



Renfrew County District School Board

Director's Report - August 30, 2010

1. Restorative Justice

Initiated by the RCDSB strategic plan, seven of our teachers have just participated in a four-day intensive summer institute to acquire skills and certification needed to be facilitators for situations involving restorative justice. Restorative practices can be used in progressive discipline and are particularly valuable in situations where relationships have been severely compromised. Such practices typically bring individuals together who have done harm and have been harmed. The aim is to have the individuals face the consequences of their actions and work toward repairing the damaged relationship. Restorative justice practices have proven effective in reducing the number of repeat incidents for behaviours such as bullying.

The institute was put on by a working group of partners including the Renfrew County District School Board, Renfrew County Catholic District School Board, Family and Children's Services and the Phoenix Centre. Approximately 65 people, including 14 from RCDSB, attended the overview day and the full institute was capped at 35 people. Newly accredited facilitators from our Board include: Veletia Richards, Amy Johnson, Debra Metzger, Dennis Weatherdon, Karen Brumm, Eileen Leslie and Tim Waterhouse.

2. Parent Involvement Committee - "Achieving as One" Symposium

Mark Saturday, September 25th on your calendar as the Parent Involvement Committee will be hosting their fourth annual "Achieving as One" Symposium. This year's event will be held at Fellowes High School in Pembroke and the guest speakers featured this year will be Dr. Karyn Gordon and Dr. Eva Olsson. Dr. Gordon is one of North America's leading authorities on understanding and motivating Generation Y and Dr. Olsson is a Holocaust survivor who has dedicated her life to teaching the virtues of peace and justice for all.

In addition to our dynamic guest speakers, there will be a full slate of workshops and presentations that will appeal to a wide range of parents and educators. Registration information can be obtained by accessing the new Parent Involvement Committee website at <http://pic.renfrew.edu.on.ca> or speak to your local school principal.

3. Excellence in Building and Learning

Despite record high temperatures and an incredible short summer work season, the Plant Staff are to be commended for the excellent work they have done over the summer. In particular, renovations at Renfrew Collegiate Institute included a new main office area on the first floor, technologically advanced classrooms, revitalized technological and music rooms and a professionally designed exterior courtyard (with gazebo and wrought iron fencing). Consequently, the school is well prepared to receive its first cohort of Grade 7 and 8 students for the coming 2010-2011 school year. Principal Emon and her staff will be hosting a barbeque for the students and their parents this Thursday, September 2nd at 5:00 pm on the school grounds.

In addition to the RCI project, our Phase 1 Early Learning Centres at Beachburg, Cobden, McNab and Palmer Rapids Public Schools underwent renovations to accommodate the introduction of the Ministry of Education's full-day every day kindergarten program for this September.