

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Quality • Inclusive • Faith-based • Education



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Roger D. Lawler,
Director of Education

"Next year we will celebrate our roots, our present and our future through the theme of ***A Year in the Life of Catholic Education in Waterloo Region***. Students and staff as well as our parish and community partners will be challenged to identify and spread the *good news* of our presence in the Region, our province, nation and the world".

Our Catholic Schools: "Heart of the Community"

Through this newsletter I want to spread some of the *good news* that has been happening in our schools over the last few months.

We have a great deal to be proud of as our students and staff continually impress us with their dedication to being "heart of the community" -- where individuals are successful and where there is a place for everyone.

The *good news* contained in this newsletter is also a flavour of what to expect next year as Catholic education in our Region celebrates 175 years. Our first schools were established in 1836 in Maryhill and St. Agatha. So next year we will celebrate our roots, our present and our future through the theme of "***A Year in the Life of Catholic Education in Waterloo Region***". Students and staff as well as our parish and community partners will be challenged to identify and spread the *good news* of our presence in the Region, our province, nation and indeed the world.

I also want to take this opportunity through the final Director's Update of the year to thank you, the parents, students, staff, parish staff, pastors, trustees and community partners for your work this year to enhance the spiritual and academic lives of our students and school communities.

Working together we truly do live our mission as disciples of Christ; that is, educating and nurturing hope in all learners to realize their full potential to transform God's world.

May you have a truly restful and enjoyable summer!



Mike Clayton
Monsignor Doyle CSS
2010 WCDSB Co-op
Award of Merit Winner

Success for each & a place for all

Each year, the ***Cooperative Education & Experiential Learning Department*** of the Waterloo Catholic District School Board (WCDSB) recognizes the outstanding achievements of Cooperative Education students. Each school's "Award of Merit" recipient automatically becomes a nominee for the ***Waterloo Catholic District School Board's Award of Excellence***. The selection criteria include: job knowledge, accomplishment of goals, quality of work, productivity, dependability, interpersonal skills and maturity. This year's recipient, ***Mike Clayton*** of ***Monsignor Doyle CSS*** (photo at left), completed three co-op placements at the St. Andrews Terrace long term care facility in Cambridge. Here's Mike in his own words:

"I have helped people with their computer problems, set up new programs on their computers; facilitated people leaving their room; played games, lost miserably, but used them as a tool to help engage residents and to make them feel comfortable; and provided a listening ear... I didn't know how I was going to give back to the community with my physical limitations because I need so much help myself. I didn't know how people would see my value because a lot of people would turn me away or dismiss me as not being able to contribute. Co-op has shown me that it is possible. I just had to find what I am good at. Co-op has provided me many opportunities... This year I am doing things and going places that the average 20 year old would already be doing. I would have to thank not only Co-op for that, but also [co-op teacher] Ms. McKee. She didn't give up -- and look where I am now a year and a half later: I'm off to college next year!"

Congratulations Mike!!



June, 2010

Available in colour @ www.wcdsb.ca
See inside for more!

"Our Catholic Schools: heart of the community -- success for each, a place for all."

Small Book ... Big Message!

The following story was recently the lead item on the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association website:

After becoming inspired by a talk delivered by well known humanitarian and York Catholic DSB graduate **Craig Keilburger** a 7-year old Waterloo Catholic DSB student named **Kate Lilja (Our Lady of Lourdes CES)** came home and told her mom she needed to "find her cause" - and she did.

She decided to reach out to children like her who feel

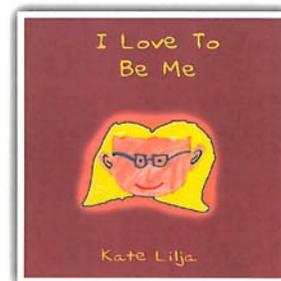
different and experience challenges and to offer encouragement by letting them know that they are not alone.

She did this by writing a book called **"I Love to Be Me"** and is dedicating the proceeds to a cause very dear to her.

Kate was born with a heart condition that required intensive neonatal care and ongoing monitoring. Today Kate is a healthy 13-year old teen. In recognition of the hard work that many individuals and organizations do to help

children, Kate decided to use the book she wrote when she was 7-years old to raise funds for the hospital where she was born - the Grand River Hospital. You can purchase *I Love to Be Me* at:

www.booksofgiving.com



Through her book Kate teaches important lessons of not only self-acceptance and confidence, but also of generosity. She is an incredible example of the fact that one is never too young to make a difference, and an inspiration to young people searching to find their way.

-- Craig Kielburger, Founder: Free the Children --

WCDSB: Producing the Next Generation of Community Leaders

By Nancy Arruda DeMarco – Teacher, St. Mary's High School

The **Youth and Philanthropy Initiative** is a program sponsored by the **Toskan Casale Foundation** with the aim of developing young community leaders. Participants are given hands-on experience of philanthropy that provides them with the skills and opportunity to make a positive difference in their communities. Throughout the school year, students of Grade 10 Civics classes at **St. Mary's High School** and **Resurrection CSS** were given the chance to work in small groups to identify needs in the local community and research local social service charities that strive to meet these needs. Each group chose one charity that they felt was best placed to make the most positive contribution to Waterloo Region. The "winning" team would win \$5,000 to present to their chosen organization. The Toskan Casale Foundation sponsored these grants in more than 200 participating high schools across the country this year.

As part of the process students studied their charity's management, budget, strategy and staffing arrangements. They built relationships with representatives from their chosen organizations in order to make the best presentation on the reasons their charity was most deserving of support.

At the conclusion of each term of Civics a "finalist" group was identified to move on to the final round of presentations. The final round (which involved the three "finalist" teams) took place last month. Representatives of the charities, students and parents were invited to witness fellow students make the most compelling and thorough presentation about their charity. A panel of student judges was assembled to ensure that the **Youth and Philanthropy Initiative** was a completely student-run endeavour. At St. Mary's, the judges agreed that the group representing **Pride Stables** succeeded in being the most compelling. Students **Ellen Kirwin, Kelsey McCarthy, Olivia Pihura** and **Meaghan Shewchuk** had the honour of presenting a cheque for \$5000 to the director of Pride Stables, **Heather MacKneson**. At Resurrection, the winning team of **Sarah Bernardo, Alyson Rogers** and **Frederick Mwangi** presented their \$5,000 cheque to **Marillac Place**.

Pride Stables is a Kitchener-based organization that provides safe, high-quality riding programs for persons with physical and mental challenges. The programming seeks to foster personal growth and improvement through the use of horses as a medium for development and therapy. Also based in Kitchener, Marillac Place offers housing to independent women between the ages of sixteen and twenty-five who are pregnant or who have their child (ren) in their care, or who are attempting to regain care of their child (ren). Congratulations to these outstanding students for their leadership, caring and compassion!



SMH students (l to r) Kelsey McCarthy, Meaghan Shewchuk, Ellen Kirwin and Olivia Pihura present a cheque for \$5,000 to Pride Stables Director Heather MacKneson.



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WCDSB Joins Ontario EcoSchools Program



EcoZone 

Sustainable development activities in Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools

Ontario EcoSchools is an environmental education program for grades 1-12 that helps students develop ecological literacy while engaging in practices to become environmentally responsible citizens.

This is a perfect compliment to the philosophy in Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools that sustainable development means *"meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."*

In Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools we believe environmental education is a way for students to be actively involved as agents of change in society -- where they can be part of the solution rather than part of the problem.

The four components of the *EcoSchools* program, **Ecological Literacy**, **Waste Minimization**, **Energy Conservation**, and **School Grounds Greening** will help our students create that change.



It will also significantly further our goal of achieving long-term sustainability in the following key focus areas: **Energy & Water**, **Purchasing & Waste**, **Buildings & Grounds**, **Food & Drink**, **Inclusion & Participation** and **Local Well-being**.

Our goal is to have all WCDSB schools certified to at least the **BRONZE EcoSchools** level by 2015 – and we're very pleased that our very first certified *EcoSchool* (St. Nicholas CES) has already achieved a **SILVER** designation!



Follow construction of our new **Pope John Paul II Catholic Elementary School** (Kitchener) online at:

<http://pjp.wcdsb.ca/>

The school incorporates many of the latest "green" technologies and materials.

WCDSB EcoFacts

Here are some of our recent "GREEN" successes:

- ✓ The energy reduction achieved by installing motion-activated light sensors across the system has resulted in an annual greenhouse gas emissions reduction equivalent to removing **606 cars** from highways OR saving **6,190 barrels of crude oil** OR saving **1.2 million litres of gasoline** annually.
- ✓ Photocopying in schools has been reduced 14% and the installation of two-sided printers saves 100's of thousands of sheets of paper each year.
- ✓ Eliminating the use of bottled water at the Catholic Education Centre has diverted more than 10,000 bottles a year from landfill.
- ✓ An 11 p.m. remote-controlled daily shut-down of any school computer left running after hours and setting thermostats back to 16 C at night and 22 C during the day is yielding significant energy savings.



St. Nicholas CES students **Kylee Martin** (left) and **Stephanie Black** (centre) pose with teacher **Heidi Rudy** in front of the school's *EcoSchools* bulletin board following the certification of St. Nicholas as a **SILVER** level *EcoSchool*.

"Our Catholic Schools: heart of the community -- success for each, a place for all."



The students & staff at **Monsignor Doyle CSS** celebrated **Catholic Education Week** this year with an outdoor prayer service that included the entire school population forming a giant crucifix on the field. This was followed by a student's special performance of an original rap song written about struggles and hope. The day concluded with a high-spirited "students vs. staff" soccer game.



\$15,200!!

In the photo above **Olivia Godwin** (left) and **Nick Mendes** (right) of the **St. David CSS** student council present a cheque for \$15,200 to **Louise Kent** of **Free the Children**. The donation capped the school's three-year effort to raise funds to build schools in the third world. The original goal had been \$4,000!

"It proves that any school, when they have the heart and commitment, is able to do anything they want in the world", said Louise.

St. David teacher Erin Riley agreed, saying "the kids have done this themselves. This type of change is needed in the world".

Outstanding Students – Amazing Achievements

Students from Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools have once again come up big at the provincial and national **Skills Canada** competitions. Congratulations go to **Paul Henning, Nick Penner, Viki Windl** and **Aly Haffner** (and parent coach Dave Henning) from **Holy Family Catholic Elementary School** who won GOLD in the grade 7-8 construction competition at the **Skills Provincial Technology Competition**. The team is pictured below, proudly displaying their medals.



At the secondary school level congratulations go to **Tommy Gasselle** of **Resurrection Catholic Secondary School** and **Rachel Dietrich** of **St. David Catholic Secondary School** who won GOLD in the Cabinetmaking and Job Interview categories respectively – and to **Jefferson Doud** of **Monsignor Doyle Catholic Secondary School** who took home BRONZE in the IT and Network Support category. A special shout-out goes to Tommy Gasselle who followed up his provincial GOLD with a BRONZE at the **National Skills Competition!**

Congratulations also go to **St. Benedict CSS** student **Johnathan Heynen** who used his **Ontario Youth Apprenticeship (OYAP)** project to win the **Lincoln Electric Design Challenge** and along with it a \$2,200 welder.

The **Math Team** from **Resurrection CSS** recently won the **Second Annual WCDSB Problem Solving and Team Competition** – besting the 20-member teams from WCDSB's other four secondary schools. This tough competition involves the teams completing 62 challenging math problems together and a 4-question "relay race".

The students at **Monsignor Gleason CES** can be proud of the \$1,000 "Speak Up" grant received this year. Below they proudly model their new **Playground Activity Leaders in Schools (PALS)** t-shirts.



And finally...congratulations to **Resurrection CSS** student **Renee Sambrook** who won the **Kitchener Youth Action Council's Environmental Award** in recognition of her contributions to the community.

This is but a small sample of the great things happening in Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools!

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