



## **Renfrew County District School Board**

### **Director's Report - September 28, 2009**

#### **1. Aboriginal Education Funding**

The Aboriginal Education Office (AEO) of the Ministry of Education provides funding to school boards to support their capacity to implement the First Nations, Métis & Inuit Framework, including building and enhancing partnerships with Aboriginal communities and organizations, to support student achievement. The RCDSB received \$135,400 to support the implementation of five previously submitted proposals, including a South Algonquin community outreach project to support our two new schools in Whitney and Madawaska, second year funding for the Learning Circle Partnership Project between the Mindiwin Manido Day Care facility and Eganville District Public School, a regional mentoring school project, an Aboriginal digital stories project and continued funding for the highly successful regional symposium on Early Learning and Aboriginal Education. Superintendents Sliwa and Jenkins will provide the leadership in fulfilling our implementation obligations associated with this funding.

#### **2. Renfrew County Supports Military Students Overseas**

From September 10<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, a team of educators and support staff from RCDSB visited two Canadian international schools in Europe to support the programming of military students. Mrs. Sheila Rennick and Mrs. Tawni Welk spent seven days between the Canadian International Schools at SHAPE in Mons, Belgium and AFNORTH in Brunssum, Holland. Mrs. Rennick and Mrs. Welk were responsible for assisting secretarial and teaching staff convert their student management systems to Trillium and also to train teaching staff on the implementation of the Ontario Report Card. Mrs. Carole Soucy, Mrs. Cathy Kyle, and Mrs. Jackie Stadnyk spent five days at the SHAPE school providing training on literacy and numeracy initiatives, differentiated instruction, assessment for learning, moderated marking, and cluster planning to the staff of this bilingual school. RCDSB staff visit these international schools annually to support staff training so they will be current with Ministry of Education initiatives.

#### **3. Successful Parent Symposium**

On Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at Opeongo High School, the RCDSB's Parent Involvement Committee held its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual 'Achieving as One' Symposium. The keynote speaker was the popular Barbara Coloroso who spoke about "Parenting with Wit and Wisdom". In addition to the keynote speaker, participants were able to select from a variety of workshops from the following individuals: Professor Brenda Smith-Chant - Teaching Young Children; Dr. Maggie Mamen - Parenting Today's Child; OPP Officer Beth Ethier - Substance Abuse and its Effects on Societal Issues; Joanne McEwen - Running School Councils; Jacquie Strachan - Parent Engagement in Schools; Debbie Gordon - Self-Esteem and the Media; and Shawna Babcock - Children and Fitness. Not only was it a great fall day, but the committee should be commended for providing such a valuable symposium to parents.

#### **4. First Staff Meeting of the New K-12 School in Petawawa**

For part of the morning on Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, the staff of General Panet High School, General Lake Public School and Pinecrest Public School came together to provide input to Wendy Brawley, Architect for the new K-12 school in Petawawa. Ms. Brawley shared her preliminary plans to date, based on input from senior administration and focus groups. The architect was particularly interested in gaining staff input on how programming space could be utilized efficiently across the elementary and secondary panels in order to get the best value for the funding committed to this project.