

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Quality • Inclusive • Faith-based • Education



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Acting Director's Message

As the 2011-2012 school year draws to a close there is much to be proud of and much to celebrate. As a system committed not only to the education of students but also to their formation, our mission statement speaks powerfully to the work we do: ***"As disciples of Christ, we educate and nurture hope in all learners to realize their full potential to transform God's world"***.

In my role as Acting Director I witnessed the focus of schools to support student development in many activities. Secondary school students connected to the local, national and international community through activities such as WE Day, international relief trips and the development of programs that support our neighbours in need. Elementary students shared the experience of WE Day and developed a deeper understanding of transforming their community and world through commitment and action. In all cases, the work and commitment of students is inspiring.

I also witnessed at all levels in our Catholic schools classroom instruction focused on meeting the individual needs of each student to support their learning and their formation. The instruction called students to connect their learning to the Gospel values that are the foundation of learning. In classrooms in all of our schools students understood their call to model the Gospel truth in the way that they live the ordinary activities of their daily lives.

On behalf of the senior administration and staff of the Waterloo Catholic District School Board, I want to thank you for your participation in the life of our schools this year. I wish you a safe and healthy summer and look forward to another great year in 2012- 2013.



Rick Boisvert
Acting Director

"In classrooms in all of our schools students understood their call to model the Gospel truth in the way that they live the ordinary activities of their daily lives".

Message from the Board Chair

As another school year comes to a close, I hope many across our system can look back at the year and recall the great work which has occurred. We have much of which to be proud.

This past year our Director of Education, **Roger Lawler**, announced his retirement after fifteen years of outstanding service. After Roger's retirement the Board of Trustees conducted a search for a new Director. That search has been completed and we are working on finalizing matters to be able to have a new Director in place before the start of the 2012-2013 school year.

Trustee **Fr. Robert Héту** will also leave his position on June 30, 2012 as a result of being transferred to a parish outside the Region. As a result, the Board of Trustees will conduct a search, starting in July of this year, to replace him. A replacement trustee will take his or her seat in September of this year. We take this opportunity to thank Fr. Héту for his years of service and dedication to WCDSB and wish him well in his new community of Acton, Ontario.

The Board of Trustees also thanks our outgoing Student Trustees, **Marcus Cardoso** of St. Mary's and **Colin Whaley** of St. David's as they finish their terms. We wish them well in the future and welcome incoming Student Trustees **Erin Jamieson** of Monsignor Doyle and **Carlos Valero** of St. Mary's. We look forward to their input and participation at the Board table.

In May at the annual **Staff Appreciation Night**, we recognized many staff across our system for their many years of service and their commitment and dedication to Catholic education and our students. The Board of Trustees appreciates the gift we have of Catholic Education, our system, staff, students and community -- and together we strive to make the best possible decisions for our schools' futures. On behalf of all the Trustees, **Joyce Anderson, Wayne Buchholtz, Fr. Robert Héту, Janek Jagiellowicz, Anthony Piscitelli, Wendy Price, Peter Reitmeier, Greg Reitzel** and our Student Trustees **Marcus Cardoso** and **Colin Whaley**, I wish you and your families a very happy and safe summer.



Manuel da Silva
Chair of the Board



Happy Summer!!!
See you in September

June, 2012



Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools

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Trustee Profile

For the next few years each **Community Update** newsletter will feature a profile of one member of the Board of Trustees. This month...meet Waterloo, Wellesley & Woolwich trustee **Janek Jagiellowicz!**



Fun Fact

An avid soccer player, Janek is learning to sail this summer!

"I am proud to represent Waterloo, Wellesley & Woolwich. I am a graduate of the **Catholic University of Leuven** and a father of two children in the system. I take great pride in representing the parents' voices and promoting Catholic education throughout the Region. I am a local business owner and enjoy spending time in the outdoors with my family -- particularly hiking, fishing, skiing and skating. Having my children experience their first sailing trip this summer will be a highlight of the year! I wish and pray that your summer is safe and full of new and exciting times with everyone you love. May God bless you and protect you during the summer vacation months".

Contact information for Janek and the other members of the Board of Trustees is available online at:

www.wcdsb.ca/about/board/trustees.html

!! Trustee Vacancy !!

On June 30, 2012 Fr. Robert Héту will leave his position as trustee to become pastor of a parish in Acton, Ontario. Fr. Robert has been a stalwart promoter and defender of Catholic education for many years and he will be missed.

As a result of the vacant trustee position the board will be advertising in church bulletins and the local media in July. Applications will be reviewed by the board and interviews will be conducted in August with the successful candidate taking their seat in September. For more information, please contact any member of the board of trustees.

School Facility Updates

Our Lady of Fatima Addition Update

Construction at **Our Lady of Fatima** will see eight (8) classrooms added to the school during the 2012/13 school year. One existing classroom will be renovated to accommodate additional student washrooms and two other existing classrooms will be expanded and renovated to create additional kindergarten rooms. Construction is expected to begin in July, 2012 with the expansion of the existing parking lot and grading of the recently acquired lands adjacent to the school. Work on the addition itself is expected to begin in September, 2012 with scheduled completion in December, 2012 or January, 2013.

Guelph Avenue Elementary School

A new 350 pupil place elementary school will be constructed in **North Hespeler** at the intersection of Guelph Avenue and Baldwin Drive. The two-storey school is being built in partnership with the **City of Cambridge**. That partnership will see a 1,000 square foot community room for the **Silverheights Neighbourhood Association** included in the project as well as a larger gymnasium to better serve the needs of the community. The project is also being planned to include a child care centre and discussions are underway with a prospective operator. The design of the site and building are currently being finalized and drawings should be submitted to the City of Cambridge shortly. It is expected that construction of the new school will begin in September, 2012 and completed in time for the beginning of the 2013 school year.

Southeast Galt Accommodation Review

In January, 2012 the WCDSB initiated a review of five elementary schools in the southeast Galt area of the City of Cambridge – **Holy Spirit, St. Ambrose, St. Anne, St. Francis** and **St. Vincent de Paul**. The goals of the review are to review the location and size of each of the five schools, to balance enrolment between the schools, to explore the long-term sustainability of the smaller schools, to address the elementary school needs of a new residential community east of Dundas Street, to address accommodation issues relating to site size, building size and building condition, to determine how full day kindergarten can be implemented at all schools by 2014 and to maximize the number of walking students in the long term accommodation solution.

An accommodation review committee has been formed to conduct this review consisting of parents from each of the schools, the school principals, community members, staff representatives and trustees. To date the committee has developed more than 30 options and has held three public consultation sessions to obtain public feedback. The review will continue through the fall of 2012 with additional public meetings. The committee is expected to present the Board of Trustees with a recommended alternative in December. The Board of Trustees is expected to make their decision in early 2013. Information is available at:

www.wcdsb.ca/about/accom/SEGalt/index.html



Our Lady of Fatima CES

Links LEARNING FORE LEARNING 2012
IN SUPPORT OF THE WATERLOO REGION CATHOLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

Monday, August 27, 2012
Whistle Bear Golf Club * Doon Valley golf Course

www.wrcsf.ca/activities.html



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Congrats to our new EcoSchools!

<http://ecozone.wcdsb.ca>

Students and staff at eleven of Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools have gone green in a big way, achieving certification as "**Ontario EcoSchools**".

GOLD

Pope John Paul II CES
St. Anne CES
St. Benedict CSS
St. Clement CES
St. Nicholas CES



SILVER

Monsignor Doyle CSS
St. Ambrose CES
St. Margaret of Scotland CES

BRONZE

Holy Family CES
St. David CSS
St. Peter CES



2012 WCDSB Awards

Chair's Award

Over his 31 years of teaching **Bruce Cameron** (St. Mary's H.S.) has been involved in innumerable activities at the school and board level. His musical gifts and enthusiasm for the arts have inspired hundreds of students. WCDSB will truly miss this remarkable teacher when he retires at the end of the year.

Community Partner Award

This year's recipient is **Junior Achievement of Waterloo Region** in recognition of their years of work with so many classes from primary to senior high school. In bringing volunteers from the business community to teach our students about money and how to deal with it JA is a valued and appreciated partner in education.

Grade 10 Literacy Test

Education Quality and
Accountability Office



2012 HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ A total of 1,625 WCDSB students wrote the test;
- ✓ WCDSB's overall success rate for fully participating students was 85% -- compared to 82% provincially;
- ✓ Individual school scores exceeded the provincial average by up to eight percent;
- ✓ This year's success rate for WCDSB students bettered by two percent the Board's average success rate over the last four years;
- ✓ Fifty-one percent of those taking the test were male and 49% were female. WCDSB's results for both female and male students were three percent higher than the provincial average;
- ✓ The success rate for male students increased for the second year in a row (from 79% in 2011 to 81% this year), while 89% of female students were successful. The rate of success for female students has increased by a steady one percent per year for each the last five years;
- ✓ Sixty-two percent of the Board's students with special needs (excluding gifted) were successful on the test -- a five percent increase over 2011. The provincial success rate for students with special needs this year was 52%;
- ✓ Seven percent more boys than girls regularly access non-fiction reading resources as a choice, while 19% more boys than girls rely on instructional manuals and "how to" resources for reading materials;
- ✓ Ninety-four percent of students reported using e-mail and text messaging as a primary mode of written communication;
- ✓ Fifteen percent of students who took the test speak another language (or languages) as often as English at home -- five percent reported speaking only or mostly a language (or languages) other than English at home.

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<http://twitter.com/WCDSBNewsire>
#WCDSBAwesome

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www.youtube.com/user/WCDSBVidLink

KINDNESS MATTERS



St. Mary's High School
June 7, 2012



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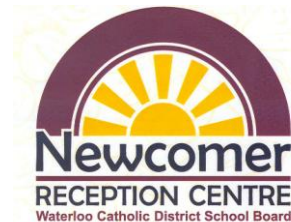
Hope, Opportunity & Success for All!

By Michele Breault

As **St. Louis Adult Learning & Continuing Education Centres** finishes 25 years of educational support to learners of all ages we have climbed an imaginary mountain and now scan the landscape of the past year to recall some highlights. Once again, St. Louis will have served more than 20,000 learners and seen 600 graduates earn their OSSD and/or certification as a chef, hairstylist or personal support worker.



In the distance we see many national borders divided by civil unrest, competition for resources, cultural and religious differences and even genocide -- and these tragedies have created struggles for so many unable to remain in their countries of origin. As many choose to come to Canada, we recognize the critical role St. Louis plays in bringing them **HOPE**. St. Louis' **Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC)** classes host a free English language instruction program specifically targeted to newcomers landing and/or settling in Waterloo Region. Waterloo Region is the 6th most-favoured destination for newcomers to Canada and the WCDSB's **Newcomer Reception Centre** is a first stop for many parents placing their children in school and an important community resource.



With their school-age children taken care of, the adults take charge of their lives and focus on their own learning of English as a Second Language and utilizing the free child-minding or the nominally priced child care services that St. Louis provides. Of the 658 learners who took language classes through St. Louis' LINC program this past year, more than 70% were refugees, some with limited working knowledge of English and others who may be foreign-trained professionals who need to improve their English to improve their employability.

Here is a story that exemplified how giving hope to a person new to the country will lead to success for them and their families:

Ibrahim came to Canada in April, 2011 along with his wife and two children from Palestine and is currently a permanent resident. He had a good education and had an excellent job as a psychosocial supervisor for the community Mental Health Program at the UN Relief and Work Agency.

Ibrahim spent two terms at St. Louis' LINC CLB Level 6 class where he quickly gained confidence speaking English. He was able to use the LINC childcare for his children so he and his wife could both attend classes. His instructor taught him to go out into the community and forge partnerships and volunteer his time. Ibrahim liked how the LINC instructors brought information about the community into the classroom. He remembers a brochure the instructor distributed that said "Don't stay at home and don't wait for your opportunity, you have to go out and explore." He says those words really inspired him. He says he also learned about Canadian culture, history, sports as well as the importance of volunteering in order to get Canadian experience. While in LINC classes at St. Louis, Ibrahim says he not only improved his English skills, he established a network of friends and was able to explore the many possibilities and opportunities available to him in Canada.

Ibrahim stayed in the LINC program for six months and eventually found full time employment as a settlement worker in elementary schools in the Region. Ibrahim is very grateful to the LINC program at St. Louis for giving him the tools he needed to find a job and become an active member of Canadian society.

Ibrahim's story is but one of many! To the right of the mountain, we see an entire mountain range. Many mountains have been climbed by others before, some crevasses are unmarked but, regardless, these treks are individual journeys that represent the many **OPPORTUNITIES** that require perseverance, hard work and a few "Sherpas" along the way.

After two years with St. Louis and having completed her last course, **Christine Choquette**, a forty year old mother of three, can finally say that she has earned her **Ontario Secondary School Diploma** with honours and is ready to begin the Civil Engineering program (with environmental focus) at **Conestoga College**. St. Louis is the largest feeder school to Conestoga College, and Christine will see many of her peers in their halls this September.

Through the generous support of a family of donors who established the **St. Louis Environmental Student Award** via the **Waterloo Region Catholic Schools Foundation**, Christine will be given \$2000 toward her tuition. This Cambridge St. Louis student has a keen interest in groundwater hydrology and water quality, is involved in **Green Gardens on Franklin** in Cambridge and has done independent studies on air/water quality impact on health and the preservation of natural ecosystems through waste management.



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L-R: Maureen Edgar (Guidance), Christine Choquette (Graduate & Award Recipient), Marta Kirk-Elleker (Environmental Studies Teacher), Rosann Lacalamita (Vice-principal)

Christine's maturity and life experience having a child living with multiple disabilities lends itself to her knowledge-building and to becoming an advocate for environmental accountability (especially locally). Christine can see herself playing a role in influencing legislation on energy ratings and environmental building codes as part of her post-secondary studies. She humbly wishes to express her gratitude to the generous family providing her this financial support and giving her this opportunity to make a difference in her community – as well as all the support she has received along the way... from her Sherpas!

Summer Programs @ St. Louis
<http://stlouis.wcdsb.ca/programs/ss.html>

After scanning the spectacular view from our mountaintop, we pause to look at what it took to reach the summit. Excellent planning, rigor, unwavering discipline, changing with the landscape and overcoming obstacles – all of this has led to the **SUCCESS** of St. Louis and every day leads to the success of our students.

One recent mark of success to culminate St. Louis' 25th anniversary is the accreditation of our **Personal Support Worker Program** by the **PSW Educational Program Accreditation Committee**. This award recognizes St. Louis' compliance with the rigorous provincial health care education standards established by the **Ontario Community Support Association (OCSA)** and the **Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC)**.

The accreditation validates the excellence of St Louis' PSW program and its compliance with the standards and also earns the program the respect and recognition of students, potential students, employers, and our community at large. Each year, this ten-year-old program graduates more than **250 Personal Support Workers** with a certificate and professional designation pin from the **Long-Term Care Association**. Our graduates and their future employers will be reassured by the confirmed standards of excellence of the PSW Program. The gold seal of accreditation will increase the students' marketability and make finding and retaining a job in the PSW field easier.

As we begin our descent from our mountain we at St. Louis Adult Learning & Continuing Education Centres look forward to our next milestone climb and our continued efforts within the Waterloo Catholic District School Board to continue bringing **Hope, Opportunity** and **Success** for all.

Partnership Success!

Nineteen family homes and 224 students later, the **Waterloo Catholic District School Board** and **Reid's Heritage Homes** have just completed their tenth year of student homebuilding success. Beyond the unique hands-on and minds-on learning experience, students are completing courses at an astounding 95% success rate. The graduation rate of students participating in this program from 2003 to 2010 is 88% - five percent higher than the 2010/11 provincial average!!!

Offered through the **Experiential Learning Department** of the Waterloo Catholic District School Board, the program is available to students in the **Construction Co-op Program** at **St. Benedict C.S.S.** and **Monsignor Doyle C.S.S.** A **"Specialist High Skills Major"** initiative, the program is designed to help senior students tailor their high school program to focus on a specific sector.

Students experience the building trades through cooperation with industry professionals as they work in the rewarding residential construction field -- while the home builder is able to meet and help develop the skills of potential future employees.

For more than three decades Reid's has been a leader in the new home industry in southwestern Ontario. Consistently setting new standards for quality, customer service, value and environmental integrity, Reid's has received more than 100 awards of excellence. Their company philosophy of "Customer for Life" and their ten "Core Values" make them an excellent corporate citizen and exemplary partner in this home building partnership with the WCDSB. Thank you Reid's Heritage Homes!



Find Out More!!
<http://coop.wcdsb.ca/>



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