

# Renfrew County Catholic District School Board Director's Annual Report 2012–2013



## Message from the Director of Education

I am delighted to present this Annual Report outlining the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board's accomplishments for the 2012–2013 school year.

We had an extremely successful year, as you will read in the following pages. I want to thank all of our partners who have contributed to our organization.

In keeping with our Board's theme of unconditional love, we worked to strengthen our students' academic and spiritual well-being within a school system that is loving, collaborative and accessible at all levels, from our trustees to administrative, teaching and support staff. At the same time, we provided leadership and support to our students and their families in a spirit of openness, affirmation and celebration of our Catholic faith. We continued to build partnerships within our parishes and the wider community, and engaged in social justice campaigns at local and global levels.

As in previous years, the Education Quality and Accountability results for Renfrew County Catholic District School Board have been superb.

While these academic results continue to inspire the work within our school communities, we continue to expand our collective expertise in order to maximize student engagement, close gaps in achievement and increase public confidence in our Catholic system.

We maintained our focus on special education and programs to ensure that each and every one of our students have the tools and support to achieve their potential.

We continued to work collaboratively with our Parent Involvement Committee. Our focus was on strengthening parent engagement in our schools and ultimately increasing student well-being and achievement.

Exciting new capital projects were carried out with the goal of maximizing our resources, and our expanded use of technology throughout the Board supported an environmentally responsible lifestyle throughout 2012–2013.

Please take a few moments to celebrate our collective achievements.

**Michele Arbour**  
Director of Education



**Our Mission Statement:** *Inspired by our rich heritage and challenged by the struggles of our past, we are an inclusive Catholic educational community called to express our mission as Church to pass on the Good News of Jesus Christ, to make it relevant in the world today, and to be the hope for the future.*

# JOURNEY TO CHRISTIAN MATURITY

## Partnerships

An active faith journey to Christian Maturity is enhanced through community and relationship building. Collaboration helps to strengthen Catholic education by providing access to additional resources and services that support student well-being and improved learning.

## Strategic multi-year plan

The three pillars of our strategic plan are:

- Christian Maturity
- Life-long Learning
- Stewardship and Sustainability.

The plan can be found at: <http://rccdsb.edu.on.ca/files/2013/01/Strategic-Plan-2012-2017-FINAL-DRAFT-January-9-2013.pdf>



Students from St. Andrew's Catholic School in Killaloe visiting seniors

## Meet the RCCDSB leadership team



**Administrative team:** Darryl Denyes, Manager of IT Services; Marian Neeson, Manager of Human Resources Services; Ivan Johnson, Manager of Plant Services; Michele Arbour, Director of Education; Jaimie Perry, Superintendent of Educational Services; Mary Lynn Schauer, Superintendent of Business Services; Peter Adam, Superintendent of Educational Services.



**Trustees:** Andy Bray, Arnprior, McNab/Braeside Township, Greater Madawaska Township; Evan Naismith, Student Representative from St. Joseph's Catholic High School in Renfrew; Marlene Borutski, Killaloe, Hagarty & Richards Township, Brudenell, Lyndoch & Raglan Township, Madawaska Valley Township; Judy Ellis, First Nations Trustee; Laura Hayashi, Student Representative from Bishop Smith Catholic High School in Pembroke; Anne Haley, Renfrew, Horton Township, Whitewater Region Township, and David Howard, Deep River, Laurentian Hills, Head, Clara & Maria Township, Petawawa. Seated: Bob Schreader, Chair, Pembroke; and Bob Michaud, Vice-Chair, Laurentian Valley Township, North Algona Wilberforce Township, Admaston/Bromley Township, Bonnechere Valley Township.



# ABOUT US

## RCCDSB's vital statistics

**Number of students:** Approximately 4,700

**Schools and facilities:**

- 20 Elementary Schools
- 2 Secondary Schools
- 2 Alternative Secondary Sites
- 1 Young Parent Support Program
- 3 Section 23 Valleycrest/New Horizons Classrooms

**Communities**

Our district covers a wide, mostly rural geographical area of more than 7,851 square kilometres from Deep River in the north to Arnprior in the south to Pembroke in the east and Barry's Bay in the west.

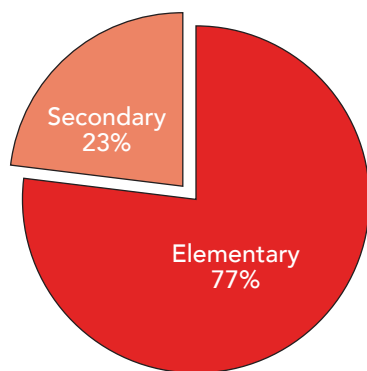
**Employees**

- Approximately 535 permanent staff
- Approximately 570 occasional staff

**Annual expenditures**

\$59 million

## Our student population



Our enrolment as of October 31, 2013, totals 4,714 students:

	Students	%	FTE
Elementary	3,632	77%	3,262.00
Secondary	1,082	23%	1,043.75
Total	4,714	100%	4,305.75

## By the numbers

The proportion of English learners (those whose first language spoken at home is other than English) in our diverse population is not large enough to report their achievements separately.

The number of self-identified First Nation, Aboriginal, Métis and Inuit students accounts for 4.9% of our board's population and includes students in all three Aboriginal groups: First Nation, Métis, and Inuit.

## Full-day, early learning program (ELKP)

The early learning program continues to help our youngest students learn and grow. For the 2013–2014 school year 11 RCCDSB schools offered full-day early learning and the program is on target to be fully implemented across the board by 2014–2015.

School	Number enrolled
Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School, Renfrew	80
St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School, Renfrew	51
St. John Bosco Catholic School, Barry's Bay	22
St. Mary's Catholic School, Deep River	42
Holy Name Catholic School, Pembroke	35
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School, Pembroke	68
St. Francis of Assisi, Petawawa	96
St. Joseph's Catholic School, Arnprior	50
John XIII Catholic School, Arnprior	72
St. James Catholic School, Eganville	28
Cathedral Catholic School, Pembroke	29

## Full-day every day kindergarten

The RCCDSB currently funds full-day every day kindergarten at three schools in the county:

- Our Lady of Grace Catholic School, Westmeath
- St. Anthony's Catholic School, Chalk River
- St. Andrew's Catholic School, Killaloe

**Extended French as a second language** is offered in three schools: St. Joseph's, Arnprior, Our Lady of Lourdes, Pembroke, and St. Francis of Assisi, Petawawa.

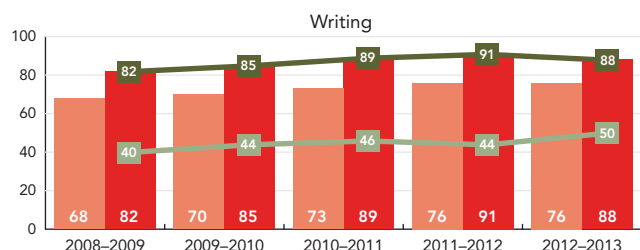
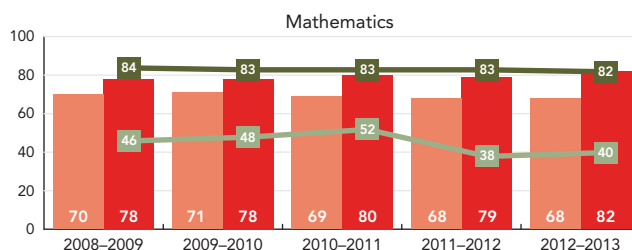
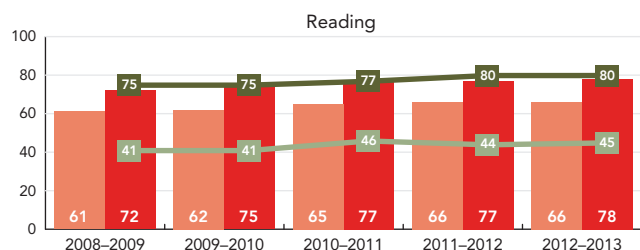
## Primary class size report

All Ministry of Education targets have been met for primary class size.

	Ministry target	Board actual	Achieved
Percentage of Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3 classes with 23 students or fewer	100%	100%	✓
Percentage of Grade 3/4 combined classes with 23 students or fewer	100%	100%	✓
Percentage of Primary classes Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3 with 20 students or fewer	90%	90.2%	✓

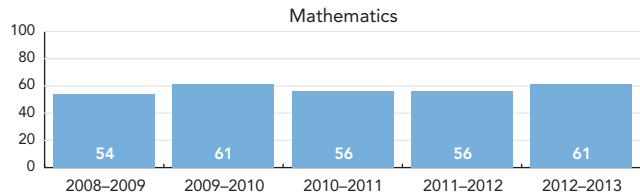
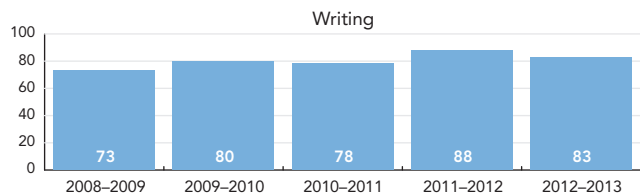
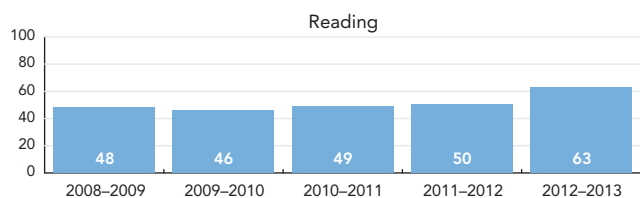
# EQAO STANDARDIZED TEST RESULTS

## Grade 3

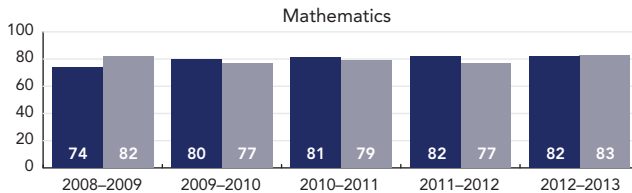
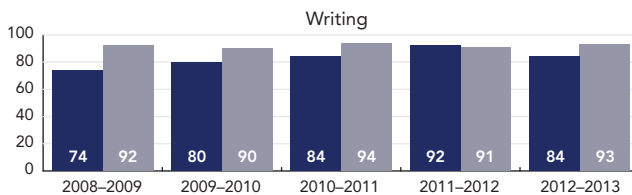
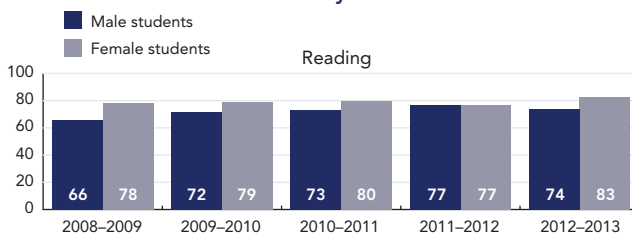


Highest English-Language Board Level results  
 Lowest English-Language Board Level results  
 Province  
 RCCDSB

### Special Education results



### Results by Gender



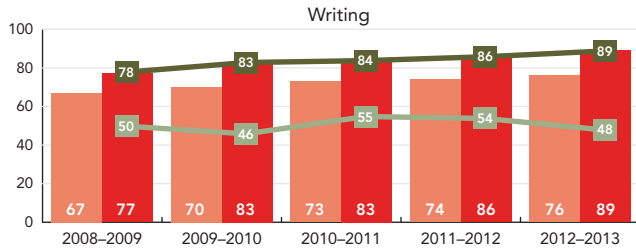
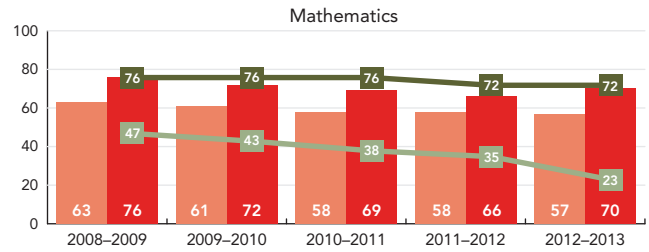
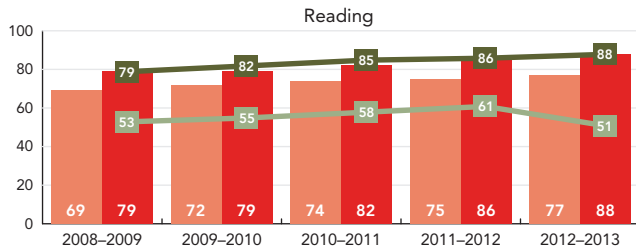
## HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR YEAR



Above: Our Lady of Fatima kindergarten students receive a tour of Renfrew Victoria Hospital.

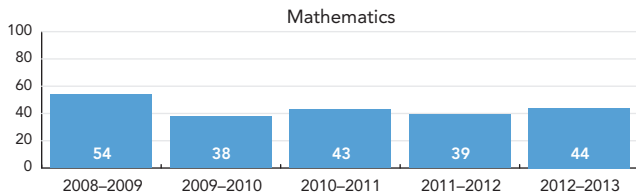
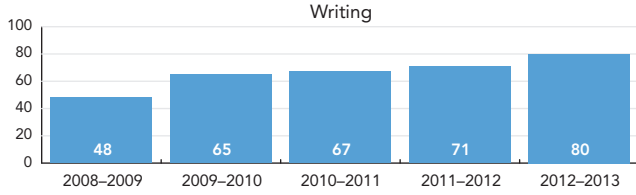
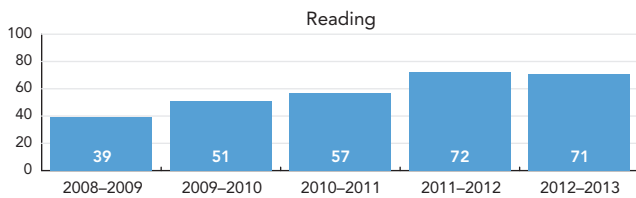
Left: Measuring the output of mini solar panels at the Jaguar camp at St. Joseph's High School, Renfrew.

## Grade 6



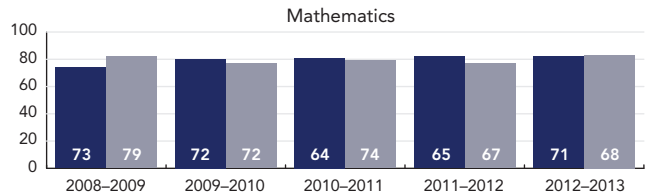
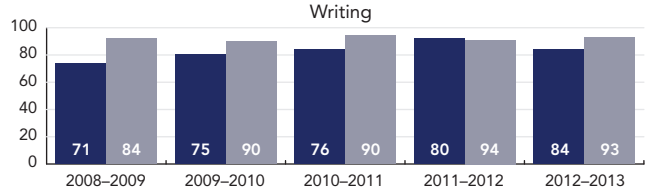
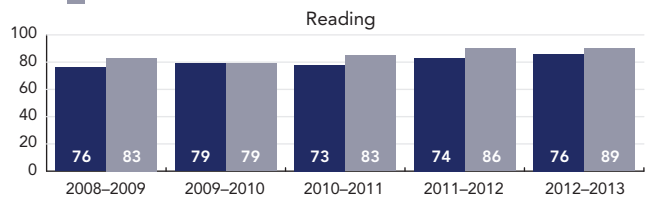
Highest English-Language Board Level results  
 Lowest English-Language Board Level results  
 Province  
 RCCDSB

### Special Education results



### Results by Gender

Male students  
 Female students



Official opening at St. Francis of Assisi.

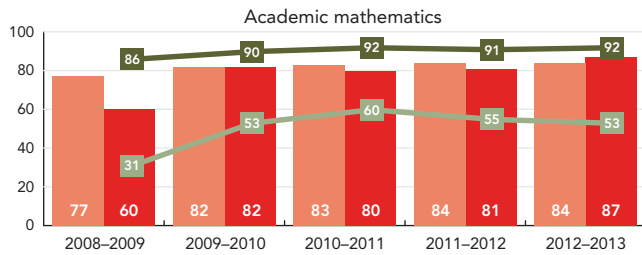
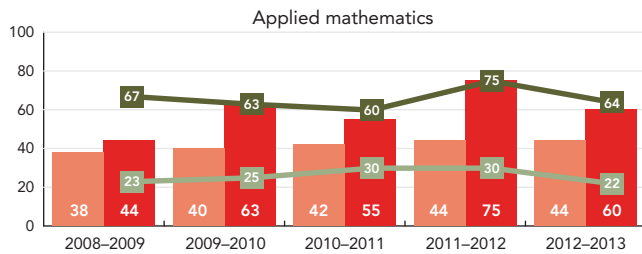


St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School and St. Francis Xavier Church children's choir

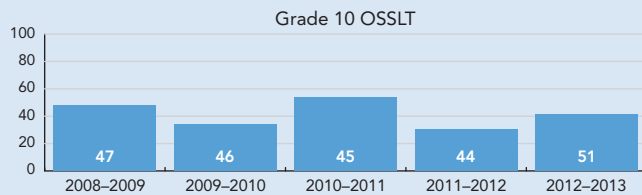
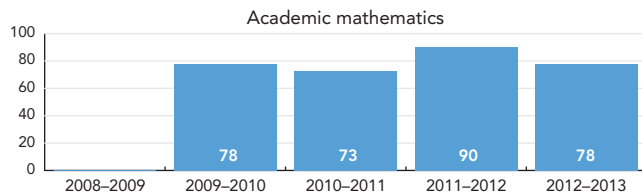
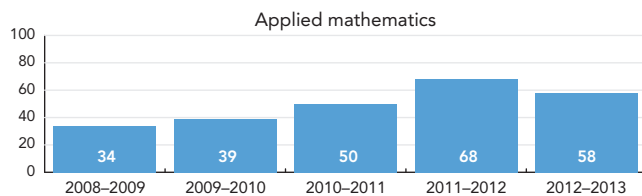


St. Joseph's High School presents The Sound of Music

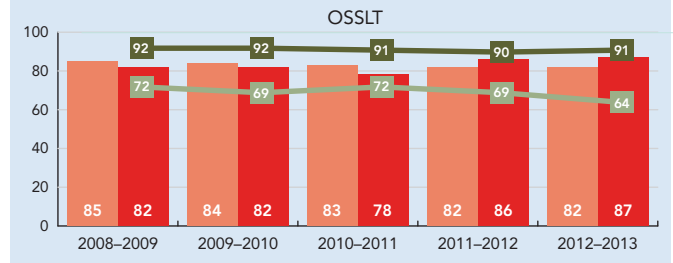
## Grade 9



### Special Education results



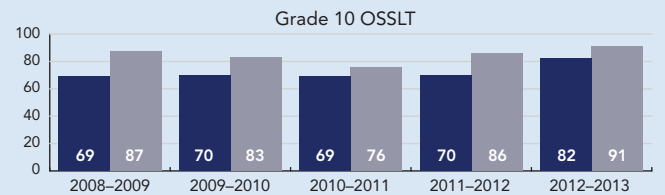
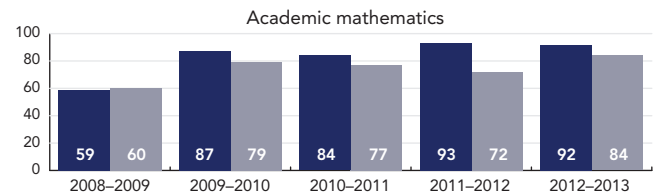
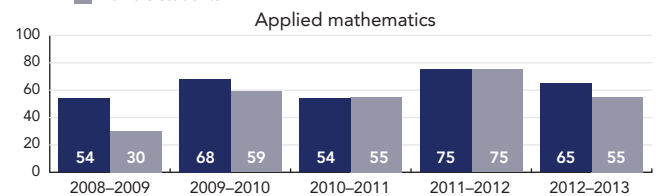
## Grade 10



■ Highest English-Language Board Level results  
 ■ Lowest English-Language Board Level results  
 ■ Province  
 ■ RCCDSB

### Results by Gender

■ Male students  
 ■ Female students



Above: Fun fair at St. Andrew's Catholic School in Killaloe

Left: Dominican Republic experience



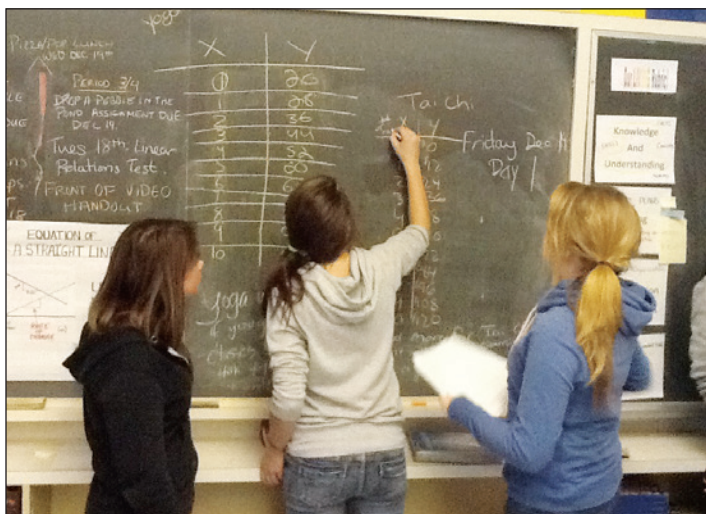
# JOURNEY TO LIFE-LONG LEARNING

Our learning priorities to prepare students for the 21st Century—improving student engagement and achievement, closing gaps in achievement and heightening public confidence in our system—are met through supportive initiatives such as:

- Early Primary Collaborative Inquiry (EPCI), which focuses on teaching Kindergarten to Grade 2 children to develop deep-thinking skills through literacy
- Collaborative Inquiry for Learning—Mathematics (CIL-M) to build knowledge about math instruction that improves student learning
- Student Work Study Teachers (SWST) to learn about student work and provide feedback to improve outcomes
- Teacher Learning and Leadership Program (TLLPs) introduce new technology into classrooms to increase engagement.

## Academic achievements

The 2012–2013 EQAO results show that RCCDSB students have attained the Ministry's target of 75% or higher in five out of six elementary level assessments and two of three secondary level assessments, with all nine categories being above provincial averages. This ranks us as one of the top Boards in the province. We are very proud of these excellent results.



Interactive lessons are part of the applied math program.

## Elementary quick facts:

		Reading	Writing	Math
Grade 3	RCCDSB	78%	88%	82%
	Province	68%	77%	67%
Grade 6	RCCDSB	88%	89%	70%
	Province	77%	76%	57%

## Secondary quick facts:

By the end of their second year of high school, 78% of secondary students had completed 16 credits.

	Applied math	Academic math	OSSLT (reading and writing)
RCCDSB	60%	87%	87%
Province	44%	84%	82%

We have invested heavily in professional learning at the intermediate/senior level in a grade 7, 8, 9 cross-panel math professional learning inquiry, with a particular focus on effective strategies to reach all students.



Shaw Woods Outdoor Education Centre.

## Progress of Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework

Many activities supported Aboriginal education and met the guidelines of the framework. Three projects funded through the Aboriginal Education Office were:

1. Head to Hand literacy teachers developed and used five lesson plans for two mentor texts with Aboriginal content
2. Numeracy primary teachers provided in-services on Big Ideas in primary math through the lens of Aboriginal learners
3. Leadership and self-esteem for Aboriginal native language learners at St. James Catholic School in Eganville—students visited other schools in the Board to share their culture through drumming, dancing and singing.

Other activities included:

- Attending Aboriginal Language Day at Trent University to participate in a variety of language games and demonstrate drumming skills
- Attending a demonstration of drumming and singing on Aboriginal Day in Pembroke
- Learning to make moccasins and mitts from deer hide and producing a procedural book in English and Algonquin.

# IMPROVING OUR OUTCOMES

## Specific measures to improve outcomes for students/schools:

For students/schools with lower achievement, we provide more targeted professional development and supports from our program team as well as external resources. For example:

- Schools are invited to EQAO sessions related to specific needs
- We continue to work collaboratively with the Ministry on our annual Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement.



**Free the Children penny drive raises funds to help provide clean drinking water to children around the world.**

## Improving outcomes for students unable to attend regular school programs:

- St. Joseph's High School—"Room 307", where students can work on specific tasks supported by a teacher in a less-structured setting
- Alternate school sites for both our high schools, including a new location for our Pembroke site in partnership with the RCDSB and the Robbie Dean Centre with a number of non-academic supports
- We continue to partner with Addiction Treatment Services (ATS) to provide on-site counselling availability at each of our high schools to keep students in school
- Our Safe Schools Co-coordinator is actively involved and liaises with the school and student in cases of suspension, especially long-term suspension.

## Accomplishments in improving achievement in special education:

- *Open Minds Healthy Minds* framework
- The Learning Partnership resiliency tools
- Collaboration with ATS for in-school supports for pupils experiencing addictions issues
- Supporting Students with Learning Disabilities in Mathematics- IEP: A YCDSB Resource to Support Implementation
- Monthly Leadership Team Meeting professional development sessions
- Continued focus on assistive technology for accommodations

## Notable accomplishments

### Student, parent and community engagement

- interactive and technology-rich learning environments: TLLP iPad project, Enrichment Mini-Courses Program
- continued collaboration with Parent Involvement Committee: newsletter, symposiums, PRO grants
- shared activities and collaborative projects: Dominican Republic Experience, Shaw Woods Outdoor Education Centre

### Student safety and health

- CODE Student Injury Prevention funding to support both resources and training for our high schools, in particular to ensure labs and shops were in top shape
- Enhanced internal safety monitoring to comply with Ministry of Labour inspections
- Safe Schools Coordinator works with students, families, and school communities to promote student well-being and safety. During 2012–2013, areas of focus included:
  - increased staff and student understanding about restorative practices, progressive discipline and bullying prevention and intervention
  - collaboration with School and Attendance Counsellors and partner agencies to develop and present student and family in-services
  - development of RCCDSB Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan.



**PINK Day anti-bullying activities.**

### Equity and inclusive education

We strive to provide an inclusive education and address barriers to achievement by ensuring that students are engaged, feel included and respected.

### Supporting the implementation of the policy

#### Professional development

Our board sent representatives, administrators and teaching staff from secondary and elementary settings to various equity and inclusion educational conferences and workshops:

- Equity Safe Schools Conference held in Ottawa in March. Guest speaker Elizabeth Manley talked about mental health.



Other individuals in our board attended:

- Equity Conference in October 2012 with presentations by COPA and the Harmony Movement
- QUEST and DELI training.

#### Resources

Other funds were put towards purchasing resources for our schools:

- Multi-faith calendars
- Various books.

#### Supporting implementation of the policy

Equity and inclusion education are also embedded in many other disciplines in our board, such as Safe Schools, Aboriginal Education, Mental Health, Poverty, and Gender Issues, HR and practices, etc.



Hockey Academy at St. Joseph's High School in Renfrew.

## Parent engagement activities

The Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) is an important advisory body to the board and our school councils. The committee encourages and supports parent involvement and is committed to improving student well-being and achievement.



Activities to support parent engagement and the PIC vision (positive communication, parent voice, adult faith development and parent engagement) included:

- *Parent to Parent* newsletter
- Parent Symposium with guest speaker Elizabeth Manley
- School Council Commissioning Mass
- Nine Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant initiatives
- School Council evening with Barbara Coloroso
- Representation at Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) Regional Parent Forum, Fourth Annual PIC Symposium, and Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) 74th Parent Conference.

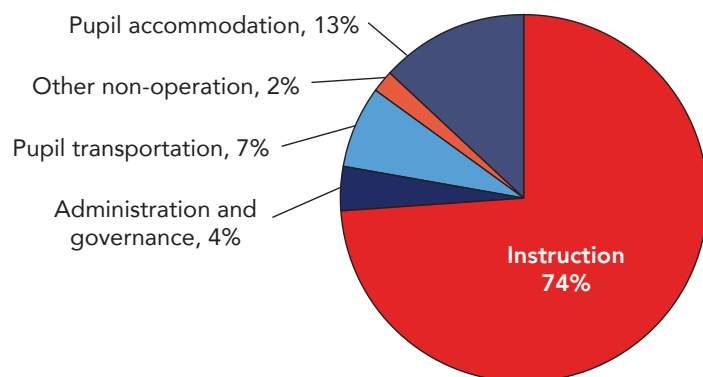


Fundraising for an outdoor classroom at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School in Petawawa in the Majesta Trees of Knowledge Competition 2013 brought the community together.

# STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY

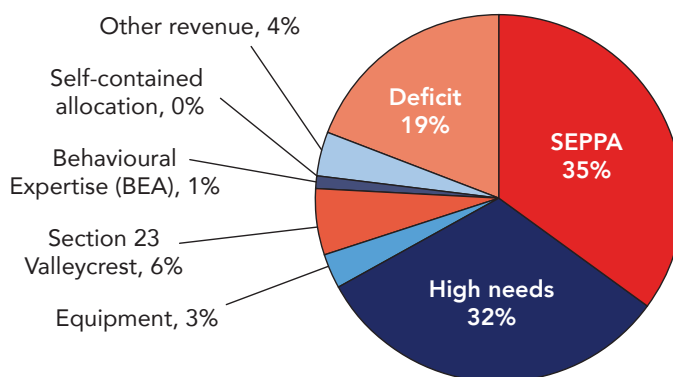
## 2013–2014 budget

### Expenditure by category



Total: \$59,149,193

### Special Education Revenues



Total: \$8,598,165

## 2012–2013 highlights

The board passed a balanced budget committed to supporting programs and resources that will help to close achievement gaps and ensure student success. These include:

### Programs

- \$1,375,899 Early Learning Program
- \$125,000 Student Work Study Teacher (SWST)
- OYAP \$87,805
- Summer school—expanded grade four program—Jaguar Camp at St. Joseph's Catholic High School in Renfrew.

### Physical resources

- BSCHS renovations—new entrance, chapel, administrative and student services offices
- Official opening of Lil' Troopers Daycare at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School
- \$896,000 for ELKP classroom renovations/addition to John XXIII Catholic School
- \$1.7 million for school renewal and school condition improvements, e.g., lighting upgrades at several schools.



## Technology

- Upgraded hardware in schools and classroom laptops
- New high-tech projects, i.e., two projects supported by the provincial Teachers Leadership and Learning Program (TLLP) using iPads, iPod Touches and Smart Boards to target at-risk readers and improve reading and oral language levels.

## Shared resources

- Partnered with several Eastern Ontario school boards to bring fibre optic, a secure and stable wireless environment, to all classrooms.

## Operational efficiency

- Accommodation review process initiated in Madawaska area schools to assess community needs and ensure maximum resources are directed to classrooms.

