

December 12, 2011

## Facts about Extended Day Learning Programs in Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools

- ✓ By law, all elementary schools in Ontario must – by 2014-15 -- provide a *Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program*. The program is being implemented in phases in each school board.
- ✓ **The Ontario Government has said:** *“The Full-Day Early Learning–Kindergarten program for four- and five-year-old children consists of a core day program and an extended-day program. The extended day program is complementary to the core program and aligned with it in order to provide a seamless and consistent experience for the children.”*

*The core day program is delivered by Early Learning–Kindergarten teams consisting of teachers and registered early childhood educators. The extended-day program is an integral part of the Full-Day Early Learning–Kindergarten program; it is offered before the core day program begins and continues at the end of the day, and is delivered by teams of registered early childhood educators.*

*The extended-day program offers an approach to pedagogy and planning that is consistent with the approach taken in the core day program, and makes use of shared resources and shared common spaces to create a seamless system of care and education for children and families”.*

~~ [www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/kinderProgram2010.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/kinderProgram2010.pdf)

- ✓ The WCDSB currently has a *Full-Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program* in 11 schools. In 2012-13 an additional 11 schools will begin offering a *Full-Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program*. A further 13 schools will join the program in 2013-14 and the final 10 schools will join in 2014-15.
- ✓ Board-run extended day programs (based on sufficient demand in the schools) are currently offered at three WCDSB schools (*Sir Edgar Bauer CES, St. Anne (K) CES, St. Teresa (K) CES*). As per the government guidelines noted above, these three programs are a model for **all** future WCDSB extended day programs. The three model programs are:

\* Open to **all** students who request them in schools where sufficient demand exists (no waiting lists);  
\* Operated on PA days and at Christmas & March break;  
\* Delivered from a “faith” perspective *“consistent with the approach taken in the core day program”* during the normal school day.

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- ✓ In keeping with the government guidelines noted above – and for the sake of equity and inclusion for **all** WCDSB students -- **all** future extended day programs in

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WCDSB schools must necessarily be:

\* *Open to **all** students who request them in schools where sufficient demand exists (no waiting lists);*  
\* *Operated on PA days and at Christmas & March break;*  
\* *Delivered from a “faith” perspective “consistent with the approach taken in the core day program” during the normal school day.*

- ✓ WCDSB was a provincial pioneer in building schools with day care facilities attached. The day care providers have been and continue to be valued partners of WCDSB and WCDSB has no intention of ending these partnerships.
- ✓ WCDSB has been for some time working directly with our child care partners on how to best provide a “**consistent**” extended day program in **all** schools. Recognizing that our partners are present in only 11 of our 46 elementary schools and the board must, by law, offer the program in all schools by 2014-15, there is opportunity and value in maintaining those partnerships moving forward.
- ✓ **Consultation:** WCDSB has consulted directly with **all** schools currently providing the *Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program* and will continue to consult with each individual school community as the phases of implementation roll out. WCDSB has also consulted the WCDSB *Catholic Parent Involvement Committee* about the program. The extended day programs currently operating in WCDSB schools are based on the results of those consultations. The community is invited to share suggestions via a special email address -- info@wcdsb.ca.
- ✓ WCDSB anticipates implementing a pilot project this summer (2012) to test the feasibility of a **summer program**. If successful, WCDSB will be offering a summer program in **all** schools where there is clear demand for a summer program. This includes schools currently served by WCDSB’s child care partners.
- ✓ Discussions on all of the points described above are ongoing between WCDSB and the service providers -- and out of respect to WCDSB’s school communities and the long partnership with WCDSB’s partner child care providers those confidential discussions will continue.

**## END ##**