

*I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things.*

Mother Teresa

I attended the Ontario Catholic School Trustee Association Regional Meeting with our Board Chair and Director in September. We began the day with a discussion of what Catholic Boards can do to help implement some of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee. We were proud to report on the work being done by Linda McGregor (our Manager for First Nation, Inuit and Metis Education) and her team. They are providing SMCDSB students with opportunities to learn about and understand the rich culture of the Aboriginal peoples in Canadian history and the legacy of residential schools.

After discussing some of the challenges being faced by Catholic Boards in Ontario, we discussed some of our success stories, one of which is the great strides being made with communication between the Board and schools and families. With advancements in the use of social media like Twitter and Facebook, and the use of apps to communicate with parents, it is much easier for parents to learn about their child's school day and be able to facilitate discussions about activities and curriculum.

One highlight for SMCDSB is the new app. Have you downloaded it yet? It's available free from iTunes and Google Play by searching SMCDSB. It is a great place to access calendars, school contact information, bus cancellations and to subscribe to notifications when important information is released by the Board and/or the specific schools your children attend.

October brings cooler, more colourful surroundings to Muskoka and Parry Sound, and a time to pause and be thankful for all of the gifts we have been given. I hope you have time to celebrate both your immediate family and God's family.

God Bless,  
Carol Corriveau-Truchon