

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Quality • Inclusive • Faith-based • Education



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A Successful & Busy Year!



Loretta Notten
Director of Education

"On behalf of everyone on the senior team, we thank you for this incredible year of dedication and accomplishment. Our system provides us a multitude of reasons to be proud and many of those reasons are built on the hard work of our #WCDSBAwesome staff. May the summer be a time for all to re-energize and re-connect with loved ones, assured of our appreciation for a job well done!"



Happy Summer!!!
See you in September

June, 2016

It is hard to believe that it is June and that we find ourselves at the end of another school year. It has been a year characterized by a great many accomplishments and reasons to be proud. Over the past few months of spring in particular we have welcomed our many partners and supporters of Catholic education at our annual **Bishop's Banquet**. We offer our thanks to all who participated, to our guest of honour **Bishop Daniel Miehm** and to our amazing **Waterloo Region Catholic Schools Foundation** for all their organizational efforts. **Catholic Education Week** brought a wealth of school-based activities that allowed our local communities to shine. We were joined together in our **Pastoral Plan** as each school's "Giving Tree" took shape in unique and beautiful ways, and we saw **#PeopleOfLove** celebrations of charity take root across the system, including our highly-successful fundraising for Fort McMurray. Of particular note in this – our 180th year of Catholic education in Waterloo Region -- **Resurrection CSS** celebrated its 25th Anniversary and **St. David CSS** its 50th, as past and present came together to commemorate two schools that have given so much to the community they serve.

In April and May we highlighted our outstanding student **Beacons of Hope**. Six family of schools celebrations allowed us to meet a number of students for whom we have so much pride. They are humble leaders bringing joy, care and Christian compassion to their school communities. It was wonderful to meet them all. At our **Staff Recognition Evening**, we also celebrated our many staff who have given so much over the years. To our staff celebrating milestones – know that you are sincerely valued members of our proud Waterloo Catholic family. To our retirees – our gratitude for all you have given to make our system the wonderful one that it is. May you have much fulfillment in your retirement years.

Our first ever **International Certificate Program** graduates enjoyed a wonderful evening at CIGI in Waterloo, as students shared the huge impact their program and their interest in International Education has had upon their learning and life journeys. The staff and students of **St Aloysius CES** were recognized as one of five schools provincially for their gains in math achievement over time. The board has invested in a new data platform – **Compass for Success** – and all schools in the system are now being introduced to its functionality and potential to positively impact our planning for student learning. The board, led by the central program team, is in the process of finalizing its new **Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (BIPSA)** which will be launched in the fall. In addition to our many academic accomplishments, our athletes have continued to distinguish themselves in competition and the annual **Folk Dance Festival** brought together all of our elementary schools for fun and active arts. Our annual **Special Olympics** proved once again that "I can" are two very powerful words!

Once again this spring the board is in the enviable position of bringing forward a balanced budget, supporting our articulated priorities in our strategic plan. We are proud to be working toward a plan that will support a 4:1 ratio of **Chromebooks** in the classroom, that supports our growing **French Immersion Program** and prioritizes our **Mental Health and Well-Being Strategy**. Our **Special Education Plan** was once again passed and new highlights include revisions to relevant policies, reflecting leading-edge support and programming for students with diverse learning needs.

On behalf of everyone on the senior team, we thank you for this incredible year of dedication and accomplishment. Our system provides us a multitude of reasons to be proud and many of those reasons are built on the hard work of our **#WCDSBAwesome** staff. May the summer be a time for all to re-energize and re-connect with loved ones, assured of our appreciation for a job well done.



Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools

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Congrats to our new EcoSchools!

Students and staff at 19 of Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools have gone green in a big way, achieving certification as **"Ontario EcoSchools"**.

GOLD

Holy Family CES
Holy Rosary CES
Monsignor Doyle CSS
Saint John Paul II CES
St. Agatha CES
St. Anne (K) CES
St. Clement CES
St. Daniel CES
St. Joseph CES
St. Margaret of Scotland CES



SILVER

Holy Spirit CES
Sir Edgar Bauer CES
St. Anne (C) CES
St. Bernadette CES
St. Brigid CES
St. Luke CES



BRONZE

St. Nicholas CES
St. Augustine CES
Our Lady of Lourdes CES



2016 Distinguished Graduate Award



This year's recipient is former **WCDSB Interim Director of Education Michael Schmitt** – who attended **St. Jerome's H.S.** Michael received the award on Sunday, June 26 at the **Resurrection CSS** graduation ceremony.

You can read more about Michael's many accomplishments at:

<https://www.wcdsb.ca/about/headlines/news/nr/2016/NR-WCDSB-Distinguished-Graduate-Award-May-2016.pdf>

15TH ANNUAL

FORE Links LEARNING 2016

GOLF CLASSIC • IN SUPPORT OF THE WATERLOO REGION CATHOLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

CONESTOGA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Fore...

Location: Conestoga Golf Club, Conestoga
Date: Thursday, August 25, 2016 8:00am
Price: Registration • Cart • Breakfast • Lunch \$150
Registration & Information: 519.578.3660, ext. 2373

Proud Sponsor...



In May, 2016, WCDSB students & staff raised \$46,500 to help the people of Fort McMurray rebuild their lives. **Government of Canada** matching funds raised the total to \$93,000! On June 1 the money was formally handed over to the **Canadian Red Cross** at a special ceremony at **Christ the King CES** – which raised \$2128.55 (the most of any WCDSB elementary school).

If Adds Up

In 2013, the St. Aloysius students who had not met the provincial math standard in Grade 3 also did not meet it in Grade 6. However, thanks to targeted math initiatives, by 2015 20% of the students who didn't meet the math standard in Grade 3 improved to meet it in Grade 6.

Keep up the good work!

#2016EQAOSchools



Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools

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#PeopleOfLove

On Thursday, June 16, 2016 staff and students wore purple in solidarity with the LGBTQ community, following the shooting in Orlando,



St Daniel - WCDSB @StDanielTBirds · May 1

So many Thunderbirds our running the #MudpuppyChase today! We raised over \$8000! We are proud of you all!



The total WCDSB contribution to this year's **KidsAbility Mudpuppy Chase** was \$24,000 – with **St. Daniel CES** the top fundraising school!

Message From The Chair



It is hard to believe that the school year is coming to a close, especially when it feels like we just started.

At the start of the school year we all welcomed **Loretta Notten** as our new Director of Education. The Board of Trustees as well as many across our system and communities found the transition very smooth. Loretta has been a welcomed addition to WCDSB and we know and trust that our system is in excellent hands.

The Board of Trustees also thanks our outgoing Student Trustees, **Karen Hakim** and **Sebastian Monsalve** as they finish off their term with us and wish them well in the future. We welcome new Student Trustees **Samantha Lim** of St. David's and **Joseph DeSousa** of Monsignor Doyle and we look forward to their input and participation at the Board table.

This May, at the Staff Appreciation Event, we recognized many staff across our system for their many years of service and their commitment and dedication to Catholic education and our students. Again, we have much to celebrate across our system with staff, students and greater Catholic communities. We also congratulated those who have decided to retire and we wish them well in their future plans. As well, we recognized the recipient of the Chair's Award, **Nancy Sabo**, and it was inspiring to hear all the wonderful things about Nancy in the various nomination letters. The Community Partner Award was presented to **Conestoga College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning** in recognition of their extensive contributions to our system and support of our schools. Lastly, we as a Board of Trustees are very pleased to have **Michael Schmitt** be this year's recipient of the Distinguished Graduate Award.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, **Joyce Anderson, Bill Conway, Manuel da Silva, Amy Fee, Frank Johnson, Wendy Price, Greg Reitzel, Brian Schmalz, Melanie Van Alphen** and our Student Trustees **Karen Hakim** and **Sebastian Monsalve** we wish you a safe and joyful summer!

Manuel da Silva
Chair of the Board

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#WCDsBAwesome



Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools

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Around the Region...



Proud Canadians

During the last week of school, all WCDSB elementary schools were invited to take part in the annual **"Watwave"** initiative to celebrate **Canada Day**. Canadian flags sponsored by **Cober, Chicopee & Home Hardware** were given to the schools, which were invited to celebrate a **#WeAreCanadian** moment, before wrapping up the 2015-16 school year. Students & staff of **St. Anne (Cambridge) CES** are shown above.



2015-16 marked the second year for WCDSB's **Beacons of Hope Awards**. The award was established to recognize a student from each WCDSB school who represents integrity, hard work, consistent efforts & Catholic values. The students above are from the **Monsignor Doyle** family of schools – joined by Trustees, board staff and guests.



On May 28, 2016 the Grade 7s at **Saint John Paul II CES** received a **Waterloo Region Children's Safety Village "Children's Hero Award"** for their fundraising in memory of their late classmate, **Josh Fonseca**. L to R: Teacher **Laura Fralick**, students **Cameron Cutchall, Ryan Stere & Reid Nahrgang**, Teacher **Jessica Weber**, WCDSB Chief Managing Officer and CSV Board member **John Shewchuk**.



On June 24, **Blessed Mother Teresa CES** hosted a special **Canadian Citizenship Court** during which WCDSB was proud to help welcome 30 new members of the Canadian family!



Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools

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