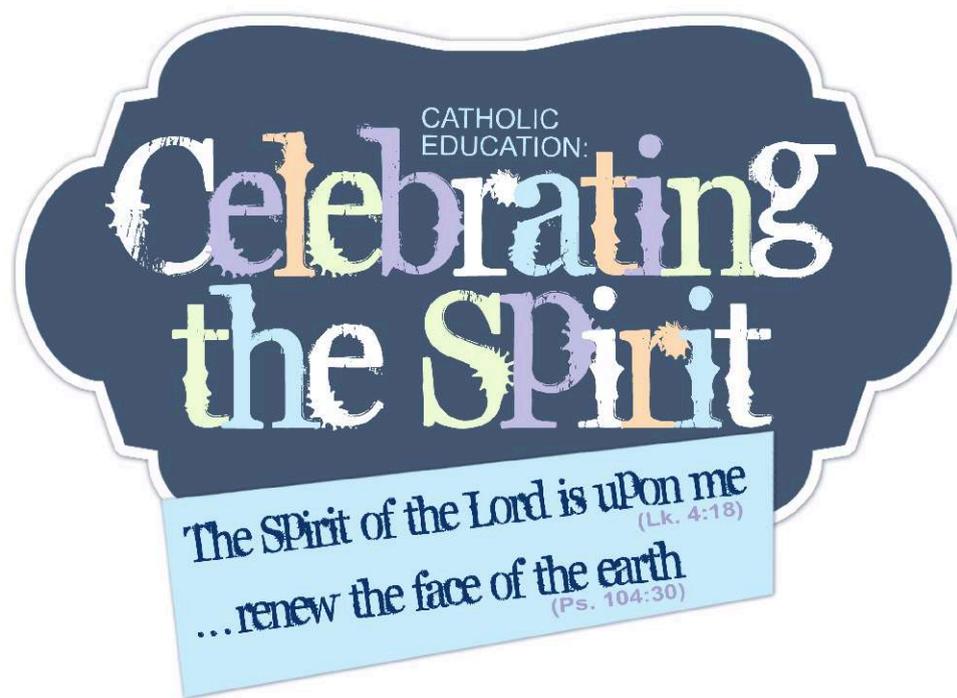


Catholic Community Newsletter



COMPLIMENTS OF THE BRUCE-GREY CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

WINTER 2011



"Catholic Education: Celebrating the Spirit" May 1 to 6

DURING the week of May 1 to May 6, 2011, the Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board will celebrate what Catholic Education means for our students, our community and to our province.

The theme for this year's Catholic Education Week is "Catholic Education: Celebrating the Spirit".

As human beings, we find many reasons to celebrate. We celebrate births and marriages. We celebrate birthdays and graduations. We celebrate successes be they academic, athletic, or simply the very fact of friendship and of being together. In a world inundated with a flooding of bad news on a regular basis, the human spirit, with its capacity for hope and promise will want to cry out in celebration if for no other reason that God created the world and saw that "it was good" and then created we humans and declared that this was "very good".

Catholic Education Gospel Values of Jesus, has reason to celebrate the Spirit, which supports and sustains it.

There are five sub-themes, one for each day of Catholic Education Week, and they are aimed at helping staff and students understand more clearly what

we mean when we "Celebrate the Spirit".

Those five sub-themes are: The Spirit of Hospitality, The Spirit of Understanding, The Spirit of Wisdom, The Spirit of Justice, and The Spirit of Gratitude.

Catholic Education Week is marked by special activities at all grade levels, including prayer celebrations and service activities.

You are invited to visit our schools during this special week and to participate in any of our activities as we celebrate Catholic Education Week 2011. For a schedule of special events, please contact your local school.

A dinner and the Board's Applause Breakfast are two of the many events planned as Board-wide celebrations during the week.

**more info at
bgcdsb.org
more info at
bgcdsb.org
more info at**

Chaplain's role essential to Catholic Education

IN the Fall 2010 issue of the Catholic Community Newsletter, we featured Father Jason Charron, Chaplain at Sacred Heart High School in Walkerton. In this issue, we profile Lydia Foch, Chaplain at St. Mary's High School in Owen Sound.

"My role," said Lydia, "is to provide the spiritual focus for the school; to provide a centre point for spirituality. Even more, it is to provide opportunities for evangelization, a conversational experience for students and all members of the school community to further their relationship with Jesus Christ."

Lydia is one of three "advisers" in the school, the other two being the child and youth worker and the guidance counsellor. "The child and youth worker looks after the legal concerns of students, the guidance counsellor provides career direction, and I provide spiritual direction," she said.

Specifically, the school Chaplain prepares masses, liturgies, prayer services, outreach experiences (see sidebar article) and retreats, to name a few. In addition, the Chaplain acts as the link between the local church and the school.



Lydia, along with resident Anna Marie, at the El Salvador orphanage Lydia has visited on several occasions.

Lydia is in her 11th year of teaching; her third year with the Bruce-Grey Catholic Board.

A native of Richmond Hill, Ontario, Lydia graduated from the University of Victoria with undergraduate and Bachelor of Education degrees, and from St. Michael's College, University of Toronto with a Master of Religious Education (MRE).

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Catholic Community Newsletter



Return Canadian undeliverable addresses to:
Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board
799 - 16th Avenue
Hanover ON N4N 3A1

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please contact the Board office.

Director's Message: Spring is in the Air

It is always a humbling experience for me when I reflect upon the great works being done within the Bruce-Grey Catholic school community. Students, staff, and families have provided great support when called upon in the area of social justice both within Bruce Grey and beyond. The food drives that have taken place within all of our schools have been well received by our local food banks.

Our secondary students have provided support at soup kitchens, orphanages, and by means of providing financial support through a number of fundraisers.

Recently a "Kingdom Project" challenge was presented to students in all of our schools. The idea is based around the "Parable of the Talents" in Matthew 25:14-30 about three servants who are given an assignment by their Master (God) leaving them with sums of money.

One multiplied it five fold, another two-fold, but the third servant buried his money or talent.

When the Master returned He rewarded those that were faithful with the talents He had entrusted to them, banishing the one who did nothing. Students were then provided with a \$100 seed money and using their "talents", funds were raised to support the Bruce Grey United Way's Backpack program. Representatives from each school attended our March board meeting to share the creative ways they used their talents to raise funds for the Bruce Grey United Way. The generosity of our students and staff reflected the talents within the Bruce Grey Catholic District School Board very well.

The Ministry of Education has been inservicing trustees throughout the province in Bill 177. Bill 177 outlines a key role of the school board trustees to be in the area of student achievement and well being. Our Trustees have been very active during this past month visiting all of our schools. School principals and assessment teams have presented their student data outlining



Bruce MacPherson
Director of Education

the continuous academic improvement. Equally important, in the area of student well being, staff have shared how the virtues of deep caring are witnessed within their school communities.

Each of our school communities provided an excellent learning opportunity for our Trustees and it was obvious to Trustees that our Catholic schools are providing a truly inspirational faith filled learning environment for our students.

Board communications survey results released

OVER the past several months, stakeholders in the Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board were invited to participate in a survey of the Board's communication activities.

The following channels were used for the survey:

- Notices to staff on First Class
- Principals were asked to share information and an invitation to participate through their school newsletters, and to encourage staff to participate.
- A notice was published in the Fall edition of the B-G Catholic Community Newsletter.
- A notice and link to the survey were posted on the Board's website.

Summary of results

Of the respondents, 59.2 per cent were staff, 38.8 per cent were parents, along with one student and one community member.

The primary source of information about the Board is school newsletters.

Typically, respondents read all or most of the Catholic Community newsletter and school newsletters when they receive them.

Almost 60 per cent of respondents prefer to receive newsletters electronically, while 40 per cent prefer a paper version.

Type of information sought on the Board website: general information, followed by recent news and announcements.

Type of information expected to be on school websites: over 90 per cent said school newsletters while some 80 per cent cited events calendars.

When asked how the Board can engage stakeholders to provide input, three-quarters of respondents said "through electronic surveys".

Based on the comments received from the survey, the Board actions have, or will be initiated:

- Results will be shared with senior administration and principals.
- Stress the importance of newsletters and calendars on school web sites.
- Use student agendas as more effective communication tools.
- Review contact information on the website to ensure it is complete.
- Test and review the website for content and accessibility.
- Publish a summary of the survey results in the Board's Community Newsletter.

The summary report
can be found on the
Board's website
at www.bgcdsb.org.

Bruce-Grey Catholic students recognized at awards dinner

SARAH Johnson, from Sacred Heart High School in Walkerton, and Nicole Brulotte from St. Mary's High School in Owen Sound, are winners of Father Patrick Fogarty Awards, sponsored by the Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario (CEFO).

The awards were presented at the 27th Annual Father Patrick Fogarty Awards Dinner held in the fall in Toronto, and recognize young people who best exemplify the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations.

The event recognizes not only the CEFO Student Awards, but also the achievements and contributions of Catholic educators.

"It is a great night to recognize Catholic Education in Ontario," said Dave Johnson, a teacher at Sacred Heart High School, "and to hear of the great things done by students across the province."

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

Father Fogarty

Father Patrick Fogarty was born 1919 and died on January 18, 1985. He joined the Holy Cross Order of Priests on June 10, 1945. During his life he founded two Catholic High Schools and chaired many organizations dedicated to promoting full funding to the Catholic School system in Ontario.

He not only served as a priest in his ministry dedicated to the Eucharist and in preaching the Word but also served as a Catholic School Trustee in Toronto, High School Principal in Welland, General Secretary of the Catholic School Education Association and as Director of the Canadian Catholic School Trustees Association, a post which he held for twenty years.

- From Patrick Fogarty Catholic Secondary School website, Orillia, Ontario

more info at
519 364 5820

Awesome Alumna

Sacred Heart High School grad is world class athlete

A Sacred Heart High School graduate has been called one of that school's top female athletes of the last 30 years.

Diane Kelly, a native of Ripley, Ontario, excelled at sports during her high school years, and more notably, has been a member of one of the Canadian women's bobsled teams participating in the World Cup Tour for the past year.

"There is no question that Diane is one of our top female athletes of the last 30 years," said Bill King, Coach and Area Chair of the physical education department at SHHS. "Not only that, she was an academic all-Canadian with an 80 per cent average."

One of five children, Diane attended St. Anthony's School in Kincardine and Sacred Heart High School in Walkerton.

During her high school years – she was in the last class of the old OAC five-year program – Diane played soccer, basketball and rugby. "Bill King was my coach for those five years," said Diane. She also participated in the school's social justice group and Reach for the Top.

"High school was a great

experience," said Diane. "In particular, I liked the experience of a smaller school; I knew just about everyone. And the teachers were amazing."

Diane's faith is important to her and she found that Catholic education provided her with "a greater sense of unity and community. The school also instilled values and certain virtues in the students."

After graduating from SHHS in 2003, Diane went to the University of Waterloo where she completed a co-op degree in Science and Business.

"The co-op program was awesome," she said. "It taught me where I wanted to go after university."

While at Waterloo, Diane played rugby and was named Female Athlete of the Year. In the summers of 2007 and 2008, she played on the Canadian National Rugby Team.

Graduating in 2008 with a Bachelor of Science degree, Diane moved to Ottawa to take a job as Livestock Analyst with Agriculture and Agrifood Canada. Little did she know at the time that her move to Ottawa would result in membership in a national bobsledding team.

Students on mission trips to Dominican Republic and El Salvador

IN March, 20 students and staff from Walkerton's Sacred Heart High School travelled to the Dominican Republic for two weeks to help complete construction on the grounds of an orphanage and to interact with its staff and children.

Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos Internacional (Spanish for "our little brothers and sisters") is an international charitable organization with several orphanages located in Central and South America. Visit the NPH web-site at www.nph.org for more information.

The students held a number of fund-raising activities to support the trip, including a car wash and barbeque, an "all you can eat" spaghetti night, an art display and sale, a cabaret and a donut day.

At St. Mary's High School in Owen Sound, 14 students and three chaperones left in March for El Salvador. They worked at an orphanage with some 140 "abandoned" residents with physical and mental disabilities. This one of a number of visits to the orphanage by St. Mary's students over the years.

While there, the students worked with the residents through games and other activities, and by taking them on short trips outside the facility.

When they weren't working, the students went on excursions to various points in the surrounding area.

The orphanage is located in Planes de Renderos, some 45 minutes northwest of San Salvador, El Salvador's capital.



Diane, Shelley-Ann Brown, and Helen Upperton at the opening ceremonies of the World Championships in Königssee, Germany.

"I joined the gym in Ottawa to maintain my fitness level and I met someone on a bobsled team. He invited me to go to a training camp, which I attended."

Later, she was invited to Calgary for more training and testing. "In October, 2010, I was named to the National Team and joined the World Cup Tour," she said.

In women's bobsledding, a team consists of two people — the pilot and the brakeman. Diane is the brakeman.

"I push it to get it going and I stop the sled at the end. The pilot does the steering."

Diane took a leave of absence from her job and competed in the World Cup circuit in Germany, Austria, Italy and Switzerland.

She also attended the Olympics in Vancouver as backup third member of the team. "My pilot won silver," she said.

Diane plans to compete in future World Cup tours.

Operation Christmas Child a success



Students, parents and staff of the Bruce-Grey Catholic DSB participated in the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Project. Just before Christmas, the Board delivered 327 boxes to the organization's distribution warehouse in Waterloo. The focus for this year's project was Haiti.

Chaplain's Role

Continued from front page

What prompted her to consider becoming a chaplain? "I had traveled extensively and wanted to experience various faith traditions throughout the world. My former Chaplain, Father John Yake, presented me with information on graduate studies in theology which took me to U. of T. Later, the Chaplaincy position at Bruce-

Grey Catholic became available and I applied and got the job.

"I was called to be here and to serve the community," she said.

Since that time three years ago, Lydia has seen her focus take on a new direction – a spiritual awakening in the school through the numerous life experiences of the students.

Students learn about poverty and humility first hand

Last November some 25 students from St. Mary's High School in Owen Sound, travelled to Toronto on a Christmas outreach excursion. The group went to visit Good Shepherd, a shelter for men in the Heart of Toronto.

The students assisted in preparing and serving lunch to the homeless, as well as making beds, helping with laundry and organizing donated canned goods and clothing.

The students also visited Our Place, a drop-in centre, where they served lunches to the homeless. The students were asked to bring clothing and blankets for the men's shelter, and to prepare bagged lunches and bagged winter supplies such as hats, gloves and socks, for distribution.

"At St. Mary's we continue our mission to evangelize the hearts of our youth," said Lydia Foch, the school's Chaplain.

Annual Applause Breakfast will recognize students and parents contributions

The Board's annual Applause Breakfast is slated for May 2 at Klages Mill in Chesley. Each year, two students from each Bruce-Grey Catholic school are selected to receive Applause Breakfast Awards, based on a number of criteria (see sidebar).

Students and their parents, as well as school and Board office administrators and trustees will be invited to the breakfast event.

Applause Breakfast Awards criteria

- Students are selected from junior, intermediate or senior divisions (Grade 3 students from St. Basil's only).
- Successful students will be actual "unsung heroes" who display our Catholic Virtues of Deep Caring
- Students must be seen as significant, positive contributors to the life of the school. These are students who come to school each day, give it their best and add to the positive climate of our schools.



Outdoor Education students learn canoe skills indoors

Students enrolled in the Outdoor Education program at Sacred Heart High School in Walkerton, travelled to the P&H Centre in Hanover to learn basic canoeing skills.

Special thanks to Outback Sports in Hanover for the use of canoes and to the Regional Aquatic Centre.

Catholic Education Week Dinner slated for Walkerton

The Board's Sixth Annual Catholic Education Week dinner is slated for Tuesday, May 3 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Walkerton.

Dr. Mark McGowan, Principal of St. Michael's College, University of Toronto, and an accomplished historian and teacher, will speak on the topic "Celebrating the Spirit". Dr. McGowan is well-known for his passionate commitment to Catholic Education in Ontario.

Tickets for the event, which includes a buffet turkey dinner, are \$15 and will be available at your local school office, or from the Catholic Education Centre, Hanover, at 519-364-5820, ext. 236.

Chepstow students donate to food bank

Students at Mary Immaculate School in Chepstow held a "Drive Away Hunger" campaign last fall. The winning class, Grade 7/8, donated back half the money they were to receive for a pizza party to the local Food Bank.

Durham Food Bank the winner in St. Peter and St. Paul's challenge

Late last fall, the student council at St. Peter and St. Paul's School in Durham created a "Christmas Tree" of canned goods and non-perishable items collected for the local food bank.

Principal Theresa Coburn challenged the students to bring in as many items as they could and promised to match the number accumulated.

When donations were tallied, the students had collected 373 items, which Theresa matched, for a total of 746 pieces for the Durham Food Bank.

In November, representatives of the Durham Food Bank attended a United Way Meeting where they outlined the tough times they were facing. Bruce-Grey Catholic Director of Education, Bruce MacPherson, who was at the meeting, shared the information with Theresa who made the "matching challenge" to the students.

BG Catholic uses social media

The Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board is now on Facebook and Twitter!

<http://www.twitter.com/bgcdsb>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Bruce-Grey-Catholic-District-School-Board/185958928107172>

Booking school facilities will soon be a click away

Community groups wishing to book school facilities will soon be able to do so online, thanks to new software currently being installed at the Board.

Watch the Board's website: www.bgcdsb.org for more information.

more info at
[bgcdsb.org](http://www.bgcdsb.org)

Kingdom Project sees results

Director of Education, Bruce MacPherson, recently challenged his schools to take a \$100 bill and using their students' creativity and innovation, to use it to multiply its worth many times over. Here are some examples of those projects.

Students at Immaculate Conception School in Formosa held a spaghetti lunch. A minimum donation of \$2 was collected from each student if they planned to eat the spaghetti.

For a United Way fundraiser, titled the "Kingdom Lunch", students at St. Anthony's School in Kincardine

travelled back in time to a medieval court, where they had a celebratory meal under the eyes of their elected royal family. "Events like this really get the kids engaged," said Principal Keith Walsh about the lunch.



Students in the French classes and the Free the Children group organized a French Café at Mother Teresa School in Walkerton.

A total of \$7,400 was raised system wide for the United Way of Grey Bruce.

"Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." –Matthew 25:14 v. 30.

Bruce-Grey Catholic Community Newsletter

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

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

Comments may be directed to: 519-364-5820
Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board
799 – 16th Avenue Hanover ON N4N 3A1
www.bgcdsb.org

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 District School Board Charitable Trust and the name of the school should be noted on 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 on the next election.