

# Spotlight on EDUCATION IN QUINTE WEST



ALGONQUIN & LAKESHORE  
CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL  
BOARD

## INFORMATION UPDATE:

A Community Consultation on the Academic Program Review was held on Dec. 2, 2009 at St. Mary Catholic Elementary School in Trenton. The Community Consultation was designed to provide information, to review the data gathered from the school based consultations and to enable community members to make additional comments to a final report that will be used for the architectural feasibility study.

Parents, School Council members, teaching and non-teaching staff and administrators dialogued with trustees and senior administrators on issues of importance to inform the next steps in the planning. While the issues discussed were not new, the passion of the speakers was evident and the need for clarity was emphasized.

Some participants expressed concern about the safety of Grade 7-8 students in a secondary school while others were of the opinion that the current St. Paul facility is inadequate for additional, younger students. Still others wondered if the funding allocated by the ministry will be adequate to build both a new St. Peter School and an addition to St. Paul.

It was also recognized that in this time of declining enrolment, restructuring of St. Paul into a Grades 7-12 school may be a way to ensure that St. Paul Catholic Secondary School will continue to offer a variety of effective programs in the future.

However, optimism and high expectations are the overriding sentiments from the contributors to the Academic Program Review. You told us that commitment to the traditions of Faith and Social Justice, where Catholic schools in Quinte West are leaders, must continue to frame the learning environment for all students in each of the 4 schools. Information and communication technologies (ICT) must be current to help students collect, organize, and sort the data they gather and to write, edit and present reports on their findings. ICT will connect students to other schools, at home and abroad and bring the global communities into every classroom. Other common priorities included environmental stewardship, leadership development, accessibility and community interaction. And you noted that any restructuring must involve the parent and parish communities now and into the future.

(Over)

January 2010  
Issue 3

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## INFORMATION UPDATE: (continued from page 1)

All of this can be a reality for students in Quinte West. Using a 'campus' vision of education, where all schools operate collaboratively sharing multi-use spaces, where teachers in schools and across schools will extend their capacity to plan together to ensure that consistency is key for teaching and learning, making transitions less stressful for all students as they progress from grade to grade and school to school. Language learning will be key for all students and K-6 French Language learning will be consolidated at St. Mary, Trenton, continue with Grades 7-8 and hopefully beyond into extended French in secondary at St. Paul. Picture classrooms with access to portable computer labs rather than having to book into a computer room once or twice a week; classrooms with SMART boards and other ICT tools such as digital cameras, audio visual recorders and projectors enabling students to design and present their knowledge using a variety of media. A state of the art outdoor education centre located at Sacred Heart, Batawa but accessible for all students is a possibility.

Students at St. Paul and the new St. Peter will be connected by the very proximity of the buildings, creating all kinds of possibilities for sharing gyms, the track and other outdoor facilities; sharing print resources and technologies where feasible; providing access to specialty spaces such as Snoezelin room for all students with special needs or the Chapel for student faith development; for leadership development for students of all ages. Visualize a well-used path between the 2 facilities rather than a fence to separate them.

Safety of Grade 7-8 students at St Paul? Imagine the addition of an intermediate wing where grades 7-8 students have their own classrooms, washroom facilities, entry and exit doors, and outdoor areas for recess; where supervision is consistent with supervision for elementary students in every school and student are monitored by caring professionals.

Thanks to all who contributed to the Academic Program Review, a full copy of which is available on the Quinte West ARC website. The date and location for the next meeting where architects will present their proposals will be announced.

For more information, contact the principal of any of the schools in Quinte West or Joanne Fisher, Superintendent or Lynn Wallace, Superintendent at the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board.

*Want more information? Contact your school principal.*

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