

CSCNO grade 5 and 6 students favour respect to change the world

For immediate release

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Sudbury – It is under the theme « *Je veux changer le monde* » (I want to change the world) that grade 5 and 6 students at École Ste-Marie in Azilda participated in a leadership day against bullying and intimidation on December 12. This dynamic activity, organized and hosted by the Conseil scolaire catholique du Nouvel-Ontario's (CSCNO) Identity Development and Special Education teams as well as teachers, educators and the school's youth leaders, sought to provide students with an authentic learning experience where they would acquire strategies to better assume a leadership role in their school and community.

During the day, which is part of the CSCNO's elementary school leadership program, some 50 students, girls and boys, participated in a number of activities designed to promote a better understanding of one another, oral communication skills and Christian leadership all the while learning to recognize, address and counter bullying and intimidation in all its forms. Each student, committed to this vision, received a small pot with seedlings to symbolize his or her role in 'cultivating' respect in their surroundings. They also received a pink t-shirt, symbolic of similar anti-bullying initiatives in various schools, and were cheered as heroes by all of the school's students as they completed the activity.

"It is important for our students to recognize their role in preventing bullying and intimidation," stated Mrs. Carole Deslandes, curriculum advisor at the CSCNO. "Through this type of activity, complemented by our leadership and self-affirmation camps for grade 7 and 8 students, we advocate a proactive approach and a moral discernment in a Christian perspective to address this serious social issue. By working with our teachers and student leaders, we are providing essential tools and strategies to our students which will allow them to nurture respect around them and change the world."

As part of its elementary school leadership program, the CSCNO will be offering further leadership activities to its grade 5 and 6 students throughout the school year. Earlier this fall, some 200 students from grades 7 and 8 participated in leadership and self affirmation camps and were prepared to support the leadership team during this leadership initiative.

The Conseil scolaire catholique du Nouvel-Ontario offers a French Catholic Educational Program that is widely recognized for its excellence. The CSCNO provides a quality learning environment and academic program that runs from early childhood to adult education, with some 7,200 students in 27 elementary and 10 secondary schools.

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