

Student Success

Support for all Students

Volume 4 Issue 2

December 1, 2008

Superior North Catholic DSB

Speak Up : Student Led Projects and The Minister's Advisory Council

In October, The Minister of Education announced the "Speak Up" initiative to assist with promoting student voice in Ontario Schools. There are two distinct parts to the "Speak Up" initiatives, which include funding for student led projects and the Minister's Student Advisory Council.

Superior North Catholic has submitted two applications for student-led, teacher facilitated projects. Holy Angels has submitted an application for their project titled "Promoters of Peace." The goal of the Promoters of Peace project is to empower students in grades 7 and 8 to become activists for social change. Students will be provided opportunities to see themselves as citizens of the world helping others out a sense of human dignity. St Hilary Student Council has submitted a project titled Multi Age Group Activities. Students were surveyed in regards to extra-curricular activities they would like to participate in which were not already part of the school's yearly activities. On a monthly basis students will participate in self selected activities. As all students will participate in this project in multi-age groups there will be opportunities for the demonstration of leadership as well as learning and sharing with one another.

"The Minister's Student Advisory Council is a group of 60 students from across Ontario. These students will share their ideas and provide advice to the minister on how to make Ontario's schools the best

in the world. It is a place where students have a voice and where they are heard".

The council will meet twice a year in Toronto to provide student input and opinions to the minister. Students are required to commit to a minimum of one year and a maximum of two years. Members of the Council will also attend a regional forum on student voice. Superior North Catholic has submitted five applications for this council. Participating schools include; Holy Saviour, St. Martin and St. Hilary.

Thank you to the students who sent in applications for the Speak Up initiative. Thanks to the teachers, principals and parents who supported these students in the application process.



Differentiated Instruction Resources for Administrators and Teachers

Schools are awaiting the new differentiated instruction resources which were shared at the regional session on November 12, 2008. Superior North Catholic Principals were introduced to the resources at the November Leadership meeting. The new resources provide professional development sessions which administrators can use in professional learning communities to compliment existing resources including strategy cards, DVD, and guides to assist with the implementation of differentiated instruction.

On January 30th which is a professional development day intermediate teachers will continue with differentiated instruction. Teachers

will have the opportunity to explore ways technology can support differentiation in the classroom. Teachers who have completed the unit of study they developed at our September PD day will also have the opportunity to share successes and challenges faced during the implementation of the units they planned using the backwards design process.

"Effective teachers believe that all students can learn and be successful. Effective teachers consciously create a climate where all students feel included. Effective teachers believe there is potential in every learner and commit to unlocking that potential" .

Gayle H. Gregory.