

“Every child, every person needs to know that they are a source of joy; every child, every person, needs to be celebrated.

Jean Vanier, *Becoming Human*

Welcome Back! I hope that each of you had the opportunity to enjoy some special family time over the summer months. Once again Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board will be entrusted with educating over 20,000 students. Trustees join with Board and School Staff in taking the responsibility of providing quality Catholic education to each and every one of those students very seriously.

Each year our Board adopts a theme to help guide our students on their spiritual journey. Last year the theme was “Nurturing God’s Family” and focused on fostering loving communities. For 2016-2017, staff will build on that concept with the theme of “Celebrating God’s Family”. Throughout the year, woven through the curriculum and celebrations in classrooms and schools throughout the Board, students will continue to work on recognizing, appreciating and using the special gifts and talents bestowed upon them by God. “Celebrating God’s Family” is about cherishing diversity, acceptance and inclusion since we are all brothers and sisters created and loved by God.

Family is one of our Board’s nine Catholic virtues and values, and being “a caring family member who attends to family, school, parish and the wider community” is also one of the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations. Our faith tradition values and honours the role of the family as being central to helping each child reach their full potential.

I hope that your family will join the school community in “Celebrating God’s Family” throughout the upcoming school year.

God Bless,
Carol Corriveau-Truchon