



Leadership Making a Difference

In the September communication to directors I referenced a number of initiatives by district school boards with directors taking a lead role. Positive responses indicated a desire to share more activities and we will continue to do a regular contact.

- ❖ **Dave Euale** reports that Halton District School Board has a significant initiative with Parents Supporting Their Child's Math Learning.

The Board will be hosting multiple evening sessions for parents/guardians to help them understand how the highly-regarded adaptive learning program, *DreamBox* is being used to support math instruction.

The Board launched a new Elementary math strategy last year designed to improve student achievement through progressive approaches such as the use of computer-learning technology and mental math strategies. The use of technology has formed an important part of the strategy including purchasing licenses to math programs like *DreamBox*.

- ❖ Algoma District School Board uses *Prodigy* software to enhance mathematics achievement and are impressed with its productivity and ability to engage students in mathematics. **Lucia Reece** states that this software used with tablets has made a significant difference in math delivery and brings a positive in-school followup to EQAO materials.

- ❖ Halton is Hosting the **7th Annual PIC Conference** Saturday, October 18

The annual Parent Involvement Committee Conference (PIC) involves workshops that share effective practices and provides opportunities for parents to re-focus on the role of families in the development of students of all ages.

This year's conference will include two keynote speakers. Mary-Jean Gallagher is the Assistant Deputy Minister from the Student Achievement Division at the Ministry of Education and George Couros is the Division Principal for Parkland School Division in Alberta and an Innovative Teaching, Learning, and Leadership consultant.

The Parent Involvement Committee, an important link between our parent communities and our school board, provides a regular opportunity for parents to network, share ideas, offer input and enjoy informative presentations on education and related topics throughout the school year.

- ❖ **Pat Amos** highlights that students in the Hamilton – Wentworth CDSB are working with a group of volunteers from Habitat for Humanity to build homes as well as gaining experience and skills in a co-op placement that is readying them for a future career in the construction trades. Three townhouses have now been framed and the students are earning up to four construction/co-op credits toward an OSSGD and a SHSM designation in construction.
- ❖ Most boards have now registered teams for the Innovation Research Symposium on October 23 at the Reference Library in Toronto. **Chris Dede** of Harvard University will be the keynote speaker bringing a message based on international study of system implementation of change in delivery of learning.
- ❖ Directors are getting significant comment currently on the EQAO test results. **Larry Hope** in Trillium Lakelands refers to the standardized testing as “a snapshot in time” and goes on to emphasize the values of regular testing in the curriculum program.
- ❖ **John Crocco** in Niagara Catholic District School Board has instituted a Director of Education’s Inspiration Award launched in 2013.

This award is presented annually to exemplary Niagara Catholic employees who embody the Mission, Vision and Values of the system, the vocation and call to serve students, colleagues and community.

The Inspiration Award is presented in recognition of faithful, passionate, innovative and extraordinary contributions to Niagara Catholic.

A nomination, endorsed by the nominee’s direct supervisor, is required for the consideration of the Director of Education’s Inspiration Award.

Nominations are reviewed by a Selection Committee made up of members of Senior Staff, with the final selection being made by the Director of Education.