



Northeastern Catholic District School Board Director's Annual Report 2013

Dear Friends of Catholic Education,

I am pleased to be able to provide you with this 2013 Director's Report from the Northeastern Catholic District School Board. Within it, you will find information about some of our program successes, accomplishments and highlights in 2013. We are presently in the final year of our 4-year Strategic Plan and look forward to building on the successes of the previous three years of that plan.

Our Strategic Plan highlights 4 distinct pillars that contributed towards our success in 2013. These pillars are: Creating Living Catholic Environments, Aligning Available Resources, Learning Together and Leveraging Technology for 21st Century Learning.

With our constant focus on student achievement, the Strategic Plan continues to guide our Board Improvement Plan in enhancing the Catholic education we provide our students. The NCDSB Board Vision is "Living our Catholic Faith to shape success for all of our learners." Our Mission is "To provide Catholic Education to all of our learners in a safe, nurturing, equitable and inclusive environment that prepares them for life." This report gives voice to those activities we have undertaken to do just that.

I invite you to visit our new website at www.ncdsb.on.ca to learn more about us or to visit our individual school pages to see the great work that is taking place within our Board.

Regards,
Glenn Sheculski
Director of Education

The NCDSB Strategic Plan and Multi-Year Board Improvement Plan can be found at www.ncdsb.on.ca

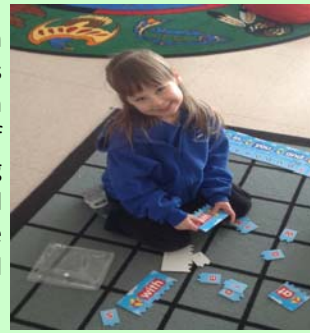


NCDSB Programs of Excellence



STUDENT LEARNING

The NCDSB has identified two key priority areas that serve as the foundation of our Strategic Plan: Identifying and Responding to Student Learning Needs and Actively Preparing our Students for the 21st century. Our efforts focus on providing all learners with the opportunity to master the skills of problem-solving, critical thinking, communicating their ideas, understanding media and collaborating in teams to achieve maximum results. Using small group instruction strategies at all grade levels and across all subject areas, we are targeting our instruction to ensure precision in our teaching and personalized programs for all of our students.



SPECIAL EDUCATION

The NCDSB is proud of the gains made this year in the development, implementation, and monitoring of transition planning for our students with special education needs. Further, we extended an opportunity to engage our families in a review of program and services specific to special education through a survey strategy. The information we received helped to design subsequent goals and action plans, all geared to improving outcomes for our students. Finally the mental health strategy remains a priority within the NCDSB. We have successfully recruited a Mental Health Leader and remain committed to working collaboratively with community partners and stakeholders in building enhanced mental health awareness and understanding.

Aboriginal Education

The NCDSB has continued to utilize the First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework in developing and implementing strategies that facilitate increased participation of parents, students, communities, organizations and agencies to support academic success. The strategies address the expectations of our diverse society meeting the goals of a high level of student achievement, reducing the gaps and promoting high levels of public confidence.

The NCDSB and Apatisiwin Employment and Training Program established a partnership extending learning opportunities to a wide range of students. Currently there are 168 Aboriginal learners representing 20 different First Nation Communities enrolled in the ACCESS (Alternative and Continuing Catholic Education Support Services) Program working towards obtaining their Grade 12 Diploma. ACCESS provides options for students to complete secondary school courses outside of the traditional school environment. Individualized programs allow students to progress at their own pace through a curriculum that reflects the reality of their lives. The inviting and safe atmosphere provides quality programming that supports student success and identity building.



Equity and Inclusive Education

All of our Grade 7 – 12 schools from across the Board sent student and teacher representatives to a 2 day workshop facilitated by the Harmony Movement. The Student Equity Leadership Project saw over 100 students from 10 schools come together at O’Gorman High School for 2 fun filled informative days and nights of learning and awareness building. These student leaders returned to their schools with the mission to make each school more inclusive and accepting for all students. As a result projects have or will be launched at all of the participating schools, examples include poster contests, videos, performances and assemblies for their fellow students about bullying and cyber bullying. This work compliments the many initiatives that are already happening in all of our schools.

Jackie Harkins of O’Gorman Intermediate spoke for all of her colleagues commenting: “After that two-day workshop, they were very motivated about continuing,” said Harkins. “They had plenty of ideas. And if we can grab that energy and just show the students that yes, you can make a difference, it’s going to have a real positive effect on our student body.”

We are very proud of all of our student leaders and the teaching and support staff who continue to work daily to make our schools more inclusive and accepting places for all schools. The Equity and Inclusive Education Committee would like to acknowledge Ron St Louis, our late Superintendent. Ron was the driving force behind our initiative to empower our youth to become leaders in ensuring that all students have the ability to fulfill their potential in a safe and accepting environment.



School Board Profile

The NCDSB operates thirteen Elementary schools and one Secondary School throughout North-eastern Ontario. These schools provide quality Catholic education to over 2,135 students. The board employs approximately 175 full-time equivalent elementary and secondary teachers and 180 support staff.

Our Catholic schools:

- † St. Patrick Catholic School, Cobalt (JK - Grade 8)
- † English Catholic Central School, New Liskeard (JK - Grade 8)
- † Holy Family School, Englehart (JK - Grade 8)
- † Sacred Heart Catholic School, Kirkland Lake (Grades 4 - 8)
- † St. Jerome School, Kirkland Lake (JK - Grade 3)
- † St. Anne English Catholic School, Iroquois Falls (JK - Grade 8)
- † St. Joseph School, South Porcupine (JK - Grade 6)
- † O’Gorman Intermediate Catholic School, Timmins (Grades 7 & 8)
- † O’Gorman High School, Timmins (Grades 9—12)
- † Sacred Heart School, Timmins (JK - Grade 6)
- † St. Paul School, Timmins (JK - Grade 6)
- † Aileen Wright English Catholic School, Cochrane (JK - Grade 8)
- † St. Patrick School, Kapuskasing (JK - Grade 8)
- † Bishop Belleau School, Moosonee (JK - Grade 8)

Learning in the 21st Century

Grade 6-7-8 Portable Laptop Cart Program

This program introduced laptop computers in the Intermediate grade classrooms, eliminating the practice of moving students to the traditional classroom computer lab down the hall. In fact, this strategy to leverage technology may have started out as experimental and somewhat innovative for our Board, but has underpinned the introduction of new applications and services linked to digital technologies. The implementation of the Google Docs Office Suite, offered by Google and the Google Drive Service, is one example. This service also enabled us to introduce a Cloud-Based Service utilizing the laptops in the classroom right at the point of learning.



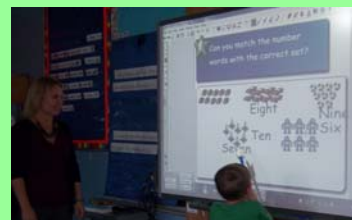
Since the students in these cohorts will eventually move towards the One To One Laptop or Tablet devices as part of other Board-supported Information Technology Programs, the skills and abilities gained from the Grade 6-7-8 Laptop Cart Program will align with the greater expectation of our Strategic Plan that 'self-directed' and 'independent' learning will become an embedded option.

High School Student One-To-One Laptop Program

This program supports the wider expectation that 'self-directed' and 'independent' learning has indeed become possible through online access to opportunities for inquiry, discussion, production, collaboration and acquisition of information and content [Rethinking Pedagogy for a Digital Age, Beehtam/Sharpe]. The explosion of social media in connecting learners to each other and the assignment and utilization of laptops, tablets and other devices has led to opportunities for more user-generated content that complements classroom instruction. Therefore, the ability for students to access open educational resources with the Internet has been a significant shift for education and has been the key component in our Board's decision to establish the High School Student One-To-One Laptop Program. This program is one part of our strategy to assist students as they begin to leverage technology at the point of learning.

Student Achievement Results

Grade 3 Reading	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	Grade 6 Reading	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13
Provincial Average	61%	62%	65%	66%	68%	Provincial Average	69%	72%	74%	75%	77%
NCDSB	51%	44%	49%	44%	45%	NCDSB	53%	57%	61%	70%	67%
Boys	47%	43%	47%	40%	44%	Boys	47%	48%	62%	66%	58%
Girls	55%	46%	52%	48%	46%	Girls	60%	67%	60%	74%	77%
Special Needs	35%	17%	20%	20%	25%	Special Needs	34%	30%	26%	40%	40%
Grade 3 Writing						Grade 6 Writing					
Provincial Average	68%	70%	73%	76%	77%	Provincial Average	67%	70%	73%	74%	76%
NCDSB	58%	51%	52%	63%	52%	NCDSB	52%	46%	55%	64%	62%
Boys	44%	37%	43%	51%	46%	Boys	39%	24%	49%	57%	51%
Girls	73%	65%	63%	79%	60%	Girls	67%	69%	62%	73%	72%
Special Needs	47%	19%	32%	51%	35%	Special Needs	31%	12%	25%	46%	40%
Grade 3 Math						Grade 6 Math					
Provincial Average	70%	71%	69%	68%	67%	Provincial Average	63%	61%	58%	58%	57%
NCDSB	71%	59%	52%	51%	51%	NCDSB	52%	43%	39%	47%	42%
Boys	73%	62%	52%	48%	51%	Boys	51%	38%	43%	53%	43%
Girls	69%	55%	53%	56%	51%	Girls	53%	47%	33%	41%	41%
Special Needs	51%	35%	31%	27%	25%	Special Needs	35%	21%	12%	25%	19%
Grade 9						Grade 10					
Academic Math	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	OSSLT					
Provincial Average	77%	82%	83%	84%	84%	First Time Eligible	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13
NCDSB	31%	53%	60%	58%	53%	Provincial Average	85%	84%	83%	82%	82%
Boys	23%	50%	69%	53%	56%	NCDSB	75%	77%	76%	78%	66%
Girls	38%	55%	55%	62%	50%	Boys	62%	68%	67%	76%	50%
Special Needs	0	75%	88%	0%	0%	Girls	77%	73%	81%	73%	80%
Grade 9						Special Needs	31%	37%	32%	40%	24%
Applied Math	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13						
Provincial Average	38%	40%	42%	44%	44%						
NCDSB	24%	25%	32%	33%	26%						
Boys	35%	12%	47%	41%	28%						
Girls	13%	32%	19%	25%	18%						
Special Needs	38%	21%	40%	28%	29%						



Northeastern Catholic DSB - 2013 Report by the Chair of the Board

2013 was an eventful, challenging and rewarding year at the Northeastern Catholic District School Board. One needs only to look on our board website at ncdsb.on.ca to learn more about who we are and what we are all about as a provider of Catholic education across the districts of Cochrane, Timiskaming and Moosonee. We are proud of our 13 Catholic elementary and one Catholic secondary schools under our jurisdiction which encompasses thousands of square kilometers across the northeast.

At the Board level, 2013 proved to be a challenge due to the continuation of declining enrollment which is a major issue with most boards in Ontario and one which is more pronounced in rural and northern Ontario. In spite of that, our board continues to operate under an umbrella of fiscal responsibility and I am pleased to report that we achieved a balanced budget in 2013 in compliance with government regulations.

A major focus of teaching and learning is towards the continuous improvement of student achievement at the NCDSB which is always a "work in progress." With that, the NCDSB trustees are committed to investing in technology which is a driving force in education these days. We must continue along this route so that our students will be fully capable of competing for the jobs of tomorrow in a global economy.

Within the context of the Ontario Catholic school system, where we educate over 600,000 students province-wide, and over 2,100 students in our jurisdiction, our focus is on the gospel teachings of Jesus Christ which underpins all teaching and learning that takes place. As Catholic school trustees, our commitment to our stakeholders is to continue the tradition of providing an exemplary Christian/Catholic education to our learners and we shall continue to do so through our budgetary decisions and in conjunction with our policies. We will also continue to promote our community engagement strategies and community involvement in our schools through such avenues as effective school parent councils, for instance.

The year 2013 ended on a very sad note with the death of our Superintendent of Student Success, Ron St Louis (pictured right) who had been in his position for only two years before a short illness took his life. Ron came to the Board after having worked in the Ontario education system for many years in several different roles and was an individual who made a difference in the lives of everyone with whom he made contact. His expertise, his vision of learning, his tenacity and his love of students will be missed at the NCDSB.



As Chair of the Board, I am pleased to highlight one example of excellence which deserves to be mentioned in a year-end report, namely, *The Bette Stephenson Recognition of Achievement Award*. We are proud that our Catholic secondary school, O'Gorman High School in Timmins, was the recipient of this prestigious award which was presented in Toronto on November 5th. The award was given for using provincial assessment results as evidence for improvement planning. These awards were established by the Board of Directors of EQAO in 2009 as a tribute to Dr. Stephenson's lifelong commitment and contribution to education and public service. Dr Stephenson, who is currently 89 years of age, was on hand to present the awards.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the supporters of the Catholic schools within the jurisdiction of the NCDSB for your belief in and support of our system. Thank you to our students and their families, to our staff, to the Board of trustees, to our parishes, to the clergy and to all supporters for believing that Catholic education has a rightful place in the lives of Ontarians and will for many years to come.

God bless.

Rick Brassard

Chair of the Northeastern Catholic DSB



Back Row (L to R): Peter Delguidice, Denis Lincez, Ron MacInnis, Elizabeth King, Steve Malciw, Martin Drainville

Front row (L to R): Michaela Pollon (Student Trustee), Colleen Landers, Richard Brassard, Chair, Fred Salvador Jr., Vice-Chair



NCDSB Mission Statement:

To provide Catholic Education to all of our learners in a safe, nurturing, equitable and inclusive environment that prepares them for life.



Rick Brassard is pictured here presenting Colleen Landers with a token of appreciation from the Board on her 25th Anniversary of service as a Catholic School Board Trustee.