

Catholic Virtues into Action Parent Resource: Perpetual Calendars

Board website: www.pvnccdsb.on.ca

About the project ...

The Character Education initiative brought an exciting project to PVNC: *Catholic Virtues into Action*. Each month, a virtue is celebrated in schools and classrooms with learning about the virtues supported by a binder of resources. The *Catholic Virtues into Action Parent Resource: Perpetual Calendars* was designed to enhance this learning by supporting consistent messaging at school and home. It reflects the character development expectations stated in *Finding Common Ground: Character Development in Ontario Schools, K–12* by focusing on parent and community partnerships in a calendar that will support messages of faith and character over time. Every school in the board has a *Catholic Virtues into Action* resource binder to support monthly celebrations and learning about the Catholic Virtues. Perpetual calendars linked to this binder were produced to extend the learning from school to home and community. In the elementary-level calendar, each month features a virtue and its definition, a saint's profile, a home prayer and a home-parish connection. In the secondary-level calendar, each month features a virtue and its definition, a Catechism reference, a contemporary witness, a family discussion point and a social justice action or application. The calendar writing team consisted of teachers, school administrators, religion and family life consultants and a chaplain and were reviewed by a parish priest and school council parent. The calendars were distributed to over 10,000 parents and over 38 parishes in the board for use in the 2010–11 school year.

Impact on student learning and school culture ...

- Consistent messaging at school and at home promotes continued conversations around the virtues. This is character education embedded in school, family and parish life.
- The calendars support students, teachers, support staff, administrators, parents, family members and the wider community in the consistent use of the same language when discussing character and virtues.
- The links in the project to home, school and parish allow for and encourage greater participation of the whole community in the character development of students.

Lessons learned for moving forward ...

- The perpetual calendars are connected to parent engagement, equity and inclusive education, environmental education and First Nation, Inuit and Métis education. Staff professional development is being planned as a next step in making the learning connections with the calendar more explicit.

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