

WITH SPECIAL THANKS

On behalf of the students, parents and staff of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board, we would like to express our sincere thanks to the Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, Bishop of the Diocese of St. Catharines, for celebrating Catholic leadership with us this evening. Your words will always remain with us as we reflect on this event, the importance of our faith and the gift of Catholic education.

With gratitude,

The Trustees of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board

Rick Petrella, Chair of the Board

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BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK
Catholic District School Board

BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

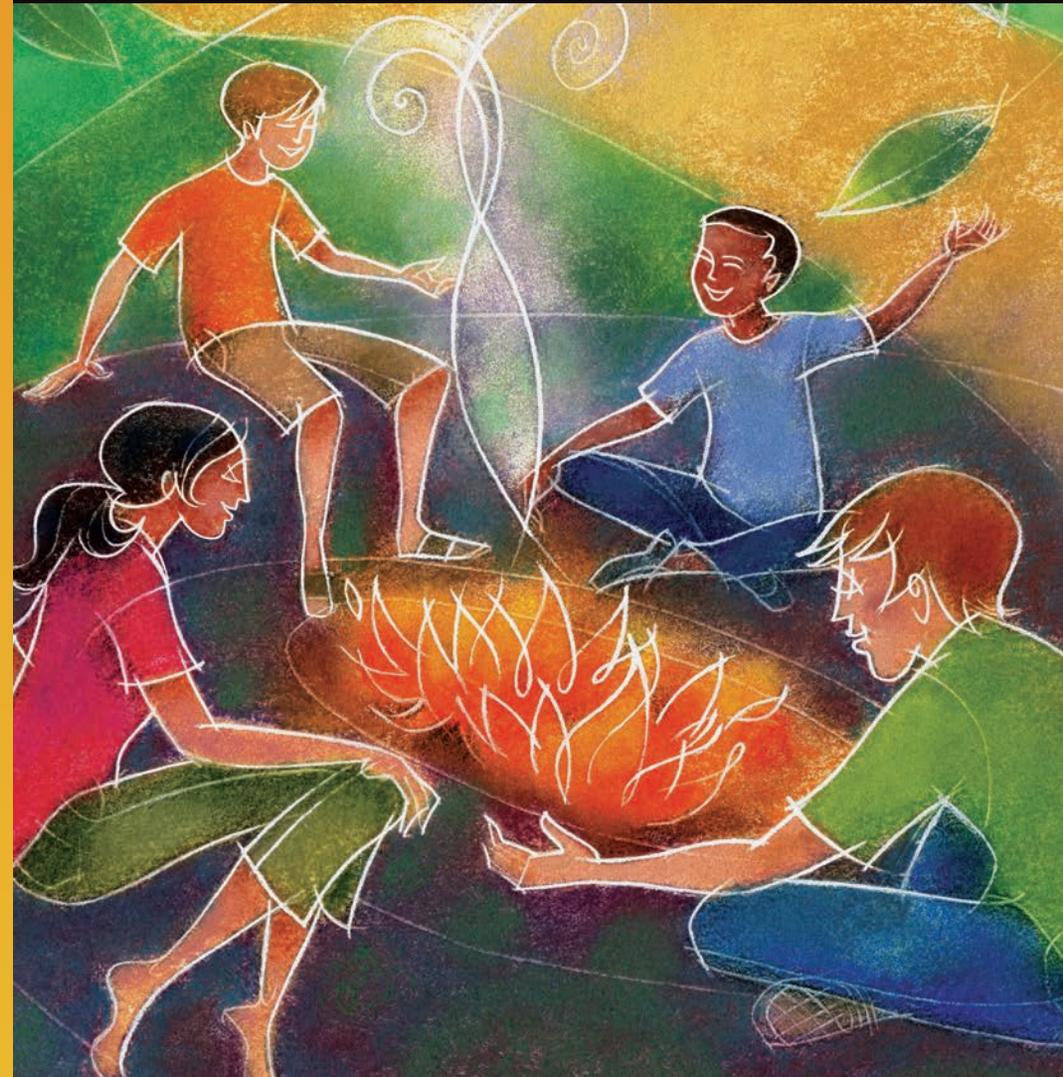
322 Fairview Drive, P.O. Box 217
Brantford, ON N3T 5M8

T 519.756.6369
E info@bhncdsb.ca

www.bhncdsb.ca

2018 CATHOLIC STUDENT Leadership Awards

MONDAY, MAY 7, 2018



Outstanding Leadership Catholic Virtues Celebrate

2018 Catholic Student Leadership Awards

Celebrate



The Catholic Student Leadership Award honours the gifts of young people across the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board. This prestigious award recognizes students who demonstrate the Catholic Virtues in their parish, at school and in the community. Each award recipient is nominated by his or her teachers and principal in collaboration with their parish priest. Award winners are extremely talented individuals who demonstrate outstanding qualities in Catholic leadership, family commitment, involvement in school activities and dedication to their parishes and communities. These award recipients are true role models who lead virtuous lives every day. Catholic Education Week affords us the perfect time to pay tribute to the student leaders in our schools and reflect on the importance of faith in our lives and the role it plays in Catholic education. Congratulations to all of the 2018 Catholic Student Leadership Award winners.

— Rick Petrella, Chair of the Board

Burning In My Soul

Matt Maher

There is power, power
Here in this hour, this hour
We're all together, together
Waiting here as one

There is power, power
Here in this hour, this hour
We're all together, together
Waiting here as one

Whoa
Hear the sound from Heaven
Whoa
A mighty rushing wind
Whoa
We're calling for revival
God let Your fire fall again
It's burning in my soul
Burning in my soul

All your sons and your daughters
Dreaming the dreams of their father
Seeing the signs and the wonders
The Kingdom of God

Whoa
Hear the sound from Heaven
Whoa
A mighty rushing wind
Whoa
We're calling for revival
God let Your fire fall again
It's burning in my soul
Burning in my soul

I cannot contain it this fire inside
I cannot contain it so let it shine
I cannot contain it this light of mine

It's burning in my soul
Hear the sound from Heaven
Whoa
A mighty rushing wind
Whoa
We're calling for revival
God let Your fire fall again
It's burning in my soul
Oh, it's burning in my soul
Yeah, it's burning in my soul
Oh, start a fire in my soul
In my soul, in my soul, in my soul

There is power, power
Here in this hour, this hour
We're all together, together
Waiting here as one

It's burning in my soul
It's burning in my soul

Congratulations



Emma Forget

Christ the King School, Brantford

Emma is a Grade 8 student who lives out her faith in the school community. She is a responsible and dependable volunteer in the Kindergarten classrooms. Emma attends Mass with her family at St. Basil's Parish in Brantford and has received the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation. In the community, she is an active member of the 5678 Dance Studio where she dances competitively and volunteers once a week with a children's beginner dance class. Emma volunteers at St. Joseph's Villa Retirement and Nursing Home in Dundas, Ontario.



Pedro Delgado Ayala

Holy Cross School, Brantford

Pedro is a Grade 7 student who demonstrates Catholic leadership in the school community. He is a member of the School Social Justice League. Pedro is well known for his gentle manner and compassion. He treats every single person with dignity and respect. He willingly helps with school faith celebrations as an altar server, reader and gift bearer. Pedro regularly attends Mass with his family at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Brantford where he assists as an altar server. In the community, Pedro helps around the Parish with his older brother whenever possible.



Jaina Pandohie

Jean Vanier Catholic Elementary School, Brantford

Jaina is a student in Grade 8. She was elected as the Minister of Faith for the School Parliament Team. She ensures that faith is continuously integrated into all school experiences. Jaina regularly attends Mass with her family at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Brantford. She has been involved in various activities within the Parish including the presentation of the Christmas Nativity play. Jaina is a competitive gymnast with the Brantford Gymnastics Academy who has won many awards and medals at the local, provincial and national level. She mentors her teammates to achieve their goals. Jaina is a Navy Cadet who helps to raise money and awareness by selling poppies for Veterans throughout the year. She is a First Aid Team Captain and has begun to train other Cadets.



Sabrina Gulas

Our Lady of Providence Catholic Elementary School, Brantford

Sabrina is a Grade 8 student who demonstrates Catholic leadership in her daily living. She is actively involved in the school's Social Justice Club. She organized and implemented the school's Ecosystem Team where she was the first to start composting and collecting it on a daily basis. Sabrina regularly attends Mass with her family at Sacred Heart Church in Paris. Along with her family, she volunteers to help with clean-up after the Church Spring Picnic. Sabrina dances competitively with Dance In Style Dance Company and often stays later to help clean up. Last summer, she participated in the Circle Square Ranch Leadership Camp.



Heather Stanley

St. Leo School, Brantford

Heather, a Grade 8 student, is an active member of the St. Leo Social Justice Faith Formation Team and the Avengers Social Justice group. She leads morning announcements and participates in school Masses and Liturgies as a reader. She sets an example for other students and is an excellent role model. Heather regularly attends Mass with her family at St. Pius X Parish in Brantford where she serves as a dedicated lector. She provides more than fifty hours of her own time volunteering at Vacation Bible School as both a Crew Leader and a Sing and Play Assistant. Heather is a member of the competitive dance team with the C.O.R.E. Dance Project in Paris. She is a regular participant in the annual Brantford Classic Run and she has volunteered with the Good Shepherd in Hamilton.



Arianna Bortolotto

St. Patrick School, Brantford

Arianna is a Grade 7 student who lives out her Catholic values. She is an active member of the school Social Justice Faith Formation Team. She participates in school Masses as an altar server, willingly volunteers and is an excellent role model for others. Arianna is a dedicated altar server at St. Pius X Parish in Brantford where she regularly attends with her family. She is involved in a variety of Youth Ministry activities and Social Justice and Leadership projects in the Parish such as Vacation Bible School summer camp, Care Packages for the Elderly, Kookies for Kenya fundraising and the Diocesan Youth Rally. Arianna has studied Karate for a number of years and shares her talent with the school community at school talent shows. She participated in the Hallowe'en for Hoodies door-to-door collection to benefit neighbours in need within the local community.



Evelina Rowley

Assumption College School, Brantford

Evelina is a very spiritual student, praying for others regularly and setting an example for her peers through her kindness and compassion. A model Grade 12 student, Evelina is self-motivated, responsible, respectful and very proud of her cultural heritage. Evelina is a dedicated and gifted musician who willingly shares her talents in the school music department programs. Evelina has been an altar server and currently serves as a lector at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Brantford. She is an active parishioner who regularly attends Sunday Mass and is involved in many Parish events. She is a young Catholic leader who draws other youth to their Catholic faith. Evelina has a part-time job teaching music. She plays several instruments and plans to study music therapy in University and/or College as she aspires to bring comfort to others through music.



Hannah Latimer

Notre Dame Catholic Elementary School, Caledonia

Hannah is a Grade 8 student who is actively involved in the Youth Ambassadors of Christ Committee as a Social Justice Leader. She participates on all sports teams, leads morning announcements and volunteers in the office during nutrition breaks. Hannah is an excellent role model as she always sets a good example of how to treat others; she is genuinely kind, considerate and brightens everyone's day. After attending Notre Dame Catholic Elementary School for 10 years and participating in Religion classes and school Masses, Hannah was so moved by the Holy Spirit that she made the decision to receive the Sacraments to become a full participating member of the St. Patrick's Parish Community. She volunteers with the Knights of Columbus "Chili Cook Off". In the community, Hannah collects food for the Caledonia Lions Club Food Drive, volunteers at power skating lessons, volunteers and participates in the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope, and is a member of the Haldimand River Cats Hockey Club.



Kaeleigh Walsh

St. Mary's School, Hagersville

Kaeleigh is a Grade 8 student who lives out her Catholic values in the school community. She is an active member of the Youth Ambassadors for Christ Team where she leads initiatives pertaining to social justice on a local and global scale promoting a kind and caring school culture. She is an excellent role model who runs the slide shows and facilitates responses at monthly school Masses. She represents the school as an effective team player on the basketball court. Kaeleigh regularly attends Mass at St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church where she assists her parish community as an altar server. Kaeleigh participates in the Terry Fox run and donates Christmas bags to the "MiraBE" charity.



Devon Dulmage

St. Michael's School, Dunnville

In the school community, Devon, a Grade 7 student, is an excellent role model and Catholic leader who helps younger students and sets a good example for them. He participates in all school sports and volunteers in all school activities including the Mission Council. Devon attends and participates in all Sunday Youth Masses at St. Michael's Parish. He actively participates in school Masses either as a lector or a gift bearer. Devon is also actively engaged within the greater Dunnville community. He is an active member of the West Niagara Falcons Football Team and Dunnville Mudcats Hockey Team. Devon also participates in the annual 5K Mudcat Run.



Christopher Cresencia

St. Patrick's School, Caledonia

Chris is a Grade 8 student who lives out the Catholic virtues. He willingly dedicates his time and assists with many tasks such as audio and lighting to ensure school assemblies and liturgies run smoothly. He actively participates in raising awareness during events such as Anti-Bullying and boosts school spirit to support fundraising efforts such as supporting the Local Food Bank, Tree of Warmth, and Patches for Heaven. He attends St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church in Caledonia where he actively participates in the sacramental life of the Church. He plays an instrument in the church choir and is a dedicated altar server. He volunteers his time and weekends to support Church fundraisers and serves as a positive role model for his peers. In the community, Chris volunteers as a member of the Caledonia Fair Board and is committed to assist with recycling on the Fair Grounds. He helps neighbours and friends with yard work and he is a trusted babysitter.



Joyce Fox

St. Stephen's School, Cayuga

Joyce is a Grade 8 student who is actively involved with the school's Social Justice Committee. She participates on school teams and is an excellent helper with younger students, particularly as a bus buddy. Joyce leads the organization and distribution of the school milk program. She actively participates in school Masses as an altar server and enthusiastically shares her beautiful singing voice in the school choir. At St. Stephen's Parish in Cayuga, where Joyce regularly attends Mass with her family, she assists as an altar server and has received all of her sacraments. Joyce helps with teaching students hymns for Masses and actively participates in the annual Church Bazaar.



Joshua King

Our Lady of Fatima School, Courtland

Joshua is a Grade 8 student. He is an active member of the school community. He participates on all sports teams, is the editor of the school yearbook, is a member of the Student Council and Social Justice Team, assists with morning announcements and fosters a positive attitude in the classroom. At school Masses, he volunteers as an altar server and as a lector. Joshua attends Mass on a regular basis with his family at Sacred Heart Church in Langton and assists with altar serving and as a liturgical reader. He has received the Sacrament of Confirmation. In the community, Joshua plays AAA hockey and baseball and umpires baseball in the summer. He participates in many outreach initiatives such as Operation Christmas Child, Gospel for Asia, recycling drives, visiting the long term care residence and helping out his elderly neighbours and his Grandmother.



Kevin Boyd

Sacred Heart School, Langton

Kevin is a Grade 8 student who actively demonstrates a firm belief in God and promotes his Christian beliefs in class discussions and in his daily interactions with others. He participates in school Masses and is an excellent role model for his Kindergarten buddy. Kevin regularly attends Mass with his family at Sacred Heart Church and actively participates in events which take place in the Parish by helping out at the CWL Chicken Supper and other events that occur throughout the year. Last summer, Kevin attended the Catholic Christian Leadership Camp and he is a member of the St. Mary's Youth Group. Kevin is an accomplished pianist who often plays at churches in his community. He enjoys visiting the elderly at various nursing homes and volunteers to spend his time with the residents. Kevin plays both indoor and outdoor soccer and is an avid Langton Fall Fair supporter and participant.



Emma Rose

St. Frances Cabrini School, Delhi

A Grade 8 student, Emma is a great role model and an active member of the school's Compassionate Crew, Social Justice Team and Student Council. She helps to organize the Christmas Toy Drive and the "Reaching Out for Lent" campaign. Emma demonstrates kindness and compassion in all of her interactions with staff and students in the school community. Emma regularly attends Mass with her family at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church in Delhi. She is the lead singer in the choir and frequently volunteers to read at Mass and other liturgical celebrations including Stations of the Cross. Emma has received the Sacrament of Confirmation and routinely displays the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit in her daily life. In the community, Emma collects and sorts food and clothing items for the St. Vincent de Paul Society. She assists with the organization of the "Souper Bowl" and volunteers her time serving at dinners for the Firefighters.



Lauren Klunder

St. Bernard of Clairvaux School, Waterford

Lauren is a conscientious Grade 8 student who thrives on group tasks and collaboration. In the school, she is a morning announcement Faith animator who enjoys sharing the Gospel message with younger students. She participates fully in basketball and school drama performances. Lauren regularly attends Mass at St. Bernard of Clairvaux Church. In the Parish, she is an altar server and willingly offers to assist younger servers as they train. She also enjoys singing in the choir. Lauren has received the Sacrament of Confirmation. In the community, Lauren is an avid member of the W. Ross MacDonald Swim Club in Brantford where she demonstrates perseverance as a long distance swimming specialist.



Amelia Carr

St. Cecilia's School, Port Dover

Amelia is a Grade 8 student who is actively involved in the school's Youth Leadership Team, participates on sports teams and frequently volunteers to assist students in younger grades. She participates in school Masses and liturgies as a lector and is an excellent role model for students in her class, as well as in the school community. Amelia regularly attends Mass with her family at St. Cecilia Parish in Port Dover and over the years she has been an altar server, and has assisted with donations for the St. Vincent de Paul Society. She walks confidently in the light of our faith and sets an example by her actions and commitment. Her strong faith is rooted in her family's commitment to the Church. Amelia is capable of balancing an active school schedule with her faith and eagerly shares her talents within the community. She is a patient, caring individual whose character is a tribute to herself, her parents and her faith.



Sylvia King

St. Joseph's School, Simcoe

Sylvia is a Grade 8 student and member of the school's Youth Leadership Team responsible for organizing events and coordinating activities for the entire school. She is a friendly and outgoing student who always puts others first. She consciously lives out the Catholic virtues on a daily basis in her words and in her actions. Sylvia received the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Mary's Church in Simcoe. She volunteers in the Parish with the summer Vacation Bible Camp. In the community, Sylvia is a dedicated and committed volunteer, including volunteering at Dover Cliffs Long Term Care Home in Port Dover. Sylvia is a recipient of the Ontario Government Youth Volunteer Award 2017 for her volunteer work with the Simcoe Little Theatre.



Chloe Brownlee

St. Michael's School, Walsh

Chloe is a Grade 8 student who is actively involved in leading the school's Social Justice Team and Catholic Leadership Team. She participates on sports teams, leads morning announcements and visits the elderly as part of the S.K.I.P. program. At school Masses, Chloe serves as a lector, an altar server and plays the flute and keyboard as part of the music ministry team. She always sets a good example and is a positive role model in the school community demonstrating compassion, empathy and caring for the needs of others. Chloe is an active member of the St. Michael's Parish Youth Ministry where she participates in the choir at Youth Masses. She participates fully in the sacramental life of the Church, attending Mass with her family at St. Michael's Church in Walsh. She received the Sacrament of Confirmation earlier this year. Chloe has been a member of several community sports teams including hockey, volleyball and soccer and she studies piano. She participates in Charity events within Norfolk County such as Walk for MS and Little Dreams, Big Dreams.



Matthew Kiernan

Holy Trinity Catholic High School, Simcoe

Matthew is a Grade 12 student who is very involved in animating the faith life of his school. At school Masses and liturgies, Matthew plays the guitar as part of the music ministry team. He initiated Eucharistic Adoration to take place on a monthly basis in the school Chapel. Matthew attends Mass with his family at St. Mary's Church in Simcoe. He is involved with the Youth Music Ministry at the Parish and has taken on active roles in the annual Passion plays. Matthew participated in the Board's Mission Trip to South Carolina where he was involved in a service learning project. In the community, he is an avid performer in several of Port Dover's theatre productions.



Breanne Smith

Blessed Sacrament School, Burford

Breanne is a Grade 8 student who is an excellent role model and is actively involved within the school community. She volunteers as a Kindergarten helper during nutrition breaks, leads morning announcements and participates in all extra-curricular sports offered throughout the school year. Breanne is a member of the Me to We group and the Safety Patrol Team. Last year, she was selected as "Patroller of the Year". Breanne is a member of St. Anthony Daniel Parish in Scotland and attends Mass regularly. She volunteers her time at the annual St. Anthony Daniel Easter Bazaar. Breanne belongs to the Burford Dancers Dance Studio where she loves to help out with classes for younger dancers and frequently volunteers to assist with summer camps at the Studio. She volunteers with the Burford Fall Fair.



Camryn Becks

Holy Family School, Paris

Camryn, a Grade 8 student, is actively involved in the school's Christian Leadership Team. She participates on sports teams, leads morning announcements, helps run the Holy Family Thrift Shop, connects with the Brant Society of St. Vincent de Paul for collections, works on the Hospitality Crew, works with Grade 1 students as a literacy buddy, and is a Safety Patroller. She also participates in school Masses and liturgies as a reader. Camryn, quietly and humbly, sets a good example for other students and is an excellent role model in the school community. She regularly attends Mass with her family at Sacred Heart Church in Paris. She contributes, through school initiatives, to the Christmas Angels Baskets at the Parish. In the community, Camryn walks a community child to and from school and provides supervision before and after school to that student. She participates in activities such as the Paris Christmas Parade and belongs to the C.O.R.E. Dance Studio where she leads and instructs younger dancers.



Mia DiFelice

Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary School, Paris

As a Grade 8 student, Mia is an active member of the school community. She is involved in the Youth Ambassadors for Christ Committee, routinely taking part in a variety of charitable activities such as food drives, clothing collection campaigns, and the Christmas Baskets initiative. She is a leader on the Social Justice Committee and is very conscious of the well-being of both the local and global community. She cares deeply for others and her actions reflect this. Mia regularly attends Mass with her family at Sacred Heart Church in Paris where she is an altar server. She has received all of her sacraments at the Parish. She volunteers with the annual collection for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul that supports the local Parish community. Mia is a contributing member of the Brantford Galaxy Soccer Club, always demonstrating hard work, dedication and sportsmanship both on and off the field. She enjoys helping others and is actively involved in various community projects. Her positive energy and her ability to see the good in everyone makes her an outstanding community member.



Chloe Svec

St. Theresa School, Brantford

Chloe is a Grade 7 student who demonstrates Catholic leadership, sets a good example for others, and is an excellent role model. She participates in school Masses and liturgies as a reader. She leads morning announcements and hands out bins for the school's breakfast program. She is a member of the school Social Justice League who engages with various community agencies including the OSPCA and the Brant Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Chloe regularly attends Mass with her family at Sacred Heart Church in Paris. Outside of school, Chloe is a dedicated and committed member of the Brantford Aquatic Club swim team.



Liam Arthofer

Notre Dame School, Brantford

Liam is a Grade 8 student who lives out his Catholic values in the school community. He is a school Safety Patroller, leads morning announcements and participates on multiple sports teams including soccer and basketball. At school Masses, Liam participates as an altar server. He is inclusive to his peers and is always eager to help out around the school. He attends Mass regularly with his family at St. Pius X Parish in Brantford. He is a dedicated altar server and lector at the Parish. Liam participates in sports and activities in the community including hockey and soccer.



Jessica Spangenberger

Resurrection School, Brantford

Jessica is an enthusiastic and positive Grade 8 student who demonstrates Catholic leadership in the school community. She helps lead school liturgies and assemblies by selecting Bible passages, prayers and creating slideshows. She is actively involved in the school's Me to We group, Eco Team, and participates on all sports teams. Jessica is an energetic member of St. Pius X Parish who attends Mass weekly with her family. In the Parish, she has been an altar server. She serves as a camp leader at Vacation Bible School summer camp and is an active member of the Youth Ministry spearheading charitable acts such as "Hoodies for Hallowe'en" in support of the Brant Society of St. Vincent de Paul.



Lainie Spencer

St. Basil Catholic Elementary School, Brantford

Lainie is an exemplary Grade 8 student who consistently lives out the Catholic virtues with integrity. In the school, she actively leads "Pups for Christ", promotes and participates in Me to We activities and Social Justice initiatives. She demonstrates Catholic leadership through her participation as a reader in liturgical celebrations and in morning prayer. She sets an example for other students and is an excellent role model. Lainie attends Mass with her family at St. Basil Catholic Church in Brantford. Last year, she received the Sacrament of Confirmation. In the community, Lainie is a dedicated competitive swimmer. As a member of the W. Ross MacDonald Silver Otters Swim Team, she demonstrates perseverance and commitment to her training in order to achieve her personal goals while encouraging her teammates to achieve theirs.



Lucas Mamela

St. Gabriel Catholic Elementary School, Brantford

Lucas is a Grade 8 student who is an excellent role model as he lives out his Catholic values. He quietly leads by example and always approaches tasks with a positive attitude. He frequently participates in school Masses, liturgies and Monday morning assemblies. Lucas regularly attends Mass with his family at St. Basil's Parish or at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Brantford. At Church, he often participates in Mass as a gift bearer. In the community, Lucas plays both competitive soccer and hockey. On both of these teams, he was selected to be Team Captain and offers humble leadership to his teammates.



Ania Ciepielewski

St. Peter School, Brantford

Ania is in Grade 8 and is actively involved in Catholic leadership opportunities in the school. She participates in Youth Ambassadors for Christ and reads morning announcements. She participates on sports teams and in school Masses and liturgies as a reader. She sets a good example for other students with her strong work ethic and her willingness to help others. Ania attends Mass regularly with her family at St. Joseph Church in Brantford. She is a dedicated altar server and assists with serving at various Church functions. In the community, Ania attends Polish School where she participates in class and in cultural activities outside of the classroom such as the Christmas celebration. She also participates in the annual International Villages Festival and various celebrations in the Polish community as a Polish dancer.



Jaden Chagnon

St. Pius X Catholic Elementary School, Brantford

Jaden is a Grade 8 student who is actively involved in many areas of school life. He is a member of the Social Justice Team supporting initiatives such as fundraising for Africa and We Day. He participates on all sports teams and leads morning announcements. Jaden is a living example of the Catholic virtues. He never misses an opportunity to say “good morning” and “thank you” at the end of a school day, leaving an impressionable mark on the school community. Formerly, as a member of Sacred Heart Parish in Paris, Jaden attended Mass regularly with his family where they were gift bearers in the Parish on many occasions. Currently, Jaden and his family attend St. Basil Catholic Church in Brantford. In the community, Jaden is a member of the Brantford CYO Rep basketball team. Jaden is the recipient of a Children’s Hero Award in Brantford for personally raising \$700 by selling emergency fencing when the money raised to help organizations in Africa went missing.



Alexandra Rodriguez

St. John’s College, Brantford

Alexandra, a Grade 12 student, is a strong faith leader in the school community. She is a true servant leader and role model for other students. She attends the Divine Mercy Prayer group every Wednesday at lunch time in the Chapel. She participates in school Masses by reading and as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. Alexandra is a member of St. Basil’s Parish in Brantford where she attends Mass on a regular basis with her family. Alexandra received a \$150.00 grant from the RBC #MAKE150COUNT and used the money to provide dinner to the Why Not Youth Centre. She participates in school food drives to support local neighbours in need through the Brant Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Distinguished Catholic Graduate Award

Diana Dumlavwalla

In her elementary years, Diana attended Resurrection School in Brantford where she excelled in all areas. In one particular year, she placed at the top of the competition in the Board's Science Fair, the Legion speech contest and multiple classes of vocal, piano and cello at the Kiwanis Music Festival. At Grade 8 graduation, Diana was recognized both for her academics as well as for her Catholic leadership.

At St John's College, Diana continued to achieve high levels in academics and in music and was extremely involved in the school's faith community. She soared as an "eagle" but also as Peter Pan in multiple sold-out performances at the Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts. In October 2000, Diana graduated from St. John's College sharing the Headmaster's trophy in recognition of her achievements and contributions to the school community.

Throughout this time, Diana was a key component of the music ministry team at

St. Pius X Parish in Brantford. She led the congregation in song, as well as performing inspiring solos for Masses and special celebrations.

In the fall of 2001, Diana left Brantford to study music. She completed her Doctor of Musical Arts Performance degree at the University of Toronto. She received her Master of Music (Piano Performance) at the Royal College of Music in London, Honours Bachelor of Music (Piano Performance and Voice) at Wilfrid Laurier University and an Associate diploma from the Royal Conservatory.

Currently, Diana is Assistant Professor of Piano Pedagogy at Florida State University. Previously, she taught at Western University where she developed the faculty's inaugural doctoral piano pedagogy

course. She has instructed at the University of Toronto, University of Windsor, Wilfrid Laurier University, and the Beckett School in Kitchener. She served as a member of the Royal Conservatory of Music College of Examiners and adjudicated at local, regional and provincial festivals.

As a soloist and chamber musician, Diana has performed in North America, Europe and Australia. She presented lecture recitals at the World Piano Pedagogy Conference (Phoenix), National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy (Chicago), John Weinzweig Symposium (Toronto), Australasian Piano Pedagogy Conference (Queensland), and the London International Piano Symposium (United Kingdom).

Diana continues to share her vocal talents in service as a Cantor at St. Pius X Parish in Brantford and in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hamilton where she sings at major diocesan celebrations including Episcopal and Priesthood Ordinations. Diana has regularly been heard on the nationally televised Daily TV Mass, produced by the National Catholic Broadcasting Council. Whenever she returns to Brantford from Florida, she rejoins the St. Pius X Parish music ministry. Diana's accomplishments are a testament to living a life that exemplifies our Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations.

Outstanding Contribution to Catholic Education Award

June Szeman

Last May, our Catholic community was deeply saddened by the loss of June Szeman, an inspirational contributor to Catholic education.

Throughout her life, June was a passionate advocate for Catholic education. June began her teaching career at St. Basil's School in Brantford. From there, she taught in various schools in the Catholic system. June was well known for inviting student teachers into her classroom to learn so that they too could carry on the mission of Catholic education.

June went on to become a principal in the Catholic system and then a Family Life Consultant with the Brant County Separate School Board. She ended her formal teaching career as a Superintendent with the Oxford Separate School Board.

Upon retirement, June further demonstrated her dedication and commitment to Catholic education by serving as a Catholic School Trustee for 14 years. During this time, June also chaired the CCSTA

AGM with her exceptional level of style and hospitality.

June was elected to the role of Board Chair six times and sat on many committees that helped guide the direction of the district. One of June's most notable and long-standing initiatives was the institution of the Catholic Student Leadership Awards ceremony. June is well known for her contributions to the organizing committee of the 'When Faith Meets Pedagogy' conference.

June not only served the Catholic education community, but also focused her efforts and talents on her family and her community. Organizations such as the Brant County Healthcare System, committees of the City of Brantford, the Villages event, Employment Standards for those with Disabilities, and the provincial Retired Teachers' of Ontario (RTO) benefited from June's hard work and dedication.

Walter VanLaeken

Walter is a lifelong Catholic whose actions demonstrate his commitment to Catholic education through living a life of love and service in Christ. Walter attended Grades 1-8 at Our Lady of La Salette School. During his elementary school years, he was an altar server in his parish. After completing Grade 8, he attended boarding school at

St. Jerome's Catholic High School in Kitchener where he served meals to the priests and students in order to help supplement the costs of his education.

After finishing school, Walter worked on his farm, married Margaret and they had four children. At this time, they were active members of Sacred Heart Parish in Langton. When their eldest child entered school, Walter became a trustee with the local Catholic School Board and continued to serve when the Boards consolidated into the Haldimand-Norfolk Roman Catholic Separate School Board.

Walter served as a trustee for 19 years, two of which were spent as Chair of the Board. He was instrumental in the building of new schools and additions to existing

schools. Walter ensured students who could not attend school due to health reasons were tutored at home. He worked with the public board to purchase special education services that the Catholic Board could not provide. Walter was also dedicated to staff, ensuring fair wages and favourable working conditions. Before full funding for Catholic schools was in place, Walter visited families in Norfolk County to safeguard the continuation of tax dollars to support the Catholic system.

In the community, Walter served on Norfolk County's Regional Council and as Deputy Mayor for two terms. For many years, he canvassed with the Red Feather Campaign, a fundraiser that preceded the United Way. Walter is a sixty-year member of the Knights of Columbus where he enjoys helping out with Free Throw competitions. He and his wife Margaret volunteer their time to judge public speaking competitions and even though their own children and grandchildren have all graduated from the Catholic school system, they still continue to attend school Masses.

Go Make a Difference

Go make a diff'rence.

We can make a diff'rence.

Go make a diff'rence in the world.

Go make a diff'rence.

We can make a diff'rence.

Go make a diff'rence in the world.

We are the salt of the earth,
called to let the people see
the love of God in you and me.

We are the light of the world,
not to be hidden but be seen.

Go make a diff'rence in the world.

We are the hands of Christ
reaching out to those in need,
the face of God for all to see.

We are the spirit of hope;
we are the voice of peace.

Go make a diff'rence in the world.

So let your love shine on,
let it shine for all to see.

Go make a diff'rence in the world.

And the spirit of Christ
will be with us as we go.

Go make a diff'rence in the world.