

NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



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We are a
CHRIST-CENTERED
CATHOLIC FAITH community
that celebrates diversity
and fosters SPIRITUAL GROWTH,
inspiring ALL to REACH
their FULL potential in
MIND, BODY, & SPIRIT

ENCOUNTERING SOULS
AND OPENING MINDS
SO that **all students**
SUCCEED

NIAGARA CATHOLIC STUDENT POEM INCLUDED IN PROVINCIAL WRITING ANTHOLOGY

The Niagara Catholic District School Board is proud to share that a poem written by Molly Turcotte, a Grade 6 student at Canadian Martyrs Catholic Elementary School in St. Catharines, was one of 46 poems, plays, short stories, articles, and other projects included in the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association's (OECTA) annual writing anthology.

Molly was one of 238 students whose submissions progressed from the local to the provincial level. Hundreds more students had work submitted to their local competitions.

Molly's 10-stanza poem, *The Light of Advent*, was written as a project in class ahead of Christmas. It begins by exploring the themes of the four weeks of Advent (hope, peace, joy, and love), then transitions into the darker side of human nature.

"It was just a piece of schoolwork," Molly said earlier this year when she learned her submission was moving on from the local level. "I came up with the idea of doing the opposites (of the themes of Advent), thinking maybe I'd get a better mark."

In announcing a local winner, a media release from OECTA's Niagara Elementary Unit describes Molly's poem as "a glorious piece of writing describing where you can find, recognize and know hope, peace, joy and love."

Chair of the Board Danny Di Lorenzo praised Molly for her commitment to creating such an insightful poem.

"Molly has shared with us the hours of time she dedicated to writing and revising her work to ensure it met her own very high standards," said Chair Di Lorenzo. "Her hard work is evident in the poem, and in having it selected to be included in the OECTA Anthology. On behalf of Niagara Catholic's Board of Trustees, congratulations, Molly!"

Director of Education Camillo Cipriano also congratulated Molly on her outstanding accomplishment.

"Congratulations to Molly for writing a piece of poetry that really shows the depth of her writing ability and a wisdom beyond her years," said Director Cipriano. "We are all very proud of you for your commitment and dedication to your craft and for being selected from more than 200 writers in this provincial anthology."

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