



NEWS NEWS NEWS

April 20, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Catholic Schools Celebrate Their Distinctiveness ~ Join in the showcase of Catholic Education Week 2009!

The Halton Catholic District School Board proudly announces that the week of **May 3 - 8, 2009** is designated *Catholic Education Week 2009*. During this week, all of the Board's schools will host activities that will encourage each school community and the public to celebrate this year's theme of "***Catholic Education - Good News for All***". Catholic Education Week 2009 highlights the partnership that remains fundamental to Catholic education - the family-school-parish triad, emphasizing the parish, which remains the centre of the worshipping faith community. As is the tradition of the Board, Catholic Education Week will begin on Sunday, May 3 so that the local Catholic community may have an opportunity to celebrate the 'enduring gift' of Catholic Education within the context of the Eucharistic Celebration.

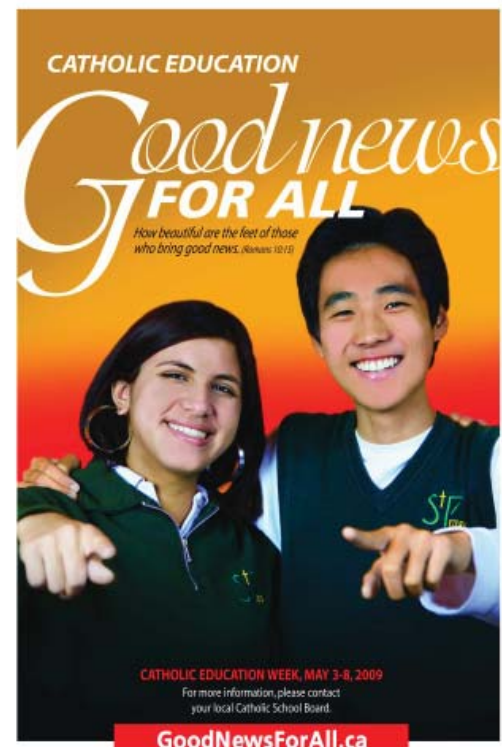
"The theme for the week is '***Catholic Education - Good News for All***', explains Alice Anne LeMay, Chair of the Board. "It is sometimes difficult, perhaps, even often difficult, to find good news in today's world. The deepening economic crisis, the real fear of many parents that they may lose their jobs, the unsettled military conflicts across the globe make scanning the media for any good news stories a challenge. And yet, in this world, and at this time, we, in Catholic education, are the feet who bring good news, who speak of peace, who say to people yearning for hope, "Yes we can!"

"During this week," Director of Education Michael W. Pautler invites "our school communities and the general public to celebrate and grow in an awareness of the distinctive contributions that our schools make to our students, our community and our province. *Catholic Education Week* is a unique opportunity to celebrate the excellent work of our Catholic schools in the integration of Gospel values into every facet of their life and curriculum. This year's theme - '***Good News for All***' reinforces that the good news of Catholic education is intended to be shared and that Catholic education has a message of good news for all the citizens of Ontario."

Five sub-themes, one for each of the five days of *Catholic Education Week 2009* help staff and students to more clearly understand the rich meaning of this year's theme:

- Day 1... Embracing Hope*
- Day 2... Celebrating with Joy*
- Day 3... Building Community*
- Day 4... Growing in Integrity*
- Day 5... Living with Gratitude.*

Catholic Education Week 2009 will feature special programs



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(Catholic Education Week 2009 cont'd)

and presentations at all grade levels and includes prayer celebrations and service activities.

The public is cordially invited to join in the celebrations of the many school-based activities in their communities. The Board's *21st Annual Student Awards of Excellence Ceremony* on April 21 at Corpus Christi Catholic Secondary School in Burlington will serve as the kick off of this weeklong showcase and celebrations. As well, the Board's Anniversary Service Pins, which recognize employee service at five year increments, will be presented to staff celebrating these milestones at all work sites throughout this week of celebrations.

Board Director of Education Michael W. Pautler explains that "although this week is intended to focus attention on our schools, parents, Catholic ratepayers and the public are always welcome throughout the year to visit our schools and experience Catholic education at its best. Hopefully, during this special week, you too will share in the contributions and fine student achievements that will be highlighted in each school's showcase of '*Good News for All*', and realize the distinctive difference that Catholic Education makes not only to the lives of our students, but also to our communities and province."

As well, on May 21, 2009, Catholic schools in many countries around the world will celebrate *World Catholic Education Day 2009* by engaging in appropriate activities that will express their appreciation for the reality of Catholic education around the globe. In Canada alone Catholic schools educate almost one million students.

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NOTE: The logo depicting this year's *Catholic Education Week* theme may be obtained electronically by contacting Chris Jewell, Communications Services at jewellc@hcdsb.org

About the Halton Catholic District School Board

The Halton Catholic District School Board, a provincial leader in student achievement in literacy and numeracy, as well as in Special Education, provides the best of Catholic education to more than 29,000 students of all ages at 49 faith-centred learning communities in Burlington, Halton Hills, Milton and Oakville. Committed to servant leadership, continuous school improvement planning and the preservation of the enduring gift of Catholic education, the Board is an exciting and dynamic system in which to learn, grow and work.

Believing In You . . . Believing In Us

For further information, please contact:

Michael W. Pautler
Director of Education
Halton Catholic District School Board
905-632-6314 ext 115

Alternate Media Contact:

Chris G. Jewell
Communications Services
Halton Catholic District School Board
905-632-6314 ext. 157