

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

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

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 ~~in~~ ~~relevance~~

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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™