



Renfrew County District School Board

Director's Report - March 29, 2010

RCDSB's Summer Learning Program Recognized at the Provincial Level

Over the past twenty years, the Renfrew County District School Board has provided remedial support to primary-age children through its "Summer Booster" programs. These programs focus on essential skills for reading, writing and mathematics, and are offered in a number of communities during the month of July.

Last summer, our Booster Program Co-ordinator, Principal Brent McIntyre, and teachers Trista Baker and Maria Manwell met with researchers from the provincial Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat, who wished to learn more about our innovative approach for supporting student learning. The researchers acknowledged a number of successful practices that they believed contributed to the success of approach, including: purposeful academic programming and assessment of student learning with high interest recreational activities.

The Board was honoured by a request to present its model for summer learning at the Ontario Research Symposium held last month in Toronto. Our staff shared the consistent results that our students achieve and, how these gains benefit students when they return to the classroom in September.

This past month, the Student Achievement Division of the Ministry of Education has announced a new Ministry initiative to extend summer learning to 35 boards and potentially 65 classes or 1000 students. The Ministry was so impressed with our program that they have embedded aspects of the Board's Summer Booster program in this pilot project.

Over 150 students participated in the Summer Booster programs in July 2009, with program sites offered in Arnprior, Renfrew, Cobden, Eganville, Pembroke, Petawawa, and Deep River. Ministry funding will provide support for at least one additional class for the 2010 summer program.

eLearning Symposium

RCDSB staff will be participating in a Regional eLearning Symposium to be held at Algonquin College, Woodroffe Campus on May 6th. The theme of the symposium is "eMagine the Possibilities" and the focus will be eLearning as part of the Student Success initiative. A goal of the symposium is to increase awareness of the possibilities for students through eLearning. Our county will be well represented by curriculum and continuing education staff, principals, guidance teachers and student success teachers. We currently have 141 students registered in 155 eLearning courses this semester.

Exhibiting Character Values!

On Friday, March 26th, students from the Renfrew Family of Schools got together at Renfrew Collegiate Institute to participate in the Project Love Pack Up activity. For the past several months, elementary students in Renfrew have been raising money to purchase kits of school supplies for needy children. Students from Admaston, Central, and Queen Elizabeth Public Schools worked collaboratively with secondary students from RCI to assemble over 1000 kits of school supplies. The students clearly demonstrate our Character Education Values of caring, respect, initiative, and optimism by raising enough money to purchase the supplies for these kits for needy students.

Aboriginal Education

Jackie Stadnyk, our Junior/Intermediate Curriculum Consultant, has been working with a group of grade 6 teachers, Shelley Smith and Jody Alexander (EDPS) and Colette Peplinskie-Mantifel (Killaloe), to put together a language/social studies unit with a Native Studies focus. Much of the focus of the unit was on the history of Native People, what happened when Europeans arrived and the views of both Native and European people in terms of subsequent events. The inquiry approach was used, with a central inquiry question, around which the content and language expectations were organized. Once the finishing touches have been made, the unit and an accompanying text will be sent to all grade 6 teachers. The RCDSB continues to look for ways to support our staff and students in gaining further knowledge of Aboriginal history, culture and perspectives.