"You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world" (Mt 5:13-14)

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Catholic Board Council of the Ontario Student Trustees’ Association, it is a true honor to be able to present to you the first ever publication of “Keep the Flame Burning”. The works within this magazine are submissions from boards all over Ontario and each portray the diverse and creative ways in which our Catholicism has been celebrated through the works of our students. Each piece of work from students ranging in ages from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12 demonstrate how we are all “light for the world to see”; through their heartfelt messages, creative pieces of art, and social justice activities, these pieces show how the light of Christ is present in all of our schools. Each student and school community has depicted in their own unique way the fundamental role that Catholic schools play within our province and the world.

This year, the Catholic community celebrated Catholic Education week by reflecting what it means to “walk in the light of Christ”. During this week, educators, parents, and students were all able to come together and look back on the amazing initiatives and activities in which we took part in our faith filled communities. It is our hope that this magazine highlights the incredible work our schools have put forth to demonstrate their experiences this past school year and their efforts in keeping the flame of Catholic education burning.

It is our hope that while reading this magazine, you will take the opportunity to reflect on your own experiences and impact that Catholic Education has had on your life, and be inspired to continue to keep the flame burning!

Yours in Catholic Education,

Emma Harper
Student Trustee
Chair of Keep the Flame Burning Committee
Golden Horseshoe Regional Representative

Clarisse Schneider
Student Trustee
Catholic Board Council President
Faith

Joelle Marie Emilano
Holy Spirit School, Gr 6

What is faith?
Faith is to believe in something that you care about, something that is right to you.
To have faith is to have strength.
To me, faith is to pray and hope that God will answer my prayers.
Faith is a shining light to the poor, to the homeless, and to the less fortunate.
We all need faith, even for the simple things in life.
For some people faith is simplicity, and calmness, to others faith is an allegiance to a person or cause.
Faith is belief in God or the teachings of religion, to another faith is the obligation of loyalty.
We all have faith in ourselves, even in a very small way.
Keep the Flame Burning!

St. Joan of Arc CSS

May 2012

Katherine Matienzo, Gr 10

Amanda Ho, Gr 10

Desiree Edwards, Gr 10

Oksana Mychalchuk, Gr 10
Catholic Student Council “Light of Change”

St. Catherine of Alexandria

The 2011-2012 academic year is an exciting time for the community of St. Catherine of Alexandria School. The student body works diligently to support causes that ultimately improve the condition of those less fortunate and underprivileged. Our Catholic Student Council is known as the Light of Change with leaders who work for the betterment of all people, by mirroring the light of Christ. Over the course of the past 7 months these exemplary student performed several acts to raise not only money but also awareness about the importance of lending a helping hand. The money that they are eager to raise will go towards providing clean water in Kenya (sent through Free the Children); Holy Cross Helps, which is a local charity; and the CTK Hope Project whose mission is to send students from Christ the King Catholic High School to the Dominican Republic to help build homes.

So far, the Catholic Student Council (with the help of the school community) has raised over 7,000 dollars. Their goal this year is to raise 10,000 dollars. The money thus far has been raised through various activities, which includes selling Kernels popcorn on a weekly basis to the student body. As well, during the month of October, the Catholic Student Council made and sold over 500 rosary bracelets. This act of charity was not only a fundraising initiative, but more importantly an effort to promote October as the month of the rosary. Bracelets that displayed positive messages were also made and sold to promote anti-bullying during the month of November. As well, we held a day of silence in recognition of a We Day Action Campaign (known as the Vow of Silence). This showed the students that together we stand to promote the rights of all children who in many countries are denied the basic freedom that we enjoy in Canada. Finally, the students also provided a Busy Bee Market to parents and students during December to allow for the purchasing of various Catholic and religious Christmas items.

The students also promoted Catholic living by initiating February as the month of ARK (Acts of Random Kindness). With this initiative, students were encouraged to display various forms of kindness and compassion for one another, thus following in the footsteps of Jesus. This was witnessed through a friendly hello, holding the door, or playing with someone new, all in an attempt to prove that making a difference in the life of another person can start right in your own school community. To further extend this initiative, the intermediate students participated in a Valentine’s Day Charity Dance entitled “In the Hearts of Christ We Unite”. This...
enabled the intermediate students to further their promise of Catholic leadership by demonstrating the gifts of the Holy Spirit through the acts of charity, almsgiving and living in solidarity with others.

During the weeks of Lent, the Catholic Student Council sold various religious items such as rosary bracelets, crosses, and rosaries to prepare the students for Easter. Items were sold to the student body to further exemplify Easter as one of the most important days in the Catholic calendar. We reflect as a Catholic community on the importance of the death of our Saviour, who while alive preached about the importance of equality and love for all people. Easter is also recognized as a time when we reflect on how Jesus, lived and died for the well-being of all mankind. By advertising and promoting this solemn event, students were not only able to bring this awareness to the school community, but did so in a way that fostered continued financial support for our brothers and sisters in need.

Immediately following Easter, a celebration was offered to the families of our local community by providing a pizza/movie night. As a Catholic community we recognize that families are the root of our faith and values. This fundraising initiative enabled families to take time out of their busy schedule and come together to enjoy a fun and relaxing celebration in the company of others in the greater community.

Moreover, the month of May will only continue to bring greater opportunity for acts of social justice among these Catholic leaders. During May, we will be holding a Catholic Spirit Day in further celebration of Easter. This day will help to promote community spirit by reminding the students that together we unite as brothers and sisters of Christ. As well, items will continue to be sold in recognition of Mother’s, which will also give the children of our Catholic school an opportunity to bring home something special for someone they care about.

Ultimately the council’s objective is that through each of these events, the school will reach their final goal. It is the sole mission of our Catholic leaders to affirm that as followers of Christ we will truly exemplify the practice of unconditional love. In doing so we must follow in the words of Jesus himself when he stated, “Truly I tell you, whatever you do to the least of my brothers, you do to me (Matthew 25:46).” We are all capable of being a beacon of hope, a light of change. By living the motto of coming together as a Catholic community to help others, will enable each of us to accomplish positive change and thus a difference can be achieved!

“With this initiative, students were encouraged to display various forms of kindness and compassion for one another, thus following in the footsteps of Jesus.”

**Pure Soldiers**

*Zephan Shenouda Persad*

*Holy Spirit School, Grade 6*

> Our soldiers fought for peace,
> They fought for love,
> They died for honour.
> Today, we remember them
> Because they were killed in battle
> They did well for us and this country.
> Their hands are bloody
> Their bodies are cold but just like in God,
> we have faith.
> So do they.
> If it were not for their brave hearts and their strong courage,
> We would not be free to do anything we want
> Now so I
> Thank them and hope they
> Rest in peace.

*Keep the Flame Burning!* May 2012
A grade 7 class from the Good Shepherd Catholic School spent the Lenten season exploring ways we could connect with Jesus’ journey. Students discussed what “crosses” they are challenged with and how they deal with difficult situations. Using tableaux and mime, my students recreated the Stations of the Cross. Two performances were shared with our school community. While actors recreated the Stations, readers shared reflections to guide their audience to make connections with Christ's experience.
Hello everyone. My name is Aariane, and today I will be talking about bullying. What is bullying you might ask? Well, bullying is another word for “making fun of.” Maybe because of their body, their size, their own features like their laugh or smile. But there is another way to be bullied, and it’s called Racism. I will be talking about being made fun of by you skin colour, your type of culture, and most likely by your language and accent. And, I will also be saying different kind of ways a bully could be racist.

There are different types of cultures, such as: Canadian, Filipino, Spanish, Italian, and so much more. And what comes with a culture is like I said before, is your skin colour, the traditions the language and most probably accents. Most cultures or countries don't have accents. But, they do have everything else. Most accents are a pleasure of hearing and you could get a compliment on how nice it is or get a negative comment on it. That is one way to get bullied. Another way is if the bully makes fun of your language. For example if your speaking a different language and the bully is mocking you, or saying it in a COMPLETELY different form of what you said, like, you never had any of those letters in the word you said, then that's another way.

You could also be made fun of by your skin colour. Like if your dark skin, or bright, you could be made fun of. Then there are culture traditions. Different music and Dances, or special things of you do in sign of respect to an elderly or anyone older or special ways of greeting someone, other people could find it weird and mock you when you do it. That's a sign of racism.

Now what I dislike about people that are racist or not, like, if their just making fun of other people, is that their making fun of one of God's creations, and whenever they bully someone, they have to remember that they are one of his creations too, and God made us this way and we should be proud that we were here on earth this very moment and not everyone is perfect. Now always be who you are. Don't let anyone change you just because they made fun of you. And if your friend or friends make fun of you, they are not your real friend. A real friend accepts you for who you are.

This is a little inspirational quote I've heard. "You can't spell beautiful without BE YOU." It means your beautiful inside and out, by just being you. This is a little thing I'd like to say for all of you that have been brought down just because someone made fun of you cause of your culture, stand up and show your pride. And for those of you that have been bullied, just remember, you're beautiful in your own way. And don't let a bully make you forget that. You are you. And always be you. Thank you.
“Crying Totem”
Megan Lalli, St. Ignatius of Loyola CSS, Gr 12

My painting is an adaptation of Emily Carr’s “Crying Totem”. Emily Carr is world-renowned for her beautiful interpretation of British Columbia wildlife and forestry as well as her depiction of the culture and lifestyles of the Aboriginals residing there. The goal of my painting is to shed light on the difficulties the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people (FNMI) have been and are still facing today.

Through nature, we experience the grace of God. To me, nature is a way to encounter and feel closer to God, while being able to experience the beauty of what He has given us and what He represents. By showing the wreckage of the cut-down trees in the background of my painting, I hoped to express how our society has corrupted the elements. In the wake of that corruption and amongst the remnants of what was once so beautiful and pure, we start to see our impact and how our surroundings have become polluted and soiled, a parallel to the destruction of the Aboriginal people and their culture.

To make the mood of corruption more apparent, I changed the Totem’s face to have a tear drop to express the sorrows experienced by the Aboriginal people. By also incorporating words into the painting, I hoped to provide viewers with a glimpse into many hardships faced by our Native people. This painting expresses troubles the FNMI face such as stereotyping, destruction of culture and land, addiction, poverty, rise in suicides, assimilation, and discrimination. I even included a few crises the Aboriginals have encountered the past multiple decades; residential schooling, Chemical Valley, Athabasca Oil Sands and the Oka Crisis.

I was hoping to reveal the social justice issues residing right here in Canada with the native people of our home land. We, as a society, have not only tainted our land but have irreversibly damaged a culture and a people so distinct that it would be wrong to forget the mistakes we have made. This is why I chose to recreate Emily Carr’s painting, as a way to open people’s eyes to the conditions of Aboriginal people. This was also in an attempt to motivate people to be passionate about helping those in need, while recognizing we are all human and thus the same, especially in light of our mistakes and in the presence of God.

Through my painting, I hoped to communicate the importance of keeping our hearts and our minds open so that we may be always willing to help and love all who come our way, and to work together to better our world through our faith and our love of each other, and of God.

Handprints for Somalia
Students4Students Group
Corpus Christi CSS

Throughout the draught in Somalia, the Students4Students group decided to take on the challenge of raising funds and awareness for the cause. Throughout the duration of a month, students could donate spare change and place their handprint on the wall to symbolize unity, community, and their need/want to be the change and help others who are suffering.
Halloween for Hunger

When one hears the word Halloween, one quickly thinks of lots of candies and goodies, but not at Archbishop Romero Catholic Secondary School! At Romero, when one hears the word Halloween, one automatically thinks about Halloween for Hunger! As a Catholic school community, we come together to help those who are less fortunate. Halloween for Hunger is all about caring and sharing! Every year, Romero’s Student Council promotes Halloween for Hunger through the Free the Children Foundation. How does one participate? It’s simple: On October 31st, staff and students are encouraged to bring in a minimum of 3 non-perishable food items in support of a local women’s shelter: Ernestine’s Women’s Shelter. In exchange for the donation, Staff and students are permitted to dress up in costume for the day.

This past Halloween, the support was overwhelming! We collected boxes upon boxes of non-perishable items! Our community even went one step further by donating gently used women and children clothing, as well as blankets and kitchen items. The Staff members of Ernestine’s Women’s Shelter were truly grateful for our efforts in supporting the women and children who call the shelter their home. Romero’s Halloween for Hunger is a wonderful example of our Faith through Action. We are forever striving to be like our namesake: Archbishop Oscar Romero, Shepherd of the Poor.

THINKfast

30 students from Archbishop Romero Catholic Secondary School hosted their fourth annual THINKfast event. THINKfast, a Development and Peace initiative, is a 25-hour fast. The staff and student participants began their fast after a community breakfast and reflection on Friday, February 10th and ended in the same way on the morning of Saturday, February 11th.

The goal of THINKfast is to bring youth together to create awareness for and discuss social justice issues at local, national, and international levels. This year the students focused their attention on the world water crisis. The students had the opportunity to develop their awareness of some causes of and solutions for the world water crisis through games, viewing of documentaries, group discussions, a reflection in the school chapel, and presentations.

Brittany Curry-Sharples, who participated in a Free The Children trip to Kenya in July 2011, shared her experience as a first-hand witness to the difficulties of access to clean water. Also, T.J. Grant and Genevieve Handler-Barber from World Vision delivered a presentation on their experiences with the difficult access to clean water in several parts of the world, with a focus on the struggles many women face to access water and bring it home to their families. The students were given the chance to experience part of this struggle by lifting jerry cans, which full of water weigh over 44 pounds.

The 25-hour fast is a chance for students to be thankful for what they have and be in solidarity with those who have less. This experience inspires them to learn how they can make a difference in their community and in their world. Prior to the event, the students raised funds through sponsors. The total amount raised was $1,040. The funds collected will support the work of World Vision, Development and Peace, as well as assist in funding a clean water and sanitation project in the community of Shuid in Ecuador, through Free The Children.

This event is an opportunity for the students to remember Archbishop Oscar Romero who dedicated his life to fighting against injustice.
February is LOVEUARY

St. Charles Garnier Catholic School

February is Loveuary at St. Charles Garnier Catholic School. As part of virtue on the month celebration, February offers a unique opportunity to recognize students “walking in the footsteps of Jesus.” In a cooperation with or guidance department, and teachers throughout the entire school community, staff, and, students, in our grade 4 classroom were selected to be “ambassadors of kindness.” In this students were asked to help highlight and promote the virtue of love throughout the entire school community. Each morning all at St. Charles Garnier are serenaded to various songs related to the theme of Love. As part of our regular announcements students share a poem, phrase, experience or thought that connected to virtues of love and kindness. This really helps set the mood for all. In addition Adore awards were created. An Adore Award is an award that any student can receive by any teacher. The criteria for the award are a student who is witnessed as walking in the footsteps of Jesus. Any student showing an act of kindness, caring, helpfulness, compassion etc. receives an Adore Award. An Adore Award Board is on display for all to see and students who receive one have their name on display over their teachers name on the board. It is set up like a graph.

All visitors at St. Charles Garnier will notice students and staff walk and wishing each other “a Happy Loveuary”: even the date written in their notebooks is “Loveuary”. When another student comes into the class to hand in the Adore Award they earned, the students cheer and clap for that student. Love is definitely in the air at St. Charles Garnier during the month of "Loveuary".

A celebration assembly was held to recognize all the random acts of kindness and compassion that have been witnessed. Our students had fun the many activities that took place that afternoon. One actually commented on just how good she feels about herself when you when you make others feel good.

Thanks to Mrs. Barber and her grade 4 class for leading the way as we all attempt to “walk in the footsteps of Jesus”.

“Students were asked to help highlight and promote the virtue of love throughout the entire school community”
“And God saw that it was good” Art Show
St. Peter School

Alexa Aleman-Pastor, Gr 8
“And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.” Genesis 1:16

Maria Carillo, Gr 8
“For God, all things are possible.” Matthew 19:26

Jasmine Kuri, Gr 8
“Our days are like grass, flowers of the field we blossom.” Psalm 103:15
Our Lady of Peace School

Be the Change

Under the direction of the Me to We movement aligned with freethechildren.com, Grade 7 and 8 student leaders had the opportunity to “be the change.” They participated in leadership workshops facilitated by Me to We, working together to raise awareness about issues that they feel passionate about on a local and global level. Students also took the opportunity to make a mission trip and live out their faith.

By Your Side

Monica Dizon

St. Ambrose Catholic School

The Lord is there
To take away the sorrow
He guides us through the day
So we can get to tomorrow

He is there for us
When we need Him by our side
Always forgiving us
Even if we lied

The Lord helps us get through
Even when times are rough
And when He is by our side
Nothing is ever tough

The message is
That the Lord is always near
Ready to lend a helping hand
Because there is nothing to fear.
La Vida Simple: Loyola goes to the Dominican
Sonya Peres
St. Ignatius of Loyola CSS

What I consider the best experience of my life, occurred in a span of one week. An unlikely setting, a small, rural village in the Dominican Republic, captured my heart in ways I didn't know possible. Last year, I was one of 24 students chosen to go on Loyola's biannual volunteer trip to the Dominican Republic with HOPE (homes, opportunity, perspective, education). For months, we planned and fundraised for money to build a deserving family a new home. Finally, on December 1st, thirteen of us (eleven students and two teachers, Mrs. Maclean and Mr. Moore) boarded a flight to Santo Domingo, the capital of the Caribbean country which shares an island, La Hispaniola, with Haiti. From Santo Domingo, another 2 hour journey to San Jose de Ocoa, a valley-city, carried us into the warm Dominican night. After a comfortable sleep in a school dormitory, we loaded onto the back of a truck and drove another 2 hours up into the mountains to our final destination, Arroyo Manteca.

Arroyo Manteca is a simple, one-road rural village. One store and one school cater to the residents. The habitants, farmers, live with the bare-necessities, the only excess being the love for their family. Being the epitome of a “city girl” I never imagined a town of approximately 150 people as the type of place I’d call home but over the next week, the small village proved to be just that. Every morning, our bakers’ dozen, fresh-faced and eager to build, set out to a land plot, 5 minutes from our residence (the upper level of a primary school) to build a home for Mayra and Frank and their two kids, Dariel and Darisbel. Our workload was lessened by all their neighbours volunteering to help and by the kids that would come and play with us while we took breaks. In the afternoon, the kids would come and play with us some more. We would dance, play volleyball, braid each other’s hair and give piggyback rides, simple but fun activities. All our meals were cooked by Fanny, a gracious, kind woman who makes mean fried plantains.

That one week generated so many memories, all of them being made purely through relationships, emotional memories versus the materialistic ones of everyday life. One thing I’ll never forget is the beauty of the land. After digging up dirt, exhausted, I would look up at my surroundings. Verdant mountains overgrown with jungle only intensified my shortness of breath. The view, so spectacular, made me want to avoid blinking completely in hopes of taking in as much as I possibly could.

Life is really quite simple. It's not an idea that's new to me, but my week in Arroyo Manteca offered me a deeper understanding of the concept. Before the trip, simplicity was just something people spoke of, a conversation you threw off while buying a plethora of gadgets at the mall. But really, it's the best way to live. It's funny, technology is truly a paradox. Meant to simplify our lives, all it does is add underlying complexity to everything we do. When you break life down, you realize that there isn't much you need. All the hoopla and pageantry of our westernized lives is fun, but it should never get in the way of what is actually important: our relationships with people.

HOPE taught me an unbelievable amount about life, other people and myself.
Huddle Up Program

The Toronto Argonauts “Huddle Up” Program members and the Our Lady of Peace Huddle Up Team work together to end bullying in their school.

“Vow of Silence Day”

The Peace Team has been working hard on their first campaign to raise awareness for children silenced by poverty, war, and exploitation. Grade 8 students at Our Lady of Peace took a pledge not to speak for a day in support of children around the world.

They also prepared three different assemblies for primary, junior, and intermediate students to inform them about the lives of children less fortunate and explore ways in which they can all “Take the Vow”

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Peace

Angela Trinidad
Holy Spirit School, Gr 6

What is Peace?
Peace is when everyone lives in harmony.
Usually after hard times.
Peace is when everyone is calm.
A time when there is no war.
Everything is quiet, no violence or disorder.
Peace is when everyone is happy with their life.
Everyone is having an agreement or compromise.
When someone they love has come back safely.
From a long battle over time.
When you gotten something back.
That is very important to you.
Like family.
Things that are peaceful are flowers.
Family and friends.
Most importantly about peace.
Is when you get someone back that you love.
Now that's true peace.
“Kee-A-Kee-Ka-Sa-Coo-Way”

Trisha DeSouza, St. Ignatius of Loyola CSS, Gr 12

My personal interpretation of Paul Kane’s “Kee-A-Kee-Ka-Sa-Coo-Way” comes from a place of deep empathies for the Indigenous peoples of Canada. In the original painting the figure of the portrait is a Cree Warrior, ‘the Man who gives the War Whoop’, holding a medicine pipe. This portrait truly represents a beauty of First Nations so rarely captured on canvas. It is a celebration of culture and diversity. I chose to change the painting in order to represent what history has done to the Aboriginal peoples of Canada. The most important change that I made was the replacement of the medicine pipe with a blanket containing different panels, all representing different problems facing the Indigenous peoples today. The first panel is of a torn Canadian flag symbolizing the ‘torn dignity’ of Canada’s first peoples, the flag signifies, that although Canada is one country under one banner, not all of the Canadian people are being cared for in the best respects. Indigenous people have faced persecution of the sort for centuries; attacks have been made on their culture, their methods and their attitudes all for the sake of the flag that unites us all.

The second panel is one of deforestation, although forestry has provided Canadians with an industry that is easily enforced by Canada’s natural resources, this panel in particular shows the struggles that Indigenous people of our country have faced in terms of treatment in the environment. Many areas of land that they wished to remain untouched have been exploited by corporations or government related activity. The respect that they have for nature is not reflected in the needs and wants of society today, and the earth which should be cherished has and is still being torn up for human gluttony and economic preservation. The third panel is a reproduction of the Oka Crisis flag, a flag that has come to represent other crisis’s that First Nations have dealt with. It is a symbol of the retaliation and strength that they have had in fighting against areas they feel are wrong, it is also a symbol of their say in what happens to the country, and how they will no longer watch for their land and culture to be destroyed. It is a symbol of hope.

The fourth and fifth panels represent alcohol and drugs respectively, through programs such as residential schooling and mistreatment by the government, many First Nations, Métis and Inuit groups have been lumped into cycles of destruction. It is the responsibility of the government and the peoples to emerge successfully out of that cycle and build a positive future for themselves and the ones they love, as well as provide proper guidance for their youth.

The blanket as a whole symbolizes the destruction that colonial countries such as England and France brought to the Indigenous groups of Canada as well as their respective repercussions. It can also be taken literally for the concept of delivering ‘measles in a blanket’ to the primarily peaceful peoples that originated here.

Other minute changes were also added, these include subbing in a rifle for the main tube of the medicine pipe representing the violence and weapons they have encountered since colonization, as well as how it has affected their people and also a darkening of all the colours with dull brown to symbolize destruction and sadness. There is a dying tree in the murky background and the once proud warrior sheds tears for the dignity which his people seemed to have lost.

As previously stated it is the responsibility of the government, our communities and the peoples of the Indigenous groups to bring back the beautiful culture of those who first knew the land, as it is significant in the heritage of Canada. Moreover, in reference to our Catholic spirituality it is the essential responsibility of Christians everywhere to heed God’s word and embrace all peoples, respect all peoples and love all peoples. My own personal Catholic values have taught me that I want to do all I can to spread the word, in terms of the problems facing our Indigenous people. They are a minority group who needs to be heard and more importantly listened to. As a Catholic individual I hope to incorporate these values with my artistic ability in my goal for this painting. I would like to spread awareness using my work of art to bring attention to these issues. One day, it can be hoped that there will be no reason for our Indigenous groups to cry out because of discrimination and the subsequent destruction, one day my warrior wishes to wipe his watery eyes and allow them to beam with hope for the future, a glorious future where all will be treated with equity, dignity and respect.
A Grade 4 student at St. Joan of Arc Catholic School in Oakville is truly a living example of his Faith and an excellent example of the Halton Catholic District School Board’s Focus on Faith theme for Grade 4 – “Option for the Poor and Vulnerable”.

Ty MacLellan decided to do his speech on his experiences with his Nana and her work at the Food Bank in Wasaga Beach, Ontario. Not only was it an exemplary speech, but it also exuded his emotions and passion towards the work his Nana is dedicated to. His speech also expressed to his audience, what he has experienced and learned at the Wasaga Food Bank.

He conveyed this emotion which he transformed into action here at St. Joan of Arc. He initiated and carried out his own food drive with his Grade 4 class and the support and encouragement of his classroom teacher, Ms. K. Daly. It has now expanded to a monthly food drive for all the Grade 4 students at the school.

As the manager at the Food Bank told him, “imagine how great the world would be if we had at least one Ty MacLellan at every school, in every class”. Everyone at the Food Bank readily agree!

In Ty’s words….. “Doing my speech was fun and it was a little nerve wracking, but exciting. I issued a challenge to my class to simply bring in one non-perishable item on the first Friday of every month and my family and I would take our class donations to the Oakville Food Bank. I decided I wanted to challenge not just my class, but all the Grade 4 students at my school and they took my challenge. I am so happy with all the work the Grade 4’s and my class have done to help out with donating food and other needed items. It started as a speech and now it has gone viral and is spreading throughout the school. I feel like I didn't just write any ordinary speech. I know that I have made a difference and I feel a sense of pride that I am helping out others!

“I would challenge anyone else reading this message to spread the word and do your part to help the poor and vulnerable in our community.”

In addition to helping the local Food Bank here in Oakville, Ty has also presented his speech to his Nana and the workers at the Food Bank in Wasaga Beach.

A representative from the Wasaga Food Bank read Ty's speech at his Nana's church as a motivational reading to encourage the parishioners to “pay it forward” and donate for the Easter Food Drive.

His speech was also included in his Nana’s church application for a government grant to help finance repairs needed to upgrade the building the Food Bank is presently housed in.
The art students at St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic Secondary School are trying to do their part in combatting world poverty. In a project designed to benefit the children at the Rafiki Orphanage in Tanzania, Africa, the dedicated art students created a colouring book entitled *A Canadian Alphabet*. Samples of the colouring book were sent to the children at Rafiki to educate them about Canada, and remind them of their friends overseas. Different aspects of Canada were highlighted in the colouring book: Canadian geography, history, wildlife, culture, and inventions. In the second stage of the project, the colouring books were sold by Loyola students at school events and in local parishes. Thanks to the support of the community and especially the support of the parishes, a total of $800 was raised in sales, and all profit went towards the Rafiki Orphanage. The Loyola students like to call this “Faith in art action”.

For more information about the Rafiki project, please email RafikiFriends@yahoo.ca or visit www.RideforRafiki.ca.
Two Regiopolis-Notre Dame Catholic High School students are tackling the issue of bullying in their own way; one on Facebook and one face-to-face.

Jennifer Henderson, 17, and Shaniqua Liston, 16, have taken a different route with the same result: an awareness of the effects of bullying.

Jennifer started a Facebook page called The Reminder Project dedicated to raising awareness of anti-bullying issues. It already has several hundred hits and she excitedly rhymes off the names of the countries of “Likes” - United States, Australia, Germany, Bermuda, Switzerland, Scotland, Poland, and Austria.

“I hope the message can be spread and shared,” she says. “Share the love.”

To help spread the word, she has made wrist bracelets in several colours to sell in hope of supporting an agency that will support anti-bullying initiatives. Bracelets, she said, are a trend that show the people are part of a group.

“These bracelets will show you are part of a loving and caring community.”

The Reminder Project is named to “remind people how much they are loved,” says Jennifer. “Everybody needs a reminder that they are special.”

Shaniqua heard an inspirational speaker at a workshop discussing bullying and decided to take action. She organized a retreat for Grade 9 students at Rideau Acres with activities and discussions, after being inspired by a friend who struggles with bullying issues.

“Dealing with bullying and to go to school is very tough,” she says. The retreat “made the students see you are not the only one, you are never alone.”

Vice-Principal Lucy Teves says, “We are very proud of Jennifer and Shaniqua for their initiative to develop and lead separate anti-bullying activities within the Regiopolis-Notre Dame community at large. These young ladies are supporting the school’s anti-bullying initiatives by working to increase awareness and to have students become proactive about being respectful to self, others, and the environment.

For more information, please visit http://www.facebook.com/TheReminderProject
My Faith and The Lottery Speech

Nicholas Fiesser
Our Lady of Peace, Gr 6

What would you do if you won the lottery? It’s an advantage! It’s a way to change the world. It could be your dreams coming true or your life becoming a living hell. Today I would like to talk to you about winning the lottery, our faith and how to make a difference in the world. If you win the lottery, you have the ability to change one person’s life or change the entire world forever.

Now, before you can spend money on helping others, you have to believe that you deserve to be blessed with this good fortune. But, come on now! Is that how we pray? Are we supposed to pray to win money? No! We are called to work hard and to do God’s work here on earth! And I don’t mean hard work buying lots of lottery tickets either. But, if we should win, we would be able to afford to hire lots of people and we could also purchase many resources to promote solidarity around the world.

Do you get it? I’m talking Nobel Peace Prize, people! You know people like Nelson Mandela, the former South African president that ended apartheid; Bishop Desmond Tutu, the civil rights ACTivist and Mother Theresa, who cared for the poor, the sick and the dying. This is hard work but it does not require you to be a scientist or a brainiac. You do, however, have to be focused on doing God’s work here on earth.

Did you know that Nobel Peace Prize winners win one million dollars for the work they do to help mankind? It’s true. Then, they use their money to support their acts of charity. We don’t see these people buying luxury cars, yachts, and expensive vacations. They use their money to protect humanity and save the planet. That’s why you have never seen a picture of Mother Thersea in a sequins gown, staying at a high-end resort, sipping smoothies with her feet. She spent her life in the slums of India caring for the less fortunate in society, just as Jesus did. The money she won paid for the hospitals in the poorest regions of India. It had nothing to do with luck, folks. God knew she wanted to do His work. God knew that she could do it. She is now a saint. Could you be a saint? I think I’m still a little light on charity and solidarity, how about you?

So, every time I see a person buying a lottery ticket, I say to them, “What are you going to do with your money? You could win, you know!” And they always say, “I’m going to buy my wife a new car!” But wouldn’t it be nice if they said, “I’m going to save the world.” So then right there at the corner store, when these people are paying for their ticket, you can hear them quietly singing, “I want to be a billionaire SO bad.” Then, as they are leaving the store, you can see them looking up towards the heavens and daring to pray and saying to God, “Please let me win the lottery. I’ve been so good this year!”

Wow! Somebody call the Prayer Police! Just because somebody believes that they deserve the jackpot, doesn’t mean that God is going to allow them to win. Isn’t that like putting God to the test, or something? Does God have to show them His power, for them to believe? God already knows that the money will ruin their lives and it’s not a good idea that they win the lottery.

A good example of this lesson, is Jack Whittacker. On December 25, 2002, Jack won $315 million dollars on the multi-state powerball lottery. Jack’s daughter and grand-daughter, died a few years later, because they were addicted to drugs and alcohol purchased using the money from Jack’s winnings. And not only that, Jack’s wife left him because he was only concerned about his own selfish needs that the money allowed him to satisfy. What a tragedy!

In conclusion, I hope I have convinced you that by losing all of your worldly possessions here on earth, will help you reach the kingdom of God one day. If you win the lottery, or find yourself with a lot of money one day, use it to help the poor, the sick, the dying and less fortunate in our society. Don’t spend the money on your own selfish needs, or you will lose everything that matters to you in this life. Remember, it was Jesus who said in Matthew, Chapter 19, it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. So, remember this, and don’t be the rich man in the story.
Catholic Board Council Prayer

Prayer Committee

Almighty Father,

Thank You for the blessing that is Catholic Education. Thank You for the opportunity to grow academically and spiritually in fellowship with one another. You are the light of the world. We as Catholic students are dedicated to shining Your light for the world to see, in every aspect of our lives.

We are proud to be stewards of our faith. To use the gifts that You have bestowed upon us to be positive role models within our faith-filled communities. We ask for Your guidance, to assist us in all the choices we make. We know that You are with us in all moments in our lives, in both the joyful and the difficult.

Help us to discover who You created us to be, to pursue our vocations with faith-filled hearts.

Through Your name we pray,

Amen
Thank You!

Holy Spirit CES, TCDSB
Joan of Arc CSS, DPCDSB
St. Peter CES, HCDSB
St. Catherine of Alexandria CES, HCDSB
Good Shepherd CES, SMCDSB
Corpus Christi CSS, HCDSB
St. Ignatius of Loyola CSS, HCDSB
Archbishop Romero CSS, TCDSB
St. Charles Garnier CES, TCDSB
St. Ambrose CES, TCDSB
Our Lady of Peace CES, HCDSB
Joan of Arc CES, HCDSB
St. Josephine Bakhita CES, DPCDSB
Regiopolis-Notre Dame, ALCDSB