



The Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board is pleased to introduce to the members of the OAPCE, a new initiative designed to strengthen community linkages between our schools and parishes, deepen the Catholic faith within our schools, and enhance support for one another as members of the Catholic community. The Program is called Prayer Buddies.

The Prayer Buddy Program began last year as a pilot project involving the Knights of Columbus, CWL, the Legion of Mary at St. Joseph's Parish in Kingston, as well as the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame and Providence Motherhouse.

Each month the prayer intentions of the staff and students of the parish schools were delivered to members of the above-mentioned organizations who in turn offered prayers for these intentions. Over the course of the year, more than 1,000 prayer requests were met by these kind and caring individuals. Comments received from these groups indicated that it made them feel good to be supportive to the needs of the students and staff. Additionally, our Prayer Buddies felt a real and supportive connection to the Catholic school community.

Due to the success of the pilot project the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic School Board has committed to introduce the program in each of the schools. Director, Michael Schmitt, states that "the Prayer Buddy Program has strengthened the linkages between people in the Parish and the school community. More people are coming to understand that they have an important role in supporting Catholic education".

If anyone is interested in obtaining information on how to set up a Prayer Buddy Program in their region they are urged to contact, Trustee Kathy Turkington at turkkath@alcdsb.on.ca.

Together, we can do our part to preserve and enhance our publicly funded English Catholic Education system.