

# Rejoice

*It's different here!*

The Director's Newsletter

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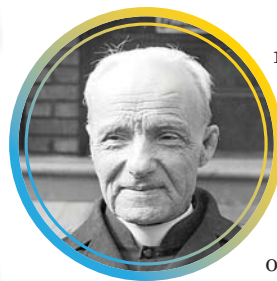
Culinary Arts

...plus more

## Unique Presentations Highlight Catholic Education Week at St. Boniface

Catholic Education Week from May 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> provided unique and exciting opportunities to celebrate Catholic Education at St. Boniface School in Zurich.

### The Reliquary of St. André



The Major reliquary of Canada's newest saint, Brother André Bessette, is visiting select locations across the Diocese of London and Archdiocese of Toronto

this year. The reliquary's much-anticipated first stop at St. Peter Church in St. Joseph coincided with Catholic Education Week -- a highlight that brought both school and parish communities together.

"St. Peter Church is right down the road from us in St. Joseph," explains St. Boniface principal Mr. Mike Bruneel. "On the first day of Catholic Education Week, students were bussed to the church to see the reliquary and participate in learning activities that focused on some of the miraculous things Brother André did while visiting Huron County in 1917 and 1922."

St. André was born Alfred Bessette on August 9, 1845 in Saint-Gregoire d'Iberville, Que., south of Montreal. His early years were a source of suffering and impoverishment, yet the diminutive and often ill brother was witness to countless healings and conversions.

For decades, Roman Catholics around the world have prayed to Brother André, asking him to heal their loved ones and themselves. After his death in 1937, a million followers gathered to pay him homage. Since then, Catholics continue to pray to him, and many have credited him with miraculous healings. He was canonized on October 17, 2010.

The Major reliquary of Saint André consists of three principal elements: the relic itself is made up of particles of Saint Brother André's heart and presented in a glass vial; the two faces of a medallion by artist Sylvia Daoust features Brother André's profile on one side and Saint Joseph's Oratory on the other. The items are placed atop pieces of stone from Mount Royal and displayed on a piece of mahogany.

"It was exciting to see what the reliquary looked like -- a powerful experience," says Donavon, a Grade 5 St. Boniface student with a family connection to the saint. "There was a museum set up with artifacts on display, including a picture of my grandfather standing next to Brother André."

### Amazing Stage Artistry

Following months of busy preparation, St. Boniface School Drama Club marked Catholic Education Week with the presentation of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* on May 4, 5 and 6.

For Mr. Bruneel, the musical was an exciting celebration of the artistic talents

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## From The Director



Dear Members of the Huron-Perth community:

Over the past school year we have highlighted our Board theme "Celebrating the Spirit", in each edition of the this newsletter. We have been privileged to hear many voices, to witness countless activities rooted in our Gospel values and to celebrate Catholic education in Huron-Perth.

This past year we welcomed 284 new JK students, 46 who have been involved in the Full Day Early Learning Program. Leaving our K-12 Catholic system is our graduating class of 2011. Our teachers and support staff are especially excited to speak about their students' achievements of the newest learners and of our graduates!

For each of our 5,000 students there is a teacher that has supported the growth of the whole child, guided the student along a path with Jesus and nurtured faith development through our Gospel values.

As we end another very successful school year in Huron-Perth, I want to extend my gratitude to our Board of Trustees and to our staff, students, parents and our parish priests. Their work to ensure that Catholic education remains an "enduring gift", is indeed "Celebrating the Spirit"!

May God Bless you and keep you safe and well this summer wherever you may be! Enjoy your well-deserved summer vacation.

God Bless,  
Martha Dutrizac  
Director of Education

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of students in Grades 6 to 8, and an opportunity to highlight the vital and ongoing role of volunteers in student life.



"The musical is a big St. Boniface tradition that celebrates the arts and the importance of volunteers and the strong community connection that exists at our school," says Mr. Bruneel. "Dianne Miller and Harriet Vander Burgt have been leading this program for sixteen years; since their own children attended St. Boniface. Again

this year, they organized the audition process and held rehearsals with the drama club during lunch and once a week after school."

"We started when my oldest was in Grade 8," says Mrs. Vander Burgt. "I went to see a show that my sister ( a teacher) invited me to and thought hey, we can do this. Once we got started, we loved it so much that we wanted to keep going!"

"You get to know the kids and see how much they enjoy it," adds Mrs. Miller. "We see such growth in them. By Grade 8 they have such confidence -- it's heart-warming to build that relationship with them and see them in a different light than in the classroom."



## Payroll Department Receives Award

Congratulations to the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board's payroll department for being awarded an "Honourable Mention" by the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan at the Employer Service Excellence Awards! The department was given the award for exceptional service results and excellence in pension reporting. The Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan annually recognizes employers with the best pension reporting results in the province.



From left: Karen McDowell, Executive Manager of Employee Relations; Patsy Crowley, Pension/Teacher Payroll; Mary Ellen McBride, Business Analyst

# Exciting Developments at St. Ambrose Have Lasted Throughout the Year

*“There are many of us, but we each are part of the body of Christ.”*  
~ Romans 12:5

As the school term draws to a close, the St. Ambrose community looks back proudly at the gains they have made both academically and environmentally. What a year it has been!

## EcoTeam Cuts Waste by Half

With help from both students and teachers, the St. Ambrose EcoTeam has made important progress in their effort to reduce the school’s carbon footprint. Their success has been driven by an enthusiastic team of Eco reps who represent every class from Kindergarten to Grade 8. Along with a core team of Eco enthusiasts, they’ve helped to support waste reduction and energy conservation practices in a variety of ways over the past five years.

Encouraging the use of shade as healthy option for enjoying the outdoors has been a long-term goal for the EcoTeam. Two years ago, they assessed the amount of shade on school grounds with a **yard shade audit** and submitted the results to a contest run by the local health unit. Based on their entry, the EcoTeam won a grant to finance to purchase of native trees to add to the school yard. The grant money was matched by Parent Council, allowing St. Ambrose to double the number of trees they added to the school yard ecosystem.

This year, between weekly energy audits and their promotion of re-useable water bottles, the EcoTeam took aim at the large amount of waste being created at school. Adding filtered compost bins to each classroom has minimized organic food

waste; the EcoTeam has also reduced paper towel usage. Incredibly, the amount of waste that St. Ambrose sends to landfill is half of what it was last year at this time. Kudos to our dedicated students and the great leadership of teacher leader Mrs. Cakebread!

“The decrease in waste since we started these programs has been impressive,” notes principal Mr. John McCarroll. “The work is ongoing, and we will be completing a **waste audit summary** with the help of our custodial staff.”

He adds that plans are in place to build an Outdoor Learning Pavilion this summer -- surrounded by strategic plantings and a nature walk. It will feature landscaping sustained with soil produced by the school’s composting program.

Special events such as Waste Reduction Week, Earth Hour and Earth Week celebrations complement the day-to-day work of the industrious EcoTeam. Mr. McCarroll sees these events as drawing an important connection to Catholic Graduate Expectations.

“We have a responsibility to protect the world and all that’s in it,” he says. “We want to build on that sense of respect and act accordingly as a community.”

## Impressive Results with Full Day Kindergarten

The new provincial full-day Kindergarten was launched at St. Ambrose this year, with the aim of

providing every child the support he or she needs in order to develop to their full potential. The school has observed impressive development in the majority of students, both academically and in the area of self-regulation.

With a consistent daily routine led by the same two teachers, children are thriving and responding well to the new program. In the St. Ambrose Kindergarten classroom, students are noticing, wondering, playing, sharing, listening, discussing and raising questions about objects and events around them. Additional classroom support is provided by a team of volunteers and peer partners who have helped ease the transition from traditional Kindergarten to full, active program.



“With double the time on task, their skills are developing faster,” says principal McCarroll of his Kindergarten students. “We have seen exciting growth in literacy development and our Senior Kindergarten students are well prepared, both academically and emotionally, for the Grade 1 curriculum.”

## Stuff That Bus!

Students and staff members from every Catholic school in Huron and Perth counties participated in the fourth annual “Stuff That Bus!” food drive. Four busloads of food were collected and donated to the St. Vincent de Paul food banks in each county. This event is one example of how Catholic schools support the wider community and how students reach out in service to others. The schools, families and parishes worked together to make this wonderful event a huge success. We are very thankful to everyone who donated food, time and services. In particular, we wish to thank First Student and Murphy Bus Lines and their drivers for supporting “Stuff That Bus!”

“Stuff That Bus!” is an opportunity for students to learn more about the needs of others and to find ways to share what they have. Teachers have integrated specific learning opportunities into their lessons, making connections to this event. Examples of this include learning about St. Vincent de Paul and the Vincentian Order; sorting and graphing in Math; researching, reflecting and writing stories about solidarity in English, Religion and Social Sciences; and offering special prayers for the community each day. Students have written songs, developed dances and created school chants, all in preparation for this event.

“Stuff That Bus!” unites all of our schools in a common action and reminds us that we are a family, no matter where we are located throughout our Catholic school board.

Jim Gaylor, President of the St. Vincent de Paul Society (St. Joseph’s Conference, Stratford) expressed his sincere appreciation, *“On behalf of hundreds of families and single adults who depend on assistance from food banks to get through difficult times, I would like to thank everyone who helped make ‘Stuff That Bus - 2011’ another success. Once again the shelves at the St. Vincent de Paul food bank are full. Together we are able to do so much. Students and their families, the students who help unload and sort, teachers, support staff, bus drivers, all of you have done what Jesus asked of us ... to love one another. Thank you for your efforts. May God bless you in your daily work.”*

## Catholic Education Week



*Father Chris Gillespie and The Most Reverend Bishop Ronald Fabbro.*

Catholic Education Week was celebrated from May 1 to May 6, 2011. This year’s theme, *Catholic Education: Celebrating the Spirit* comes from St. Paul’s letter to the Romans where he writes, “All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God” (Romans 8:14).

During this week, the Most Reverend Bishop Ronald P. Fabbro celebrated the Eucharist at St. Patrick’s Church in Dublin with priests, staff, students and members of the community.

Recipients of the annual Mother Teresa Faith in Action Awards were also recognized after Mass. During this week, schools celebrated the gift of Catholic Education with special prayers, activities, events and presentations. We ask that the communities of Huron-Perth continue to pray for our Catholic schools, that they may be enlivened by God’s Spirit and help in the sacred work of “renewing the face of the earth” (Ps 104:30).



*Pictured above are Mother Teresa award winners (from left): Julie Jeffrey, Kathleen vonEuw, Jane Horenberg, Jeannette Eybergen, Margriet Bolhuis and Emmilla Doherty.*



# Celebrating Our Students!

## Our Young Scientists Answer Interesting Questions



Have you ever wondered if potting soil is a waste of money or if hockey helmets really make a difference? These are exactly the types of questions that were studied by the young scientists from across Huron-Perth Catholic who displayed their work at the SciTech Science Fair last month. SciTech Encounters is the

name of the partnership that plans a series of science and technology events in the Huron-Perth Catholic and the Avon Maitland District School Boards. Students from Huron-Perth Catholic won several medals in several different age and topic categories. Congratulations to all the young scientists!

## Banding Together



HPC's *Banding Together* was an exciting instrumental performance that took place at St. Anne's Catholic Secondary School. It was a showcase of student talent in both secondary schools and four elementary schools. Each school performed a few pieces of music and at the end of the evening all six schools joined together to perform a mass *Band Ensemble*. This "Tunes for Toonies" event raised funds for the St. Andre Bessette Trust Fund...a fund which helps to alleviate child poverty in Huron & Perth counties.

## Students Rise to the Challenge!

Students from across our board participated in the *World Math Day Challenge*. They competed against millions of students from over 200 countries to answer on-line math questions. As a board we answered close to 1 million questions during the practice sessions and competitions. Congratulations to Phil Antonio and his class at St. Ambrose School. His class had an average of 1,723 correct answers per student! Pictured below are the top three performers from the class. Congratulations to all students for their enthusiastic participation!



## Techno Challenge

Students from across Huron-Perth Catholic participated in *Techno Challenge*, a co-sponsored event with the Avon Maitland District School Board. At the Grade 7/8 challenge, Huron-Perth won three of the four challenges (Holy Name of Mary Catholic School won the Construction challenge, St. Patrick's, Kinkora won the Vehicle Challenge, and St. Joseph's, Clinton won the Triathlon challenge). Also, St. Patrick's was also awarded with the "Best School" award that covered grades from 7-12.



## Students Join to Restore Wetland

Students from St. Joseph's Elementary School and St. Anne's Catholic Secondary School in Clinton took part in planting 80 large-stock potted trees and shrubs. The trees will help to provide a buffer and a protection of their school's wetland.

Last year, students from St. Joseph's School took a snowshoe visit to a local wetland. This experience motivated them to restore the wetland on their school property by planting five acres of trees. Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) staff members showed students how wetlands can absorb and filter some pollutants and sediment before water reaches rivers, lakes and drinking water. Students learned how wetlands can store water, recharge groundwater, reduce extremes of flooding and drought, and help us adapt to climate change. They also learned that wetlands can slow down surface water flow and limit soil erosion.

"Students are learning about the environment, and improving their local environment, by restoring the valuable wetland on the school property," said Nancy Barrett, Principal of St. Joseph's Catholic School.

"The trees will protect and filter the water in the wetland, filter air pollution, improve our drinking water quality, and provide habitat for wildlife," said Steve Bowers, Huron Stewardship Coordinator, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.



## New Culinary Dual Credit Course Offered at the REACH Centre

*(photo courtesy of the Clinton News Record)*



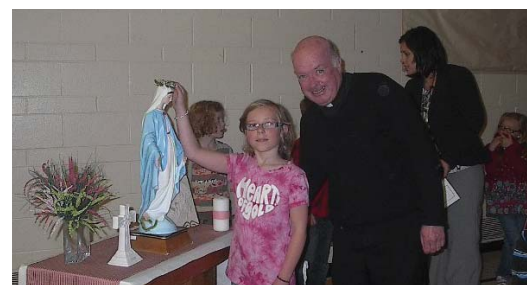
Both local school boards and Fanshawe College have teamed up through the School College Work Initiative and the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities, to offer students college credits and high school dual credits. While distance to the regional colleges has been a challenge in the past, Fanshawe College has brought the college to the REACH Centre in Clinton.

Recently students showcased some of what they have learned by providing a "fine dining dinner" to all of the partners involved. Students are being taught a college curriculum that exceeds the expectations of the Ministry of Education secondary school curriculum, thereby giving them both a college credit towards a culinary diploma and a high school credit towards the Ontario Secondary School Diploma requirements.

Fanshawe College instructor Chef Keith Ryan said "the students must meet or exceed the same expectations in their first year that we have of our post secondary students at the college in London". After passing these culinary courses the students are exempt from having to take these courses in their first year in the culinary program at Fanshawe.

## Crowning of Mary

In May, students at Sacred Heart participated in the crowning of Mary. Father Morrison dropped by to help in the celebration.



## Performing Arts Festival

The HPCDSB's seventh annual *Performing Arts Festival* was held recently at St. Anne's Catholic Secondary School, Clinton and St. Michael Catholic Secondary School, Stratford. The Festival is a celebration and sharing of the achievements of the performing arts programs in our Catholic schools. Students from K-12 participated and celebrated various dance, drama and musical compositions and performances. This system-wide event raises the profile of arts education in our school board and celebrates the God-given talents of our students.



## Student Leaders Receive Awards



The Huron-Perth Catholic Trustees' Leadership Award is presented annually to one Grade 8 student in each Catholic elementary school and to two students in each of the Catholic secondary schools. These students are committed to their faith, present amazing leadership skills, and live the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations.

Recipients of the award attended an event-packed workshop on May 12<sup>th</sup> at St. Anne's Catholic Secondary School in Clinton. Students listened to guest speaker Dan Moynihan, Youth Ministry Specialist, from the Diocese of London. Chaplaincy Leaders Lisa Phillips and Natanael Mateus-Ruiz facilitated the days' activities.

Parents and family of the students, system leaders, trustees, and senior staff of the Board attended a special

Awards Mass for the recipients later in the afternoon. After Mass, principals shared how their student is a living witness to the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations.

Student Trustee Rachel Askett facilitated the awards ceremony. This was "Celebrating the Spirit" with our young Catholic leaders.

## Meet and Greet With His Excellency

*(Written by Kaitlyn M., Jeanne Sauvé, Stratford)*

On May 30, Mme Ennett's Grade 6/7 class from Jeanne Sauvé School went to city hall to meet and welcome "His Excellency, The right honourable David Johnston". It all started in November when Mayor Dan Mathieson encouraged our class to write letters to our new Governor General. This past month Mayor Mathieson invited our class to come to city hall to welcome Mr. Johnston to Stratford. We presented him with flowers and warm greetings. We had the privilege to ask him some questions about how he feels in his new position. Various members of the media were there to cover this special event and we were lucky enough to have a spot on the evening CTV news. This was a moment that will have an important impact on many students lives.



## A Close Shave!



It was a close shave for St. Boniface School's principal Mike Bruneel on May 2, 2011. Mr. Bruneel offered the brave incentive of shaving "his mane" if students raised \$1,000 for the "Pennies for Patients" campaign. At the end of the 3-week fundraising campaign, the staff and students actually doubled the goal of \$1,000 and raised \$2,000. The "Pennies for Patients" campaign is in its seventh year and raises money for finding cures for blood cancers and improving the quality of life for patients and their families. To the cheers and roars of the student body, the village "shearer" did his magic and the mission was accomplished!



## OUTGOING MESSAGES FROM OUR STUDENT TRUSTEES

### ...from Rachel Askett, St. Anne's CSS, Clinton

**A**s student trustee, I have had the opportunity to witness and participate in events that have cemented my belief in Catholic Education. I have been witness to students that are spiritually, academically and physically ready to make a positive difference in the world. I saw this first hand through the students who participated in the "All About YOUth" day. They were articulate, creative, and always based their ideas on the moral values they have developed through the years as a student of Catholic Education. These young people are a result of the many teachers and administrators who have dedicated their lives and careers to developing the unique atmosphere in our schools that are filled with faith, love and an awareness of the outside world through social justice. My time on the board has been a memorable and valued experience, I am very proud to have been a part of such an outstanding board, and am looking forward to continue promoting Catholic Education!



### ...from Fiatsogbe Dzuali St. Michael CSS, Stratford

**H**aving represented St. Michael Catholic Secondary School as student trustee, I have come to appreciate my experiences in the position as some of the most rewarding and memorable of my high school career. Being given the opportunity to work alongside Rachel Askett, the student trustee from St. Anne's, and the extremely passionate and devoted members of the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board has been eye-opening. I have witnessed the amount of time and hard-work which is expended in order to promote Catholic Education and to ensure that the students within our board are welcomed, supported, and celebrated. As I enter each monthly board meeting, I am welcomed by smiling faces from our board of trustees and appreciate them asking the student's perspective on topics concerning our education. Likely the most exciting experience gained through the student trustee position took place in Niagara Falls during the month of April. The board provided myself and eleven other students from both secondary schools the opportunity to meet and network with over 300 other Catholic leaders through the Ontario Catholic Student Leadership Conference. Students were given the opportunity to openly discuss the issues which trouble Catholic students, as well as highlight the overwhelming amount of positive aspects each of our schools has to offer. I have truly enjoyed the opportunity to view how our system of education functions while rooted in the base of our Catholic faith, and my time in this position has promoted my concern for inclusion, equity, and social justice in our communities. It has been an honour to represent such an enthusiastic and motivated school board and I appreciate the experiences and lessons which I have gained through this position.



## ICE Symposium Highlights

The Institute for Catholic Education's (ICE) May 2011 Symposium brought together over 700 English Catholic trustees, Bishops, priests, teachers, principals, administrators, students and parents for worship and discussion under the theme "Living our Legacy, Forging our Future."

The Symposium opened with a special Mass con-celebrated by Archbishop Collins and several Bishops from across the province.

Following Mass, all 700 English and French delegates convened again for a very special Banquet Celebration featuring keynote speakers: The Hon. Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of Education and the Most Rev. Paul-Andre Durocher, Bishop of Alexandria-Cornwall.

Our Director of Education Martha Dutrizac MC'd the banquet celebration along with French counterpart Jonathan Roy.



*From left: Jonathan Roy, Alphonse Ainsworth, Sister Joan Cronin (Executive Director, ICE), and Martha Dutrizac*



*From left: Rachel Askett (Student Trustee); Elaine DeCorte, (Parent Rep) Ron Marcy (Board Chair), and Nancy Kirby (President of the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association).*

## MPP Luncheon

The Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board recently hosted a luncheon with local MPPs Carol Mitchell (Huron-Bruce), and John Wilkinson (Perth-Middlesex). The lunch provided an opportunity to continue to build relationships, to celebrate Catholic education, and to highlight the wonderful events and learning opportunities happening in Huron-Perth Catholic schools.

The luncheon meeting began with the kindergarten choir from St. Patrick's School in Dublin who brought joy and laughter to the group.

Board senior administration, Board trustees and members of the local employee groups attended.



*From left: Director of Education Martha Dutrizac, Board Chair Ron Marcy, Carol Mitchell, John Wilkinson*



## Dyno Day at St. Anne's

St. Anne's Catholic Secondary School in Clinton celebrated Dyno Day on June 8. Students in the Secondary High Skills Major (SHSM) Agriculture Technology class along with several other students drove to school in their tractors to test Horsepower and Torque output using a Dynamometer. Nineteen tractors ranging from 30 to 300 hp were part of the experience. A big thank you to all tractor owners who allowed us to use their equipment to enhance our understanding.



### 2011 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Stratford

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Huron East, Perth East, North Perth

Mike Miller  
South Huron, Bluewater

Bernard Murray  
Perth South, St. Marys, West Perth

Martha Dutrizac  
Director of Education

## Congratulations!

...to Laura Blackmore, teacher at St. Anne's C.S.S.,  
on the birth of her twins Matthew & Emily.

...to Angela Schuster, teacher at St. Ambrose, on  
the birth of her son Friedrich.

