

# Renfrew County Catholic District School Board Director's Annual Report 2016–2017



## Message from the Director of Education

I am delighted to present this 2016–2017 Annual Report, and I must say that RCCDSB has many reasons to be proud of our accomplishments over the past year. As demonstrated in this report, RCCDSB's renewed five-year strategic plan is closely aligned with Ontario's Ministry of Education goals. Just as the Ministry's Equity Action Plan aims to identify, remove and prevent barriers to student achievement and well-being, our 2017–2022 strategic plan nurtures the giftedness, self-worth and potential of each individual toward full belonging in our faith-filled community.

The RCCDSB has developed an action plan, based on these priorities, to expand evidence-based Mental Health and Wellness programming in its schools. The Board's Learning Technologies Action Plan also works to create learning practices and physical environments to support 21st century skills, include courses in a virtual setting and build a business continuity plan. We also are

working to remove accessibility barriers to all services and facilities, and to integrate students with special needs into mainstream school life through support and resource programs.

As a Catholic school system, our goal is to help our students to achieve their full potential within a respectful, encouraging environment that promotes integrity and well-being for everyone.

In reviewing our past year's activities, our board is indebted to Michele Arbour for her unwavering commitment. I congratulate Michele on her success over the years and I encourage all of you to join me in continuing to focus on our common goal. Let us all work together to continue to build schools to believe in.

**Jaimie Perry**  
**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.*

# ABOUT US

## RCCDSB's vital statistics

**Number of students:** Approximately 4,800

**Schools and facilities:**

- 18 Elementary Schools
- 2 Secondary Schools
- 1 Alternative Secondary Site
- 1 Young Parent Support Program
- 2 Section 23 Valleycrest Classrooms

**Communities**

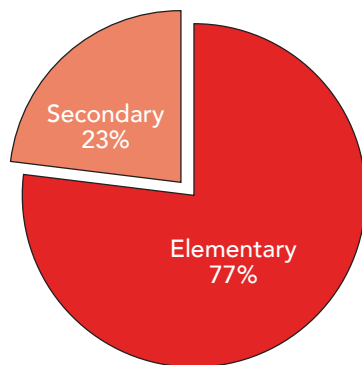
Our district covers a wide, mostly rural geographical area of more than 7,851 square kilometres from Deep River in the north to Arnprior in the south to Pembroke in the east and Barry's Bay in the west.

**Employees**

- Approximately 600 full-time staff
- Approximately 600 occasional staff

**Annual expenditures:** \$68.3 Million

## Our student population



Our enrolment as of October 31, 2017, totals 4,788 students:

	Students	%	FTE
Elementary	3,691	77%	3,675.00
Secondary	1,097	23%	1,068.50
Total	4,788	100%	4,743.50

## By the numbers

The proportion of English as a second language learners in our diverse population is not large enough to report their achievements separately.

The number of self-identified indigenous students accounts for 4.9% of our board's population.

## Kindergarten report card

- 350 Junior Kindergarten students
- 362 Senior Kindergarten students
- 26 Early Childhood Educators who work alongside a Kindergarten teacher
- 35 Kindergarten teachers across our system

## Secondary quick fact:

By the end of their second year of high school 82% of secondary students had earned 16 credits (up six points!)

## Primary class size report

The Ministry of Education targets for junior class size (not to exceed a 24.5:1 ratio; 90% of primary classes with 20 or fewer pupils) have been met.

100% Primary Classes 23 and under	100.0%	Achieved
100% of Grade 3/4 Combined Classes 23 and under	100.0%	Achieved
Average Junior/Intermediate (grades 4-8) Class Size	23.96	Achieved
90% Primary Classes (JK-3) 20 and under	94.7%	Achieved
Average FDK class size	23.1	Achieved



**Members of the Cathedral and Holy Name 'family' of staff were presented with sets of hand-made wooden Holy Families constructed by Derrick Nearing, a member of the RCCDSB Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), in appreciation of the spirit of cooperation - cohabiting Holy Name School when a fire caused damage at Cathedral.**



# WITNESS & INTEGRITY

*We claim our role as global stewards cherishing all human life and creation around it, ensuring that resources are used wisely and honourably.*

## In conversation

Parish priests, school principals and vice-principals were invited to attend a special lunch session during the celebration of the 2017 Catholic Education Week (CEW). Discussion centred around improving communications and relationships amongst members of the Catholic community, the role of Catholic schools in society, church and school working together to meet shared goals, and ways to work towards a united front—all fitting topics for the CEW theme “Walking Forward Together.”

## Catholic Education Week activities

A poster contest, gardening and fundraising activities, along with prayers and special masses were among Catholic Education Week (CEW) celebrations in our schools. Each day's activities were related to the daily subtheme, and demonstrated Catholic education's distinct identity, the connection between home, parish and school, and contributions to our communities.



## Leadership team

In the RCCDSB community of schools, we care, we learn and we work together to make our world a better place!



**Trustees:** Standing: **Mitchel Holly**, Student Trustee, Bishop Smith Catholic High School; **Bob Michaud**, Laurentian Valley Township, North Altona Wilberforce Township, Admaston/Bromley Township, Bonnechere Valley Township; **Marlene Borutski**, Killaloe, Hagarty & Richards Township, Brudenell, Lyndoch & Raglan Township, Madawaska Valley Township; **Anne Haley**, Renfrew, Horton Township, Whitewater Region Township; **Riely Harrington**, Student Trustee, St. Joseph's High School, Renfrew; and **Bob Schreder**, Pembroke. **David Howard**, Chair, Deep River, Laurentian Hills, Head, Clara & Maria Township, Petawawa; and **Andy Bray**, Arnprior, McNab/Braeside Township, Greater Madawaska Township. Missing: **Judy Ellis**, First Nations Trustee.



**Administrative team:** **Mark Searson**, Superintendent of Educational Services; **Mary Lynn Schauer**, Superintendent of Business Services; **Elizabeth Burchat**, Superintendent of Educational Services; **Mary-Lise Rowat**, Superintendent of Educational Services; and **Jaimie Perry**, Director of Education.

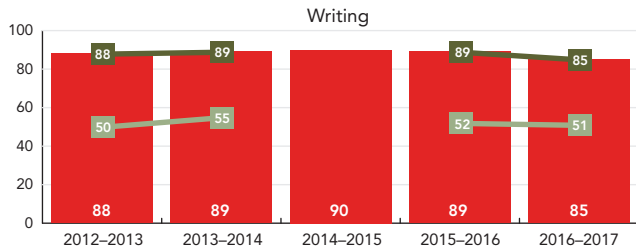
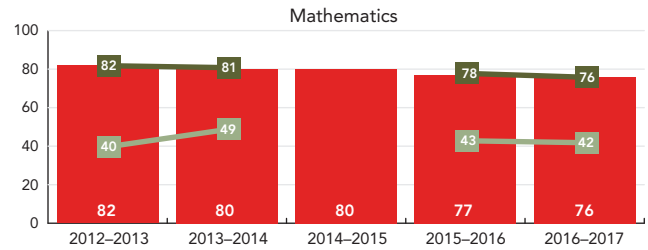
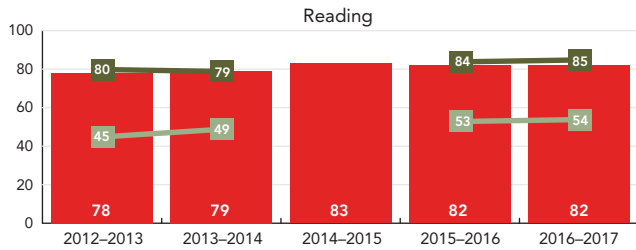


## 2017–2022 strategic plan

The plan can be found at: <http://rccdsb.edu.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Strat-Plan-22-B-1.pdf>

# EQAO STANDARDIZED TEST RESULTS

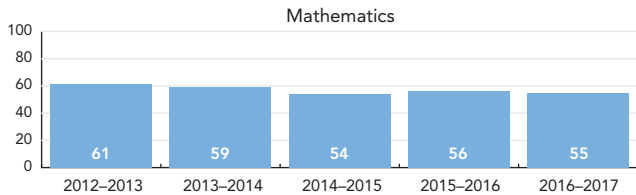
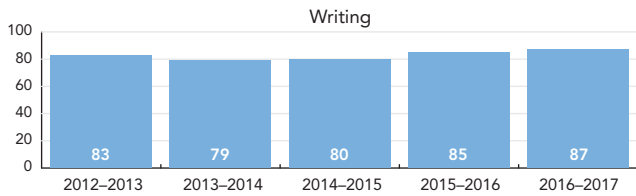
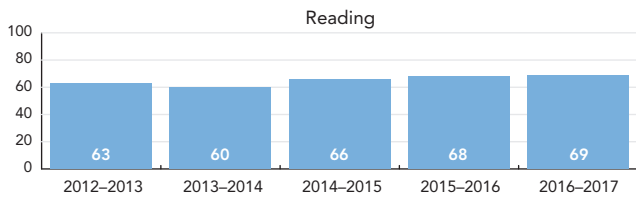
## Grade 3



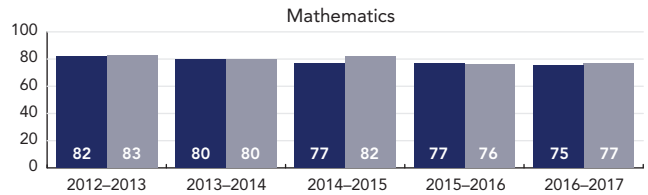
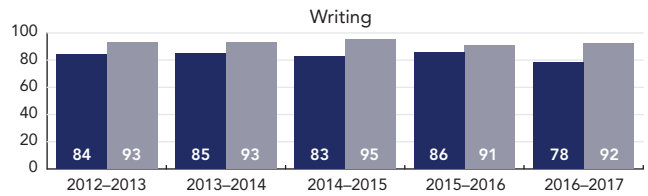
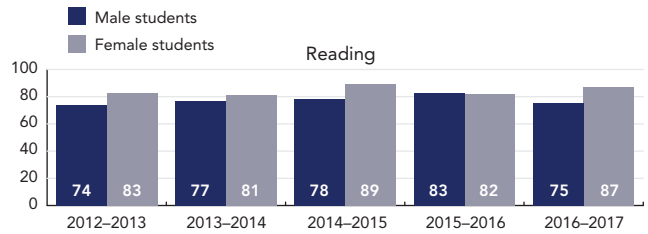
■ Highest English-Language Board Level results  
— Lowest English-Language Board Level results  
■ RCCDSB

\* Numbers indicate the percentage of pupils who achieved the provincial standard of level 3 or higher on the assessment

### Special Education results



### Results by Gender

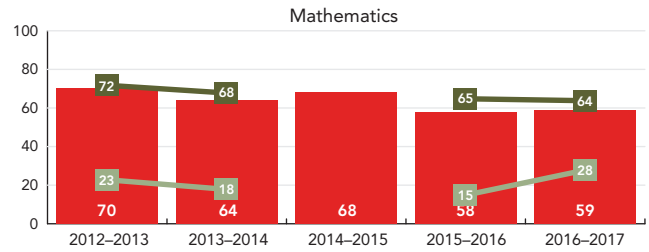
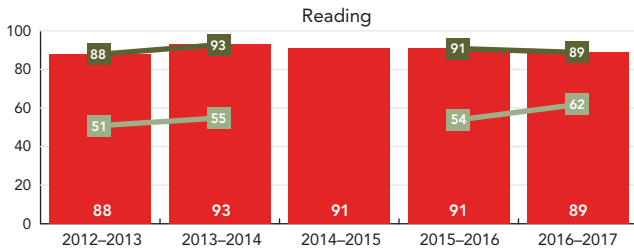


## SNAPSHOTS OF OUR YEAR

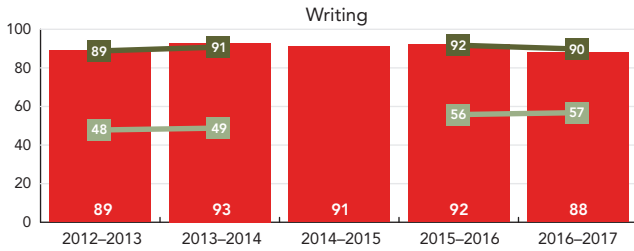
Lace to the Top is a program run by Broomball Canada which aims to promote broomball at a young age. RCCDSB received just over \$6,000 in broomball equipment that went to several schools. Those schools received a clinic by Broomball Canada President George Brown and a first-ever broomball tournament was organized with the OPP on hand to use their radar guns to measure the speed of the shots.



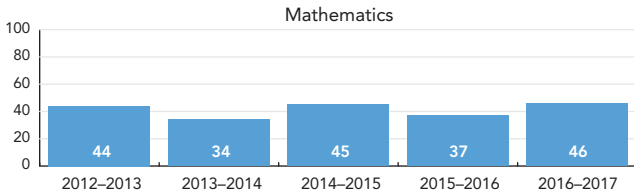
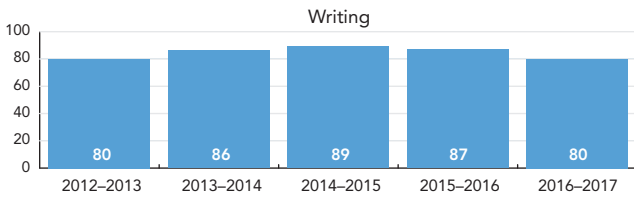
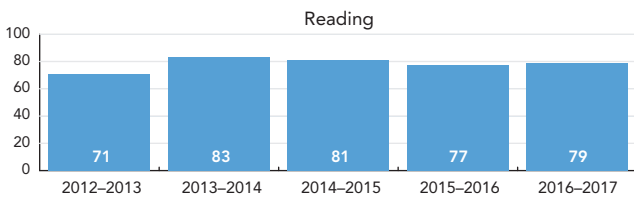
## Grade 6



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

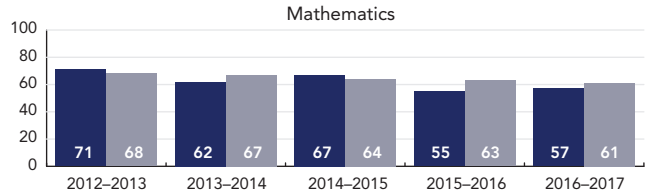
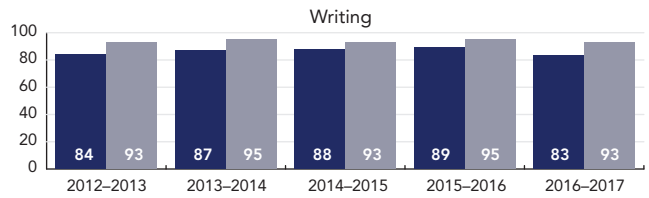
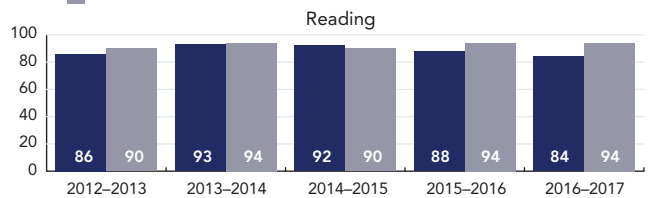


### Special Education results



### Results by Gender

Male students  
 Female students



A Blessing of the renovations took place at St. Andrew's Catholic School in Killaloe.

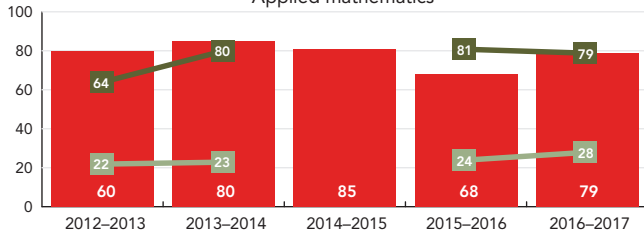


Our new religious education program continues to roll out across the Board.

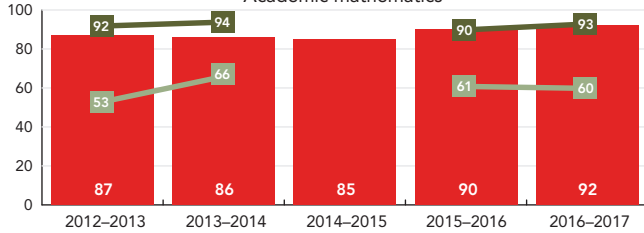


## Grade 9

Applied mathematics

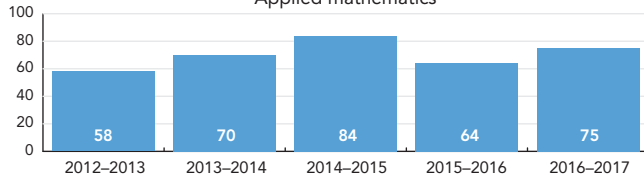


Academic mathematics

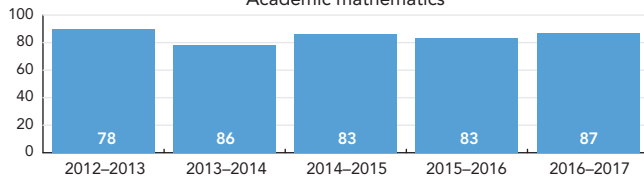


Special Education results

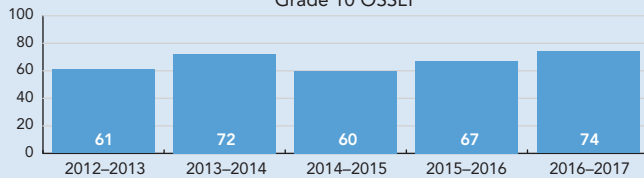
Applied mathematics



Academic mathematics

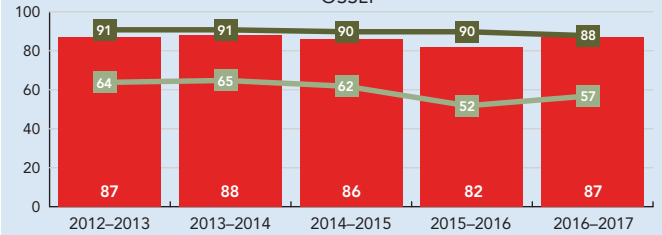


Grade 10 OSSLT



## Grade 10

OSSLT

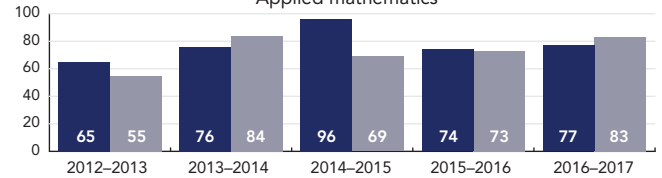


- Highest English-Language Board Level results
- Lowest English-Language Board Level results
- RCCDSB

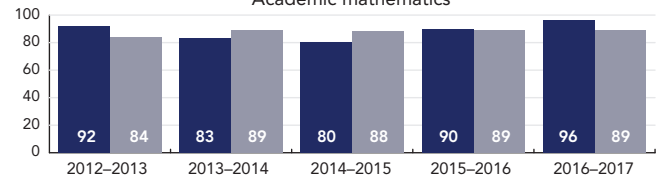
Results by Gender

- Male students
- Female students

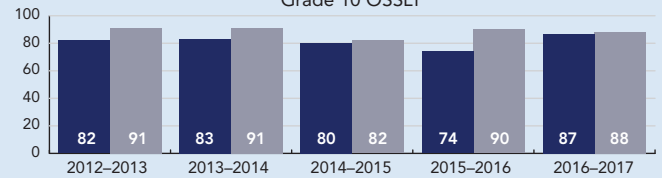
Applied mathematics



Academic mathematics



Grade 10 OSSLT



The Grade 6/7/8 class at George Vanier Catholic School in Combermere visited the long-term care and medical ward at St. Mary's Madonna House where they shared stories they had written about the true meaning of Christmas and sang carols.

# WHOLENESS & WELLNESS

*We strive to facilitate an active faith journey rooted in prayer and the sacraments, through which we come to discover the goodness of who we are.*

## REACH Days

Our REACH Days help to equip our students with tools for success and create more equitable, safe and caring environments for everyone.

The day was designed to increase Resilience, Empathy, Acceptance, Community and Hope among the students who are transitioning to the high schools by building relationships and making students aware of the resources that are available in RCCDSB schools and in their community.

The day was filled with leadership activities, games and discussions. Students from grade 11 acted as peer mentors and supported the students in their discussions and team-building activities.

School staff and community partners shared how they could support students as they navigate high school. Those partners included: Chaplains, Guidance Counsellors, Student Success Teachers, School and Attendance Counsellors, the board's Mental Health Lead, Family and Children's Services, Phoenix Center for Children and Families, Addictions Treatment Services, Bernadette McCann House, Elevate Youth Fitness Studio, Columbus House and Petawawa Military Family Resource Center.

According to one participant, "It was a great day! The ropes activity was awesome and, actually, the discussions were really good, too."

Our REACH Day is a wonderful way to support the students in their academic, spiritual and emotional growth and to embody the "warmth, hospitality, good humour and joy" that is so important in RCCDSB schools.



## Wellness Week

The Mental Health Steering Committee developed a week focused on wellness. Titled 'Resilience, from FAITH, in Action!', the week linked Virtue-centred days formatted by Tony Cosentino, our Religious Education Teacher, with resiliency skills from the EOCCC

curriculum and also included community-building activities created by Rick Klatt, our Outdoor Education teacher. Last year was a fantastic start with morning announcements focused on the daily virtues—1) faith, hope & love, 2) prudence, 3) justice and forgiveness, 3) temperance, and 5) fortitude—classroom activities that teachers could do in their classes and prayer services.

Resilience activities were adapted from Eastern Ontario Catholic Curriculum Corporation (EOCCC) Who I AM and Mental Health and Wellness materials. It was a success that we are looking forward to repeating.

## PINK week

RCCDSB's PINK week is a positive and uplifting way to talk about Bullying Prevention Week. It is designed to engage students in activities, prayer services and discussions that promote Peace, Inclusivity, Nobility, and Kindness.



**Staff and students around the board are sporting the contest-winning PINK Day shirt design. The winning design was created by Callie Kuehl from St. John XXIII Catholic School in Arnprior.**

## AMPLIFY

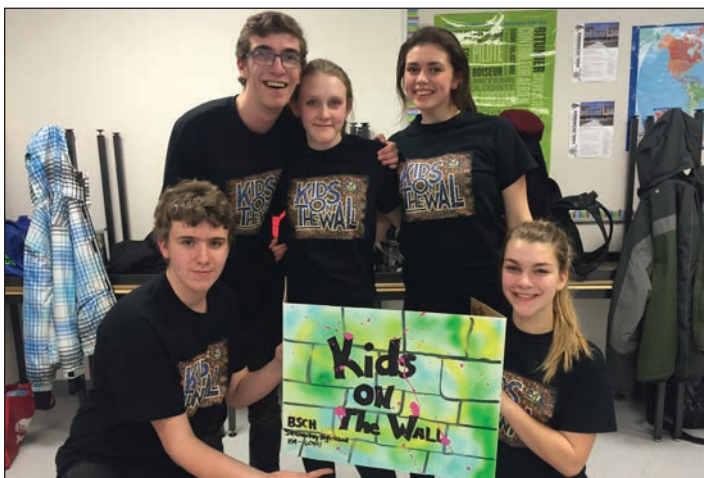
The focus of AMPLIFY was having a diverse group of students attend to have their voices heard and then give back to their community by submitting grant proposals to enhance the school experience for all youth through student voice and action.



# ACHIEVEMENT & POTENTIAL

*We strive to nurture the giftedness, self-worth and potential of each individual so that success and achievement are attainable for all.*

- On August 29, 2016, educators from across the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board were invited to gather at the Best Western Hotel in Pembroke to continue learning about effective math instruction.
- RCCDSB's school teams had a string of successes at Eastern Ontario's Destination Imagination® (DI) Challenge tournament held in Stittsville on March 4. One of RCCDSB's elementary school teams received a special recognition award, while a total of five teams qualified for the provincial tournament in Toronto.



- During 2016-17 the Board administered a successful high school e-learning program that continues to grow in popularity. More than 120 students from Bishop Smith Catholic High School, St. Joseph's High School, and across the province were enrolled.

Student feedback has been positive, citing benefits such as flexibility with schedules, practising time management, working at their own speed, and the ability to focus without the normal classroom distractions.

Mark Searson, RCCDSB Superintendent of Educational Services, says virtual learning is expanding globally due to the benefits for students and families.

In a move that recognizes the changing future of education, the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board announced a Virtual & Blended Learning School for students in Grades 4 to 12 beginning in September 2017.

## Personalizing Instruction and Assessment Practice in Mathematics

In our classrooms and schools, we start by acknowledging students who are struggling in mathematics. In order to support these students, we focus on:

- Personalization: Develop a learner profile describing the strengths, interests, and learning needs of each student of mystery
- Professional Learning: Investigate and determine strategies best suited to each student's strengths and needs

- Precision: Implement strategies best suited to the student's learning
- Assessment: Gauge the impact of these strategies and respond as appropriate

Through the process of focusing on learner profiles and key pedagogical practices, RCCDSB teachers and students involved in the EOSDN Math project (The Eastern Ontario Staff Development Network is a consortium of Eastern Ontario District School Boards and the Faculty of Education at Queen's University) so far have found:

- Positive trends in attitudes towards math, confidence and perceived beliefs about being successful in math from primary through to Intermediate students
- Students voicing that they value working collaboratively in math with their peers, engaging in math talk, using manipulatives and visual supports in the classroom and learning through math games
- Junior/intermediate students valuing the importance of deconstructing a math task, working with a constructive group/partner and an appreciation of challenging math work
- Teachers developing more facility with filling the gaps to address the strengths and needs of individual students
- Teachers teaching with more focus, precision and intentionality
- Focusing on specific students with precision has spread to deeper learning about other students.

Through the use of supporting documents and materials, teachers of mathematics and special education will support meaningful inclusion, engagement, and performance of students with learning disabilities and all others in the mathematics classroom.

Developing an individual student learner profile, helps educators plan daily assessment and instruction that are "good for all, and necessary for some."





# DIGNITY & BELONGING

*We reverence the dignity of the whole person as we grow safe environments characterized by warmth, hospitality, good humour and joy.*

## Special Olympics Cope initiative

On June 7, 2017, COPE (Canadian Office of Professional Employees) and RCCDSB collaboratively offered an opportunity for our children with special needs to participate in a Special Olympics Sports Festival. There were 57 athletes from Grade 1 to Grade 12 who participated in this exciting event. Warmth, Hospitality, Caring and Joy were offered by Bishop Smith Catholic High School (BSCH) which provided the venue for this event.

Student leaders from BSCH provided leadership to the athletes throughout the day.

This event allowed our students with special needs to shine within a venue that was geared to their skills. It allowed parents to attend and witness our caring school community and how their children are a part of it.



## SERT Effective Practices Working Group—The journey continues

In January 2017, a group of SERTs from the RCCDSB began a journey to reexamine the role of the Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT). As an inclusive Catholic educational community, the foundation for our work included our Board's Vision Statement, as well as the Ministry's *Learning for All* document.

Some of our time together was spent researching effective inclusion practices across Canada, where we found that many of the inclusion practices in place within the RCCDSB are cause for celebration. In the 2017–2018 school year, we will continue to strive towards co-teaching, co-planning, and co-assessment to meet the needs of all learners. We know that in an effective school community, **all** members share the responsibility for the learning and well-being of **all** students.

## Accessible spaces

Several schools throughout the board received accessible outdoor play spaces in the form of 'loose parts' and two schools received gaga pits in their playgrounds.

## Indigenous Education

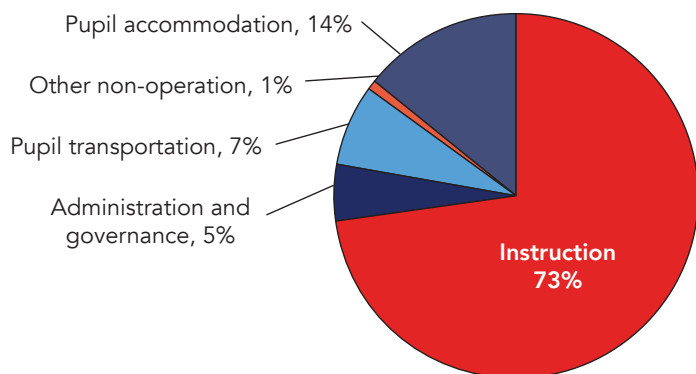
- Bishop Smith offered a Grade 11 Native Studies English course.
- Cultural Day at Pikwakanagan (Several RCCDSB schools attended the day which was jointly sponsored by RCCDSB, RCDSB, and Pikwakanagan. Multiple pictures of this attached).
- Drumming/dancing group visited a number of schools to promote and share the culture (the first picture attached is showing them at Our Lady of Sorrows in Petawawa)
- St. James offers Native Language classes.
- Champion teachers were selected. Their role was to help deliver PD to teachers in their family of schools and to receive extensive PD themselves to support that role.
- Leadership camp (7 FNMI students went to the camp last year in Mattawa).
- Technology was purchased to support our FNMI learners in preparation for the OSSLT and Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics. FNMI learners at St. James were also supported through the purchasing of technology.
- Each school was given a Pikwakanagan flag to fly or display. They were also given a smudging kit.



# STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY

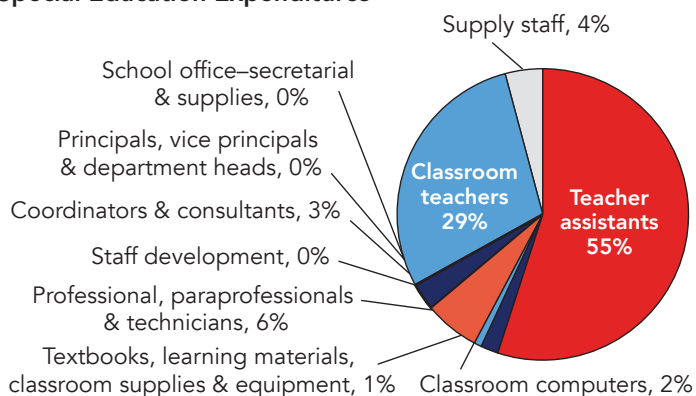
## 2017–2018 budget

### Expenditure by category



Total: \$68,261,467

### Special Education Expenditures



Total: \$9,213,227

## 2016–2017 highlights

### Program

- Special Education program
- Shaw Woods Outdoor Education
- New religious education program continues to roll out

### Physical resources

More than \$2.4 million was spent on school renewal and school condition improvements throughout the board including:

- Heating upgrades at Bishop Smith Catholic High School, Pembroke, St. Joseph's Catholic High School, Renfrew, and boiler replacement at St. Joseph's Catholic School, Calabogie
- Exterior siding refinishing at St. Joseph's High School, Renfrew
- Window replacements – Cathedral Catholic School, Pembroke, St. John XXIII Catholic School and St. Joseph's Catholic School, Arnprior
- Roofing replacements at Bishop Smith Catholic High School, Pembroke, St. Joseph's Catholic High School, Renfrew, and St. Joseph's Catholic School, Calabogie
- Paving at St. Mary's Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic School, Deep River
- Electronic signage at St. Michael's Catholic School, Douglas, St. John XX111 Catholic School, Arnprior, and Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School, Petawawa
- Installation of water fill stations at a number of school sites

### Technology

#### CODE Project

- Fourth year of investment in the 21st Century Professional Learning Networks project - focused on teaching and learning at the secondary level
- Music Project – Constructing a 21st Century Music program
- Provincial Knowledge Exchange (PKE)
  - K-3, exploring how to effectively capture, document, interpret and shared student learning
  - Jr/Int, exploring how to effectively integrate technology into both teaching and learning



### Shared resources

The Board continues to partner with many community organizations throughout the County to support programs with the RCCDSB.

- Renfrew County Joint Transportation Consortium
- Family & Children's Services
- Phoenix Centre
- Bromley Community Library
- Petawawa Military Family Resource Centre
- Township of Greater Madawaska Community Library
- Children's Garden Nursery – Cathedral School
- Arnprior and District Child Care Services – Leaps & Bounds
- Children's Junction Daycare Mountain River Childcare Association
- Killaloe Community Resource Centre

### Operational efficiency

- Electronic integration of absence reporting with Payroll/HR for occasional teachers
- Implementation of a board wide attendance support, disability management and wellness program
- Continued integration of student information system and transportation information system
- Electronic notifications to parents and student for bus route changes, delays and cancellations
- Continued implementation of "green" products for all caretaking supplies
- Installation of water-saving faucets at many school sites

### Labour Relations

- Completion of extension agreements until 2019 with all local union groups