1. **Fellowes High School Hosts Assembly of School Councils**

On Thursday, April 30th Fellowes High School will host the annual Assembly of School Councils. This assembly is sponsored by the Parent Involvement Committee and is intended for parents and educators wanting to learn more about topical issues in education. Free dinner is served at 5:00PM by the award winning culinary arts program of FHS. There will be a whole group session entitled, “Parent Engagement: What Matters” by Jody Kitson-Roy, Principal of Beachburg Public School and then attendees will have the option of attending two sets of carousel sessions on topics related to elementary and secondary curriculum, mental health, information technology, special education, and assessment practices. Participants may register at [http://bit.ly/1yoZ6qf](http://bit.ly/1yoZ6qf).

2. **Education Week – May 4th – 8th**

This year’s theme for Education Week in Ontario is *Achieving Excellence: Moving Forward in Math*. Here is an excerpt from Minister Liz Sandals’ letter to directors of education, “Education Week is a time for celebration. It is a time to recognize the excellent work that happens in our schools each and every day. It is also a collective salute to every educator, administrator, support staff employee, educational assistant, early childhood educator and student that make our publicly funded education system the envy of the world”.

3. **Local Educators Contribute to Mathematics Research**

Educators in the RCDSB are contributing to the research that is taking place in the province to expand our understanding of mathematics instruction. In a recent Student Achievement Division’s Research Monograph, entitled ‘*Making Space for Students to Think Mathematically*’, Jill Lazarus, Opeongo High School teacher and University of Ottawa PhD candidate and two of her colleagues are featured for their research on helping teachers foster mathematical understanding by providing a safe space in their classrooms for taking mathematical risks, allowing for exploration, and promoting collaborative learning. Their research also encourages the use of rich problems and high quality student interaction, creating a ‘math talk’ learning community and asking good questions and listening to student thinking. The full monograph can be viewed at: [http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/inspire/research/WW_SpaceThinkMath.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/inspire/research/WW_SpaceThinkMath.pdf)

Primary teachers at Eganville District Public School have been working with Dr. Ruth Beatty from Lakehead University and their work was featured recently in the International Journal of Holistic Early Learning and Development. The research document was entitled, *Indigenous Pedagogy for Early Mathematics: Algonquin Looming in a Grade 2 Math Classroom*. This study explored the potential of grounding Grade 2 mathematical instruction in the traditional Algonquin activity of looming and the results suggested the looming experience supported students’ mathematical thinking including number sense, patterning, and spatial reasoning. The research also discussed the implications of connecting two knowledge systems, the importance of engaging Indigenous community members in the teaching and learning of mathematics, and the power of engendering positive relationships with meaningful mathematics. The complete document can be viewed at [http://ijheld.lakeheadu.ca/index.php/ijheld/issue/view/64/showToc](http://ijheld.lakeheadu.ca/index.php/ijheld/issue/view/64/showToc).

4. **OPTIONS 2015 – Thursday, May 14, 2015**

The Pembroke Memorial Centre will once again be hosting the Skilled Trades Career Fair - Options 2015 on Thursday, May 14th. Parents and the general public are invited to watch the extensive skills competitions among our high school students. For students, there will be apprenticeship information, interactive trade demonstrations and summer job postings.

5. **RCDSB Secondary Students Elect Student Trustee for 2015-2017 Term**

On Thursday, April 16th the RCDSB Board Office was full of youthful energy as student representatives from the Board’s seven secondary schools descended on the building to take part in the annual Student Summit and Student Trustee Elections. Fellowes High School student and former student trustee, Keith Sheppard facilitated the session and used this opportunity to seek valuable input from the students. Chair Dave Shields brought greetings to the students and informed them how much the Board values the student voice around their board table. The Board passed a motion this past January creating a two-year term for the student trustee and increasing the number of student trustees by one. In April 2016, the second student trustee will be elected to give the Board its full complement of student trustees. Fellowes High School Grade 10 student, Conner Webster was the first secondary student to be elected to a two-year term.