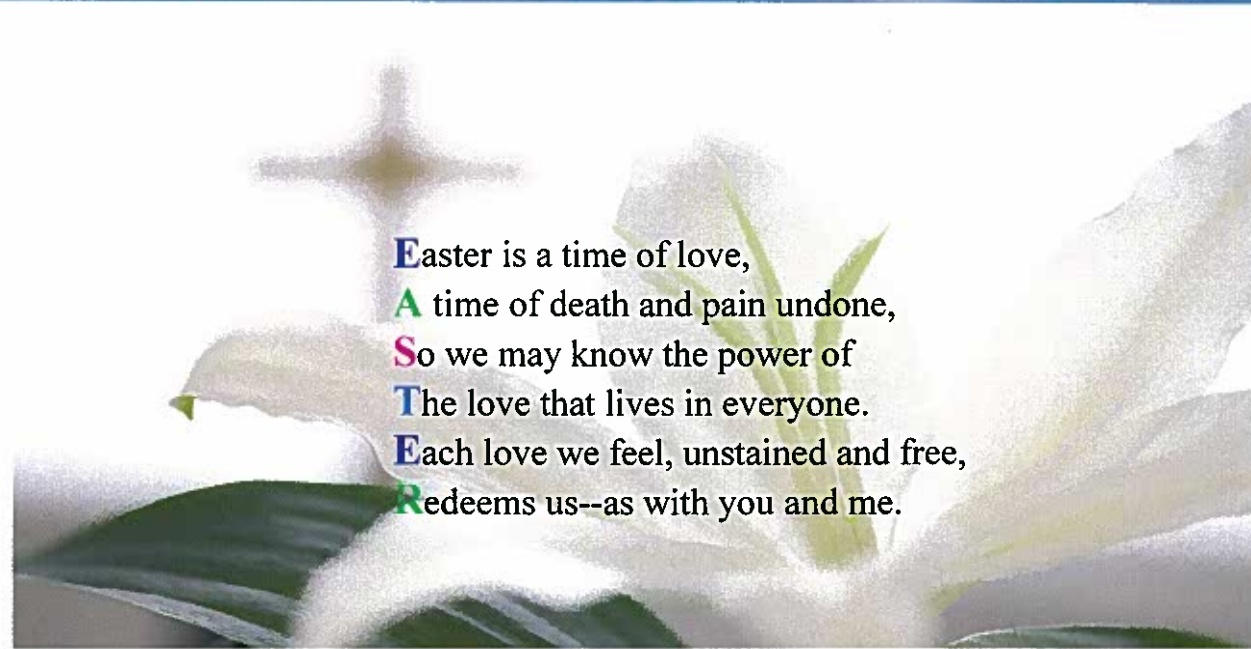


Across the Waters



Living Waters
Catholic Schools
REGIONAL DIVISION No.42



Easter is a time of love,
A time of death and pain undone,
So we may know the power of
The love that lives in everyone.
Each love we feel, unstained and free,
Redeems us--as with you and me.

March 2010

Living Waters got talent and is more than willing to share it!

The first ever Divisional PD day was a tremendous success. While we haven't reviewed all of the evaluations in detail (or got them all in for that matter) what we saw and heard was that it was a great day. Thanks to all of the team members who brought their best plans, resources, strategies, ideas, etc. and were willing to share them all.

The plan for the day was to focus on two critical elements of successful teaching - knowledge of curriculum and thoughtful implementation of High Yield Instructional Strategies. Everyone came to the day with those foci clearly in mind, and prepared to share ideas, strategies, concerns and questions on the topics chosen. The resulting conversations were rich in the art and science of teaching.

We heard lots of ideas of where we need to go next, plans to email ideas back and forth, discussions of ways to get divisional teams together more often, suggestions about building divisional e-files for plans, resources, assessments, etc.

We heard the comment, more than once that this type of PD day overcomes the isolation that teachers feel when they are the only one, or one of the few in their school teaching that particular subject. And the willingness to use each others strengths and skills to build lateral collegial capacity (for Penny) was evident.

What did I learn? That we have amazingly knowledgeable, prepared, thoughtful, generous staff in our schools: skilled in collaboration! All are motivated to learn more, share more, build their skills, all in order to help our students to be more successful and have great school experiences. And if I had to go in to a classroom and teach today, I would be woefully unprepared for the demands of the curriculum, student needs and technological expertise required.

As stated before, it was a great day, and I must thank the committee, St. Joseph and St. Mary schools for their hospitality and all staff for bringing their best to the day. It was a day to rejuvenate and have fun. And in March too, which is the month that sees us all a little tired and ready for a break.

I hope everyone has a restful, blessed spring break or Easter vacation. We all deserve some down time!

*Carol Lemay
Superintendent*

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Board Meeting	March 22, 2010
Mentorship Day Workshop (Central Office)	April 12, 2010
Mentorship Steering Committee Meeting	April 12, 2010
Admin Meeting	April 13, 2010
ATA/Board Liaison Dinner (Central Office)	April 13, 2010
Math PD—Grade 10C Teachers	April 19, 2010
Special Needs Meeting	April 15, 2010
Admin Workshop (Central Office)	April 22, 2010
Board Meeting	April 26, 2010
SPICE	April 29 - May 2, 2010
Blue Prints	May 4 - 7, 2010
Math PD—Grade 3 & 6 Teachers	May 7, 2010

Satisfaction Surveys

Student and Staff Satisfaction Surveys to be conducted in schools
April 12-16, 2010.

Parent Satisfaction Surveys will be randomly administered by
telephone between April 12 & 23, 2010.

Thank you in advance for your participation.



Living Waters Got Talent!

"Now that I can put a face to a name, I feel much more at ease to contact you by email."

"I just love to learn, so I hope that I am able to learn something from each of you today and I hope I can help each of you to learn something new today."

"My hope today is that I will be able to find new strategies for engaging students in my classroom."

"I've learned our team all feel the same about teaching problem solving."

"Go ahead, take and use whatever you find will help you in the classroom."

"What a great idea. Anytime that I can get students to make a connection and apply it later can only lead to improvement."

The comments above gathered during our Divisional Professional Development Day are a true testimony of the importance of connecting peers with purpose. In doing so, our staffs across the division had the opportunity to come together and share best practices that are alive and doing well in our schools. Websites were shared, smartboard tools were explored, creative ways to teach the digestive system or differentiate between mitosis and meiosis emerged and a willingness to share a plethora of ideas, resources, files, lesson plans and projects was done so unselfishly. Cross divisional teams shared professional identities and developed new relationships that will continue to grow and develop into the future. Our schools and our students are truly blessed to have such a highly skilled group of professionals! It was these individuals who so willingly came to the divisional day with a positive attitude, enthusiasm, and purpose to contribute to the development of ideas to be incorporated into the classroom for improved student learning and teaching practices. Living Waters has got talent, and in celebration I have tried to summarize my Divisional PD experience in a remake of a familiar song.

Sung to the Tune 'Battle of New Orleans'

In Living Waters C-R-D
We believe in building capacity
So teachers got together
On the divisional P.D.

To collaborate and share their expertise

Well they did some notetaking and summarizing
Vocab development, hypothesizing
Shared graphic organizers, cues and questions
Reinforced effort, offered some suggestions

Well the teachers did discover
There really is no other
Way to share their talents
Without this P.D. balance

They engaged in dialogue
Professional conversation
A living example
Of collegial collaboration

Well AISI was a sponsor
for this special celebration
teachers being responsible
for their education

Improving their practice,
learning from each other
At the end of this PD day,
They were asking for another

Living Waters has got it all
Talent for sure, big and small!

*Go-Anne Lanctot
Deputy Superintendent*

A Message from the Religious Education Coordinator

Groomisms to Remember: A Book Review

Theologian Thomas Groome of Boston College spells out **What Makes Catholics Catholic - Eight Gifts for Life** (2002) Harper Collins

Here are some of the rocks of the book as reported by the Boston College Chronicle:

Prof. Thomas Groome puts forth the proposition that; "The Catholic attitude is, by the grace of God, you don't necessarily have to be a sinner."

In *What Makes Us Catholic: Eight Gifts for Life*, Groome describes eight ideals he says are shared by most Catholics, be they devout or alienated, reformist or traditionalist, lifelong believers or converts.

These qualities include the sense of sacramentality, or finding the infinite in the finite; a feeling of community (especially family), an appreciation of human potential and fallibility; a concern for justice and the unfortunate; a reverence for tradition, and a conviction that care should have no borders.

Catholic Christianity, after 2,000 years, remains "tremendously life-giving," he says, marked by an "largely positive attitude toward the humanity and life in the world," namely, "that life is to be celebrated and enjoyed, cherished and defended, from womb to tomb."

The Catholic faith insists that people are essentially good.

"The Catholic attitude is, by the grace of God, you don't necessarily have to be a sinner," he said.

"Indeed, we're capable of sin, but we don't have to be sinners. In fact, it's possible for each of us to be a saint, to be a person of great holiness."

On the question of cloning, for example, the Catholic doesn't merely wonder if it could be done - he or she wonders if it should be done. "You can't just say, 'Isn't every scientific advance wonderful,'" said Groome. "A Catholic imagination questions the ethics involved."

"The Church is an instrument God uses to come looking for us, and that we use to go looking for God." But he added: "The Church is a means to an end, not an end in itself."

Groome said: "The function of faith in the face of evil is to assure us that God can draw good out of it - while never causing it. And we can be sure that evil will not triumph; however, by God's grace, we must be part of the agency that helps defeat evil; to not allow evil to have the last word."

"The mandate of the Christian faith is to help bring about the reign of God - to do God's will on Earth first, as it in heaven."

**Bob Gleeson
St. Joseph School**