



Renfrew County District School Board

Director's Report - February 23, 2009

Leadership in Action

NTIP

On Wednesday, February 18th, our *New Teacher Induction Program Committee planned an interactive session for 37 new teachers (protégées) at Renfrew CI in Renfrew. The session included activities in the areas of Differentiated Instruction, Assessment and Evaluation, and Character Development. Presenters included Debra Rantz, Lauren Wilson, Angie McGrath, Sara Graham, Mimi Mahaffy and Dean Zadow. The day was well received by the protégées as indicated on their feedback forms. The committee wishes to extend its appreciation to Trustees Terry Harkins and Marjorie Doering for dropping by and supporting the session.

Early Development Instrument

Under the leadership of Cathy Kyle, our Primary Division Consultant, kindergarten teachers from across the county converged at Champlain Discovery PS on February 3rd and 4th and to complete the Early Development Indicator. The EDI is a measure of the readiness to learn of pre-school children from a particular geographic region in Ontario. The EDI provides data about how well communities are supporting pre-school children and their parents. The Ontario Early Years Centre in our area needs this data to obtain funding and to organize supports for pre-school children and their parents in different parts of Renfrew County.

Each kindergarten teacher completes a checklist on behalf of each SK student in his/her class. The teacher uses his/her knowledge of the child from the first half of the school year in completing the checklist. Student names are not recorded and the data is not published on a school-by-school basis. The EDI data assists schools and school boards in understanding and meeting the needs of groups of students and could help in making wise use of resources. McMaster University has been contracted to collate the information and produces aggregate data reports according to pre-determined geographic areas (often by postal code).

Environmental Education

Four educators and our Student Trustee, Renée Lance, will be attending the inaugural Environmental Education Symposium in Toronto from February 24-26. This symposium will launch the Environmental Education Policy Framework and showcase environmental education initiatives and resources for system leaders and educators. Scott Rubie (Admaston PS), Jane Grant (ADHS), Jessica Young (ADHS), and Lauren Wilson will be joining Renée at the symposium. Dr. Roberta Bondar is the keynote speaker and the conference is being promoted as a "green symposium" with many actions being taken to minimize the use of resources and the carbon footprint of the event.

Student Success

As part of the government's commitment to the Student Success Strategy, we received notification on February 11th of a one-time allocation of \$101,506.33. This funding is to be used to advance four priority areas: outdoor experiences for students; hands-on learning opportunities for elementary and secondary students in areas such as the arts, science and technology; secondary school boys' literacy; and safety issues and environmental concerns in technological education programs and facilities. Superintendent Sliwa will be working with our Health, Safety and Wellness Manager Bill Murray, our Health and Safety Officer Penny Williamson, and our Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Coordinator, Terry Hoelke to spend this funding wisely before March 31, 2009.

District Reviews Completed

Palmer Rapids Public School - January 28, 2009

Eganville District Public School - February 18, 2009

*New Teacher Induction Program Committee:

Co-Chairs - Dean Zadow (GPHS) and Cathy Kyte (Killaloe PS)

Teacher Representatives - Scott Buffam (RCI), Harvey Cowan (MVDHS),
Tammy MacIsaac (FHS), Sara Graham (Cobden PS)

Administration - Angie McGrath (Cobden PS), Jacqueline Poirier (FHS)

Federation Support - Alice Paige (ETFO), Dave Cresswell (ETFO OT), Jeff Barber (OSSTF)