

BREBEUF COLLEGE SCHOOL
GIFTED & ENRICHMENT
PROGRAMME



ANNUAL REPORT OF PROGRAMME &
ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

2011-2012

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Gifted & Enrichment Co-ordinator

<http://brebeufgifted.yolasite.com>

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Dear Students, Parents, and Colleagues,

It's a very rewarding experience to work with our Gifted students. Each year we strive to improve the breadth and improve the quality of the Enrichment opportunities that we offer to Brebeuf students. This report outlines the initiatives of the Brebeuf Gifted and Enrichment Programme and some of the other activities with which the Gifted Co-ordinator was involved. None of these would be possible without the tremendous collaboration and support of all members of our community: administrators, teachers, support staff, guidance counsellors, librarians, and parents. Our Gifted students and those seeking enrichment continue to amaze me with their enthusiasm, commitment, and participation. Their success stories bring honour to our school and of that I am proud.

Our programme philosophy aims to help students to achieve their full potential through "L.E.A.D.S.":

Leadership in the school and beyond;
Enrichment activities beyond the classroom;
Academic opportunities with like-minded peers;
Development of talents of the whole person, and;
Social justice and service to others.

The programme themes are:

Self-Advocacy (Gr. 9)
Communications (Gr. 10 & 11)
Leadership & University Entrance and Scholarships (Gr. 12).

We are lucky that the TCDSB supports a model of having Gifted co-ordinators in each school; many boards do not and as a result the opportunities for Enrichment are substantially reduced for many students. My colleagues in other TCDSB schools are outstanding contributors to the quality of education for gifted and academic students and are an unceasing source of support and inspiration.

Any ideas that you have to improve and expand our Gifted and Enrichment programme are always welcome. I look forward to another year of working with all of you in 2012-13.



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(1) GIFTED NUMBERS

- Brebeuf's Gifted programme continues to grow and we have one of the larger concentrations of Gifted students in the TCDSB.
- This year Brebeuf had forty-five identified Gifted students. Many schools count non-identified students in their numbers; we do not. Academic students without an IEP who are interested in enrichment activities are often invited to participate.
- With more Gifted students, we will be able to offer a more regular programme of classroom withdrawal and activities.
- The Grade 9 Gifted numbers over the past few years have been:

2010/11 -- 10
2009/10 – 12
2008/09 – 12
2007/08 – 21
2006/07 – 16
2005/06 – 9
2004/05 – 6
2003/04 – 2

(2) INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLANS (IEP'S)

- Each Gifted student is monitored based on his needs as outlined in his I.E.P. and to encourage academic success and involvement.
- Students can book appointments with the co-ordinator at any time for individual counselling.
- Grade meetings are held from time to time to announce important Enrichment activities and to develop skills for student success (i.e. exam study skills, scholarship portfolios, etc).
- Each subject teacher has a copy of the gifted student's I.E.P.

(3) ENRICHED (PRE-AP / AP) COURSES

- Brebeuf offers Enriched courses, which move at a faster pace and have more breadth than the Academic or University streams. In 2011-12, we offered them in the following subjects:

- English (10,11,12);
- Mathematics (9, 10,11);
- Science (10);
- Calculus & Vectors (12);
- Advanced Functions (12).

- By Grade 12, these Enriched courses prepare students to write **Advanced Placement Examinations**.
- Students not in Enriched courses can still prepare independently and with teacher assistance (where available) for all AP examinations.
- Next year, we will expand the Enriched courses to include Grade 9 Mathematics and Science.

(4) ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) EXAMINATIONS

- This year, students wrote AP examinations in: English Literature and Composition, English Language and Composition, Calculus AB, Macroeconomics, World History, and US History. Students who are successful can earn university credits for their work done at Brebeuf.
- 26 students wrote AP Calculus and more than half got levels 4 or 5!
- All students who wrote AP English Language and Literature got level 4 or above.
- Many students who wrote AP Literature got level 4 or above.

(5) “PERSPECTIVES” GIFTED CONFERENCE AT UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

- Twenty Brebeuf students participated in a variety of engaging workshops led by university professors and professionals, including: engineering, computer science, Jesuit spirituality, music, scholarships, and effective university essay writing.

(6) CANADIAN CLUB LUNCHEONS AT THE ROYAL YORK HOTEL

- Ten students had the opportunity to hear His Eminence Cardinal Thomas Collins speak on faith in the public realm.

(7) BREBEUF DEBATING SOCIETY

- Twenty-five students meet weekly over the year for practice debates, tournament preparation, and skills presentations.
- Gifted students lead the Debating Society and mentored the younger students.
- Students participated in four Saturday Pro-Con Tournaments, two of which were hosted at Brebeuf.
- Topics for debate included:

Proportional representation would be preferable to our current electoral system

Public servants should be subject to random drug testing.

The Occupy Wall Street movement is misguided.

It would be beneficial to have a government-run casino in Toronto.

Students who wish to take a fifth year of high school should have to pay for it.

Shakespeare should be mandatory reading for high school students.

Canada needs a new national anthem.

Public schools should accomodate student prayer during the school day.

Summer school in Ontario should be banned.

- M. Da Costa completed his seventh year as President of the Pro-Con Debating League, of which there are thirty members from Catholic, public, and private schools.
- Many students earned community service hours for assisting as timekeepers and statisticians.
- Brebeuf also hosted the **TCDSB Elementary Gifted Debate Tournament** in February for over 400 students. Our gifted students were among the judges and helpers.

(8) ESSAY AND WRITING CONTESTS

- Students were given the opportunity to enter many essay contests, with teacher feedback. Some included: the Jesuit 400th Anniversary Contest (sponsored by Brebeuf and the Society of Jesus), Mathieu Da Costa Contest; Commonwealth Essay Contest; Right to Life Essay Contest; Student Poetry Contest, and many others.
- Pierre Leger (Gr. 10) won the Jesuit 400th Anniversary contest, which was open to students from across Canada! You can view his excellent essay at <http://brebeufgifted.yolasite.com/essays.php>

(9) BREBEUF SOCIAL JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM

- Fifteen students (the majority being Gifted) planned and facilitated the seventh annual Brebeuf Social Justice Symposium for Catholic high school students on the topic: **Keen to Be Green: Ecological Justice**. The event was held in December at St. Michael's College at University of Toronto and over 250 students from across the TCDSB attended. The keynote speakers included Sister Mary Mallany IBVM of the Loretto Sisters and Bruce Cox, Executive Director of Greenpeace Canada. Workshops were also run by various groups to encourage students to become active in putting their faith into action in their schools and local communities. These were conducted by Brebeuf and TCDSB students who volunteered in Africa; Canadian Jesuits International; Christian Peacemaker Teams; the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

(10) ACADEMIC AWARDS NIGHT & GRADUATION EXERCISES

- The Gifted Programme planned the event in October to recognize the hard work of all students who attained Honour Roll status and who received the top marks in each subject. The event was held at night so parents and families could attend and celebrate their sons' successes.
- The Gifted Programme also co-ordinates the Graduation Exercises and other opportunities to recognize students' academic success.

(11) BREBEUF FAMILY COMMUNION BREAKFAST

- Our spirits were nourished by a Mass at the school for students, staff, and their families, followed by a breakfast and a celebration for all in our Atrium. This has been an important tradition in building community since 1963.
- The organizers were Ms. I. Martin and Mr. M. Da Costa.

(12) BREBEUF ALUMNI MENTORSHIP

- Gifted students often have specific questions about careers in which they are interested. They are put into e-mail contact with Brebeuf alumni in those fields to get a first-hand account of the professions and mentorship opportunities.
- M. Da Costa has been the Vice-President, Staff Liaison, and webmaster of the Alumni Association since 1998.

(13) *The B* NEWSPAPER

- Gifted students are encouraged to put their thoughts and ideas into writing in Brebeuf's own newspaper. For some this is their stepping stone into careers in professional journalism.
- There were four issues of *The B* published this year. See www.brebeufcollege.ca for back issues.
- The moderators were Ms. I. Martin and Mr. M. Da Costa.

(14) SOCIAL JUSTICE CLUB

- This student group meets weekly and is involved in social justice projects, such as:
 - Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace
 - Sponsoring a child in the Developing World through Chalice: Christian Child Care International
 - Ghana Week – events to raise awareness and funds for the Presentation Brothers' school we sponsor in Yendi, Ghana. The money is raised under the **Brother Lawrence Maher Fund for Africa**, a fund named in honour of our former Principal and a true embodiment of our school's ethos of forming "men for others".

(15) THEATRE

- Gifted students enjoyed *Jesus Christ Superstar* at the Stratford Festival. This trip was co-sponsored by Brebeuf and St. Joseph's Morrow Park.

(16) LETTERS OF REFERENCE AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- Grade 12 students received tips, proofreading assistance, and letters of reference in applying for university programmes and scholarships.
- Grade 9, 10, 11 and 12 Gifted students receive a mini-workshop on applying for scholarships and creating a scholarship portfolio.

(17) COURSE SUBSTITUTIONS

- Students in Grade 9 were advised that their IEP's will allow them to substitute Grade 10 Career Studies and Civics for other courses that they need in order to fulfil career and university goals. Students who substitute these courses receive mini-classes on valuable aspects of the Career Studies and Civics curricula.

(18) MODEL UNITED NATIONS

- Forty-five students attended the **Catholic Student United Nationals Assembly (C.S.U.N.A.)** and others also participated in the **Bishop Allen Model United National (B.A.M.U.N)**. Students represented countries in mock simulations of the U.N. and honed their skills in debating, research, writing, and public speaking. Students wrote resolution papers on world issues and argued their merits in committees and in front of the whole Assembly. Over 500 students from across the TCDSB participated in CSUNA and 100 in BAMUN.

- Fifteen Brebeufians also volunteered as assistants at CSUNA and helped the ladies of SJMP run this phenomenal learning opportunity.

(19) ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES PROMOTION

- Two issues of the ***IQ@B Newsletter*** highlighting Enrichment activities and opportunities were produced and delivered to all students.

- A website to promote the Gifted Programme is online – <http://brebeufgifted.yolasite.com>

- A bulletin board near the library also promoted events and activities to the student body.

- A new facebook group was established: "Brebeuf College School Gifted Programme".

- M. Da Costa edits the ***Brebeuf Relations*** newsletter which highlights good news from the Brebeuf community and cites many of the Enrichment opportunities and successes of our students.

(20) DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS

- Students were assisted in signing up for the internationally-recognized Duke of Edinburgh Awards programme, which encourages students to become volunteers, learn new skills, be physically active, and undertake an adventurous journey.

- Next year we hope to sign up all Gifted students.

(21) JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY

- Our Gifted students ran workshops for their elementary school Gifted peers in such areas as public speaking and social justice.

(22) EDMUND RICE VOLUNTEER AWARDS

- Based on a similar programme in the Irish Presentation Brothers' schools, this awards scheme recognizes students who perform twenty hours or more of volunteer service to their communities and reflect on it in light of their faith and the life of Bl. Edmund Rice. It is an excellent way for students to show they are "men for others", the goal of a Brebeuf education.

(23) ST. ANTOINE DANIEL SCIENCE FAIR

Brebeuf Gifted students serve as judges for the science fair projects of their elementary school peers. This provides a valuable service to one of our local feeder schools and develops critical thinking, communication, and leadership skills in the students.

(24) PREFECTS

Thirty students were chosen as prefects. These students; model good behaviour and comportment; represent the student body as ushers and tour guides; perform other duties as asked. Next year, these students will be “upper year buddies” to the Grade 9 students to act as mentors, tutors, and sources of information.

(25) LATIN

Students were taught basic Latin during lunchtime classes which followed the Cambridge Latin textbook series.

(26) TRIPLE BRONZE POETRY ANTHOLOGY

Senior students in the Gifted Programme wrote and produced an anthology of poetry.

(27) UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE DAY

Alumni were invited back to speak to the Gr. 12 students about their post-secondary experiences and offer advice and mentorship.

(28) ARCHIVES

Gifted students with an interest in history have begun organizing and filing our school's Archives in preparation for the school's 50th Anniversary.

(29) SOCIAL JUSTICE DAY

Brebeuf hosted Father A. Orobator S.J., a Jesuit priest and Provincial Superior for West Africa, who talked to Brebeuf students and others from various TCDSB schools about Africa and its challenges and successes.

SOME PROGRAMME GOALS FOR 2012-13

- Vigilant monitoring of students who are underachieving in their studies.
- Increase numbers following the Duke of Edinburgh Programme. Ideally we will sign up every gifted student.
- Increase numbers of students writing AP exams
- Bi-weekly meetings with all Gifted students (by grade or as a group)
- Establishment of an Enrichment Council to help plan and promote Enrichment activities and develop leadership potential
- Increased number of activities with Gifted students from SJMP and Loretto Abbey
- Increase gifted involvement in Enrichment activities
- Testing of students for giftedness who were not identified in primary school
- Visiting elementary school gifted centres
- Brebeuf Guest Speaker Series
- Public Speaking Contest
- Reviewing all OSR files from non-TCDSB students to determine giftedness of students not in Trillium.