



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

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November 12, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairpersons and Directors of Education
-All Catholic District School Boards

FROM: Kevin Kobus, Executive Director

SUBJECT: **Catholic Education Week – May 4 to May 9, 2014**
“Catholic Education: *Serving in the Love of Christ*”

“I am among you as one who serves.”
(Luke 22:27e)

November is upon us with its grey skies and hints of future snow. The maple trees are shedding their leaves and as they swirl before the wind, one is reminded of lines from a poem called, *The West Wind* by the English poet, Shelley.

O wild west wind, thou breath of autumn's being, thou from whose unseen presence the leaves dead are driven ... yellow and black and pale and hectic red ...

Mitts and scarves and hats and boots, replace the bright apparel of summer and autumn and *Jingle Bells* has resurrected.

Publicly funded Catholic education is a call to service. Regardless of our position or our responsibilities within Catholic education, our role is a call, birthed in our Baptism, to bring the saving message of Jesus Christ into the lives of those students whom it is our privilege to serve. This reality elevates our duties and responsibilities to another plane. Left to our own strengths and abilities, the task seems and is very challenging, but we are not alone in this task. Jesus promised us the abiding strength of the Holy Spirit to be with us always – not just for a century or two at the church's beginning, but always. But the promise is predicated on our faithful and faith-filled response to that call to service following the example of Jesus who said 'I am in the midst of you as one who serves.' (Luke 22:27)

Catholic Education week begins on Sunday, May 4, 2014.

Included with this memo are two copies of the Advance Kit for Catholic Education Week. The Advance Kit is designed to help adult groups (trustees, school board staff, Catholic school advisory councils, parent groups, parish groups, associations, etc.) prepare for Catholic Education Week with prayer services and reflection activities, beginning in Advent. School Resource Kits will be sent by the end of February, 2014. The Advance Kit is available on the OCSTA website at: www.ocsta.on.ca.

Please provide copies of this memo and attachments to all principals, religious education consultants, chaplains, communication officers, school councils and other appropriate staff.