

*“Go out into the world today and love the people you meet. Let your presence light new light in the hearts of people.”*

Mother Theresa

I know I have said this before, but one of my favourite parts of being a Trustee is having the opportunity to meet the students, staff and families who are a part of Simcoe Muskoka Catholic schools. There are so many examples of people who are spreading love and light and I am thrilled that as a Board, we are “Celebrating God’s Family” this year.

This past week, I talked with students, staff and families who are interested in improving the mental wellness in their community at St. Peter’s, then I saw how the social justice club at MMO organized students to record their thoughts on bullying on pink shirts that were decorating the school. I got to watch students at Saint Mary’s sit quietly and support their classmates who were chosen to make speeches in the gym, and then I got to enjoy a fabulous spaghetti dinner at a fundraiser at St. Dom’s in support of a local nonprofit, charitable organization. There is certainly much to celebrate in our SMCDSB family this week!

Speeches at Saint Mary’s began with two Grade 8 girls who got up to speak together about the similarities and differences between life in Ontario and life in Syria. One of those students just arrived in Huntsville from Syria this past summer. They talked about differences in language, time zones, food and school. But in spite of those differences, they are 13-year olds who love their families, shopping, books and social media. WOW! I wish we could broadcast their speech far and wide; it was a true example of how our schools are safe places where each member of God’s family is accepted, welcomed and celebrated.

Thank you to all who share their gifts every day!

God Bless!

Carol Corriveau-Truchon