



Spotlight

on

NIAGARA CATHOLIC

Nurturing Souls & Building Minds

www.niagaracatholic.ca

January 14, 2014



Niagara Catholic Signs International Partnership Agreements With South Korean School



Niagara Catholic Chairperson Kathy Burtnik, left, and Sister Insuk Pak sign a partnership agreement between Niagara Catholic and Soha Elementary School during the January 14th Committee of the Whole Meeting, while Director of Education John Crocco looks on. See story at right for complete details of Niagara Catholic's newest partnership agreement in Asia.

For the past three years, International Program staff with Niagara Catholic have actively engaged potential partners overseas to design agreements for students and staff exchanges, program and service delivery and staff training and professional development opportunities.

Niagara Catholic welcomed 92 elementary students from South Korea into our schools on January 6th, 2014.

Approximately half of the students currently attending Niagara Catholic schools are visiting through the Jeollabuk-Do Foundation, which Niagara Catholic signed a partnership agreement with last year.

Twenty-eight visiting students attend Bokja Catholic Girls' Middle School. Sister Angela Bang, the school's Principal, and three others are travelling with them in. An agreement between Niagara Catholic and Bokja Catholic Girls Middle School was signed last fall.

Other visiting students also attend the Salesio and Soha Catholic Elementary Schools. Among those accompanying the students from Salesio and Soha schools is Sister Insuk Pak, from Soha Elementary School, which signed an arrangement with Niagara Catholic similar to the one signed by Salesio Catholic Elementary School Principal and Director Crocco in January, 2011.



WELCOME!
French Immersion
Open Houses
5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Bienvenue!

January 21, 2014
At the following Catholic Elementary Schools:
Holy Name Notre Dame Our Lady of Fatima (St. C) St. Mark

A Winter Reminder



conditions, and to have alternate plans in place in the event of transportation delays, cancellations or school closures.

During inclement weather parents who have concerns about sending their child(ren) to school are asked to consider the weather in the area, take the necessary precautions and make the final decision on whether or not to send their child(ren) to school.

Families are reminded that children should come to school with appropriate coats, hats and gloves for the weather

Niagara Catholic Introduces Attendance Support Program

As part of the Vision 2020 Strategic Plan, in 2012-2013 the Board's Human Resources Department initiated the development of the Attendance Support Policy and Program for all Niagara Catholic staff. This Policy was approved by the Board in November, 2012.

As a part of this plan, Niagara Catholic realigned the Human Resources Department, formalizing the Coordinator of WSIB/Health and Safety with a new title of Coordinator of Staff Wellness, and creating a Coordinator of Attendance Support. In their positions, Gina Sattin and Lana Pasto will focus their efforts on addressing staff wellness, attendance and support.

Working in partnership with staff, the Coordinator of Staff Wellness and the Coordinator of Attendance Support will monitor staff wellness and attendance and, as required, will work to facilitate a supportive return to work as efficiently as possible.

The implementation of Niagara Catholic's Attendance Support Program is currently being reviewed by administrators and will be shared with staff later this year.

View the complete report in the January 14 agenda at niagaracatholic.ca.

Niagara Catholic's First Raise Me Up Home Nearing Completion

Last fall, Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) students from Lakeshore Catholic High School and Notre Dame College School began the process of building a new home on a previously unused parcel of land adjacent to Notre Dame College as part of the Board's Raise Me Up Program.

The program is a partnership between Niagara Catholic, Toscani Developments and many other government and community partners, and offers students in two distinct Specialist High Skills Major Programs - Construction and Business, the opportunity to learn the homebuilding industry, literally from the ground up.

The students had the opportunity to learn about engineering and design concepts, surveying and also about framing, plumbing, wiring and other construction tasks associated with building a house.

While students in the Construction SHSM built the home, students in the Business SHSM learned about the behind the scenes work which goes into homebuilding, including planning, purchasing, and financing. They also learned about the municipal rules which govern homebuilding.

Students in the Environmental SHSM have reviewed the benefits of building homes on in-fill lots in neighbourhoods, rather than expanding the urban boundary. They have also examined the advantages of using existing infrastructure such as roads, sewer and hydro, rather than building in new areas, which requires the expansion of an existing system.



Students poured the foundation at the Raise Me Up house in Welland last fall.



Taking shape: The Raise Me Up house adjacent to Notre Dame College School is nearly completed. Students who participated in the program, and their parents, attended the January 14th Committee of the Whole Meeting, and shared with Trustees and Senior Staff how valuable an experience participating in this project has been.

Kindergarten
2014 Open House
February 4, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Addiction Study At Holy Cross

Through the approval of the Board's Research Ethics Review Committee, Community Addiction Services of Niagara (CASON) is field-testing a school-based addictions and treatment program at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School.

The school-based treatment and counselling program at Holy Cross is the result of a multi-sector partnership. Read the full report online at niagaracatholic.ca.

Building Elementary Chapels

In accordance with the Board's 2020 Strategic Plan, Strategic Direction to "Build Strong Catholic Identity and Community to Nurture the Distinctiveness of Catholic Education," and recent comments made by Director of Education John Crocco on the continued nurturing of our Catholic faith with students, staff and members of our communities, Facilities Services has been instructed to design a plan to renovate available space in elementary schools, where possible, into a Chapel.

The design of each school's Chapel will be unique to the space provided, minimizing structural changes and interior design. It will utilize the experience and knowledge gained through the creation of Chapels at each of our eight Catholic secondary schools. Bishop Bergie, Parish Priests, Catholic School Councils and staff will also provide insight into this project.

For more details, please see the report in the January 14th agenda at niagaracatholic.ca.