



Board Meeting
Director's Update - Pino Buffone
26 March 2019

Acknowledgement of Students, Staff and School Communities

As always, there are a number of exciting activities, events and initiatives that have taken place in our schools and school communities this past month, including:

- Action Sports Park Development Initiative - Class Challenge... On Thursday 28 February 2019, the Grade 6 classes at Champlain Discovery PS held a collaborative working session with students in the Action Sports Park Development Program at Algonquin College-Pembroke Campus in the authentic task of bringing an action sports park to their local community. Students at the intermediate level from a number of schools across the county have been engaged in working with college level students through this design thinking challenge, integrating STEAM-related disciplines in a cross-curricular manner, in order to realize the objective. The students have utilized 3D design software and 3D printers to build aspects of their park as a 3D model, for instance, and, will share their models in a competition held at AC-Pembroke by month's end.
- Extraordinary European Excursion... Over the dates of March Break, secondary students and staff chaperones from both Renfrew CI and Opeongo HS visited key historical sites in countries such as Belgium, France and Italy, including: the Coliseum in Rome and archeological sites in Pompeii (Italy), the Eiffel Tower in Paris and Vimy Ridge (France), Menin Gate in Ypres and the Passchendaele Memorial (Belgium). By all accounts, including the daily commentary and photos through twitter feeds, it was a most memorable excursion for all who participated!
- Destination Imagination - Eastern Ontario Tournament... On Saturday 02 March 2019, a number of teams from both Cobden PS and Highview PS participated in the regional competition at École Secondaire Catholique Paul Desmarais in Stittsville, Ontario. The teams of the Highview Hawks, for instance, proudly represented our District in competition through their dramatic improvisations entitled "Not Fast But Furious" and "Unknown Maniacs"!

Update regarding Senior Staff

I am most pleased to share that Ms. Jennifer Barnes has been appointed as Superintendent of Business (Corporate Services) for the District, effective Monday 01 April 2019. Superintendent Barnes will assume central roles and responsibilities related to both facilities and finance currently held by Interim Superintendent Dennis Jenkins. We are looking forward to welcoming Jennifer to the senior team!

Many thanks to Retired Superintendent Jenkins for serving our District in an interim capacity since Monday 07 January 2019. We are greatly appreciative of his service during this interim period!

Update to Principals and Vice-Principal Assignments

There are no additional principal and vice-principal appointments and/or transfers at this point in the school year.

Preparation for Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) - 27 March 2019

Through effective instructional practices in our teaching and learning environments, staff in secondary schools across the District have prepared students for this year's literacy test. The test takes place tomorrow and is focused on knowledge and skills related to reading and writing, including: understanding stated ideas and information (explicitly and implicitly); connecting information and ideas to personal knowledge and experiences; and, communicating information and ideas in a coherent manner. We wish our students across all seven secondary sites all the best as they participate in this important measure of student achievement!

New Vision for Education - Spring 2019

The provincial government has recently provided information related to its new vision for education. In addition to changes to various curricula, including mathematics and health and physical education, key aspects of the new vision address class sizes, eLearning, attrition protection and hiring practices. Staff are currently reviewing details of the information provided, and, working through implications for the District.