

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

Quality • Inclusive • Faith-based • Education



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## Welcome Back!!

Welcome to the 2011-12 school year!!

As you know, our school system proclaims our vision as “*Our Catholic schools ~ heart of the community, success for each, a place for all*” and as I look around the world I know we are truly blessed to be a part of Waterloo Region where we can work to demonstrate this vision each and every day.

As we enter the new school year, I want to reflect on some individuals who certainly reflected our vision. We enter the school year with some sadness. Over the summer we lost a former principal, a former student, two teachers and one educational assistant. Each had an enormous impact on their school community. We thank them for their contributions over the years. Please keep these individuals and their families in your prayers: Nancy DeSousa-Ehiorobo; Bradley Garrett; Linda Livingston; Joan MacDonnell; and Kathy McKenna.

When we say we are heart of the community, where there is success for each and place for all, we are saying that we want to be witnesses to our faith by honouring the dignity of the whole person. We want to ensure that all of our learners – not just some...or a majority, but all – have the support they need to experience academic success and spiritual growth. Support takes many shapes and forms. Our challenge is to engage in a productive dialogue as staff, as parents, as parish communities and as members of Catholic School Councils on how we can support each other in ensuring we honour the dignity of all in our schools.

On our board's web page we have posted a survey that asks you to respond on how well we are doing as a system. I encourage you to take the time during the first term to respond to the survey. Your feedback is important as we plan throughout the year: <http://tinyurl.com/3u5tsn5>

Apart from the survey process, I want to draw your attention to the *Communication Guidelines* that are reproduced in this newsletter. Should you have any suggestions or concerns we ask that you follow these guidelines. Over the years they have proven to be a successful method for identifying and resolving concerns.

In closing, please accept the best wishes of myself and our senior management team for a successful and rewarding school year.



**Roger D. Lawler**  
Director of Education

“When we say we are heart of the community, where there is success for each and place for all, we are saying that we want to be witnesses to our faith by honouring the dignity of the whole person.

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September, 2011

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See inside for more!



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## Trustee Profile

For the next few years each **Community Update** newsletter will feature (proceeding in alphabetical order) a profile of one member of the Board of Trustees.

This month...meet **Wayne Buchholtz!**



### Fun Fact

Wayne won the "longest drive" contest at this year's Links Fore Learning Golf Classic!

Wayne, who grew up in downtown Kitchener is a lifelong Kitchenerite. He's a graduate of St. Mary's CES, St. Jerome's H.S. and the U of W. He began his teaching career in 1970 at St. Daniel CES and went on to serve 27 years as a Principal in the system before retiring and being elected as a trustee in 2003. As a trustee Wayne has served as both Vice-chair and Chair of the Board and with wife Karen has three sons, two daughters-in-law and one grandson.

Wayne jokes: *"When I graduated from university they told me the best job for me was something in research because 'I did not get along with people'...so I naturally ignored them and went to teacher's college in Stratford and became a teacher!"*

We're all grateful you did, Wayne!

## Message from the Board Chair

Summer has come and gone and we are back to the start of another school year. We hope that your time off has allowed you some much needed rest and relaxation.

This year we have a tremendous opportunity to celebrate 175 years of Catholic education in Waterloo Region. As we celebrate this important milestone, let us recognize the great work happening at WCDSB. Whether you are in the classroom, board office, other departments, or around the board table, we all play an important role in keeping Catholic education for generations to come.

It is also important to recognize the work of staff, students, parents, community partners and volunteers who assist our many social justice initiatives. We're proud to help those most in need in our own communities around the world.

On behalf of me and all of the Trustees, **Joyce Anderson, Wayne Buchholtz, Rev. Robert Héту, Janek Jagiellowicz, Anthony Piscitelli, Wendy Price, Peter Reitmeier, Greg Reitzel** and our Student Trustees **Colin Whaley** and **Marcus Cardoso**, we welcome everyone back to another school year, congratulate you for a job well done and wish you continued success.



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## Welcome to 2011-12!!

The Board of Trustees of the WCDSB would like to welcome staff, students and their families back as the school year begins.

As your elected trustees, we will continue to represent your interests and ensure that our schools are safe places to be, that excellent programs are in place to enhance the learning of every student, and that resources are used in a wise and equitable manner. We value any suggestions that you have for items that you would like to see addressed in the trustee column of this publication.

This year the Board of Trustees will be evaluating the process that is used to conduct boundary reviews and school closures. A survey is available on our website. If you have been involved in a boundary review or school closure, please take a few minutes to complete the survey. Your feedback will be helpful in determining how our practices can be refined to make a difficult process as fair and transparent as possible.

It is our pleasure to welcome two new student trustees to our board, **Colin Whaley** and **Marcus Cardoso**.

Student trustees play a non-voting, but active role in the work of the board as valued participants in discussions and debates as they bring a student perspective to the decisions of the board.

Trustees plan to continue with visits to school councils again this year.

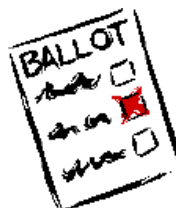
We look forward to meeting many of you and we value the opportunity to exchange ideas about the strengths and needs of our Catholic schools.

If you have any comments, questions or concerns about our schools, we would appreciate hearing from you.

Contact information is available on our website at [www.wcdsb.ca](http://www.wcdsb.ca)

### Provincial Election 2011

Thursday, October 6 is **Provincial Election Day** in Ontario. The Waterloo Catholic District School Board encourages Waterloo Region's Catholic community to study the issues carefully and **VOTE!!!**



### Distinguished Graduate Award Sister Barbara Paleczny, SSND

The prestigious Distinguished Graduate Award was initiated by the Board of Trustees in 2005 to honour graduates of Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to their faith and made significant contributions to their community.

This year's recipient – missionary & author **Sister Barbara Paleczny, SSND** -- has dedicated her life in service to others on four different continents. She is currently working in south Sudan teaching people to become certified teachers and registered nurses.

# Congrats to our new EcoSchools!

Students and staff at seven of Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools have gone green in a big way, achieving certification as "**Ontario EcoSchools**". The following schools have received the following certifications:

## GOLD

St. Nicholas CES



## SILVER

St. Mary's High School  
Holy Family CES  
Pope John Paul II CES  
St. Anne CES (Kitchener)  
St. Ambrose CES



## BRONZE

St. Margaret of Scotland CES

**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 fit with 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.*"



The students & staff of **Monsignor Gleason / St. John CES** are eagerly anticipating the re-built **St. John CES** as construction moves along nicely on Strange St. in Kitchener.



Bruce Rodrigues

**Congratulations!!**  
...and best wishes to our Associate Director, **Bruce Rodrigues**. A fixture at WCDSB since 1986, Bruce takes over as head of Toronto's Catholic Schools on October 3, 2011!

## **EQAO Results -- Grades 3, 6 & 9**

### THIS YEAR (2010-11)

The provincial average is noted in brackets beside the WCDSB score in each assessment category below.

**WCDSB Grade 3 Results:** Reading **67%** (65%) / Writing **74%** (73%) / Mathematics **70%** (69%)  
**WCDSB Grade 6 Results:** Reading **74%** (74%) / Writing **72%** (73%) / Mathematics **58%** (58%)  
**WCDSB Grade 9 Applied Level Results:** Mathematics **39%** (42%)  
**WCDSB Grade 9 Academic Level Results:** Mathematics **81%** (83%)

### FIVE YEAR TREND (2006 to 2011)

**WCDSB Grade 3 Results:** Reading **(+1%)** / Writing **(+5%)** / Mathematics **(-3%)**  
**WCDSB Grade 6 Results:** Reading **(+9%)** / Writing **(+9%)** / Mathematics **(-3%)**  
**WCDSB Gr. 9 Applied Level Results:** Mathematics **(-2%)**  
**WCDSB Gr. 9 Academic Level Results:** Mathematics **(+8%)**

## Thoughts on Being Catholic

**As we prepare for Thanksgiving, the Canadian Bishops offer us a five-step way to make a difference in our world:**

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**Be present** to the poor, marginalized and oppressed and listen to their experiences;

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**Understand** the economic, political and social structures that cause human suffering;

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**Judge the situation** in light of the gospel and the social teachings of the Church;

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**Think and act creatively** to come up with a vision of the world more in keeping with the kingdom of God;

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**Act in solidarity** with others who are working for justice.

*Christ & Culture – Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops*



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# Communication Guidelines for Parents & Guardians

As partners in education our school staff, the senior team and the board of trustees are always interested in receiving information and feedback from the community. It keeps us in touch with the community and helps us anticipate and deal effectively with any questions or concerns you may have.

However, there may be times when you contact your trustee with questions or concerns and your trustee will refer you to our policy called **“Communication Guidelines for Parents & Staff”**. These important guidelines are posted on our website: [www.wcdsb.ca/AP\\_Memos/PDF/APC001.PDF](http://www.wcdsb.ca/AP_Memos/PDF/APC001.PDF).

The guidelines are in place to help you resolve your questions or concerns quickly right there at your school. While under provincial legislation your trustee does not have the legal power to solve your issue personally they will certainly be a valuable resource in helping you use the guidelines to reach the appropriate staff person for assistance.

The guidelines are very simple: If you have a concern involving your child you should first speak directly to the child's teacher. If the issue remains unresolved, you should speak to the school Principal. If the issue continues to be unresolved, you should speak to the Superintendent of Learning for that school. Contact information is available at:

[www.wcdsb.ca/about/senior-admin.html](http://www.wcdsb.ca/about/senior-admin.html)

These guidelines have been a huge success and the vast majority of issues are resolved even before reaching the school superintendent or calling a trustee.

In cases where you do wish to speak directly to a trustee you may contact any of the nine adult trustees at any time. While they have been elected based out of various local municipalities they represent all Catholic ratepayers in Waterloo Region and will be happy to assist regardless of where you live in the Region.

Trustee phone numbers and email addresses are available on the trustee web page at:

[www.wcdsb.ca/about/board/trustees.html](http://www.wcdsb.ca/about/board/trustees.html).



Happy Thanksgiving – from the students, staff and trustees of Waterloo Region’s Catholic Schools!!

## ?? WHAT IS THIS ??

*You may have already noticed this strange shape on the front of this newsletter.*

*It's called a “Quick Response” or “QR” code. If you have a smartphone with Internet connectivity, chances are you can read QR codes with the simple push of a button.*

*All you need is to download a free QR reader “app” and away you go. In fact, your smartphone may have the app pre-installed.*

*How do QR codes work, you ask? It's very simple. The code you see here has a link to an Internet website embedded in it. All you do is use the app on your smartphone to snap a picture of the code and you will be instantly transported to the website.*

*Scanning this particular code on your phone will launch an eight minute video telling you everything you need to know about why Waterloo Region’s Catholic schools are among the best in the world.*

*Future “Community Update” newsletters will feature QR code links to other important information.*



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