



Renfrew County District School Board

Director's Report - May 31, 2010

1. Administrators on the Move!

The month of May has been a busy one for senior administration as several principals and vice-principals have been appointed or transferred to new positions. As in the past, the catalyst for change continues to be leaves, retirements and administrators completing their term assignments in their respective schools. Here is a summary of the changes:

- Jodie Barrett will become the Principal for Special Services and Bronwyn Scott will replace her as Principal of McNab Public School;
- Terry Burwell will be moving to Herman Street Public School and his replacement at Champlain Discovery Public School is Etienne Lantos;
- Margaret Maloney will move across town to Central Public School and Lisa Murphy will become Principal of Queen Elizabeth Public School;
- Ivan Saari moves over to Morison Public School to become the Transition Lead for the consolidation process in Deep River and will assist Principal Greg Harkness with the administrative duties associated with the incoming Keys students;
- Dean Zadow has been appointed Interim Principal of Pinecrest Public School;
- Tracey Stevens has been appointed Interim Principal of Admaston Public School;
- Amy Johnson becomes the new Vice-Principal of Opeongo High School and Bo Stelmach moves to the same role at Madawaska Valley District High School;
- Debra Metzger joins the administrative team at Fellowes High School as Vice-Principal and Tom Havey returns to Arnprior District High School as Interim Vice-Principal;
- Craig Myers becomes the new Vice-Principal of the Renfrew Collegiate Intermediate School;
- Stella Callighen becomes Interim Vice-Principal of Walter Zadow Public School;
- Mimi Mahaffy becomes the Vice-Principal at Rockwood Public School, replacing the retiring Murielle MacLaggan.

There are still vacancies to be filled and it is expected that process will be completed by mid July 2010.

2. Specialist High Skills Majors Continue to Expand in Renfrew County

The RCDSB received good news this past month to the tune of \$493,500 for expanded Specialist High Skills Major programs at our secondary schools. The additional funding will support the following: contextualized learning activities, student certification and training programs, capital equipment, tracking of student success, promotion and marketing, teaching training and partnership development, experiential learning, and reach ahead experiences.

The sectors that have been approved and will be implemented this fall in our seven secondary schools include: Arts and Culture, Business, Construction, Energy, Environment, Forestry, Health and Wellness, Hospitality and Tourism, Justice, Community Safety and Emergency Services, Manufacturing, and Transportation.

Specialist High Skills Majors are program pathways that let students focus on a career path that matches their skills and interests. Each major is comprised of specialized learning opportunities with a bundle of 8-10 courses in the student's selected field.

3. Staff Success Stories!

While we are approaching the time of year where we highlight the success of our students through graduation exercises, our system is also blessed with many dedicated and talented staff members. Here is just a sample of some of the accomplishments of our staff:

- Shannon Cassidy-Rouleau of McNab Public School has written a children's book entitled, *Destiny's Purpose*. The story is about an alpaca named Destiny that develops alopecia, a rare immune system disorder that results in the loss of hair. The story chronicles the trials and tribulations of the young alpaca as he struggles with self-esteem issues as these animals are usually well-known for their gorgeous fleece. Mrs. Cassidy-Rouleau has also created a teacher's guide with a wide range of learning activities connected to the curriculum and was a feature of our most recent visit to McNab Public School during a district review.
- Fay St. John of Herman Street Public School submitted a success story to the Ministry of Education that is now being featured on the Ministry of Education's Healthy Schools Recognition Program website www.edu.on.ca. With the help of her students, she created a fictitious character "Albert" who weighed over 300lbs. She used this character to motivate the school's student population to get outside and walk or jog one kilometre a day. When each class completes the distance, a footprint is placed by the class in the gym. Each footprint represents the weight that Albert has lost as a result of the students' efforts. To date, Albert has lost 75 pounds.
- Michael and Liz Wright of Renfrew Collegiate Institute were recently acknowledged by the Renfrew Business Association as winners of the Community Organization Award for their tireless dedication to the Relay for Life. The recipients of this award are chosen from public nominations. The award is presented to a non-profit group or organization that through its work or special project has generated community pride and has had a significant impact in Renfrew and area.
- Brian Hebert and Mark Fairfield of Fellowes High School were recently acknowledged by the Provincial Partnership Council for their outstanding commitment to providing experiential learning opportunities to Ontario high school students. As a result of their contributions they received the 2010 Passport to Prosperity Employer Champion Award and were nominated for this award by the Pembroke Regional Hospital.
- Kevin Ryan of our Plant Department has been invited by Lockinvar Boilers of Toronto to attend a conference in Nashville, Tennessee. Kevin initiated a comprehensive diagnostic troubleshooting process to resolve a reoccurring boiler failure with the new boilers at Madawaska Valley District High School. As a result of Kevin's involvement and a trip to the Toronto office to disassemble their showroom boiler, Kevin demonstrated to their engineers what they needed to do to correct the problem. Lockinvar then sent a team of six staff, including design engineers, service technicians, and the manager of international sales and marketing, from their Nashville office, to MVDHS. The Nashville team was impressed by the measures Kevin had taken to keep the boilers operational. The Manager of Lockinvar commented that no one in the history of their organization had ever gone through such an exhaustive troubleshooting process to resolve a problem. In addition to attending the conference, Kevin will be leading a training seminar at their Nashville production facility and meeting with design engineers to get his input on new product development.