



Embracing Stewardship



By Deirdre Kinsella Biss

Editor, Principal Connections

*With the release of the latest issue of **Principal Connections**, Editor Deirdre Kinsella Biss provides a sneak preview of what you can expect in our magazine this month.*

We are all stewards of God. As such, we must care for all of God’s creations. As environmentalists, we must look after the earth. As people of faith, we must look after each other. As Catholic school leaders and community members, we must build healthy living environments that encourage us and all entrusted in our care to flourish, learn, and love. Stewardship promotes spiritual and moral formation and sets the table for the development and growth of responsible global citizens.

Stewardship involves students learning through their experiences and actions. By learning through the exercise of using their heart, head and hands, students make connections to bigger ideas, values and the points of view of others, and empathy and understanding become a by-product of the experience. Stewardship is only fully realized when students understand and embrace the different layers of meaning associated with the word.

This edition of *Principal Connections* provides you with a variety of perspectives, calls to action and stories about stewardship in our Ontario Catholic schools.

According to His Eminence, Thomas Cardinal Collins, stewardship is the foundation of Catholic education. We are all stewards of creation with a responsibility to help each other. In his article **Stewardship and Catholic Education**, Cardinal Collins highlights the importance of recognizing and using your talents to support others in a responsible, trustworthy way. He asks us to think about how we use our heart, head and hands to live out our faith while inviting us to reflect on current challenges and responsibilities that face Catholic education.

***“Humanity still has the ability to work together
in building our common home.”***

Laudato Si

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Maude Barlow, National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians, writes passionately about the gift of water. In her article, **Water: We Are the Stewards**, she reminds us we are responsible for teaching our students to take care of the world we live in and for sharing all the wonders and resources the Earth gives us. She also asks us to help our students become as knowledgeable as possible about the human water crisis we face and the root causes behind it.

Father Laurence Freeman says stewardship changes the way we look at life and the decisions we make. In his article, **Stewardship: The Next Generation**, he writes about the importance of the contemplative experience in changing the consciousness of our students' minds. He sees the teaching of meditation to our children as the most radical spiritual initiative of our time. Christian meditation helps students develop personal peace of mind and psychological health, and ultimately transforms their way of thinking.

Building healthy learning environments that promote student well-being is crucial, too. Russell Bishop highlights the impact of positive learning climates in his article **Relationships are Fundamental to Learning**. He shares his research and experiences with the Maori communities of New Zealand and calls attention to the need for students to be nurtured in extended family-like contexts for learning. David Cameron, author of **Measuring What Matters**, shares his ideas on what creates successful learning experiences in schools. He invites us to take a closer look at how we define "success" and reflect on the role of creativity, citizenship, health and social emotional learning in our schools. **Leading Mentally Healthy Schools: What Principals Need to Know** shares insights and useful information for principals and vice-principals to use to address student well-being in their schools.

As another school year draws to a close, let us embrace our multiple roles as stewards, and our sacred call to lead and learn with the next generation, as they grow and take on the responsibilities of stewardship for all God's creations. Let us make the Holy Father's words our call to action.



The above article was featured in the **Stewardship** issue of CPCO's *Principal Connections* magazine.

If you would like to read the whole issue, you can purchase it [here](#).

CPCO Practising Associates can read the issue by logging in [here](#).