



## REPORT TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES February 25, 2014

Dan Parr, Director of Education

**SUBJECT:** Noelle's Gift – Mid Year Report 2014

**PREPARED BY:** Lisa Demers, Principal – Special Education & Noelle's Gift Fund Administrator

### BACKGROUND:

The *Noelle's Gift* charitable fund was established last year in memory of Noelle Paquette, a former Kindergarten teacher with St. Clair Catholic, who died suddenly and tragically in January 2013. Students in the St. Clair Catholic District School Board have been blessed with the generosity, which this fund provides.

There are many stories about the level of need in our schools. Prior to the Christmas break, numerous requests were made to *Noelle's Gift* for the purchase of food, clothing and winter apparel. The need for financial support for our families at this time of year was significant and there were daily phone calls and emails from Principals to access the fund on behalf of their students. Without *Noelle's Gift*, many children would have gone without some of the basic provisions, we take for granted.

Many touching stories are shared by school Principals who access *Noelle's Gift* on behalf of their students and families. I would like to share just a few:

- One Principal accessed the fund for a family whose children struggled to attend school because of on-going issues with head lice. The family could not afford to pay for the necessary treatments and the children were missing a great deal of school. Head lice were so rampant in the family home and on the children that the Principal asked for funds to pay for a professional service to go into the home to eradicate the lice. Without *Noelle's Gift*, the children would have missed more school because of this on-going problem.
- A child who is required to take medication daily, needed a prescription filled because the parents didn't have medical insurance and were recently unemployed. The school Principal knew how important it was for this child to have the medication and accessed *Noelle's Gift* funds without hesitation, to ensure the student had this important need met.
- Siblings whose clothes were destroyed in a house fire received new clothes, shoes and coats after their personal belongings were lost. The children's parent could not afford to replace the lost items due to the loss of employment and financial difficulties.

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- A youth who was trying to re-engage in school and earn credits so that he could graduate asked for help from school administration. The youth was really excited to begin a co-op opportunity and to receive on-the-job training and earn credits. The student no longer lived in the parental home and didn't have the financial support to purchase the necessary clothing; or afford the bus passes for travel to the co-op placement. School administration accessed funds through *Noelle's Gift* to ensure that the youth had the clothes, work boots and bus passes necessary to engage in the co-op experience and earn credits towards graduation.

The generosity of Noelle Paquette continues to live on through the *Noelle's Gift* fund that is named in honour of her giving spirit and love for children.

In addition to expending funds, staff of the St. Clair Catholic District School Board have also raised significant funds, which have been donated to the Board's *Noelle's Gift* account. The funds were raised through professional development day collections, CEC casual dress days and on-going donations by staff.

The *Noelle's Gift* account as at January 31, 2014 is as follows:

Opening Balance – September 2014	7,861.73	
Donation from <i>Noelle's Gift Charitable Fund</i>	15,000.00	
Funds raised by staff	6,420.97	
Disbursements		<u>6,135.21</u>
<b><i>TOTAL</i></b>		<b><i>23,147.49</i></b>

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board receive the report: *Noelle's Gift – Mid Year Report 2014*, for information.**