

# News Release

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

## ***Catholic Teachers' Association Purchases 40 Bicycles and Helmets for Students in Board-Wide Employee Fundraiser***

The Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA) has again this year led a Board-wide fundraising initiative to purchase bicycles for students across the system. More than \$7,000 was raised in the second annual *Dress Down for Wheels* event, in which staff were permitted to wear casual dress in exchange for a monetary donation. The money was used to purchase 40 bicycles, bicycle locks and helmets, which were distributed to deserving students across the system, who did not own a bicycle.

"We could not be happier with the results of the fundraiser again this year," says Chad Coene, President, OECTA Secondary – St. Clair Unit. "During the distribution to some very deserving students, we heard many stories about the excitement and joy the bikes bring; and about how bikes distributed last year are being passed down to younger siblings."

"We are proud that our employees have overwhelmingly supported this initiative two years in a row," says Wayne Bechard, President, OECTA Elementary – St. Clair Unit. "We know how important outdoor activity is to support wellness and we are so pleased to be able to assist families in this way."

"I want to thank our OECTA partners for taking the lead on this initiative, and all of our employees for their tremendous support of our students through the *Dress Down for Wheels* event," says Scott Johnson, Director of Education. "It is a demonstration of the kind and caring adults who serve in our Catholic school communities right across the district."

The bikes were distributed to students on May 10, 2022.

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