



Peterborough Victoria
Northumberland and Clarington
Catholic District School Board

THE PETER L. ROACH
CATHOLIC
EDUCATION
CENTRE

News

Release

Authority: Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board

Subject: **“Good Shepherd Student to be 2008 PA Poster Boy”**

Date: Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Time: 10:15 am - 11:00 am

Location: Good Shepherd Catholic Elementary School, Courtice

Release: At Will

On Tuesday, December 18, 2007 from 10:15 am to 11:00 am, students in grades 5 to 8, and staff members, at Good Shepherd Catholic Elementary School will learn about a blood disorder that effects over 50,000 Canadians, including a young student at Good Shepherd.

Martyn Hooper, Executive Chair of the Pernicious Anaemia (PA) Society from Bridgend, Wales will speak to the students and staff about the disorder of PA . Other guests attending include Pat Kornic, National Director of the PA Society in Canada, Father Ken Rae, Pastor at St. Therese Parish in Courtice and Joshua J. Luckasavitch and his parents.

Students and staff wanted to support grade 8 student, Joshua J. Luckasavitch who has been absent from school since last January, and decided to hold a special assembly to inform the school community of what it means to have a blood disorder like PA.

Pernicious Anaemia is a blood disorder in which the production of red blood cells is decreased caused by the inability of the body to absorb Vitamin B12. More information regarding PA is available on the website at www.pernicious-anaemia-society.org.

Students and staff have been asked to purchase \$3.00 bracelets to support the PA Society's future research and communication strategies.

“Joshua's class has been keeping in contact with him through visits and cards,” says Greg Nugent, Joshua's teacher. “Joshua's determination and work ethic shows our students and staff everyday how we can choose to react to adversity. Joshua has chosen wisely and courageously and we have learned from his experience.”

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Debbie Ford, Principal at the school states, "Joshua's personal journey is a true example of faith, hope, patience and love for our school community during this Advent season. He has been chosen as the poster boy for PA next year and we are looking forward to seeing Joshua and his family and learning more about PA on December 18."

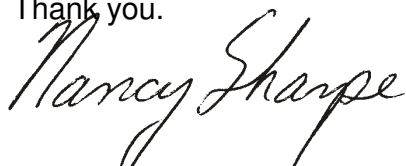
Anyone who would like to attend the assembly are asked to contact Good Shepherd Catholic Elementary School at (905) 404-9868.

Members of the media are invited to visit Good Shepherd Catholic Elementary School for this presentation.

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For further information, please contact Debbie Ford, Principal, Good Shepherd Catholic Elementary School, Courtice at (905) 404-9868 or Nancy Sharpe, Manager of Communications and Freedom of Information/Protection of Privacy at (705) 748-4861, ext. 245.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Sharpe".

Nancy Sharpe
Manager of Communications and
Freedom of Information/Protection of Privacy

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