

For Immediate Release

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**New Dance Program,
New School Part of
2011-2012 School Year**



(North Bay, ON) – North Bay’s newest *green* elementary school and a new dance program added to St. Joseph-Scollard Hall Catholic Secondary School’s already-rich and vibrant Arts department are two of many exciting aspects of the 2011-2012 school year across the Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board.

The first day of school will be particularly special for approximately 200 St. Luke School students who will be arriving at their new, state-of-the-art facility at 225 Milani Road. The school boasts bright classrooms with white boards, a library with a view of a conservation area, and a geothermal heating and cooling system, which extracts energy from the earth by running water through underground piping, saving overall energy.

Dance is the latest program to be added to SJSH’s Arts department, which already includes Music, Drama and Visual Arts. In September, secondary students will begin the program in a new studio designed to allow students to balance knowledge, skills and attitudes while embracing movement, creativity and performance.

This year will also see the following enhancements in technology across the Board:

- Two new Apple labs installed at St. Hubert School and St. Joseph-Scollard Hall Catholic Secondary School
- Expansion of assistive technology in special education
- 16 new Smart Boards distributed throughout the Board
- Increased number of wireless schools across the Board

For parents:

- The NPSC Parent Involvement Committee will be offering “*Parents as Partners - Making Technology Work for Us*”, a parent engagement symposium designed to strengthen the parent-school partnership at both the elementary and secondary level this year. This annual coming together of educators and parents is an opportunity to strengthen the parent-school partnership in addition to educating its participants on current best practices on instruction both in the classroom and at home.
- NPSC is expanding its online **Parent Portal**, which was launched for secondary school parents in the 2010-2011 school year, to serve all elementary school parents this year. This tool for enhanced communication allows parents to securely access their child’s educational information such as attendance and achievement data.

“We welcome back all of our students, parents and staff for another year of high quality Catholic education,” said Director of Education, Anna Marie Bitonti. “When we consider the array of skills and talent across our schools, we anticipate this year will be marked by many achievements academically, athletically, culturally and spiritually.”

All NPSC schools will be open from August 29 to September 2 for new registrations.

The Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board serves approximately 3100 students in 12 elementary schools across North Bay, Callander, Mattawa, Powassan and West Nipissing, and St. Joseph-Scollard Hall Catholic Secondary School in North Bay, and offers both Regular English and French Immersion Programs. Full-day, every day JK and SK is offered in all NPSC elementary schools.

For more information, call Josee Guillemette, Communications Officer, at 705-472-1201, ext. 2229.