historic Church of Our Lady Immaculate.

The theme of this year's celebration was Psalm 46, "Be still and know that I am God". The Most Reverend Douglas Crosby, Bishop of Hamilton was the Principal Celebrant, along with clergy of the Hamilton Diocese.

Reflecting on the Psalm, participants were reminded that in our present age, Catholic education is embedded in a dominant culture that is increasingly secular, consumerist, and in many ways, post-Christian. Our fundamental human yearning for deep communion with God, as well as God's yearning to be in union with us, is sometimes forgotten. We are called to remember our collective need to rest in God's abundant love.

Music was provided by the Holy Trinity Catholic School vocal ensemble, the Wellington Catholic District School Board Choir, the Church of Our Lady Immaculate Senior Choir and the Church of Our Lady Chamber Ensemble.

The collection was in support of the Canadian Catholic School Trustees Association's "toonies for tuition assistance program" to help parents send their children to Catholic Schools across Canada.

In addition, an agreement entitled "Partners in Catholic Education in the Diocese of Hamilton" was presented and signed. (Please see separate story).

Prior to the Mass, attendees were invited to a light supper in the new Guelph Civic Museum, adjacent to the church. The museum, which has been completely renovated, was formerly Loretto Convent.

Following the event, a social was held, complete with Celtic music.

Students sign anti-bullying pledge at Sacred Heart School



When Janey Campbell arrived at Sacred Heart School in Teeswater a year ago as Principal, she found a package of anti-bullying materials, including an anti-bullying pledge. She decided to use that pledge as an integral part of the school's anti-bullying program.

"All students in grades 3 through 8 got a copy of the pledge to take home to their parents," said Janey. "They also watched a short video on bullying."

Of the 60 students in grades 3 through 8, 40 signed pledges. "That's two-thirds of the students and five were absent that day," said Janey.

The pledges are re-visited every other month.

"The theme of the pledge is Stand Up, Not Stand By," she said.

Is the program working? "Yes, it is," said Janey. "This year there has been little to no physical aggression."

Anti-bullying Pledge

This is for me,
my friends today,
and my friends tomorrow.

I think being mean stinks!
I won't watch someone get picked on,
because I am a "do-something" person,
not a "do-nothing" person.



I care
I can help change things,
I can be a leader.

In my World there are no bullies allowed

Bullying is bad,
Bullying bothers me.

I know sticking up for someone is the right thing to do.

My Name is _____
and I won't stand by....
I will stand up!



If a student "strays" from the pledge, teachers remind him or her of their pledge and give them support. "Listening to the students is critical to the success of the program as is dealing with each and every situation," she said.

Katie Devlin – Awesome Alumna



Ever since she was a grade 10 student at Walkerton's Sacred Heart High School, Katie Devlin had her mind set on a career as an accountant. After graduating from Sacred Heart and completion of two post-secondary degrees, and accountancy exams, Katie has achieved that goal and now holds the designation, Chartered Accountant.

A native of Mildmay, Katie attended Sacred Heart School in Mildmay and Sacred Heart

High School in Walkerton. During her high school years, she was in the school band and in a production of Grease, the musical. She also studied piano and was a runner and swimmer.

"Catholic education was important to me," said Katie, "particularly the emphasis on family and faith throughout the curriculum.

"There was an extra sense of belonging because students and our teachers shared the same beliefs – beliefs in God and prayer. Religion is a part of the everyday routine.

"As well, I feel that the quality of the education I received at Bruce-Grey Catholic schools was superior to that of some of my friends from other schools. Our teachers were excellent."

Following graduation from high school in 2003, Katie enrolled at the University of Waterloo where she received an Honours degree in Accounting and Financial Management, followed by a Masters degree in Accounting.

One might say Katie got her start in accounting while she was a student at Waterloo, serving as Treasurer on the Board of Directors of a not-for-profit organization. Following graduation she landed a co-operative placement in the Waterloo office of accounting firm KPMG and studied for her CA designation – which she received, along with an invitation to join the audit services team of the firm.

But Bruce County was still in her blood and in 2010, Katie took a position in the Finance-Controller Group at Bruce Power in Tiverton, where she was responsible for financial analysis and project management.

Not only did Katie return to her Bruce County roots, but she also returned to the Bruce-Grey Catholic Board.

"The Bruce-Grey Catholic Board was good to me," said Katie, "and two years ago, an opportunity for me to give something back to the Board presented itself – an advertisement in the newspaper requesting applications for the Board's Audit Committee."

Katie applied for the position and was asked to join the four-member committee comprised of two trustees and two external members.

The Audit Committee holds quarterly meetings and reviews the Board's accounting policies and issues, reviews the audited statements, ensures the Board is in compliance with provincial policies, monitors internal controls and risk management, and provides advice to the trustees.

Currently, Katie and her husband and their new baby boy reside in Mildmay where Katie is currently on maternity leave "being a mom".



Owen Sound EA is recipient of Coaching to Inclusion award

June Green-Thompson, an Educational Assistant at Owen Sound's St. Mary's High School is the Bruce-Grey Catholic Board's Coaching to Inclusion recipient for 2012.

The award was developed in 1999 by the University of Western Ontario's Centre for Inclusive Education "to recognize, celebrate and highlight educators who live, breathe and implement inclusive education". School districts from across Southwestern Ontario have the opportunity to nominate an individual who demonstrates leadership in achieving quality inclusive education by using, developing, and implementing effective practises.

June is described in her nomination document as a "wonderful, caring, loving woman who approaches her role as an Educational Assistant with enthusiasm and dedication, to not only the individual students she works with, but to the entire school population.

"June effortlessly bridges the gap," says the document, "for students who may be living with special education needs and the entire student population, creating an atmosphere where each individual is equal and unique. She recognizes the potential in each individual and encourages them to strive for goals that others would be afraid to set.

"June celebrates the gifts of all learners, consistently demonstrating a commitment to the students and staff of St. Mary's High School," the nomination concluded.

ALUMNI NEWS

Sacred Heart High School grad wins on reality show

Sacred Heart High School graduate, Tracey Rigden, is \$25,000 richer after winning the "cookies and squares" category in a recent "Recipe to Riches" television competition series on the Food network.

Tracey is a Bruce county native who has enjoyed baking since she was young.

Currently, she lives in Etobicoke and is a law clerk at the Ontario Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs.



Her recipe, Dulce de Leche Brownies, which is a combination of two recipes that she made years ago and has been tweaking

ever since, will be a new President's Choice brand product available in select Loblaw banner stores. Consumers will be given the opportunity to sample category winners' products in-store. After all the category winners have been determined, Food Network viewers will vote for the "best of the best" with the winner being awarded a \$250,000 grand prize.

Tracey's complete recipe is available on the Food Network website at: <http://www.foodnetwork.ca/Recipe-to-Riches/season2/recipes/recipe.html?dishID=13049>

Grad wins International Plowing Match bursary

Sarah Schnurr is the recipient of a \$1,000 bursary from the Bruce International Plowing Match which was held near Teeswater.

Sarah is a recent graduate of Sacred Heart High School in Walkerton and is currently studying to become a veterinary technician at St. Lawrence College. She has helped out on her family's farm and plans to gradually take it over as her parents retire.

The bursary was funded by sales from a food tent at the event and is presented to a Bruce

County student who is graduating from high school and who plans to continue to be involved in agriculture.

St. Mary's High School grad in world lifesaving event

St. Mary's High School alumna Danielle Sullivan qualified for the World Lifesaving Championships in Adelaide, Australia in November and is one of only six Canadian females aged 16 to 19 years to be named to the 2012 Canadian team.

The athletes must cover some of the expenses associated with the competition; Danielle's commitment was \$4,000. The school's SAC, on behalf of the students at St. Mary's, provided a donation to support Danielle in her quest to represent Canada.

A "Danielle Day" is planned for December at the school when she has completed her exams at McMaster University where she is in her first year in the Life Sciences program. She hopes to apply to medical school when she completes her undergraduate degree.

Durham school hosts Parent and Family Involvement Night

"Live, Laugh and Learn" was the theme of a parent and family involvement night in late October at St. Peter & St. Paul's School in Durham.

Families enjoyed a number of presentations including "A day in the life of a small animal veterinarian" by Dr. Melanie Grein; an overview of the Board and school websites by Doreen Schultz, the Board's Community Relations and Outreach Coordinator; and information on the school's nutrition program by representatives of the Parent Council.

Ventriloquist Yolanda Yott and her puppets entertained the children – and parents.

The evening was topped off by a fashion show where students modelled a selection of school uniform items available for purchase.

Each family attending the event was entered in a draw for a new iPad. Tammy Keill and family were the winners.

Student models school uniform.



OECTA supports mission work in Nicaragua

Next March, a group of 30 students and two staff members from Sacred Heart High School in Walkerton will travel to Nicaragua to continue their mission work with Friends of the Orphans Canada (FOTOCAN).

Each participant is required to contribute \$2,500 for the trip and \$1,500 for expenses, as well as \$1,000 as a donation to the orphanage. To further help with the project the students approached the Ontario Elementary Catholic Teachers Association (OECTA) for a donation, and received a grant of \$15,000 over three years for the purchase of building materials, educational materials and basic needs for the orphanage. OECTA representatives were on hand at the school to present a cheque for \$5,000 to the project for 2013.

Director's Message



Snow is in the Air

As usual, I am always amazed at how quickly the school year moves along. I must say, after all the rain we have experienced this fall, I am pleased to see the dusting of snow that has been on the ground the last few mornings.

Our Catholic schools continue to be excellent examples of holistic learning environments that support student achievement and well being in body, mind and spirit. We are blessed to have the support of our families and parish priests in this journey. Our priests work with staff to provide expertise in the area of faith development. The Chair of our Board, Norm Bethune, attends the Deanery Meetings where excellent dialogue occurs with the main focus always directed toward supporting our students and staff in their faith development.

Congratulations to students and staff on the excellent progress being made in the area of EQAO Achievement results. The efforts of our staff, working in collaboration, certainly is evident in our positive results.

*Bruce MacPherson
Director of Education*



Mary Immaculate School raises money for cancer research

Students at Chepstow's Mary Immaculate School raised \$1,002.00 for cancer research during the school's annual Terry Fox run in September.

Top earners in each class were Sean McDonald, Seth Young, Jayla Catto, Victoria LeBlanc, Sarah Murray, Ashley O'Hagan and Katherine Cook. Sarah was top overall fundraiser and Katherine won the Terry Fox T-shirt.

Holy Family School French teacher studies in France

On July 1 last summer, Sylvia Dunn was on a train speeding from Paris to Nantes in France, thousands of miles from Dorset, Ontario, where she normally spent her summers.

Sylvia, a Core French teacher at Hanover's Holy Family School, was on her way to take part in a four-week intensive training session on teaching French as a foreign language, thanks to a scholarship from the French Embassy in Ottawa and the Ontario Modern Language Teachers' Association. The program was held at the Centre International d'Etudes Pedagogiques at the University of Nantes and run by the French Ministry of Education.

Following, is Sylvia's account of her experience in France.

This had been a dream of mine for most of my life, to study in France and to explore the Atlantic coast of France, and now that dream was being realized. It wasn't until the first day of classes on July 2, however, that I realized what an incredible opportunity I had been given. One of more than 350 students from 80 countries, I was immersed in classes exploring ideas both practical and theoretical. I deepened my understanding of not only teaching, but of the world as well.

My classes included students from Africa, Asia, South America and Europe. Some were teachers; others were inspectors, directors, university professors, and consultants. Many people wore their traditional dress, and we had weekly international evenings where my classmates would describe their countries in moving displays of music, dance, food and beautiful images projected in colourful slide presentations.

I took eight classes over the four weeks, as well as a theatre workshop for two hours each evening. Beginning at 8:45 each morning until 10:30 at night, by the third week I was feeling more than a little weary, but still surprised and inspired daily by stories and ideas from all over the world. Weekends were filled with well-organized day trips to the nearby ocean. We explored ancient medieval cities, a castle with a medieval fair for Bastille Day celebrations, and an Abby with fruit orchards and bees.

And then suddenly the last week arrived, and everybody started taking photos of each other, trading email addresses, extending invitations for visiting each other. Plans were discussed

about the feasibility of returning the following summers to pursue Master's degrees. After hugs goodbye, we all left, eager to see our families again.

In August I dove into the lake near Dorset and thought about my new friends. I have photos to remind me of the incredible adventure I had in France, and am extremely grateful for the scholarship I received. Now that I am back in school, I have begun using some of these ideas and look forward to sharing them with my colleagues.



B-G Catholic team helps Habitat for Humanity build

The Bruce-Grey Catholic DSB WRAP Team, along with its Religious Education Consultant, Amy Kieffer, worked on a Habitat for Humanity build in Hanover recently. WRAP stands for Working to Reinforce All Partners and is a joint venture between the two area school boards and Bruce Grey Children's Services. The B-G Catholic team is comprised of the Board's Social Worker, Ann Marie Deas, and its Child and Youth Workers.

Food drives successful



At Mary Immaculate School in Chepstow, students collected 355 pounds of canned goods for the Farm Credit Corporation's (FCC) Drive Away Hunger Campaign. The food was donated to the local food bank. The grade 7/8 class was treated to a pizza party, courtesy the Walkerton FCC, for collecting the most food.



Students at Mother Teresa School in Walkerton collected 600 pounds of food for the local food bank. Pat Kenny's grade 4 class collected the most food in the school.

Catholic Community Newsletter

Produced by the Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board to inform ratepayers about news and activities.

Editor: Terry Diggle & Associates

Catholic Community Newsletter attempts to provide an overview of the accomplishments, the challenges and issues for the Bruce-Grey Catholic system as a whole.

Comments may be directed to:
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The Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board can issue tax receipts, in the full amount, for any financial donations made to its schools. Cheques should be made to the Bruce-Grey Catholic School Board Charitable Trust and the name of the school should be noted in the memo line. Check to be sure – if your taxes are not directed to the Catholic school system, you can't vote for Catholic trustees in the next election.