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Edwin Parr

St. Dominic Elementary French Immersion Kindergarten Teacher Alexandra Shapka accepted the ASBA Edwin Parr Award for Zone 2/3.

She was nominated by the division for her unwavering dedication to her students, her passion for Catholic education, and desire to share her faith with those around her.

The full news release can be found here.

Social Justice Projects

Lakeland Catholic Schools have been busy with their various social justice projects throughout the school year. This includes collecting food bank donations, making Christmas cards for seniors, donating a Christmas Tree to be auctioned at the Festival of Peace, raising money for the Terry Fox Foundation, and holding Winter Clothing Drives, among others.

These actions are in alignment with Goal One: Catholic Christian Identity, where all staff and students will have opportunities to develop their faith in a fully permeated Catholic Christian environment.

A list of some of the projects taken on by schools can be found here.

A copy of the LCSD Catholic Social Teachings Insert can be found here.

Literacy Site Launched

Lakeland Catholic launched a web page where families can find resources and activities relating to early literacy. This includes home reading and spelling support, home literacy activities, and a document listing decodable books for home practice.

This is an example of Goal Two: Student Success, where literacy learners are proficient in the ability, confidence, and willingness to acquire, construct, and communicate meaning in all aspects of daily living.

The page can be accessed <u>here</u>.



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Mental Health Campaign

The Mental Health Matters Campaign is well underway for the 2022-23 school year.

Many schools hosted kick-off events, where mental wellness was in the forefront. Holy Cross Elementary and Assumption Jr/Sr High School hosted their events in conjunction with their school open houses, at these events, families were given takeaways that promoted mental wellness. Dr. Bernard Brosseau celebrated in house with a pizza party.

École Notre Dame Elementary tied their efforts into Terry Fox with their Never Give Up slogan. They have created posters, and some of their students made presentations to each class about mental wellness.

École Notre Dame High School purchased water bottles - tying physical wellness to mental wellbeing.

Light of Christ Catholic School hosted a Week of Wellness, where each day of the week was tied to a different mental wellness focus.

Holy Family students linked their mental wellness to social justice and how being kind to others can benefit their own mental wellbeing. Following a presentation from the school's Family Outreach Worker, students were put into groups to make Christmas cards for local seniors.

In October, Holy Cross encouraged students to "Say Boo to Bullying," where pairs of older students made presentations to the younger grades about bullying.

Each school has created a Wellness Leadership Group tasked with promoting mental wellness throughout their schools through various presentations and events. Banners have been purchased featuring each school logo to help students recognize when these events are taking place.

Indigenous based resources have been distributed to schools, outlining some of the programs available in the local community, as well as provincially and federally.

At the start of the school year, the division hosted a virtual HEADSTRONG Summit for students in Grade 7 through 12. The summit featured speakers from various backgrounds, who shared their own mental health journies with participating groups. Those that took part learned valuable techniques for promoting mental wellness in their schools, and have since put those methods to work.



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The campaign has focused on providing information to students and families about mental wellness, while reducing stigma and increasing awareness about resources available to those who require them.

Currently, the campaign is encouraging students to submit entries for the Poster Design Contest, which wraps up at the end of January. The theme is Anti-Bullying Awareness, and the winners of each age category will see their poster designs printed and shared in schools across the division.

The mental wellness of our students and staff is a top priority at Lakeland Catholic.