



Nipissing-  
Parry Sound Catholic  
District  
School Board

ROOTED IN FAITH ALIVE IN SPIRIT

DIRECTOR'S  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

2010



# FROM THE DIRECTOR

Anna Marie Bitonti



As Director of Education of a dynamic Catholic school district, I feel immensely honoured by the accomplishments we have experienced in 2009-2010 as part of an exciting journey toward ongoing improvement and focused leadership in Catholic education within our region. Our commitment to our mission and vision is reinforced by our successes and motivated by our students, parents and staff who continue to strive for excellence in personal, academic and spiritual growth. This annual report captures only a sampling of the programs and activities that demonstrate our commitment to excellence in all of our Catholic learning centres.

Over the past year, the Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board has concentrated on deeper and more precise implementation of achievement strategies, targeted focus, and strategic resource stewardship in order that all of our students are able to achieve success in a faith-based learning environment. We are building on this momentum of growth by continuing successful practices and implementing exciting 21<sup>st</sup> century learning initiatives and technologies that are directly aligned with our Board Improvement Plan.

All of this has proven successful for us. Our elementary achievement results are on track with steady and ongoing improvement over time. Our secondary results remain exemplary in both Mathematics and Literacy – our percentage of fully participating students who were successful, including students with special needs, exceeds provincial results, and we are positioned among the top five school districts in the province in secondary literacy achievement. These are definitely successes worth celebrating!

The integration of faith and culture in our schools is reflected by our belief that every student deserves a welcoming, safe and inclusive environment where their uniqueness is nurtured, where diversity is celebrated and where they can see themselves as living the richness of their faith and making meaningful contributions to their school communities. In 2009-2010, these contributions have also extended beyond the walls of our schools. Led by the devotion and hard work of our staff, social justice initiatives have remained an integral part of our students' educational experience and we will remain committed to developing and nurturing partnerships with local, provincial, national and international organizations.

Our Board of Trustees has defined the essential learning goals for our students in four major ENDS statements. A clear focus on these ENDS, combined with the dedication of our staff, students, parents and community partners, who value a distinctive Catholic education, form a unique and remarkable learning community here at NPSC.

# FROM THE CHAIR

Barbara McCool



As we celebrate the 2009-2010 school year, we also reflect on the successes our Catholic Board has had since introducing the Policy Governance Model half a decade ago in the fall of 2005. This governance approach focuses on the use of Board policies as the instruments for creating vision, establishing purpose, setting parameters for administration, and evaluating outcomes.

This model has brought a renewed sense of unity to our team of Trustees, as one of its key principles is that the Board speaks with "one voice". Five years ago, Trustees and NPSC senior administrators embarked together on a journey to an improved degree of teamwork, where our efforts and our passion for Catholic education were headed in the same direction: toward student success.

We have seen our students succeed academically, athletically, spiritually and socially, we have celebrated the provincial recognition of a number of our Catholic schools, and we have benefitted across the education spectrum as parent and community engagement continued to grow.

As a Board of Trustees, we continue to feel pride in being the link to the community in ensuring a concerted focus on our students. Systematically, we continue our duty of ensuring that criteria are being met, and determining what our organization is to accomplish each year, for whom, and at what cost or relative worth. The Policy Governance Model sets the Board's ultimate goal as equipping young learners with an education described not only in terms of knowledge and skills, but also in terms of values, attitudes and actions that reflect the Catholic Faith.

We thank our staff, students and parents for a memorable year, and we look forward to future endeavors in teamwork.

## BOARD ENROLMENT

### STUDENT ENROLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2010:

Total: 3074

Elementary: 2162

Secondary: 912

**TOTAL EMPLOYEES: 411 (FTE)**

**PROPORTION OF ABORIGINAL STUDENTS: 13 %**

This represents a four per cent increase over October 2009.

**PERCENTAGE OF PRIMARY CLASSES AT 20 STUDENTS OR FEWER IN THE CURRENT YEAR AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2010:**

100% This represents a six per cent increase over October 2009.

Note: Does not include Early Learning Kindergarten Program.

**FULL-DAY EARLY LEARNING SCHOOLS IN PHASE 1:**

Our Lady of Fatima, Mother St. Bride

**NUMBER OF STUDENTS CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN**

**FULL-DAY EARLY LEARNING: 48**

**PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO HAVE COMPLETED 16 CREDITS AS OF JUNE 30 OF THEIR SECOND YEAR IN**

**SECONDARY SCHOOL: 77 %**

Elementary Schools: 12

Secondary Schools: 1

Areas Served: North Bay  
West Nipissing  
East Ferris  
Mattawa  
Powassan  
Callander

Trustees: 7 (+ 1 Student Trustee)

Dioceses: Sault St. Marie  
Peterborough  
Pembroke

### TRUSTEES

Barbara McCool, North Bay (Chair)

Shawn Fitzsimmons, North Bay (Vice-Chair)

Jacques Bégin, East and South of North Bay

Linda Jaimeson, North Bay

Judy Manitowabi, Nipissing First Nation

Frank O'Hagan, North Bay

John Willemsen, West Nipissing

Laura Paige - Student Trustee (SJSB)

### SENIOR ADMINISTRATION

Anna Marie Bitonti, Director of Education

Grace Barnhardt, Superintendent of Business

Joanne Bénard, Superintendent of Education

Paula Mann, Superintendent of Education

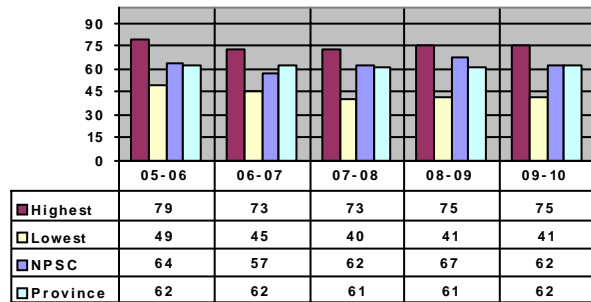
Monsignor Norm Clement, Board Chaplain



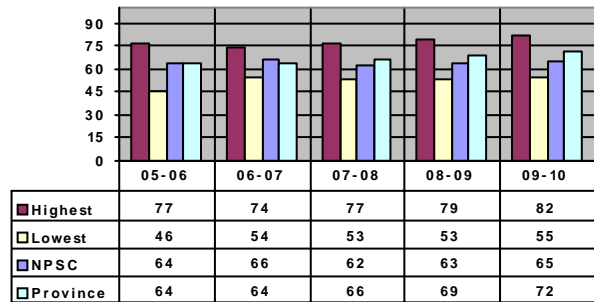
# GRADE 3, 6 & 9 EQAO ASSESSMENTS

Our team of Catholic educators and administrators approaches each school year inspired by OUR BELIEF THAT ALL STUDENTS CAN ACHIEVE.

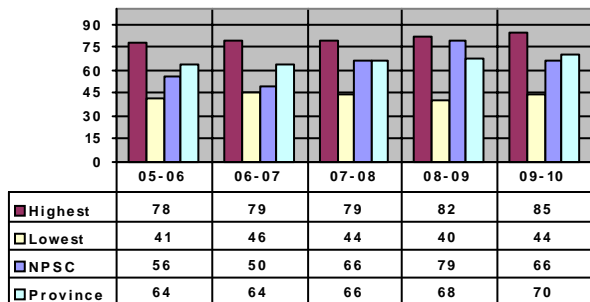
**Primary Reading**



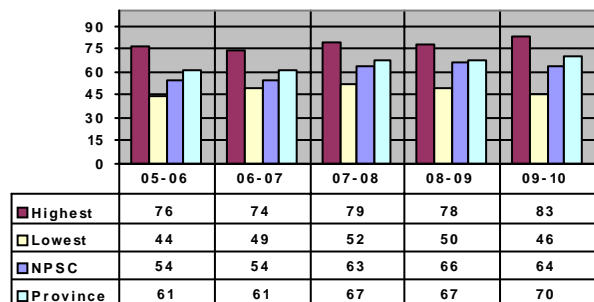
**Junior Reading**



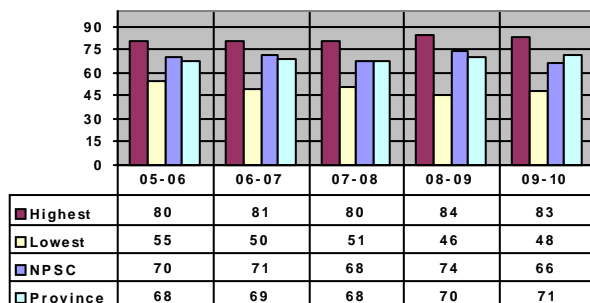
**Primary Writing**



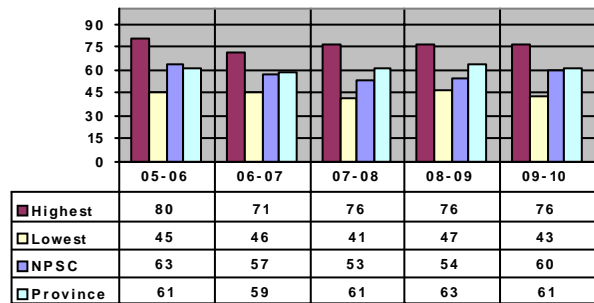
**Junior Writing**



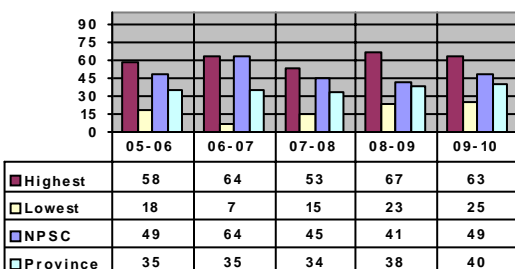
**Primary Mathematics**



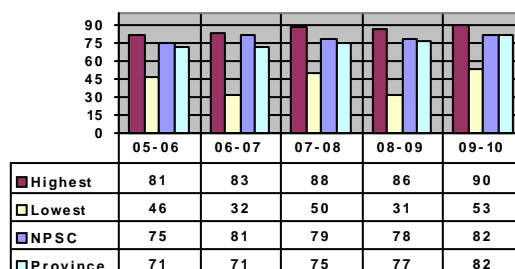
**Junior Mathematics**



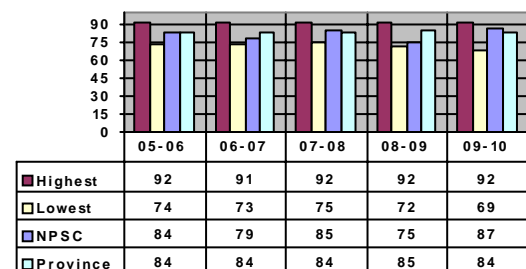
**Grade 9 Mathematics - Applied**



**Grade 9 Mathematics - Academic**

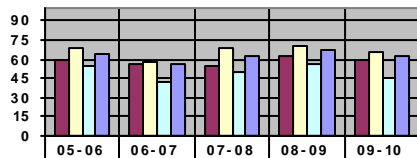


**OSSLT**



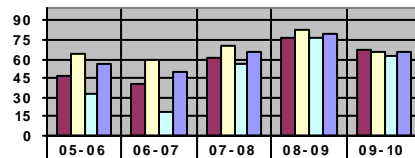
# COMPARISON BY GENDER & SPECIAL NEEDS

### Primary Reading



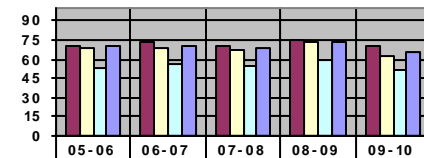
	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10
Boys	60	56	54	63	59
Girls	68	58	69	71	65
Special Needs	54	42	50	56	45
NPSC	64	57	62	67	62

### Primary Writing



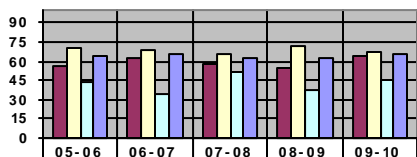
	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10
Boys	47	40	61	76	67
Girls	64	60	70	83	66
Special Needs	33	18	57	76	62
NPSC	56	50	66	79	66

### Primary Mathematics



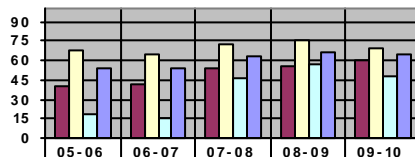
	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10
Boys	70	73	70	75	71
Girls	69	69	67	73	62
Special Needs	53	56	55	59	51
NPSC	70	71	68	74	66

### Junior Reading



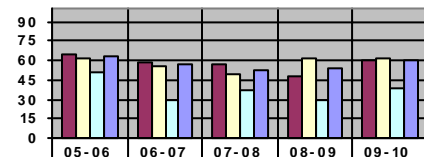
	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10
Boys	56	63	58	54	64
Girls	71	68	65	72	67
Special Needs	44	34	51	37	46
NPSC	64	66	62	63	65

### Junior Writing



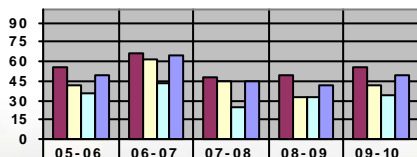
	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10
Boys	40	42	54	56	60
Girls	67	65	72	75	69
Special Needs	18	15	46	57	48
NPSC	54	54	63	66	64

### Junior Mathematics



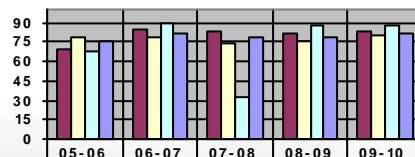
	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10
Boys	65	59	57	47	60
Girls	61	56	50	61	61
Special Needs	51	29	37	30	39
NPSC	63	57	53	54	60

### Grade 9 Mathematics - Applied



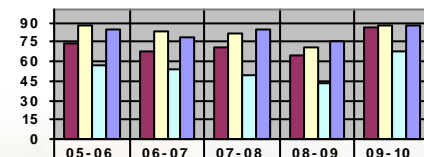
	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10
Boys	56	66	47	49	56
Girls	42	61	44	33	42
Special Needs	35	43	24	33	34
NPSC	49	64	45	41	49

### Grade 9 Mathematics - Academic



	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10
Boys	69	84	83	82	83
Girls	79	79	74	75	80
Special Needs	67	90	33	88	87
NPSC	75	81	79	78	82

### OSSLT - First Time Eligible



	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10
Boys	74	68	71	65	86
Girls	88	83	82	71	88
Special Needs	57	54	50	43	68
NPSC	84	79	85	75	87



# IMPROVING STUDENT OUTCOMES

## RECENT MEASURES

- Assistance from a Numeracy Facilitator in our Grade 3 to 6 classes.
- Catholic Professional Learning Communities: Bringing a faith perspective to all that we do and adopting a shared vision by all staff for students that focuses on *learning*.
- Enhancing Math lessons in JK, SK and Grade 1 by providing innovative in-services for our teachers through *Collaborative Inquiry and Learning Mathematics*, a Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat initiative. Participating year one schools included Our Lady of Fatima, St. Alexander and Mother St. Bride.
- Involvement in *Schools in the Middle: Effective Leadership, Effective Schools*

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

- Celebration of NPSC's tenth annual Special Education Carousel Evening, themed *10 Years of Brighter Tomorrows*, which featured workshops across the special education spectrum for parents and educators.
- Evidence-informed assessment and intervention strategies for JK-Grade 1 students.
- An examination was carried out of the Phonological Awareness and Intervention Strategies process through instructional leadership, parental involvement, professional learning and the use of assessment and data. Speech and Language staff guided JK to Grade 1 teachers through the process of implementing an inclusive classroom approach using the phonological process based on a pilot program implemented at Our Lady of Fatima and Mother St. Bride Schools.



# THE SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY IS ALIVE AT NPSC!

**ST. LUKE TOROS BREAK NEW GROUND** - The newly consolidated, vibrant community of St. Luke School (formerly Sacred Heart and St. Joseph schools) was pleased to introduce its new mascot, the Toro, to its community. Students, parents and staff spent the year preparing the school's overall new look, which now also includes official colours red and black. In this exciting time, students also met with Larocque Elder Architects in the unveiling of the images of their future, state-of-the-art school facility built for the 21st century learner, and visited the actual site for a progress update and to learn about some of the building's green features, namely its geothermal heating and cooling system.



**ST. GREGORY ALIGNS PARENT OUTREACH EFFORTS WITH GROWING SUCCESS DOCUMENT** - Inspired by the Ministry of Education's Growing Success document, St. Gregory School set out to enhance its reporting process by recruiting a Parent Reference Group made up of two to three parents per class and the Catholic School Advisory Council. The group was surveyed, mainly by phone and email, to provide open and honest feedback as a way to improve student report cards. This information was compiled to assess the level of report card readability, individuality and alignment. A summary of the results was shared with staff and strategies were developed to address next steps to continue enhancing each individual student report card.

**JOHN XXXIII BRINGS MONSTER POND HOCKEY TO COMMUNITY LEVEL** - The students, staff and parent volunteers at John XXIII school have earned recognition in the community as being stewards of physical activity. The school brought its annual Monster Pond Hockey Elementary Tournament to new heights in 2009-2010, when it invited other local school Boards to take part in this outdoor event. Sportsmanship was at its best as 32 teams from North Bay and surrounding area participated in the full day tournament at Circle Lake Park.

**STUDENT SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS** - NPSC's Parent Involvement Committee made the mindful choice to align its engagement efforts with the Board's new Safe School Policy. Its annual Parent Engagement Symposium focused on student safety, and parents, educators and community partners joined together in a series of workshops addressing topics ranging from cyber safety to anti-bullying.

**SJSH ROLLS UP ITS SLEEVES FOR YOUTH** - Pitching in is something NPSC students and staff do quite well! St. Joseph-Scollard Hall teacher Yves Perreault and a group of community-minded students joined a team of local volunteers in building a beautifully crafted gazebo for children and families at One Kids Place, a multi-faceted facility for youth.





## ABORIGINAL EDUCATION & OUTREACH

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF ONTARIO FIRST NATION, METIS & INUIT EDUCATION POLICY FRAMEWORK**

Our commitment to Aboriginal student success continues as we ensure our students have the traditional and contemporary knowledge and skills to be socially contributing and prosperous citizens nurtured by the values of our Catholic faith and the Seven Grandfather teachings. NPSC continues to support the direction of the framework and the achievement of the Ministry's three key goals: **high levels of student achievement, reducing gaps in student achievement, and high levels of public confidence.**

### **ABORIGINAL CULTURAL STUDENT RETREAT WITH NIPISSING FIRST NATION: ENGAGING STUDENTS IN CULTURE AND BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN OUR SCHOOLS AND THE FIRST NATION COMMUNITY**

Approximately 120 junior students from Our Lady of Sorrows, St. Luke, and St. Hubert schools attended this student-focused retreat at Nipissing Secondary School in June 2010. Organized in partnership with Nipissing First Nation, community organizations and Our Lady of Sorrows School, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students were provided the valuable learning opportunity to participate in workshops addressing drug awareness, peer pressure, lands and fisheries, diabetes and healthy lifestyles, traditional dancing and bannock making.

### **NATIVE CULTURAL AWARENESS RETREAT: 'KEEPING THE SPIRIT ALIVE'**

This four day enriching and spiritual retreat was designed to enhance understanding of Aboriginal culture and traditions among teachers, principals and senior administration. Held at the Canadian Ecology Center in Mattawa, Ontario, this event was a reflection of the successful partnerships between our Board and Aboriginal community partners. Each school in our system was represented by a lead teacher who each shared their newly acquired strategies and resources with their respective school staff. Some of the highlights included:

- Introduction and overview of our Board's Voluntary Confidential Aboriginal Self- Identification Policy
- Cultural Native teachings
- History of Canada: An Aboriginal Perspective
- Residential Schools Healing Circles
- Aboriginal Perspectives in the Ontario Curriculum
- Integrating Catholic Virtues through the Teaching Learning Critical Pathway
- Walking The Path Student Leadership Program
- Native Arts and Sweat Lodge Teachings.

## WALKING THE PATH

Six teachers representing Our Lady of Sorrows, Corpus Christi, St. Theresa, St. Alexander, Mother St. Bride and St. Joseph – Scollard Hall collaborated with Sgt. George Couchie of the Ontario Provincial Police to implement *Walking The Path*, a student leadership program, in our Catholic schools with the support of various Aboriginal community partners. This ten week program teaches Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal youth about the history, beliefs and cultural traditions of Aboriginal peoples.

Through different modules, *Walking the Path* touches on youth empowerment strategies, and promotes self-concept, self-esteem and respect for others. Using Anishnawbe cultural teachings and our Catholic virtues as a foundation, our teachers learned to use the program to provide insight into Aboriginal culture, and assist Aboriginal youth in particular, to instill pride in who they are and where they come from.

## COMMUNITY POW WOW...IN OUR OWN BACKYARD!

A bright and sunny day in May was spent connecting with friends in the local Aboriginal community as St. Joseph-Scollard Hall Catholic Secondary School hosted the first annual SJSH Pow Wow, "Coming Together in Friendship".

The event, which sprawled across the SJSH and NPSC Board office lawns, was marked by many special moments, making it a memorable event in the community. During the closing ceremonies, hundreds of SJSH students joined in the traditional circle and danced with full conviction alongside head dancers. At day's end, a group of these students along with staff took a moment to show their appreciation and shook the hands of the event's musical pulse — host drum groups "Little Iron" and "Poplar".

*Coming Together in Friendship* was made possible by the coming together of our Aboriginal community partners, including Nipissing First Nation, the local chapter of the Métis Nation of Ontario, the Union of Ontario Indians, Nipissing Secondary School, the North Bay Indian Friendship Centre, and the OPP.

## OUR COMMITMENT TO EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVITY CONTINUES!

Many steps were taken toward implementing the latest Ontario Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy. Consultations on this matter continued with our stakeholders throughout the year 2010.

An implementation team made up of principals, teaching and non-teaching staff, assembled in December 2009, has completed the process of revising and publishing the Board's policy. We have made this new policy accessible to both our internal and external communities through our staff intranet portal as well as our public Board website, [www.npsc.ca](http://www.npsc.ca).





## CELEBRATING OUR SUCCESSES

### **SJSH HOSTS FIRST ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL SYMPOSIUM**

Each year brings new evidence that our students are deeply invested in their commitment to Mother Earth. The Green Team at St. Joseph-Scollard Hall hosted an environmental symposium for students and staff that was so successful, they not only plan to make it an annual event, but one that will be open to the entire community in 2011. As a result of the team's research, planning and recommendations before, during and following the symposium, styrofoam is nearly phased out at the school and overall environmental awareness among the entire student body has increased.



### **BEARS MARCHING BAND – ONE OF A KIND IN NORTHERN ONTARIO**

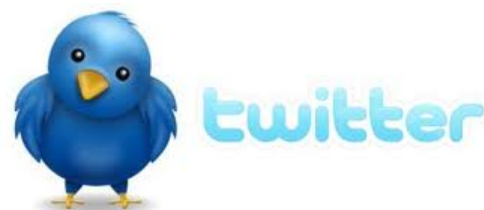
The St. Joseph-Scollard Hall Catholic Secondary School Marching Band has become a northern treasure! The band's vibrant sounds and presence have earned it gigs all over town...and well beyond city limits! The band was featured in the nationally televised Kids in the Hall series, *Death Comes to Town*, which was filmed in North Bay and premiered in January 2010 on CBC Television. The band was invited to perform at the 2010 International Plowing Match in Earleton, Ontario, at a number of secondary school sport games, Nipissing University Lakers' hockey games, and, most recently, to both the North Bay and Toronto Santa Claus Parades.

### **ACE CAMPUS REPORTS HIGHEST NUMBER OF GRADUATES TO DATE**

The Alternative and Continuing Education Campus continued to flourish in its second year of operation. ACE graduated 33 students last year, a 46 per cent increase (or 15 students) from its first year of operation. The programs at ACE continue to provide alternate ways for students and adults to obtain their high school diplomas. E-learning courses, PLAR assessments, Co-operative Education, Continuing Education courses and dual credit courses are just some of the choices that have been successful in opening doors to further education, better jobs and a higher quality of life for students and their families.

### **'TWEETING' OUR OWN HORN**

We are always looking for new ways to communicate with our staff, students, their parents and our community. We are thrilled to have embraced social media and to be sharing our good news, announcements and updates via Twitter!



Join us at [www.twitter.com/npsc\\_schools!](http://www.twitter.com/npsc_schools!)



**MOTHER ST. BRIDE SCHOOL SETS HEALTHY EXAMPLE**

The Duke Troop at Mother St. Bride School, a junior version of the community-minded Duke of Edinburgh program, are a health conscious group of students who promote healthy food choices to their peers in a number of ways. Following an analysis of garbage in the school yard, which revealed that most waste came from junk food, the group sent a letter home to all parents introducing their *No Junk in my Trunk* initiative. Healthy snacks and lunches increased at the school thanks to this and the school's *Switch It Up Basket*, a supply of healthy snacks as trade-ins to junk food in students' lunches. At MSB, students and staff are always given a healthy start thanks to a *Breakfast Clubs of Canada* grant that allows them to offer a daily healthy breakfast.

**SMALL IN SIZE BUT BIG IN HEART: HELPING HAITI**

Our Board once again demonstrated that even the small can make a huge difference. Together with the NPSC Administrative Office, our 13 Catholic schools collectively raised \$15,262 for Haiti. Immediately following the earthquake, each school community participated in fundraisers and incorporated the cause into every day school activities and prayer. Among some of the individual school contributions were Our Lady of Fatima and St. Theresa schools raising \$2,275.83 and \$1,924.55 respectively.

**OUR LADY OF SORROWS SCHOOL: SOUND FIELD AMPLIFICATION PILOT PROJECT**

An action research project was launched at Our Lady of Sorrows School in collaboration with Dr. Pam Millet of York University and Front Row amplification systems. The study focused on the impact of using Sound Field Amplification systems on improving student achievement in the areas of phonological awareness and letter sound recognition. In alignment with the policy statement articulated in the Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework, this included developing strategies that increased the capacity of our educators to respond to the learning and cultural needs of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students.

**WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN AT ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL -- SOMETHING TO ADMIRE**

Welcome to Kindergarten is a main event at St. Francis School. Each spring, school staff treat the information session with the same level of care and enthusiasm as an official grand opening! Future JK and SK students and their parents tour the school using an adventurous "passport" system, visiting exciting learning stations one by one, and are treated to a bus ride, gift bags, balloons and refreshments. This tradition has yielded fantastic turnout over the years as it builds confidence and excitement in future St. Francis students about the first day of school.

**WE ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING CHARITIES!**

- o Holy Childhood Association
- o The Gathering Place Soup Kitchen
- o PackSac Smiles Organization
- o Jump Rope for Heart
- o Patrick 4 Life
- o North Bay Food Bank
- o Pro-Cathedral of the Assumption Food Collection
- o Operation Christmas Child
- o Terry Fox Foundation
- o North Bay Santa Fund

# LEARNING WITH OUR LEADERS



## CIVICS LESSON WITH EXPERT GUEST

This was no ordinary civics lesson for St. Victor School students in Mrs. Dumont's Grade 5 class. In April, the students learned about Canadian government directly from Nipissing-Temiskaming Member of Parliament, Anthony Rota, who visited the school and whose current public service portfolio also includes Chair of the National Liberal Caucus, and Vice-Chair of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology.

## ST. HUBERT SCHOOL: A VIRTUOUS PLACE TO LEARN

Minister of Education Leona Dombrowsky experienced Virtues Education at St. Hubert School as she toured various classrooms engaged in activities geared to Differentiated Instruction. Her visit also coincided with the launch of the book *Patrick's Wish* at the school, which brought together the school, local and provincial education communities. Co-authored by St. Hubert Principal, Karen Mitchell, the book tells the story of North Bay's Patrick Fortin who contracted HIV as a hemophiliac child and whose biggest wish was for a world with zero AIDS.



## ST. ALEXANDER STUDENTS "WORM" UP TO COMPOSTING WITH MPP SMITH

Things became a little greener at St. Alexander School in 2010 soon after student got their hands dirty with Greening Nipissing and MPP Monique Smith. As part of an environmental education program funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Ms. Chasse's Grade 5/6 class used a vermicomposter inhabited by hundreds of worms to produce nutrient-rich organic fertilizer and soil conditioner in an effort to reduce organic waste. Last year, the class also welcomed lessons from Greening Nipissing on energy sources and waste management.

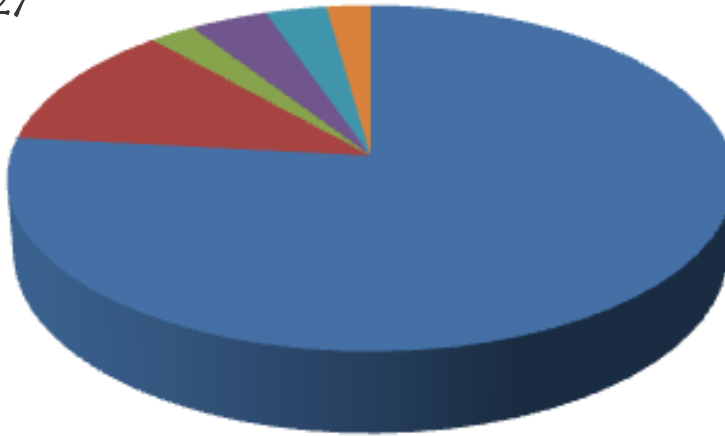


# BOARD OPERATIONS 2009-2010

Actual as per Audited Financial Statements, August 31, 2010

## REVENUES

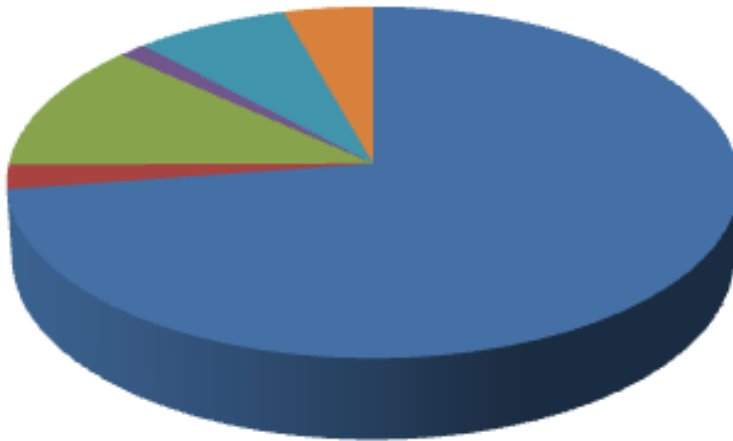
\$43,947,127



- Provincial Legislative Grants  
\$33,715,396
- Local Taxation  
\$5,151,531
- Tuition Fees  
\$1,011,878
- Provincial Grants  
\$1,736,419
- Other  
\$1,352,887
- School Funds  
\$979,016

## EXPENDITURES

\$43,719,342



- Instructional  
\$31,757,839
- School Funds  
\$984,664
- School Operations, Maintenance, Pupil Accommodation  
\$5,167,709
- Other  
\$590,222
- Pupil Transportation  
\$3,307,940
- Administration & Governance  
\$1,910,968

## OPERATING SURPLUS

\$227,785

As a faith community, we provide learning opportunities  
that INSPIRE, NURTURE and CELEBRATE  
each learner's journey to:

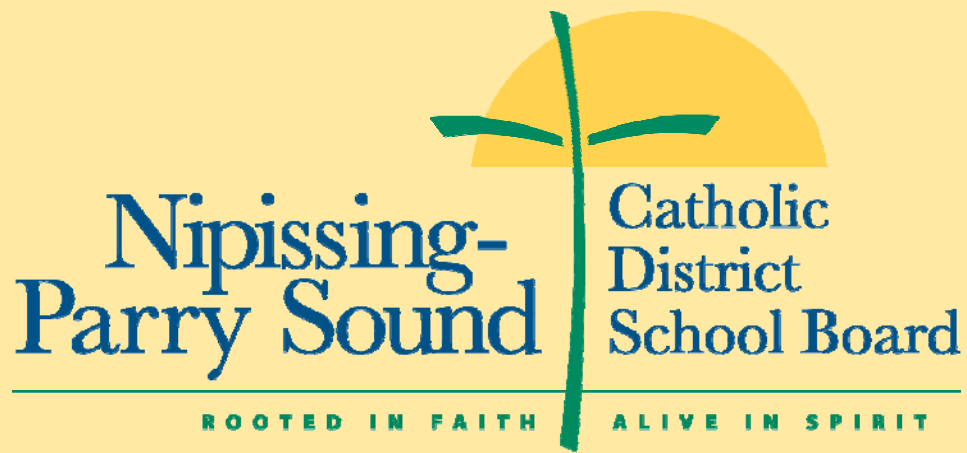
Reach their full potential

Be a contributing member of society

Live the richness of their faith

Embrace lifelong learning





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