

Focus on Faith Committee

Meeting Highlights – January 14, 2019

Every school in the Board will be receiving plaques with images and titles of the seven Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations categories. The expectations outlined on the plaques differ for secondary and elementary students but the images are the same. All schools are using these expectations as a commitment to ensuring this Catholic curricular framework is at the forefront of our school communities.

Catholic Education Week 2019 runs from May 5 until May 10. The theme for the week will follow the school year theme of *Living as Joyful Disciples* with a different focus daily. The annual Walk for Justice is scheduled for Wednesday, May 8. Connections between the Board's theme and the Development & Peace campaign Share the Journey – No One Should be Forced to Leave Their Home, are being formulated.

Response by staff to Faith Day 2018 was very positive. David Wells, Religious Educator and Catechist from England, relayed a tremendous message that fit with the theme for the school year. Efforts are underway to confirm a guest speaker for the 2019, 2020 and 2021 Faith Day celebrations.

We are implementing the Grade 4 *Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ* religion program this year. Some schools are piloting the Grade 5 program. The churches have prepared a double cohort for receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation. The double cohort for First Eucharist will start preparations during Lent in time to receive the sacrament in the Easter season. Some schools have priests working with their students who have missed sacraments.

Sister Pat will be sending out a survey to teachers about Christian meditation with children (CMWC). The committee would like to know how CMWC is being implemented in the Board.

Come Learn, Explore and Grow in Catholic Education