

From the meeting held May 21, 2024

CDSBEO Service Trip to the Dominican Republic

At the Board Meeting of May 21, 2024, Renée Rozon, Principal of Religious and Family Life Education and Equity & Inclusion and Father John Whyte, Faith Animator, along with student participants, presented information to the Board of Trustees on the board-wide 2024 Service Trip to the Dominican Republic. Forty-eight students from CDSBEO secondary schools, along with chaperones, travelled from February 15 through 22, to Dominican Republic. This service trip was a wonderful opportunity for cultural learning and to perform service work in coordination with The Dream Project in Cabarete.

The Dream Project is a non-profit organization that customizes cultural exchange and service-learning trips to ensure local communities receive the support they need. Cabarete is home to approximately 25,000 residents, of which eighty per cent are food insecure and unable to respond to economic or medical emergencies. While in Cabarete, students spent time volunteering at two schools, helping local members of the community with home and community projects, and had a chance to experience local culture. The students provided a reflective account of the many amazing learning opportunities offered by the service trip, and thanked the Board for organizing and providing the experience

"I would like to thank our staff. I know the dedication and leadership you brought will never be forgotten by these students. Thank you all for the joy you have shared with us today, and for going out into the world to be true ambassadors for Catholic education," concluded Chair Wilson.

Catholic Education Week 2024

Each year, the Catholic community of Ontario engages in a week-long celebration of the distinct identity and significant contributions of Catholic education during Catholic Education Week. This year's celebration around the theme "We are called to love," took place during the week of May 5 to 10, and students engaged in many meaningful activities and reflections to deepen their awareness and understanding of the gift of Catholic education. Principal of Religious and Family Life Education and Equity and Inclusion Renée Rozon presented details to the Board of Trustees.

The week began with the annual Board Mass, held at St. Philip Neri Church in Toledo, and celebrated by Archbishop Michael Mulhall. The comprehensive resource kit of activities and reflections provided by the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) was shared with all schools, who also celebrated this important week through various activities such as liturgies, assemblies, musical performances, community clean-ups, and nature walks. The many events which took place within school communities were posted on the CDSBEO website.

"We are so blessed to have such passion for Catholic education in our schools. It is amazing to see the activities that have taken place during this very special week, and I would like to thank everyone for the work they have done to make this week so memorable," concluded Chair Wilson.

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