



Grade 8 Students Participate in Experiential Learning Leadership Events

Throughout the month of October, Grade 8 students from across the St. Clair district have participated in leadership-building experiential learning.

The *Adventureworks School and Youth Program* is a one day program offered in Hamilton, Ontario, where students have the opportunity to identify their own leadership skills as well as the qualities that promote effective, positive leadership.

"The aim of this program is to help our students to become outstanding community members and global citizens," says Scott Johnson, Director of Education. "The *Adventureworks* trip was an exciting kick-off to this learning journey. Follow-up classroom activities will deepen our students' understandings of the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations."

Students were immersed in a series of problem-solving activities, large group initiative tasks and vertical climbing challenges, which provided opportunities to practice current and new leadership skills.

Students also engaged in structured reflection sessions designed to help transfer and apply their insights and observations from the day to their current settings and future pathways.

Student comments include:

- "It was challenging because some of the things I've never tried before and had to learn something new."
- "I liked how we had to work together and it was a challenge, and we had to communicate to move on."
- "It was fun and a new experience, and good because it was a lot of physical activity and things you wouldn't normally get to do."
- "We had to use a lot of teamwork, like on the teeter-totter to balance."

Funding support was available from the Board's Outdoor Education and Student Success budgets, in addition to previous funds raised for Muskoka Woods, which reduced the cost to families to just \$20 per student. Families unable to pay the cost could access the Board's Good Samaritan fund, to ensure the opportunity was available to every Grade 8 student who wanted to attend.

With just a couple of remaining classes still to go, nearly 660 Grade 8 students will have participated in the leadership event, with the support of Grade 8 teachers, educational assistants, principals and senior administration, pathways teachers, secondary curriculum consultants, the Board's chaplaincy leader and parents.

For further information regarding this release, please contact:

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Carol Bryden Steps Down After 16 Years as a Catholic Trustee

After 16 years as a member of the Board of Trustees for St. Clair Catholic, tonight's Regular Meeting was Carol Bryden's last. She is stepping down after choosing not to run in the 2022 school board election.

"I have a heavy but joyful heart as we say goodbye to Carol Brayden tonight. Carol has been a dedicated Trustee for 16 years and her experience as an educator has been such an asset over the years," says John Van Heck, Chair of the Board. "This is Carol's second retirement from education, in a way, and I know she will continue to keep an eye on all of us from afar over the next 4 years."

"Carol has devoted a lifetime of service to Catholic education," says Scott Johnson, Director of Education. "During her 16 years as a dedicated Trustee, she also served as Chair and Vice Chair of the Board. Her steadfast commitment to our students, families and staff will be missed at the Board table. We wish her God's abundant blessings, as she now enjoys more time with family and friends."

Carol first became a Trustee in 2006. She had previously retired from the Board after 34 years as an educator.

Carol was thanked for her service this evening by the Board of Trustees and senior administration at a brief ceremony, where she was presented with a plaque honouring her years of service and a framed letter from Bishop Ronald Fabbro, of the Diocese of London.

Carol will be succeeded by Jann Tooshkenig, who was acclaimed to the position of Trustee representing the ratepayers of South and East Kent and Dawn-Euphemia and St. Clair Townships. The Board of Trustees for the 2022-2026 term will be sworn in at the Inaugural Meeting of the Board, which will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 6:00 p.m..

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