

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

*Saint Teresa of Calcutta*

Last month our Catholic School and Community Council Chairs gathered in Barrie to celebrate mass and enjoy presentations on some of the programming available at SMCDSB, our current school year theme, Called to Be Our Story, and Dr. Pat Carney gave a preview of the seminars on children's mental well-being that will be offered to parents in the new year. As always, Dr. Carney left us wanting to hear more...look for registration information after Christmas!

Our Director, Brian Beal, gave a presentation about some of the Travel Credit Courses that are available to our secondary school students. I am so proud of the work being done to engage students in their learning at SMCDSB. For years our board has offered students an opportunity to earn credits by combining course work with mission trips. The course offerings have expanded to include a religion credit with travel to the Holy Land, an English credit with travel to Ireland and London, Holocaust Studies with travel to Berlin, Warsaw, Krakow and Prague, and Civics & Careers with travel to New York, Montreal and Ottawa. These courses are offered on Saturdays throughout the year or in the summer, so they are open to all SMCDSB secondary students.

Another example is the Hockey Canada program being offered at St. Dom's. What a great way to get our hockey enthusiasts excited about going to school! Whether it is through sports, travel, the student journalist program, peer support, student council or any other clubs and activities available, staff will always look for ways to increase student engagement and learning!

I am looking forward to attending events and masses this month as we celebrate Christmas in our schools. I hope that each of you enjoy a very Merry Christmas!

Carol Corriveau-Truchon