

Across the Waters



Living Waters
Catholic Schools
REGIONAL DIVISION No. 42

Board of Trustees Message

January 4, 2010

- 1) The Catholic Conference 2010 will take place in Edmonton on March 12th & 13th, at the Mayfield Conference Center. Included are such great inspirational speakers as David Wells and Father Stefano Penna. The Board of Living Waters Catholic Regional Division No. 42 wants to encourage people to attend this conference and so has agreed to support the cost of 5 adults from each ward - Edson, Slave Lake and Whitecourt.
- 2) Inspiring Education Workshops – The Board of Living Waters Catholic Regional Division No. 42 will be hosting community based workshops in Edson, Whitecourt and Slave Lake in March 2010. The dates have yet to be determined. The workshops will be similar to the Inspiring Education Workshops and will allow communities to focus on education 20 years from now, the need to help build on the educational system that will prepare our students for the future. These workshops will get community input and provide information to help us develop our schools to best serve the students of the future.
- 3) Letters of information and invitation will go out to participate and we are hopeful that many people will take this opportunity to have a voice in the future of Catholic Education in our communities.
- 4) New Websites – We are excited about our new interactive website and the new websites of all of our schools. These websites will provide much information about our Division and schools. Parents can use the websites to check up on homework, class assignments, etc. The websites are as follows:

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| Living Waters CRD No. 42 | http://www.livingwaters.ab.ca |
| St. Mary School, Whitecourt | http://www.stmarywhitecourt.ca |
| St. Joseph School, Whitecourt | http://www.stjosephschoolwhitecourt.ca |
| St. Mary of the Lake, Slave Lake | http://www.stmaryofthelake.ca |
| Vanier Community School, Edson | http://www.vaniercommunitycatholicsschool.ca |
| Holy Redeemer School, Edson | http://www.holyredeemerhigh.ca |

These websites are still in the process of development. Please check them out and keep yourself up-to-date on Catholic Education in Living Waters CRD No. 42.

- 5) We want to encourage parents of children in our schools and school staff to take part in the Accountability Pillar Surveys that will come out in January. These surveys are very helpful in guiding our plans for the future.

January 2010

Building a Catholic Culture of Excellence

Living Waters got Talent!

On Friday, January 15th, a team of teachers and administrators from Living Waters Catholic Schools got together to plan our first ever Divisional PD Day. It is a wonderful team of teachers who are willing to share their time, talents and energy to organize and build what promises to be a great day of sharing, collaboration and team building.

By working together and listening to each other we were able to plan something more powerful and purposeful than any one of us could have done on our own. It is an example of collaborative work at its finest. Or we could say that we are building lateral collegial capacity.

This first Divisional PD Day will be on March 12th at St. Joseph School. The purpose of the day is: To share and build collaborative cross-divisional teams around the curriculum and high yield instructional strategies, and to have fun.

We know that there is a great deal of talent in this division: wonderful plans and projects, well designed units and strategies, enthusiastic and well prepared teachers who are concerned about meeting the needs of all of our students. This day will give everyone a chance to meet other talented people, share great ideas and find creative ways to work together. A team working together lessens the individual load and broadens the scope of planning. It will also give everyone the opportunity to understand and appreciate the richness and complexity of our Living Waters Division.

One team member said that we all get tired of going to PD sessions that seem to inform us that we are not doing things right, how they should be done, and give us no time to plan how to implement the suggested changes. This day will be far from that. It will be a celebration of the educational and leadership capacity of our division staff, and it is our intention that all will leave with lots of good teaching “stuff” and a list of contacts to work with.

I personally am looking forward to being amazed at what we can do when we all get together with vision, purpose and will.

And I must say a sincere thanks to Trevor, Michelle, Jackie, Penny, Sian, Bev, Peter, Kim, and Jo-Anne. Great work!

*Carol Lemay
Superintendent*



Setting Goals and Providing Feedback

Goal setting is very much like drawing a map. By utilizing a map it is much easier to identify the destination (long term goal) as well as the course (short term goals) that is necessary to take to get to the destination. Marzano (2001) outlines some important concepts related to goal setting as a classroom practice which can be an essential tool for student achievement. Additionally, Marzano (2001) discusses the use and value of feedback to improve student achievement. In this article, we are encouraged to consider the described concepts, and decide how we will teach students to create their own map for success.

Students learn most efficiently when they have a clear understanding of the objectives and requirements involved in a lesson/assignment (Marzano, 2001). There are some general rules about creating learning objectives so that student learning can be optimized. Firstly, ensure that the objectives are not too specific for the student. Give the student an opportunity to have broad enough objectives so that they can explore and attend to all aspects of a particular type of skill or knowledge. Secondly, help students to personalize their objectives giving the student an opportunity to explore their own interests according to the topic of study. Thirdly, help the student to communicate their objectives in a manner which is clear, concise and visible in the classroom. Additionally, encourage the students to share their objectives with their parents so they can be supportive partners in their children's success. Finally, create contracts with each student while setting their objectives and use this tool as a teaching opportunity to demonstrate the value of self-responsibility and accountability.

The other component which compliments setting objectives is providing feedback. Marzano (2001) explains that when used in an appropriate manner, feedback can be a very powerful tool to enhance student learning. In practice, Marzano (2001) describes four formats for feedback. Criterion-referenced feedback is the most useful type of feedback when it is given immediately and provides the student with specific information about how their performance relates to a designated standard. To this end, with this type of feedback the student must be given information on where their performance exceeds, meets, and/or misses the standard. In using assessment results as another form of feedback the instructor must ensure that the results are given immediately followed by an explanation of the areas that were correct and incorrect. Engaging students in peer feedback also serves as a useful opportunity for peers to clarify for each other the areas of the assessment that were incorrect. This serves as a valuable teaching method for students as well as reinforces mastery of concepts taught in the classroom (Marzano, 2001). This also encourages greater effort. Lastly, provide students the opportunity for self-evaluation whereby they review their objectives and either verbally or in written form reflect upon their objectives and how their performance meets these objectives.

In summary, review and examine your classroom practices regarding objective setting and feedback. Help your students to create their own unique map and give them the latitude to create a course which is personal, reflects their learning style and interests, and teaches the value of accountability.

*Jo-Anne Lanctot
Deputy Superintendent*

Board Briefs

January 4, 2010

The following motions were made by the Board of Living Waters CRD No. 42:

- The Board made a motion to provide financial support for 5 adults from each ward in Living Waters CRD No. 42 (Edson, Slave Lake & Whitecourt) to attend the Catholic Conference 2010 on March 12 & 13 at the Mayfield Conference Center in Edmonton.
- The May 24, 2010 Board Meeting has been re-scheduled to May 31, 2010 due to the Victoria Day holiday.

Next meeting to be held on January 25, 2010 at the Board Office at 6:00 pm.



Our talents are the gift that God gives to us... What we make
of our talents is our gift back to God. *Leo Buscaglia*

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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| Board Meeting | Jan 25/10 |
| FNMI Collaborative Frameworks | Jan 28 & 29/10 |
| Admin Meeting | Feb 9/10 |
| Teachers' Convention | Feb 4 & 5/10 |
| Family Day | Feb 15/10 |
| Board Meeting | Feb 22/10 |