



REPORT TO THE HURON-PERTH CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Prepared by: Karen Tigani and Tara Boreham, Superintendents of Education
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Submitted by: Chris N. Roehrig, Director of Education and Secretary

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

Public Session

BACKGROUND

Many activities take place every month throughout the district to ensure that our students have rich, inclusive learning opportunities that support their learning and fulfill the goals of the Strategic Plan. The Board Highlights list many of the activities that take place in the month prior to the board meeting, with contributions from Superintendents of Education, Learning Coordinators, the Mental Health Lead, and Managers of activities that take place under their leadership.

DEVELOPMENTS

The spiritual theme we anchor the 2023-24 school year in is “Go Forth!” and it builds upon the Gospel story of the Road to Emmaus which has been guiding our district over the past three years. The Holy Spirit continues to guide us and lovingly supports us as we cycle through states of encounter, accompaniment and transformation. As we begin the Season of Advent, we go forward with hearts full of joy, ever grateful for the many gifts of our students, families, staff members, parishes, and communities. Together, we are on a journey of discipleship. We are people of hope and we delight in the many signs of God’s love and joy in our schools and facilities.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Remembrance Day Assemblies

Schools observed Remembrance Day through various prayer services in their gymnasiums and many had students represent their school at community Remembrance Day services on November 11. Employees working at the Catholic Education Centre (CEC) participated in a prayer liturgy as well.

Faith PD Day - November 17

Schools across our system gathered for a day focused on the “Go Forth” sub-theme of our Board’s spiritual theme. Schools engaged in a variety of activities including the celebration of Mass or a prayer liturgy; learning more about the great needs in our communities and ways that the schools can support these needs from The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul and the United Way; and in elementary there was time devoted to new Social Studies curriculum in the areas of Holocaust awareness and Residential Schools. Other activities across the district included Christian Meditation, Emmaus Wellness Walks and community outreach.. The Director of Education led a half-day workshop for CEC staff that explored two pieces of art from the

Renaissance and Baroque periods (respectively) in relation to the Emmaus story. The day was well received by all staff and was a great way to “refill our spiritual buckets” as we prepare to celebrate the Advent season. Below are a few images from the Faith-based PD Day.



Advent 2024

Schools across the district are gathering together for Mass and liturgical celebrations in preparation for Christmas. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is being offered in our schools through the support of our parish priests. Through Masses and liturgical celebrations, students are learning how they can exemplify the spirit of Christ through acts of kindness and selflessness, and by giving generously of themselves. They are sharing the true reason for the season through concerts featuring music that glorifies the Lord and developing artistic performances centred on Christmas themes. Others are participating in outreach to the community through service projects to ensure that those who are less fortunate may also feel the love of Jesus and the generous support of their neighbours.



Secondary School Open Houses

In recent weeks, our secondary schools hosted open houses in the evening for future students and families. St. Michael CSS hosted an open house on November 16 and St. Anne’s CSS held theirs the following week on November 23. It is a source of great pride to open our doors and share the many academic and non-academic programs, initiatives and activities in our Catholic high schools. The open houses were very well attended, bringing together students and families from across Huron and Perth counties. In addition to these open houses, our secondary schools hosted Grade 8 students for “Experience Days” at St Anne’s CSS and for Grade 8 “Tech Days”

at St Michael CSS during the month of November. These opportunities to visit the schools and experience a day in the life of secondary students are well received by students and help them make informed decisions about course selection for Grade 9, which they will be doing early in the new year.

LEADERSHIP

Leaders' Learning Council (LLC)

We hosted a Virtual LLC on November 7. An area of focus was a review of the procedures for Inclement Weather days. Principals and classroom teachers have prepared students, parents, caregivers and staff for school days when/if there is inclement weather. Staff have plans in place and have communicated with families.

Our school and system leaders met in person on November 21 for an LLC. A significant portion of the morning was spent exploring the Math Achievement Action Plan. Principals and Vice-Principals engaged in several activities oriented toward the school level key performance indicators (KPIs) and considered how they will support their teachers in bringing this plan to life and monitoring its impact. We had an excellent presentation by our Speech and Language Pathologists (SLPs) related to early reading screening and their service delivery model in schools. The SLPs work closely with classroom teachers, principals, SERTs and the Literacy Team to support student learning, particularly in the area of speech and language acquisition and development. They are an integral part of the teaching and learning environment in our schools. In the afternoon, we hosted a presentation from a lawyer at Thomson Miller LLP, sponsored by the Ontario School Boards Insurance Exchange (OSBIE) regarding Violence in Schools. This was meant to support school leaders as they engage in the daily work of ensuring school safety, mitigating risks, responding to incidents, and nurturing a strong culture of progressive discipline. The presentation was very well received by all in attendance.

On December 12th, we will host our final LLC of the 2023 school year. The morning is focused on Pastoral Planning for schools and provides time for school leaders to reflect on their School Improvement Plans with an emphasis on how their pastoral plan anchors all that takes place in the schools. Furthermore, school and system leaders will engage in some faith development exercises and prayer rooted in the season of Advent. In the afternoon, the focus will shift toward equity, diversity, inclusion and anti-racism. Principals and Vice-Principals will be examining their school goals and activities in light of the Board's Equity Plan and will assist the system team in monitoring progress by identifying the actions that are taking place in their schools.

Secondary New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP)

On November 29 and December 13, our Secondary Learning Coordinator hosted a team of new secondary teachers at the Catholic Education Centre. This includes those who are participating in the 2023-24 NTIP program. In addition to the newest permanent teachers hired by the Board, several other secondary teachers were invited to engage in this collaboration and learning since they are new to our Board and serving in Long-term positions for the first time or perhaps the second or third time. Topics including faith integration, program planning & assessment, classroom management and "the art of teaching" were the areas of focus. We strive to build strong connections between our teachers and their colleagues as well as system team members to ensure ongoing support and dialogue, in the interest of continuous learning and improvement.

French as a Second Language (FSL) New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP)

On November 14 our FSL System Support Teacher delivered an engaging session for our NTIP French teachers. She not only provided important information to support curriculum, teaching and learning, but she also provided inspiring insights to guide our new French educators as they commenced their teaching journey. In this manner, the focus was to ensure strong mentoring and develop a network within the team of new FSL teachers. The session covered essential topics such as the French curriculum, the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR), and a valuable exploration of the New FSL Teacher Handbook published by the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers. Serving as the mentor for this dedicated group of French educators, our FSL Support Teacher, Sandra O'Neill, is committed to further engagements with them throughout the year.

Elementary New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP)

The first elementary NTIP training day was held on November 30 and was a resounding success. The primary focus of the session was on fostering a positive classroom culture. The session engaged eight of our new educators and their mentors in dynamic discussions and interactive activities, equipping them with valuable strategies to create inclusive and supportive learning environments. Mentors are experienced teacher leaders within the board and have dedicated their time and support to these new teachers as well as to engaging in their own learning as a team, throughout the year. The enthusiasm and commitment demonstrated by both facilitators and participants bode well for the continued growth and success of our educators in the Board.

French as a Second Language Tri-Board Network Planning

We are pleased to once again participate in a tri-board partnership with colleagues in the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board and St Clair Catholic District School Board. This is sponsored by funds provided by the Ministry of Education devoted to ongoing implementation of best practices in the areas of French teacher recruitment and retention. On November 25, Superintendents of Education with responsibilities for FSL from the 3 boards met to discuss this year's project and plans. In partnership with the Human Resources departments in each school board, there will be ongoing efforts to review and implement the recommendations made in the recent research document focused on recruitment & retention. FSL programming and best practices for recruitment and retention will also be an area of focus at an upcoming LLC. Whereas the partnership has focused solely on French Immersion schools and leaders in the past 3 years, we are expanding our scope to include all Principals and Vice-Principals this year in order to address the unique challenges and needs in the area of French recruitment and retention across all grades and programs. Later in the year, we intend to provide a networking day for our French Immersion (FI) school leaders and they will continue to have access to a shared drive of resources and materials to support the leadership needs in FI programs in particular.

Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers Association (OCSOA) Regional Day

Directors of Education and Superintendents of Education in our region gathered at King's University in London on December 8th for professional learning and networking opportunities. The themes for the various breakout groups included Early Reading Screeners, Student Success in Secondary, Faith Formation, NTIP and Professional Learning challenges. This provides senior leaders an important opportunity to meet with their colleagues in person and share strategies to best support Board and Ministry priorities. The day included prayer and greetings from the university leadership team, OCSOA executive director, John Kostoff, and OCSOA chair, Tracey Barill.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Special Education Regional Coordinator/Consultant Conference

The system Special Education Resource Teacher and Coordinator of Special Education attended the Special Education Regional Coordinator/Consultant Conference (SERCC) on November 2 and 3. Agenda items included Critical Reflections in Special Education, Unlocking the Science of Reading in Ontario's Education System: A Journey from Right to Read to Classroom Implementation, and Current Issues. This conference always provides Special Education representatives from school boards a chance to network and share best practices.

Corrective Reading Workshop

The Special Education team, along with the Learning Coordinator of Literacy and our board's Speech-Language Pathologists, hosted a training session on November 15 for teachers who will be implementing the Corrective Reading intervention program in six of the board's elementary schools. This program is a tier-two reading intervention program primarily aimed at improving decoding skills. The target grades for the initial launch of this program are Grades 4-8. The teacher who will be leading the intervention and the Special Education Resource Teacher from the school attended the session. A system leader from Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board shared her expertise about, and her experience with running the program with the educators present. School teams reviewed screening data and will proceed with having students participate in a placement test to determine an appropriate target group at the school. The next steps will include implementing the intervention with target groups, frequent check-ins with the educators by System Team members, and professional learning around data and progress monitoring.

Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT) Meeting

On December 7, all elementary and secondary SERTs gathered at the CEC for a full-day meeting. Topics included a review of Behaviour Consultation and Safety Planning, representatives from Developmental Services Ontario gave a presentation on how they support students and families as they transition out of secondary school, professionals from Thames Valley Children's Centre also presented their revised service model and specifically on their shift to providing universal services to schools. SERTs were also given time to brainstorm some best practices for transitioning students into secondary school. Other special education department updates were also shared.

Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

A new teacher for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing was hired in late November. Katie Kitchen will be supporting students with hearing loss directly and providing consultation to their classroom teachers. The Teacher provides and implements programming to develop student's language, speech, and auditory skills. Ensuring the success of students with hearing loss and full access to the curriculum is a collaborative effort between the classroom teacher and the Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Removing Barriers for Students with Disabilities

The System Special Education Team welcomed Rachael Chadwick back to the team as a Skills Development Facilitator. Rachael will be working alongside members of the system team until the end of the school year as part of a larger initiative; Moving Inclusion Forward. This project is made possible thanks to a grant from the Ministry of Education. More details will be shared as we prepare to launch it in the new year. One of the areas of focus will be on the effects of peer

support for students with disabilities. To kickstart this focus, Rachael has connected with school teams and began initial observations.

DIGITAL TOOLS TO SUPPORT LEARNING

Canva for Education

All staff and students in Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board have access to the EDU premium version of Canva. This platform, initially recognized for its online graphic design capabilities, has been strategically leveraged by our learning coordinators to provide essential support for multilingual learner students. Through the integration of built-in translation tools and options, Canva has become a versatile resource contributing to an inclusive and enriched educational environment within our district.

Catholic Virtual Ontario (CVO) Provincial Meeting

Secondary Learning Coordinator Paul D'Hondt attended the provincial Catholic Virtual Ontario meeting on November 14 in Toronto. This meeting brought representatives from each Catholic school board in Ontario together to discuss our work in Catholic eLearning, address issues, and plan for the future. Our Board has a strong presence within the Catholic virtual learning community and we are proud to be leaders within this space, continuing to ensure that students have access to Catholic curriculum and learning through the CVO and its partners.

BOLTT eLearning Conference

St. Anne's CSS English Department Head and eLearning teacher Adam Suski, with Learning Coordinators Jenna Meyers and Paul D'Hondt participated in the Bringing Online Teams Together Conference in Toronto on November 15. This conference addressed many issues related to eLearning in Ontario such as engagement, attrition, student success, artificial intelligence and large language models, and more. Learning more about these eLearning issues and strategies, as well as ongoing engagement with various partners in this work across the province are important as we continue to ensure we are supporting our students in this mode of learning.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Literacy

The system Literacy Team has been actively engaged in several pivotal projects aimed at enhancing literacy education. Their ongoing collaboration with educators in schools has been instrumental in implementing the new Ontario Curriculum. Within K-3 classrooms, the team has integrated and modelled lessons using the new district phonics resource, UFLI. This has been fostering excitement among educators and ensuring fidelity to the program each day. Simultaneously, the team has partnered with junior and intermediate educators to craft high-quality resources, subsequently shared on our Literacy Warehouse. The positive feedback from educators underscores the value of this personalized support, reinforcing their commitment to effective classroom practices. Principals and Vice-Principals are supporting this work through classroom visits, conversations with their teachers and DECEs and engaging in ongoing learning themselves.

A crucial facet of the literacy resource teachers' role involves Tier 2 intervention in early primary classrooms. Currently, our Literacy Resource Teachers are directly engaging with small groups of students in two schools. This targeted intervention, focused on Grade 1 students identified as

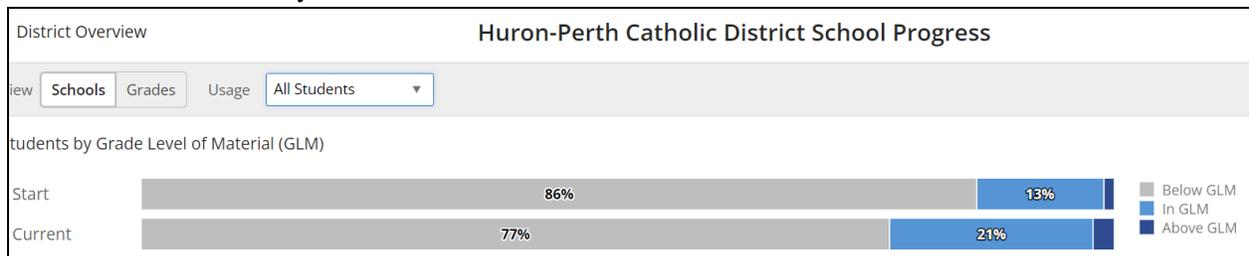
“at risk” through screening data, diagnostic assessments, and classroom observations, occurs within the classroom setting alongside the classroom teacher. This additional and necessary support complements the whole-class, tier one instruction provided by the classroom teacher. Recognizing that early, intentionally planned intervention, tailored to student needs and regularly monitored, is key to preventing reading challenges, the team is encouraged by the positive and promising preliminary results of this strategic intervention. What is being learned in these classrooms will be used to further capacity across the district through some shared learning at a future LLC, coupled with considerations for support in Grade 1 classrooms across the district in the new year. This will coincide with the implementation of early reading screening, as part of the ongoing work to implement the new language curriculum with a focus on early reading and primary classrooms.

Grade 3 and Grade 3/4 Literacy Learning Sessions

All Grade 3 and Grade 3/4 educators actively participated in focused professional development, held in small groups across the district, facilitated by the system literacy team. This collaborative learning initiative delved into important topics such as universal screening, fluency, and morphology. The teachers acquired practical skills in administering the Oral Reading Fluency and Maze assessments using Acadience (early reading screening tool approved by the Ministry of Education), yielding valuable insights into identifying students at risk for potential reading challenges. As part of their professional enrichment, educators were introduced to a new resource titled "Morphemes for Littles." This resource not only provided a fresh perspective on morphology—the study of words and their components, including prefixes, suffixes, and roots—but also offered teachers an opportunity to delve into this crucial subject. Morphology plays a pivotal role in the new Ontario Language Curriculum, and the resource equips educators to teach it explicitly and systematically, empowering students to decode and comprehend more complex words with confidence. Additional professional development has been planned for other groups in the new year.

Lexia Core 5 and Power Up Reading Licenses

Students across our district continue to have access to the Lexia reading intervention program. Lexia’s research-proven program provides explicit, systematic, personalized learning in the six areas of reading instruction, targeting skill gaps as they emerge, and providing teachers with the data and student-specific resources they need for individual or small-group instruction. A breakdown of students’ grades is as follows: Grade 1: 279, Grade 2: 245, Grade 3 and other: 227. There are 751 Lexia licenses in use across the system. As of November 23, 150 students (21%) with Lexia Core 5 accounts are reading at or above grade level, up from 94 students, or 14% at the start of the year.



Power Up, Lexia’s literacy support for older students, has been implemented into two high school learning skills courses, one at St Michael CSS and one at St Anne’s CSS. Approximately 40 students work on Word Study, Grammar, and Comprehension skills daily. The program

adapts to each student's needs and teachers can provide extra help when needed, and monitor their progress.

We have made a district purchase of 10 Lexia English licenses for our newcomer students. This program was created to help emergent bilingual students reach their academic potential. The program incorporates culturally responsive pedagogies that support individualized learning paths for each learner. Lexia English offers opportunities for students to be engaged and practice oral English skills. These Lexia English licenses are distributed across the district in both elementary and secondary schools, where needed.

French as a Second Language: Grade 1 French Immersion Collaboration

Fostering continuity and promoting professional collaboration were the focal points of an exceptional learning day for our Grade 1 French Immersion (FI) educators, skillfully led by our French System Support teacher, Sandra O'Neill, on December 5. The agenda was thoughtfully designed to delve into essential tools and key approaches for enhancing literacy instruction in French. The session involved a comprehensive exploration of the French literacy block, emphasizing the alignment of literacy practices through collaborative sharing and development of valuable resources. We are keen to support the networking of the Grade 1 French Immersion teachers in our 3 French Immersion programs (St Mary's, Listowel, St Mary's, Goderich and Jeanne Sauvé) and see this as a powerful opportunity to explore resources, teaching and learning together as we continue to strengthen and build our FI programs within the district.

Multilingual Learners (MLL)

In an effort to gain deeper insights into the evolving needs of our continually expanding population of multilingual learners, Learning Coordinators MJ Drager and Paul D'Hondt have initiated a strategic endeavour by using the Clevr data tracking and education support platform to systematically track initial Steps to English Proficiency (STEP) assessments across the entire district. Furthermore, we will collaborate with St. Mary's School in Listowel to implement the tracking tool specifically for their Multilingual Learners (MLL). This tracking tool serves as a valuable resource for educators, enabling them to purposefully plan the next steps for students concurrently learning English and the curriculum. Additionally, it facilitates the documentation of any accommodations or modifications in place. Beyond individual classrooms, this tool also serves as a district-wide data source, contributing to a more holistic understanding of the needs and trends of our multilingual learner population.

Calling All Three-Year-Olds (CATYO)

Throughout November, prospective Kindergarten students and their families embraced the chance to explore their future school as part of Calling All Three-Year-Olds (CATYO). This initiative is a joint venture between the Board and various community partners, including the Health Unit, libraries, and early childhood programs in the 2 counties. CATYO's primary aim is to provide families with the means to access support before their child embarks on their educational journey. Whether it is identified that speech and language services or a range of other developmental programs within the community will be helpful, CATYO aims to provide families with the resources they need before their child begins school. Beyond support services, this event also serves as a valuable opportunity for families to acquaint themselves with their home school and immerse themselves in our shared Catholic faith community.

Mathematics

The Math Team continues to support the teaching and learning of mathematics in our system through our Math Achievement Action Plan (MAAP). The three goals of the plan are to ensure

fidelity to the curriculum, continue math content knowledge for teaching, and ensure tasks and supports are responsive for all students. In short, we are focused on “knowing the curriculum, the math and the learner”. These goals have implementation strategies at the board, school, and classroom levels. Our initial plan was submitted to the Ministry on November 15 and shared with principals at the November 21 LLC. Members of the Math Team continue to attend all Ministry meetings in relation to the MAAP, including strategic planning sessions and the math content knowledge learning series. We are also meeting regularly with our partners at EQAO, MathUP, and Knowledgehook to gather and analyze data for the MAAP’s key performance indicators (KPIs). Our two Math Facilitators continue to work at our priority schools (one ministry-identified and two board-identified) supporting targeted groups of students by building operational conceptual understanding and fluency. They also continue to work with new and experienced teachers on an as-requested basis throughout our system.

Secondary Teacher Collaboration

At St. Anne’s CSS, secondary math and science teachers have been working together to develop innovative plans to address the needs of their Grade 9 destreamed classes. They have been co-planning lessons and discussing assessment strategies, while also exploring ways to integrate math and science where appropriate.

Similarly, English teachers at St. Michael CSS have been collaborating with system support personnel including the Literacy Resource Teachers, Literacy Learning Coordinator and Secondary Learning Coordinator to evaluate their new Grade 9 destreamed curriculum. They have met several times to explore instructional and assessment strategies for the Grade 9 program. Moreover, these teachers have also started connecting with Grade 8 teachers from a handful of schools to share strategies and expertise, and to explore consistent writing practices for their students. This collaborative approach will help ensure that students receive the best possible education across all subjects. We hope to be able to expand this cross-panel learning in the new year to include more teachers and more subject areas.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

Each secondary school hosted a small session of the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test in November. This sitting was for students who had not yet been able to successfully complete the OSSLT in Spring 2023 for any reason. Literacy coaches, teacher librarians, and administrators from each school worked with the students to ensure they were adequately prepared and felt confident for the literacy assessment. Grade 10 students will write the OSSLT in Spring 2024 at each school.

Indigenous Education

Brenda Collins, a Métis artist, has been visiting several schools to work with Grade 7 and 8 students and staff in making a beautiful medicine wheel for the school community. When creating the medicine wheel mosaic, Brenda teaches about the cultural significance of the medicine wheel and healing circle for some Indigenous cultures. Brenda spent a day at the Catholic Education Centre (CEC), working with CEC staff on the creation of a mosaic medicine wheel for the CEC as well.

Treaty Recognition Month (November)

Treaties Recognition Month was honoured throughout the Board to reflect on the importance of treaties and to learn more about treaty rights and treaty relationships during the month of November. We were honoured to once again welcome Knowledge Keepers Brenda Collins, Patsy Day, S.P. Joseph Lyons, and Christin Dennis into our junior, intermediate, and secondary classrooms to help students learn more about the Indigenous peoples who lived on

the land that we now live on. These visits complement our learning in Social Studies and History. The Grade 4-6 students had a hands-on opportunity to make their own artifacts to take home and share their learning with their families. Secondary students created large murals.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PROGRAMS

Level Up! Skilled Trades Career Fair

On November 1, Grade 9 students from both secondary schools participated in the Level Up! Skilled Trades Fair in London. This event was hosted by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and featured a huge range of hands-on activities that allowed students to experience a variety of skilled trades and explore post-secondary options.

Take Our Kids to Work Day

On November 1, Grade 9 students participated in several activities for Take Our Kids to Work Day. Over 100 Grade 9 students spent the day with parents, relatives, guardians and family friends to observe different workplaces in our community and explore the great range of careers in Huron County.

Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Activities and Certifications:

SHSM Certifications

SHSM students participated in Leadership Skills, Infection Control, and Math Literacy certifications in November at St Anne's CSS.

Sport Wrapping and Taping Workshop

On November 3, Susan Dunn, a Kinesiology graduate and qualified Physical and Health Educator, trained students in wrapping and taping ankles. These Health and Wellness and Sport SHSM students were able to apply this training along with their first-aid skills at the subsequent AA Boys OFSAA volleyball event on November 23-25.

AA Boys OFSAA November 23-25

Numerous students applied various skills they acquired in SHSM training during this 3-day high school volleyball competition. Business students applied techniques in budgeting and money management as they helped with the entrance gates. Health and Wellness students along with Sport SHSM students assisted with first-aid during this event. Others helped with scorekeeping and ensuring a social media presence.

Hockey Referee Course and Coaching Certificates

We were pleased to offer a Hockey Referee Course as part of the new SHSM Sports Program at St. Anne's CSS. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to continue to develop their leadership skills and opens up lots of potential for students to contribute to their community in work and volunteer capacities.

Grower Safety Pesticide Course

On November 29, we welcomed back a trainer from the University of Guelph to deliver the Grower Safety Pesticide Course at St. Anne's. This is a valuable SHSM certification.

Black Hair Styling Masterclass Presentation

Guest speaker and community member Ava Garcia demonstrated practices in black hair, including modeling and sharing techniques related to extensions and maintenance at St.

Michael CSS for students in the Hair and Aesthetics program on November 27. The workshop included information related to wet and flat-ironed hair, for a few hair types, and provided an opportunity for students to explore techniques that were new to many of them.

Arts and Culture Trip to Elegance Aesthetics School

On November 6, the Arts and Culture SHSM students attended a reach-ahead excursion to Elegance School in London. Students learned about the training and certification that is offered through this private school. These students then travelled back to Stratford to Illume, a local small business, where the owner, a former Elegance graduate and Fanshawe Dual Credit teacher, explained the ins and outs of running a small business in the aesthetics sector.

Ontario Council of Technological Education (OCTE) - Allyship Awareness Training

All SHSM students had the opportunity to participate in this informative training to understand what it means to be an ally and the importance of being an ally.

NORCAT Safety Training

St. Anne's CSS students are participating in several online safety courses including Confined Space Safety and Lockout and Tagout Awareness for SHSM Construction students.

Veterinary Services

Two local veterinarians visited St. Anne's CSS on November 9, to talk to students about different pathways in veterinary services. This was a great career exploration opportunity for our students. We are grateful for this chance to chat about educational experiences, daily work activities and the skills needed to be successful in this field.

AgScapes Presentations

AgScope is an Ontario organization responsible for bringing agriculture and food education to Ontario classrooms. On November 14, they did a presentation at St. Michael CSS about marketing and design and food processing in Canada. On November 16, they returned to do a Careers in Agriculture presentation.

Dual Credit Plumbing

We are partnering with Conestoga College once again this year to offer a dual-credit plumbing course. We have 4 St. Anne's CSS students travelling to St. Michael CSS to work with a licensed plumber and Conestoga instructor. Students who successfully complete this course will earn both a high school credit, a college credit, and a Reach Ahead experience as part of their SHSM program.

OYAP Level 1 Program Interviews - Conestoga College November 30

Candidates for OYAP Level 1 programs at Conestoga College participated in a competitive interview process in November. St. Anne's CSS has 5 candidates for Electrical, 1 candidate for Truck and Coach, and 1 candidate for Plumbing. Successful applicants will enter a challenging and rewarding program next year which involves a lot of hard work but they will enjoy a great number of benefits as they enter their post-secondary career pathways.

Elementary Electrical Board Tours

In partnership with Conestoga College, our electrical board tours to elementary schools continued. On November 9, Conestoga College electrical instructor Tom Smith presented to St. Joseph's School in Clinton in the morning and at St. James School in Seaforth in the afternoon.

Skills Ontario Trades and Tech Truck Events

The Trades and Tech Truck will be stopping in our Board on December 11, 12, 13 and 14. This mobile learning unit offers fun, experiential learning features, and engaging activities and simulators, that allow the students to explore skilled trades and technologies in a unique and hands-on way. The truck has activities and modules in the following fields: Virtual Paint, Electrical Wall, Pneumatics, Tires and Breaks, Heavy Machinery Simulator, Hybrid Planetary Gearset, Welding, Tool Exploration, Try on a Trade, Walk a Trade, Fire Alarm Systems and a Rotating Activities Station.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Collaboration with RRHC: Providing Social Emotional Learning for Staff and Students

As part of Huron-Perth Catholic DSB's partnership with Rural Response for Healthy Children (RRHC) the organization has provided a number of workshops, professional development, and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) classroom curriculum throughout the past few months. RRHC programming is evidence-informed using current resources and information from School Mental Health Ontario (SMHO) and includes tools and approaches that are informed by Circle of Security International, the MEHRIT Centre Foundations of Self-Reg, the ZONES of Regulation, and the Ontario Social Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum for Grades JK-12.

Rural Response has provided Huron-Perth Catholic DSB with the following programming this school year:

Circle of Security® (COS) Coaching at St. Ambrose:

In December, five staff members at St. Ambrose participated in Circle of Security (COS) classroom training as part of the SWELL initiative. The comprehensive two-half-day sessions covered eight chapters of COS, focusing on creating a positive and supportive classroom environment. The video-based self-reflection model aims to enhance attachment relationships between teachers and students, fostering a secure and conducive learning atmosphere. The training equips teachers with insights into student behavior related to attachment needs and provides practical guidance on implementing the COS framework in their classrooms.

Strengthening Well-Being through Emotional Learning and Leadership (SWELL) Initiative Overview

The SWELL initiative aligns with evidence-informed practices, incorporating resources from SMHO, Circle of Security® International, The MEHRIT Centre Foundations of Self-Reg®, ZONES of Regulation®, and the Ontario Social Emotional Learning curriculum. Notably, the Growing Resilience program is making a positive impact, with the Grade 6/7 class at St. Ambrose engaging in a six-lesson series to develop essential skills for positive motivation, relationship building, emotion identification, self-confidence, stress management, and executive functioning. Similar programs are underway for other classes and schools.

Caregiver Lunch and Learn Series:

In collaboration with Avon Maitland District School Board and community partners, the Caregiver Lunch and Learn series, aligned with PPM 169 initiatives, addresses specific mental health topics. The October session on Mindful Parenting saw 246 registered participants, with

78 engaging live. In November, the webinar on Restorative Justice Approaches, in collaboration with the Salvation Army, had 137 registered participants, 47 of whom participated live (15% from Huron-Perth Catholic DSB). A session on Healthy Relationships with Emily Murphy Centre is scheduled for December 6th.

SMHO Provincial Leadership Conference:

Superintendent of Mental Health, Tara Boreham, and Mental Health Lead, Kaitie Westbrook, participated in the SMHO Provincial Leadership Conference from November 30 to December 1. The conference focused on the objectives outlined in Policy/Program Memorandum 169, furthering the advancement of measurement and monitoring in school mental health.

November Highlights:

- **School Avoidance Presentation:** St. Michael CSS received valuable insights on School Avoidance, emphasizing preventive measures for educators and administrators.
- **Regional Planning Meeting:** The Board's Mental Health Lead attended a regional meeting focusing on working cross-sectorally (education, children's mental health, and child welfare) on the unique needs of children and youth with complex mental health needs.
- **Peace and Kindness Week:** The Board observed Peace and Kindness Week, with secondary students actively participating in spreading kindness initiatives.
- **RESET Curriculum Implementation:** The RESET Curriculum to End Trafficking was launched at St. James Catholic Elementary School, expanding to five additional schools with plans for further implementation.

Faith and Wellness at St. Anne's CSS

Our secondary Mental Health and Wellness Coach (MHWC) partnered with St. Anne's CSS Chaplain in providing a Grade 10 retreat, exploring the connection between faith and mental health. Additionally, our MHWC conducted a workshop titled "Mental Health and Wellness Supports - We're Here to Help... A Guide to Services" during the St. Anne's CSS Open House on November 22, enlightening Grade 6, 7, and 8 students and their families about mental health services available to Huron-Perth Catholic DSB students.

MAINTENANCE AND HEALTH AND SAFETY

Health and Safety

The Joint Health and Safety Committee met on November 22. Items discussed included the following:

- Annual Inspections
- Safe Intervention and Planning Document
- AP's - Small Appliances in Schools and Homemade and Non-Board Owned Furniture and Electrical Components in Schools
- Board Policy - Infectious Disease Reporting
- Slips, Trips and Falls - Awareness Campaign
- Recycling batteries - reminder to tape your terminals
- Door Decorating and Fire Code
- Ministry Memo and Communication Guidelines for the Removal of Asbestos in Schools
- Incident Reporting
- Review of Workplace Violence Risk Assessments

The meeting minutes are posted on the Google Administrative site.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board receives the Board Highlights for November and December for information.