THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 2010

THE NEW TANNER



Message From Halton Catholic District School Board Trustee Rosanna Palmieri

As we come to the end of another school year at the Halton Catholic District School Board, I am reminded and grateful of all the dedicated efforts of so many in our St. Joseph's Catholic Elementary School and our Christ the King Catholic Secondary School Communities.

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This year our Catholic learning communities in Halton have considered the message "Hear the Word of the Lord, learn to do good, and seek justice" Isaiah 1:10,17. We have considered what those words mean in our community today.

Our students have lived that message this past year, to "hear the word of the Lord", as we participated in Liturgies and Masses at our schools and churches. We thank Father Bob and Father Dave for their assistance. Our senior elementary students attended our Board's first Catholic Youth Rally, and our senior elementary and secondary students attended our "Walk With Jesus". These were wonderful opportunities for these young leaders to witness to their faith together with other students across Halton. In our schools, our students "Hear the Word" in daily lessons connected to the moral teachings of Jesus, and the modelling of how to live, by our staff.

"Learn to do good" was experienced by our students, as they strived to be the best they can be; improvements in the standardized EQAO test scores at St. Joseph's School in language and math were proof. Our students at Christ the King and Acton Secondary volunteered at tutors for St. Joseph students and I extend my appreciation to these students who generously volunteered their time. St. Joseph students continued to excel in a wide variety of sports. Learning to do good throughout all areas of school life, using their God given talents in Choir at the Milton Music Festival, and at the Regional level, representing their school in Battle of the Books competition. Learning to do Good by simply witnessing to their faith by how they acted in all these moments.

"Seek Justice" was evidenced though how St. Joseph's community raised over \$3,500 for Haiti for disaster relief. Our staff organized a student - run group to raise funds for Cancer Research. In using justly our gift of nature from God, St. Joseph's is planning an outdoor classroom to be dedicated to the life of a beloved teacher Mrs. Amber Nelson, who passed away after a long, courageous battle with cancer. From her place now in God's loving arms, I am certain she will be pleased with the life within this classroom.

As we close this school year may we take time to ponder the words of our Board's renewed vision statement " the Halton Catholic District School Board is a model learning community, widely recognized as distinctively Catholic, providing exceptional education while nurturing the call to love and serve as a people of faith, living out God's plan". May we consider what this will mean for us in the coming year.

I thank the students for all their efforts, to do their very best. I thank the staff for their dedication to their vocation as Catholic teachers. I also thank the parents, for entrusting your child to our schools to be educated in their faith, and I encourage you to



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continue to be an active part of your Catholic school communities as we support each other, in nurturing a new generation of citizens working for a just society.

I pray that we all have a safe and restful summer. May God bless us all.

