

Innovation Grant Criteria

School Name: **St. André Bessette Catholic Elementary School**

Title of Project: **Raising a Village**

Submitted by: **Tom Condotta**

Please indicate the category of Innovation Grant being applied for:

Creating Catholic Conditions for Learning

The project connects students from grades one to eight once a month, in a community building activity that connects to a learning goal based on a Catholic Graduate Expectation. Students will be in the same group (“Village”) of students for the entire school year. The culminating Village activity will be a full-day celebration that will bring in community leaders to facilitate enriching workshops that promote St. André Bessette School as a Catholic Community.

St. André Bessette is a new school and the project is a new initiative for the school. The project is linked to the Catholic Board Learning Plan as it aims to establish respectful conditions for student well-being, that promote engagement of learning rooted in our faith. The project also aims to foster a safe learning environment for purposeful learning within a safe community.

The school will benefit from the initiative by promoting relationships between all students in the school. It will help create a culture of care where student make connections with students outside of the classroom community. It will promote collaboration and build relations amongst an entirely new staff at the school. The community will benefit from the initiative when students interact in the everyday life outside of the school as they model Jesus teachings and when they grow to become well-rounded Catholic leaders in the community.

The project will provide a transferable framework for others Dufferin-Peel schools to promote and reenergize their Catholic school community. The success of the grant will be measured in how well students understand the Catholic Graduate Expectations and in how well students bring to life Jesus teachings. If students feel respected and valued as a member of our school community, then all learners will feel safe, included, supported and welcomed.