



Renfrew County District School Board

Director's Report - April 26, 2010

1. Education Week - May 3-7th

Our Minister of Education, Leona Dombrowsky recently announced that this year's theme for Education Week is **Preparing Our Students for Future Success**. Education Week is an opportunity to celebrate all of the excellent work happening in our schools and many schools are using the week to showcase the wonderful accomplishments of our students. One example of the many events planned during the week is the official opening of the Native Language Room and Arts Room at Eganville District Public School. An honour ceremony signifying the opening of these rooms is scheduled for Monday, May 3rd at 10:00 a.m.

2. Options 2010

One of the more successful events in preparation for Education Week is Options 2010 planned for this Wednesday, April 28th at the Pembroke Memorial Centre. Options 2010 is a skilled trades fair that provides students, teachers and the general public with an opportunity to learn more about the trades and the growing need to attract young people to apprenticeship training opportunities. This year more than 250 senior high school students will compete in skills competitions including welding, team carpentry, hairstyling, and small engine repair. Options will also host a job fair for people of all ages to help them learn about the future opportunities in the skilled trades.

3. Innovative Music and Technology Programs for Grade 7 and 8 Students

The RCDSB has recognized the value of tactile and experiential learning in order to meet the needs of all students. Starting in September 2010, grade 7 and 8 students at the new intermediate school in Renfrew and the K-12 school in Deep River will be given formal instruction in instrumental music and technological education as part of their educational program. Music and technology will be extended to other communities in future years, including the new K-12 school in Petawawa. The Board's strategic plan has been the catalyst for these programs as educational staff has been given the green light to be innovative and creative in developing new programs. By having a multi-year vision for programs, the staff has been more focused and intentional in the allocation of human and physical resources in supporting specialized programs. Research on brain development extols the virtues of music education and the Ministry of Education's student success initiatives have shown the tremendous value in engaging intermediate students in hands-on experiential programs such as technological education.

4. Environmental Education Champions Day

On Wednesday, April 7th Fellowes High School played host to Environmental Champions from schools across the county. The day was planned by our elementary Student Success Leader, Ivan Saari, and was designed around helping teachers and administrators create environmental plans for their schools. The Keynote Speaker was Aboriginal Elder, Sam Conroy and she spoke about how important it is for us to be in balance with nature in our world today. At the end of the day, Elder Conroy commented, "It makes my heart glad to see keen teachers and admin staff working to make the world a better place and I know that those school plans that were developed today will result in great improvements to the water, air, and earth. I wish my children could be students in your schools at this time!"

5. Exemplary Partnership with Petawawa Town Council

On Monday, April 19th the Director of Education and Board Chairperson Reiche were invited to attend the public session of the Petawawa Town Council meeting. We were warmly welcomed by town council and Mayor Sweet presented us with a lovely framed memento signifying the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement in December 2009. The Memorandum of Agreement officially transferred the title of land from the Town of Petawawa to the RCDSB so we can build the new K-12 facility beside the Civic Centre Complex. The framed memento includes photographs and documents capturing this historic occasion and will be kept in the board room until it can be proudly displayed in the lobby of the new school.

6. Hockey Canada Skills Academy Comes to Hockey Town!

On Tuesday, April 13th the Program Committee was treated to a dynamic presentation from the teaching staff of the new Hockey Canada Skills Academy Program at Fellowes High School. Principal Baird and his team of Keith Roach, Kevin Gravel, and Pat Childerhose shared their vision of this new and innovative program for male and female students starting September 2010. The Fellowes Team talked about the many partners involved in this project and how Hockey Canada has already complimented the school for its thorough and comprehensive application. As demonstrated by our four-time CJHL Champions, the Pembroke Lumber Kings, successful programs are built on passion and a commitment to excellence - qualities clearly exhibited by the Fellowes Team!