

# BOARD BULLETIN

December 2013 – MEDICINE HAT CATHOLIC BOARD OF EDUCATION

## PRESENTATION – COMMUNITIES COMING TOGETHER

**(CCT).** Did you know that we have programs supporting **Mental Health Wellness** at the Middle School & High School level? As part of the **Mental Health Capacity Building Initiative**, St. Mary's School, Notre Dame Academy and Monsignor McCoy High School provide support through education, services & activities for youth & families together with community partners, our Project Team & School Staffs. Mrs. Patty Wagman, (CCT) Coordinator, was in attendance to review the types of activities and services offered. It was noted funding has not been granted past June 2014. Earlier this year, the Board wrote a letter to the Provincial Government advocating for continued funding of this worthwhile and engaging programming.



### ✝ Communities Coming Together Team

**Left to right Back Row:** Leah Hirst (*Addictions Worker*), Caitlin Bannow (*Spirit Coach*), Jenesse Chamberlin (*Mental Health Consultant*), Ashley Day (*Spirit Coach*), Kaley Sulz (*Resiliency Outreach Coordinator*)  
**Left to right Front Row:** Patty Wagman (*Project Coordinator*), Hugh Lehr (*Associate Superintendent, Learning Services with MHCBE*).

## SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS APPOINTMENT

The Board of Trustees passed a motion to appoint Mr. Jim Gibbons, a consultant from the Alberta School Boards Association, to assist in the hiring of a **Superintendent of Schools** for Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education. The job posting and ideal candidate profile is available on the division website. The application timeline is **January 13, 2014**.

## ALBERTA SCHOOL FOUNDATION FUND (ASFF)

This item was tabled to the January 2014 Board Meeting to allow for the Board to seek independent legal counsel prior to considering the motion that *Division 4 of Part 6 of the Education Act does not apply to MHCBE*. The Board has an objection to providing another motion in addition to the motion passed on Feb. 12, 2013 opting out of the Alberta School Foundation Fund.

## TOONIES FOR TUITION

– The Board unanimously passed a motion to support the **Toonies for Tuition Program** as follows: *“That the MHCBE supports the voluntary request of \$2 annual per student contribution from graduating students in Medicine Hat Catholic High Schools donated to the Canadian Catholic School Trustees’ Association Endowment Fund”*. The cause assists students of Canadian Catholic Schools for tuition support in Provinces with limited or no public funding.

## CATHOLIC EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM

– The Board agreed to **financially support the “Growing Forward-Catholic Education Symposium”** in the amount of **\$1500**. Clergy, Parents and Staff interested in attending the Symposium on February 21

## Our Motto:

**“Showing the face of Christ to all.”**



& 22, 2014 can access funds available to support registration and associated costs. Information for parents and staff will be sent to Schools in January 2014.

**BOARD RETREAT** – The Board Retreat will focus on **“MHCBE as an Efficient and Effective Operation—Finding a Balance”**. The 1<sup>st</sup> day will involve Trustees, Sr. Administration, Principals and Vice-Principals; the 2<sup>nd</sup> day will be Trustees & Sr. Administration. The Retreat is scheduled for Friday, Jan 31 and Saturday, Feb 1, 2014.

**CLASS SIZE SURVEY** – The Board received the Class Size Survey Report for 2013 -2014. Overall, other than a slight variable, our class sizes **have remained consistent with provincial targets:** Grades K-3(17); 4-6(23); 7-9(25) and 10-12(27). The complete [Class Size Report](#) is available on the division website under Documents and Publications.

**SCHOOL ZONES** – Trustee, Reverend Mr. Robert Risling presented the Board with a proposal to approach the City of Medicine Hat to consider investing in electronic **Speed Zone Signs** in city school zones. The Board will present a recommendation to the City of Medicine Hat, either in partnership with the Public School Board, or independently. Administration presented initial costing for the electronic signs; (approx. \$2800 per unit). The Board will write a letter to the Public School Board to determine their interest in partnering a proposal to the City.

## CURRICULUM RE-DESIGN

– **What is Curriculum Re-Design?** It is an opportunity to review Alberta’s provincial curriculum to ensure it is engaging, relevant and enables students to reach their full potential; it is **one of the initiatives helping to bring the vision of Inspiring Education to life**. The vision sets the direction to transform Alberta’s education system. Right now, Curriculum Prototyping is underway including: *Curriculum Development; Literacy & Numeracy Benchmarking & Competency Indicators*. **What will be different for Students & Teachers?**

- Provincial Achievement Tests for Grades 3, 6 & 9 will be replaced by Student Learning Assessments administered at the start of the school year; with the pilot beginning in September 2014 with Grade 3’s;
- Assessments will be delivered digital and on-line, with results available within 24 hours for Teachers;
- Flexible Diploma Examination Dates and Timelines;
- New Program of Studies, Identified and/or Development of Associated Resources and Classroom Assessments;
- New Career & Technology Foundations Program for Grades 5-9;
- Dual Credit Strategy & review of High School Credentialing Requirements;
- Curriculum Redesign Implementation is set for the 2015–2016 school year.

## \*2013 EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

Nominate your **favorite Teacher or Principal** for an **Excellence in Teaching Award** before Feb 7, 2014! Nomination packages [www.education.gov.ab.ca/teachers/excellence.aspx](http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/teachers/excellence.aspx)

The next regular Catholic School Board Meeting is Tuesday, January 14, 2014 @ 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 community informed, this Bulletin is published following the monthly Catholic School Board Meeting. The Bulletin highlights just a few of the School Division’s many activities & events. **We hope you find this publication of interest and value to you.**