

St. Bernard School joins in attempt to have million children praying rosary at same time



By [Ron Giofu](#), Amherstburg Echo

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Elizabeth Scott and Christina D'Aloisio from St. John the Baptist Church lead St. Bernard School students in praying the rosary Thursday, October 18. St. Bernard School joined one million other children worldwide in praying the rosary at the same time.

AMHERSTBURG — Local schools joined a movement to have one million children praying the rosary simultaneously and St. Bernard School was one of them.

The local Catholic elementary school found out on short notice about the project but pulled it all together. All schools were asked to participate by the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board.

The event took place at 9 a.m. Thursday morning.

"We actually found out about one million children praying the rosary about two days ago," said vice principal John Mazlounian.

With the help of St. John the Baptist Church and parishioners Christina D'Aloisio, Marilyn Goggin, Dianne Fox and Elizabeth Scott, students were led through praying the rosary and received some of the 800 rosary beads prepared by the parishioners.

"It's like a family coming together," said Mazlounian. "Being a Catholic school, those are the things we need to be doing."

Grades 1-8 took part in the exercise.

"We are praying the rosary for peace and unity," he added. "We are praying for anyone or anything that is important (to the students)."

The initiative was through the National Council for the laity. It has its origins in Caracas, Venezuela. For more information, visit www.million-kids-praying.net.

Villanova students decide to Kick the Clique Reach beyond their social circle at lunch

By Sharon Hill, The Windsor Star October 31, 2012



From left, students Aaron Marentette, Taylor Jones and Melissa Montaleone take part in Kick the Clique, at Villanova Catholic high school on Tuesday. The project asked students to sit and talk with someone they didn't know over the lunch hour. Photograph by: Tyler Brownbridge, The Windsor Star

A school lunchroom can be an unwelcoming sea of social cliques.

Football team. Popular girls. Grade 12 seniors.

St. Thomas of Villanova Catholic high school students were asked Tuesday to move out of their comfort zones and eat lunch with someone they didn't know.

"I actually kind of liked it, because going into it I was re-ally nervous almost to see how it could turn out, to see how people would actually take to it, if they'd actually stand up and move," said Grade 11 student Melicia Beaulieu Tuesday.

Many did, and that move across the lunchroom and the social divide could have really helped Beaulieu when she started at high school and knew no one.

"It was horrible," she remembers of the awkward lunch table search. "You kept to yourself a lot if you didn't know anybody, and you sat by yourself."

For the first time the LaSalle high school students took part what was called Kick the Clique. They were the only local school among about 3,000 schools across North America that took part in what is usually called Mix It Up at Lunch Day, a U.S. program that dates back to 2002.

Even if students couldn't define their clique, they agreed they do tend to eat with the same friends at the same spot. It took a bit of encouraging for students to move from their usual lunch seats, and organizers had icebreaker games to help the students learn they may have more in common with someone outside their social circle than they had thought.

Vice-principal Danielle Desjardins, who organized the event with the school's social justice club, said the activity could counter bullying and social exclusion.

"We're breaking down these cliques and getting to know people from other groups a little bit better. We're encouraging students to just say hi in the hall. A simple acknowledgment, a simple 'Hey, I know that person' can change a person's day entirely."

Grade 12 student Aaron Mar-entette said he got to meet new people who probably didn't fit into the group he'd normally be in. "It turned out there was a lot of people, they're all just the same. They just explain themselves differently."

Marentette said Kick the Clique would help students who have always felt left out.

"Meeting new people probably gave them the opportunity to maybe make a new friend, make someone's day, put a smile on their face," he said.

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