



Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees

From: Gerard Winn, Director of Education

Date: September 23rd, 2024

Subject: **Summer Learning Program (Summer Rays)**

Origin: Mike O'Neill, Superintendent of Education, Academic Services

Purpose

To provide information to the Board of Trustees regarding the 2024 Summer Learning Program which took place throughout the month of July at five sites across the Board.

Background

The Council of Ontario Directors of Education, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, provided funding for the 2024 Summer Learning Program, referred to locally as the Summer Rays Program. This free program is designed to serve students who may benefit from additional small group instruction in literacy and numeracy in preparation for the transition into the next grade level.

Information

During the Summer of 2024 from July 2nd through July 26th, the Summer Rays Learning Program provided 75 hours of instruction to over 212 students at the following sites:

- St. Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic School
- St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School
- St. Marguerite d'Youville Catholic School
- St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic School
- St. Jude Catholic School

Eligible students were selected by school administration, program support teachers and educators, with a particular focus on students who would benefit from consolidation of foundational skills and concepts.

Targeted student groups included:

- Year 2 Kindergarten Students entering Gr. 1 in September
- Grade 1 students entering Gr. 2 in September
- Grade 2 students entering Gr. 3 in September
- French Immersion students entering Gr. 2, 3 or 4 in September
- Multi-lingual learners entering Grades 3 - 7

Literacy instruction for this program focused on phonics screeners to identify specific gaps in children's reading and provide evidence-based instructional tools aimed at closing those gaps. Numeracy instruction also focused on foundational skills, but also included the use of robotics and coding to inspire interest in STEM. Students also participated in experiential learning activities and excursions within the local community.

The 2024 summer learning program also featured an extensive home-school partnership, including an open house for parents, community supports (Library and Public Health partners) and a brief progress report for each student highlighting the academic success of the students at the conclusion of this program.

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