



# Celebrating Student Success

[Sign up](#) to Stay in Touch

Follow us on



*November 2015 - In This Issue of the Durham Catholic School Board's Celebrating Student Success Newsletter:*

[Be Safe App connects Students to Local Mental Health Resources](#)

[Parish and Community Connections](#)

[Exploring Pathways](#)

[Student Voice](#)

[Student Achievement](#)

## **Be Safe App connects Students to Local Mental Health Resources**



Durham youth now have access to 24 hours of local mental health resources thanks to the "Be Safe" app. The app was created in 2014 in London Middlesex to help youth connect with local mental health resources in their community. Since then, the app has expanded to

include thirteen other Ontario communities, including Durham Region.

"The Durham Catholic District School is committed to promoting the health and wellness of all our students - the "Be Safe" app is another tool for our students to use when they need it the most," said Diane Mullane, Mental Health Leader at the Durham Catholic District School Board. "It's vital that youth have access to 24 hour support when faced with a mental health crisis - this app offers young people help at their fingertips and helps youth navigate the various pathways to services and supports."

[Download the app today](#) to your iphone or android devices. Join us in promoting the "Be Safe" app by sharing this message and together, we can help save a life.

## Parish and Community Connections

### **Monsignor John Pereyma Catholic Secondary School partners with Norway on NORCAN Project.**

NORCAN is a partnership between schools, the Ministry of Education and Teacher Federation officials from Alberta, Norway and Ontario focused on enhancing excellence through equity in the subject area of mathematics. [Click here to view a slide show](#) to learn more.



### **Celebrating the Walk of Faith**

On October 20th, the Durham Catholic District School Board launched a year-long Walk of

Faith procession. The walk is part of the Board's three year New Evangelization plan with year one focussed on "Witnessing Faith".

The cross was blessed at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Pickering following Mass. Grade 8 students from Father Fénelon Catholic School proudly walked the cross from church to their school, passing by their new school which is currently under construction.



Above: Students carry the Walk of Faith cross from Holy Redeemer Catholic Church to Father Fénelon Catholic School.

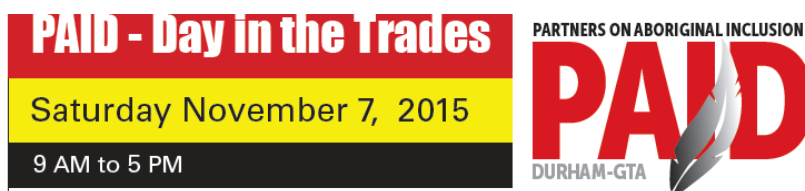
More than 3,200 students and staff from our elementary and secondary schools will carry the cross over the 2015-2016 school year. Find out when the [Walk of Faith cross will be at your school](#) and join us in witnessing our faith.

## Encouraging Student Success Through Partnerships



Developing a career path can be difficult, especially when trying to navigate the intricate steps involved in setting up an apprenticeship and joining a trade union. To ensure that all members of our community are served, the Durham Catholic District School Board has partnered with the Aboriginal Apprenticeship Board of Ontario (AABO). Recently, the school board entered into an agreement with Partners on Aboriginal Inclusion-Durham (PAID). The mandate of this group is to improve the recruitment and training of Aboriginal peoples in the construction industry. PAID provides employment opportunities, additional training and support in essential skills, interview skills, pre-apprenticeship/work readiness, safety, and adult upgrading. Although this is available to all First Nations, Metis and Inuit (FNMI) individuals, a special focus is on our FNMI students. Along with the training, outreach activities are provided.

A 'Day in the Trades' career fair will be held **Saturday, November 7 from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the Darlington Energy Centre**, 855 Energy Drive, Courtice, ON. Participants will have an opportunity to speak with Building Trade Union representatives, employers and contractors, and view live and interactive demonstrations. Information about present and future employment opportunities will be available. This event is open to all students.



---

## Experiential Learning

### Cooperative Education Student Reflections

#### Grade One All Over Again!

By: Miguel Ruiz

Another busy day of cooperative education has passed, and as usual, I am very tired. My co-op placement takes place in a Grade 1 classroom and consists of many duties and tasks that I must perform.

Grade 1 students are very full of energy and are hard to settle down, which is where I come in. I have to make sure that all of the children have settled down and are ready for their teacher after recess. Once the students begin working on an activity, I assign myself to a small group or work with an individual student to help make sure they are working well and efficiently. During my co-op placement, I often teach and run activities with students and mark school work or prepare student agendas for the kids to take home.

My experience in a first grade classroom has taught me many things that I could never have learned sitting in a regular classroom. I now have a better appreciation and understanding for teachers. It has boosted my confidence in speaking to large groups and has helped me gain patience and strong leadership skills that I can take with me if I choose to further pursue a career in teaching.

#### Making Classroom Learning Relevant in Cooperative Education

By: Annie Vieira

Having a cooperative education placement at Baker Animal Clinic has greatly increased my interest in veterinary science. For the longest period of time, I aspired to become a veterinarian. After starting co-op, I immediately realized that being a veterinarian is still the top profession of choice for me. This opportunity has greatly increased my knowledge and interest in veterinary science. From watching the most fascinating surgeries, to making up buster collars for future patients, I have truly enjoyed every minute of co-op. There is no comparison between being in a biology class at school and actually having a placement at a vet clinic. Having co-op really makes everything that I learned in biology class more real.



## Exploring Pathways

### Dual Credit students take a trip to the World Press Photo Exhibition



From left to right: Peter Brand, Durham College Instructor and Archbishop Denis O'Connor Catholic High School students visit the World Press Photo Exhibition in Toronto.

Archbishop Denis O'Connor CHS students visited the Brookfield Place in Toronto to view the "World Press Photo Exhibition". Top photojournalists from all over the world submit their best photos/stories. The exhibition represents the finalists. The second part of the trip was an urban photo shoot where students photographed the city to practice camera techniques and photo composition. These students are participating in a Photography 1 course, which is a team-taught dual credit course taught jointly by a high school teacher and a college instructor.

The dual credit program is a successful learning model that is intended to assist secondary school students in the completion of their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) and lead them to a successful transition to college or apprenticeship. This Ministry of Education approved program allows students, while they are still in secondary school, to take college or apprenticeship courses. The dual credit program benefits students by:

- increasing awareness of various college and apprenticeship programs
- experiencing a college course while still in high school
- supporting a positive transition to college, should they pursue this pathway, as they will have gained first-hand understanding of post-secondary expectations, and more.

If successful, two credits are recorded: one on the high school transcript and the second on the college transcript. Dual credit opportunities vary from year to year, so students are encouraged to speak with a guidance counselor to explore dual credit options in their school.

## **Revving up to Restore at Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School**

Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School students in Mr. Salmer's Grade 11 Transportation Technology class are revving up to begin restoration and custom modification on a 1938 Chevy Business Coupe. This project will involve the work of many Transportation Technology students over a five to six year period.



Dominik Mauti hopes to one day work in the automotive sector, and he describes why he is engaged in this project, "I like old cars, 1930s to 1950s. We get to weld, grind, and I love that our teacher gives us some freedom on what we want to do". Fellow classmate John Theurer added, "it's cool being able to see a rust bucket turn into something that will be really cool in the end".

Above: Grade 11 Transportation Technology students at Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School work on restoring a 1938 Chevy Business Coupe.

---

## **Student Voice**

### **Secondary Students provide Input into the Grade 8 Transition Guide**

In an effort to update and refresh the Grade 8 Transition Guide, the Student Success department held two focus group sessions with Grade 9 and 10 students at Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School and Notre Dame Catholic Secondary Schools. The students provided feedback on the guide's content and how they used it when moving from elementary school to high school.

Students are looking for practical and informative information to help them prepare for high school - feedback included:

- The courses a student needs in order to graduate
- How to read course codes and how to select courses
- Information on the summer preparation course called Head Start
- Tips on how to manage their time and homework expectations

- Volunteering - examples of acceptable volunteering opportunities
- Budgeting for High School - how much money to save for uniforms, school supplies and/or lunch money.

Their valuable input will help shape the content for the 2015-2016 edition of the Grade 8 Transition Guide.



Above: Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School students share their thoughts and ideas on the Grade 8 Transition Guide



Above: Grade 9 and 10 students at Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School provide feedback on the Transition Guide.

## Student Achievement

### All Saints Catholic Secondary School student addresses Canadian Education Foundation of Ontario

Every year the Canadian Education Foundation of Ontario holds a banquet to honour students who have distinguished themselves in their Catholic high schools. This year, All Saints Catholic Secondary School's nominee, Jordan Samaroo, had the honour of addressing the assembly with a student speech.

In exploring what it means to be a Catholic student in today's society, Jordan encouraged his fellow recipients to pray continuously and while living and learning in their faith, to realize there is always a place at the Lord's Table. To standing ovations, he reminded the group that

while good work is achieved in all schools, we know why we are doing it, and to strive to be Stewards of Peace and Messengers of Christ. Jordan is also serving as one of two Student Trustees with our Board this year.



Above: Student Trustee and All Saints Catholic Secondary School student, Jordan Samaroo addresses the Canadian Education Foundation of Ontario.

Other Durham Catholic District School Board students recognized at the Canadian Education Foundation of Ontario included:

- Katherine McCormick, Archbishop Dennis O'Connor Catholic High School
- Colin Orian, Father Leo J. Austin Catholic Secondary School
- Jacob O'Blenes, Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School
- Briana Farrugia, Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School
- Kaitlyn Rose, Monsignor John Pereyma Catholic Secondary School
- Sarah Fay, Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School
- Gabrielle Koening, St Mary Catholic Secondary School

At the Durham Catholic District School Board, we believe that all students can be successful, that success comes in many forms, and that there are many pathways to success. If you have a story idea for an upcoming newsletter, please email your story for consideration to [student.success@dcdsb.ca](mailto:student.success@dcdsb.ca).

**How can you stop receiving email from us?**

Simply click the link at the bottom of any future email we send you to instantly and securely unsubscribe. If you do not confirm your subscription, you will not receive any future emails from us.

