

Across the Waters



Celebrating Excellence in Catholic Education

Junior/Senior High School teacher, Bob Deacon from St. Joseph School in Whitecourt is this year's successful recipient of the John Bosco Excellence in Catholic Education Award. His nomination letter along with other nomination letters for other teachers across the Division is testimony to the hard work, effort and commitment put forth in Catholic Education.



The John Bosco Excellence in Catholic Education Award is presented annually to a teacher or a team in recognition of the work that has been done to bring faith, wisdom and leadership to staffs and students in Living Waters CRD No. 42. We believe that actions and initiatives that are used to instill a deeper love and understanding of the Catholic faith are contributory to **Building a Catholic Culture of Excellence**.

As a recipient of this award, Living Waters Catholic School Division will be providing Bob with the opportunity to attend the SPICE Conference from April 29 – May 2 in Kananaskis. Bob Deacon, along with 15 other recipients from across the province will be honored at an award's banquet during the conference.

Again, congratulations to Bob and to all teachers who were nominated, as this truly is an honor. We wish continued success to all teachers in our Living Waters School Division. Your work will contribute to our goal to graduate every student successfully from a faith-filled, safe and caring environment.

Technology Buzz

As technology continues to be a very big part of our every day lives and our classrooms, we need to develop and nurture our digital citizenship. Digital citizenship is a concept which helps teachers and technology leaders understand what students should know to use technology appropriately. How often do we see or hear of students as well as adults misusing and abusing technology. When considering appropriate technology usage, the sites listed below may assist you in the area of digital citizenship.

- **Cybercitizenship.org**
<http://www.cybercitizenship.org/index.html>
Provides approaches for teaching children about "Cyber Ethics." This site also includes sets of links for adults and children to gain a better understanding of the internet.
- **CyberSmart**
<http://www.cybersmartcurriculum.org/home/>
The CyberSmart! Curriculum is non-sequential and is easily integrated, in part or in full. Organized in five units, each teaching an important facet of internet use, it consists of 65 original standards-based lesson plans with Activity Sheets. The number of lessons per grade increases as students' reading and critical thinking skills develop.
- **GetNetWise**
<http://www.getnetwise.org/>
GetNetWise is a user empowerment campaign and Web site designed to give internet users a user-friendly, easy-to-find, online resource that can be found on the most popular entry points to the internet, as well as on many of the most popular Web sites. GetNetWise offers tips, tutorials and other interactive tools.
- **NetSmartz Kidz**
<http://www.netsmartzkids.org/indexFL.htm>
Games and activities for kids to learn about internet safety and have fun at the same time.



February 2010

Building a Catholic Culture of Excellence

Teamwork - Thanks to being residents in the e-world, all of the team members don't have to be in the same location, they just have to be in the same place: one of collaboration and contribution! And thanks to John Maxwell, I don't have to come up with a message about building Divisional teams, when he has done it already and with such depth!

When we come together on the 12th let's come together as a team. With a vision, a goal or purpose and a willingness to put our best effort in for the team.

Maxwell says that as people who care about each other grow together and work toward a common goal, they get to know each other better. They begin to recognize and appreciate each others' unique talents and qualities. This leads to the development of team "fit". A good team fit requires an attitude of partnership in which every player recognizes their own skills and the skills of everyone else with a willingness to trust and rely on each other for individual contributions. This partnership allows the team members to make up for each other's weaknesses (and we all have them) instead of exploiting them. It enables one team member to say to the other, "you go ahead and do this task because you are better at it than I am," without shame or manipulation. And conversely to say without pride, "I have some expertise here. I can do this". And it allows the team to recognize that their work as a team is better than anything any individual could provide.

If it is one thing that both Jo-Anne and I see as we travel around the Division it is that there are all sorts of great lessons, plans, projects, strategies and really great teachers and ideas in all of our schools, and these need to be shared.

As we build our different teams in the Division we will be helping each other, reducing the work load, building trust and expanding the opportunities for success for all our staff and ultimately for all our students.

At the end of the day on March 12th we hope everyone will say, "I got to know some really great people more, I learned some new strategies and plans, they liked what I had to share, and we are looking forward to working together in the future."

*Carol Lemay
Superintendent*

www.livingwaters.ab.ca goes Live!

Media showcases, student work, school calendars, news updates, homework submissions, photo albums of special events, grade logic and the list goes on!

Living Waters School Division has finally launched its new website and we are thrilled with what has transpired. Within our divisional framework we are guided by the principles of creativity and innovation and we would like to commend each and every one of our schools and our staffs for their contribution to the success of our websites. In only a few short months, our websites have become living and interactive sites of information. This all takes time, energy and the unleashing of talent and for that we are truly grateful.

It is obvious through the messaging and through the communication that our schools are safe and caring, faith-filled environments transforming our students into lifelong, competent and confident learners. From our homes and our offices, we can log onto our site and read stories of social justice and generosity that tell of all the efforts and acts that have taken place to support the devastation in Haiti. We are easily entertained by students who share their talents in drama, as they act out scenes from Charlottes Web. Student work is celebrated in photo albums that share a special event or display an artistic treasure that has been cleverly created. Power points created and shared by students become a source of information of topics being covered in the curriculum. Homework expectations and assignments can be accessed by parents and students, as reminders to the work that has to be completed.

Our websites are a source of communication to share and celebrate the many good things that are happening Across the Waters, and we will continue to look for opportunities to build on its capacity.

Surfers beware...once you open the Living Waters sites, prepare to spend a couple of hours or so enjoying all that it has to offer.

*Jo-Anne Lanctot
Deputy Superintendent*

Board of Trustees Message

February 2010

- ❖ The Board of Living Waters Catholic Regional Division is very proud and excited about the French Exchange program that is being supported at St. Joseph School. Students visited homes in Quebec in February and soon students from Quebec will be coming to visit homes in Whitecourt. This rich cultural and linguistic experience will live long in the memories of these students. The Board made a decision to provide gifts to all exchange students and teachers who come to our schools.
- ❖ We would like to thank all of the schools in each community for their hard work, effort and creativity in finding ways to raise money for the relief effort in Haiti. Becoming active members in acts of Social Justice is a part of Building a Catholic culture of excellence.
- ❖ The Board is pleased to announce the name of the new Jr. Sr. High School in Slave Lake: St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy. The Board would like to thank everyone for their submissions as several names were put forth. The prayer of St. Francis, "Make me an instrument of Peace" will support the vision of Catholic Education in Slave Lake.
- ❖ Mid Year reviews for the Living Waters CRD No. 42 were presented for the Board's update. The vision, purposeful planning and implementation were all highlights of the reviews. Our schools and staffs as well as Central Office staff are to be commended for their commitment to the careful planning and execution of the work of the Division.
- ❖ The Board reviewed Policy #7 which provides information and reference to the operational procedures of the Board. Some changes have been made, in order to keep the Board's policies current.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Mentorship Day	March 4, 2010
Admin Meeting	March 9, 2010
Division PD Day	March 12, 2010
Catholic Conference	March 12 & 13, 2010
Community Consultation Meeting—Edson	March 16, 2010
Community Consultation Meeting—Whitecourt	March 18, 2010
Community Consultation Meeting—Slave Lake	March 23, 2010
Board Meeting	March 22, 2010