



**ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey

Holy Trinity Social Justice Committee Organizes Presentation About Challenges Faced by the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Students in the Holy Trinity Catholic School Social Justice Committee want their fellow students to know more about the challenges that deaf and hard of hearing students face every day.

The committee recently invited to the school representatives from the Ontario Association of the Deaf, as well as Board computer technician Beau Cockburn, who is deaf.

Lauri Doig, a St. Clair Catholic research teacher for the deaf and hard of hearing, interpreted for several deaf presenters, who signed to the students about their experiences growing up, and about how to communicate with persons who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Most of all, the presenters wanted the students to know that in many ways, deaf persons are the same as everyone else.

"I want to thank our Social Justice Committee for organizing this great event," says Scott Johnson, Principal of Holy Trinity Catholic School. "We all learned a lot today about the challenges some of our friends face every day ... and how we can be more respectful by communicating better."

Some tips the student learned about communicating were – don't shout; pay attention to body language; write messages out using texting or pen and paper and, whenever possible, use an interpreter.

"I think the best advice was that we should ask the person how they like to communicate best," says Mr. Johnson. "Not everybody is the same."

One student called the day's presenters "inspirational!"

In the photo above Mr. Beau Cockburn, a computer technician with the St. Clair Catholic District School Board, presents to students at Holy Trinity about the challenges faced by persons who are deaf and hard of hearing.