



Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association

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February 25, 2021

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Anne O'Brien, Director of Catholic Education

SUBJECT: **Catholic Education Week – May 2 – May 7, 2021**
Catholic Education: *Nurturing Hope*



The theme for Catholic Education Week 2021, “*Nurturing Hope*,” reminds us that 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 and their families whom it is our privilege to serve.

Each year, the Catholic community of Ontario engages in a week-long celebration of the unique identity and distinctive contributions of Catholic education during Catholic Education Week. This year’s celebration is entitled, “Catholic Education: *Nurturing Hope*” and will be celebrated during the week of May 2 – May 7. The theme for Catholic Education Week 2021 was inspired by the following considerations:

- Recognition of the special Year of Laudato Si’ which will run through May 24, 2021, announced by Pope Francis on May 24, 2020, the fifth anniversary of his papal encyclical, “On Caring for Our Common Home.”
- In the face of the ongoing reality of the COVID-19 pandemic, a strong desire by the planning committee, along with those consulted, and supported by feedback from the survey, for continuity with the theme for Catholic Education Week 2020, *Igniting Hope*, which has served so well during the spring recess from in-school instruction.
- The challenges to personal and spiritual well-being posed by the uncertainty and physical isolation of the current global crisis makes the timing and the concerns of Mental Health Week, which takes place during the same week as Catholic Education Week, all the more relevant.
- Ongoing recognition of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission and the relevance of Indigenous culture and spirituality to the spirit of Laudato Si.

...*Continue*

I would like to highlight several points leading up to CEW 2021:

- The CEW theme song has been posted on the OCSTA website. Schools and boards can download this copy for their CEW activities.
- The CEW prayer card has been posted on the OCSTA website. Schools and boards can download this copy for print and/or distribution.
- The CEW poster has been sent to all Catholic District School Boards for distribution to your schools.
- All CEW materials are posted on our website at: www.goodnewsforall.ca.

I would like to conclude by wishing all of you a wonderful 2021 Catholic Education Week. Please do not hesitate to contact me at aobrien@ocsta.on.ca if you have further questions.