

# BOARD BULLETIN

February 12, 2013 – MEDICINE HAT CATHOLIC BOARD OF EDUCATION



In photo: Mike Weisgerber, Principal  
Mason Hintz and Peter Grad, Board Chair

## AMBASSADOR FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

– The Board of Trustees for the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education presented **Mason Hintz** a student from St. Michael's School in Bow Island with the **"Above and Beyond Award"** for his efforts in collecting can tabs for a very special friend. Mason began collecting tabs with just a few pounds, he has now collected well over 100 lbs. The funds from the

tabs will assist his friend and the Ronald McDonald House. **Congratulations Mason!** Mr. Mike Weisgerber, Principal at St. Michael's School was in attendance to introduce Mason. Congratulations Mason. Good Job!

## PRESENTATION NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

– Mr. Dwayne Unreiner, Vice-Principal from Notre Dame Academy was in attendance to share with the Board the many initiatives, community partnerships and programming enhancements occurring at the school including; *Cosmetology, Home Economics, Welding, Wood Working, Art, Leadership, Office Administration, Robotics, Lego Robotics and Bicycle Repair.* Partnerships with Gravity Sports, Canadian Tire and Medicine Hat College are enhancing programming to the entire student body. The Board of Trustees expressed appreciation for the effort and commitment demonstrated by our schools to enhance student learning.

## HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS VACCINATION

**Background:** The topic of HPV vaccination was addressed by the Medicine Hat Catholic School Board Trustees in October 2008; the motion to allow the vaccine to be administered in Division Schools was defeated at that time. Bishop Henry's statement from June 2008, to not allow the vaccine to be administered in Catholic schools, remains the only formal statement from the Diocese of Calgary. Our Board commenced a consultation process with the parent community in Medicine Hat and Bow Island Catholic Schools to gain feedback with respect to the offering of the HPV Vaccine in the school. Bishop Henry has endorsed our consultation process. A **Town Hall Meeting** was held on **Monday, January 21, 2013** to give the opportunity for stakeholders to have a conversation about the HPV Vaccine. Stakeholders were given the opportunity to respond to the following question: **Should the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education offer the administering of the HPV Vaccination in our schools?** Stakeholders responded by either completing a questionnaire or providing their personal comments and opinions in writing by mail or email. Responses were received until January 28, 2013. The Board of Trustees received a **formal request** as per Policy 7 (Article #9) for a **delegation to make a presentation** at the February 12, 2013 Board Meeting. The delegation was given 15 minutes to present their opinion. The Board of Trustees voted on the following motion:

**"THAT the Board of Trustees for the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education offers the administering of the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Vaccine in schools in accordance with Alberta Health Services immunization schedule".** The vote resulted in **2 Trustees in Favor, 3 Trustees Opposed, the motion was defeated.** The HPV Vaccine will not be offered in the Catholic Schools in Medicine Hat and Bow Island.

**SCHOOL FEES 2012-2013** – The Board of Trustees approved an **increase to mandatory Board school fees** for the 2013-2014 school year including a \$5 increase to the Kindergarten fee; now set at \$50 per year and an increase of \$3 to Grades 7-9 fee; now set at \$75. A number of other school-based fee increases were also approved.

## Our Motto:

**"Showing the face of Christ to all."**

**SCHOOL BOUNDARY CHANGES** – At a Special Board Meeting on **January 28, 2013** the Board approved a number of School Zone/Boundary changes. Families directly affected received a letter detailing the school boundary change along with information about the school they are now re-zoned to. A formal communication was published detailing the boundary changes as follows:

- **St. Michael's School MH** – Division-wide transportation will no longer be offered. The school will continue to offer the Fine Arts focus. Addition of a Flex-Zone (*NECH will include a Flex-Zone with transportation provided to eligible students to St. Michael's School or St. Francis Xavier School*). Students living in SE & SW Hill, Harlow, River Heights, Kensington, Tower Estates & Cottonwood will now be zoned to St. Louis School. No changes to Crescent Heights west of Division Avenue, Riverside, Redcliff or Rural Area #1.
- **St. Francis Xavier School** – Addition of a Flex-Zone (*NECH will include a flex-zone with transportation provided to eligible students to St. Francis Xavier School or St. Michael's School*). No changes to Crescent Heights east of Division Avenue, Parkview, Ranchlands or Northlands.
- **St. Louis School** – Attendance area now includes SE & SW Hill, Harlow, River Heights, Kensington, Tower Estates and Cottonwood.

**All Other Schools** – No changes. **Cross attendance is permitted** to any division school provided there is room in the program and parents provide their own transportation. The Board of Trustees and Senior Administration wish to thank our parent community for participating in the community engagement process. **Your feedback and input is important and valued.** The Board will continue in its efforts to focus on providing effective and efficient operations and balancing the utilization of our schools.

## OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICER (OH&S)

– The position for an **Occupational Health and Safety Officer** has been successfully filled. The Catholic & Public School Boards have entered into an agreement to **share the OH&S Officer**. The start date is March 4, 2013. The individual will be employed by the Public School Division and contracted to Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education. The Board is aware of the legal requirements under the OH&S Program and our Division must ensure we are in compliance with the legislation.

## COMMUNICATION

– As part of our ongoing engagement with our parents, staff and community stakeholders we invite your feedback, comments or opinions on any topic of importance to you. Email us at [communications@mhcbe.ab.ca](mailto:communications@mhcbe.ab.ca) or; you may wish to contact us personally by phone, if so, please call the Catholic School Board Office at 403.502.8347. We want to hear from you. Your opinion matters. We value your input. Thank you.

**Education Week**

INSPIRING EDUCATION: *Building Connections,  
Celebrating Relationships*  
**Celebrate Education Week 2013 May 6 to May 10**

The next regular Catholic School Board Meeting is Tuesday, March 12, 2013 @ 3:00 pm @ the Catholic School Board Office, 1251 – 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue SW., Medicine Hat.  
Everyone is welcome to attend.

SCHOOL BOARD NEWS – As part of the Board of Trustees ongoing effort to keep our school and stakeholder community informed, a Bulletin is published following the monthly Catholic School Board Meeting. The Bulletin highlights just a few of the School Division's many Initiatives, Projects & Activities. We hope you find this publication of interest and value to you.