

Director's Update

QUALITY • INCLUSIVE • FAITH-BASED • EDUCATION

www.wcdsb.ca



Roger D. Lawler
Director of Education

"In this 25th Anniversary year of extended funding for Catholic schools we applaud those who made the sacrifices so that we may continue offering a quality, inclusive, faith-based education today... May we continue to plant and grow the seeds of Catholic education today and into tomorrow".

25 Years Of "Extended Funding" Catholic Schools Celebrate & Remember

Ash Wednesday – the beginning of 40 days of reflection and sacrifice in anticipation of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ -- is celebrated this year on February 25th. As a Catholic school system Lent is obviously a central focus of our school year; a time to engage in sacrifice and anticipation.

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of extended funding for Catholic schools in Ontario. Granted by then Premier William G. Davis, extended funding ended many years of sacrifice and high anticipation. Our parents and grandparents made many sacrifices to send their children to **St. Jerome's** and **St. Mary's High Schools**, to **Monsignor Doyle**, to **St. Benedict** and to **St. David**.

Reflections today may remind one of the various dinners, the parish levies and the individual sacrifices made prior to 1984 to pay tuition fees for Grades 11, 12 and 13. Reflections may also turn to the many members of the Religious – the **Congregation of the Resurrection** and the **School Sisters of Notre Dame** – as well as the many lay teachers and support staff who worked through many periods of personal sacrifice in order to ensure a full Catholic secondary school education in Waterloo Region from the mid-1800s to 1985.

In this 25th Anniversary year of extended funding for Catholic schools we applaud those who sacrificed so that we may continue offering a "quality, inclusive, faith-based education" today. As you enter this Lenten season may you reflect on the value our schools bring to your life – whether you are a parent, student or staff member. May we continue to plant and grow the seeds of Catholic education today and into tomorrow.



Marion Thomson Howell
Board Chair

A Vision Of Inclusion

Welcome to 2009!! The Waterloo Catholic District School Board is committed to providing programs and services that meet the diversity of student needs within our Catholic Schools. Since our approach to inclusion was introduced in the 1980's, we have worked to create an environment that welcomes students with all kinds of gifts to our classrooms so that everyone can be enriched by the uniqueness each learner has to offer. Over the next months the Board of Trustees -- through the work of the **Vision of Inclusion** task force -- will be studying inclusion in our Board as it has evolved from those early days.

We will be bringing in experts to help us understand better what we are doing within our own schools and what others consider to be best practices so that we can learn what is happening outside our borders. We will also be visiting schools to learn first hand from our staff, students and parents. The outcome of our work will be to respond to a request by the **Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)** to write into policy our Board's view of, and commitment to, inclusion. You can look for that work later this year.

February
2009

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



Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools

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Students at the Philippine School in Doha, Qatar (above) enjoy the 424 boxes of books sent to them last summer by Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools.

Sharing The Gift Of Literacy

By Harry Kieswetter

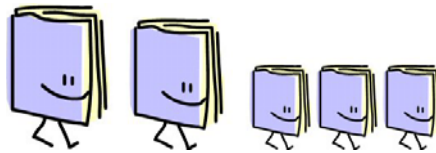
The following is excerpted from a recent letter written by retired principal Harry Kieswetter to WCDSB Principals. Harry and his wife Sue are currently working at a school in Doha, Qatar. His letter demonstrates how Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools are making a difference not just at home, but halfway around the world:

"I extend warmest greetings from Doha, Qatar (no pun intended). Actually we too are entering our winter season and the temperature today is 28 Celsius, and I am watching workers next door who are wearing sweaters to ward off the cold..."

...Foremost, I want to sincerely thank you for the generous support of textbooks and other resources that you gave to the Philippine School of Doha. To say the resources and textbooks were needed and appreciated would be a gross understatement...

...I want to give you a sense of the extent of the initiative you were part of: 424 boxes of books were sent from K-W to Doha on July 13th in a 20 foot container: Estimated value @ \$125K to \$150K...

...Pick-up and loading of the books was carried out by my sister Joanne Germann, retired teacher Kevin Nugent, retired principals Brian Cullen, Paul Hicknell, Jim Orrange and St. Aloysius Staff members Paola Silva and Veronica Gallant -- plus members of their Grade 8 class. I think when you see the young students savoring the books it proves the adage of a picture being worth a thousand words. Again...thanks to each of you".



...QUOTE...
"Don't be a bystander, don't be silent. Remember, today is a new day. Today, you can make a difference".

~~ Eva Olsson ~~



Read more about
 Eva Olsson @

www.evaolsson.ca

Eva Olsson's Message Of Hope & Forgiveness

On January 22 & 23 Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools were fortunate to host the incomparable **Eva Olsson**.

On the 22nd Eva spoke to a gathering of Board administrators and on the 23rd she spoke to students at **Blessed Kateri CES** in Kitchener and **Mother Teresa CES** in Cambridge.

Eva is a Holocaust survivor and a much sought after speaker across the country. Over the years she has spoken to thousands of students, parents, and educators in an attempt to have her message heard. Eva delivers a powerful message around tolerance, acceptance and dignity of the person – all lessons that have risen from the ruins of her own experiences while living through the Nazi controlled concentration camps.

Eva's talk does not focus so much on the atrocities of her

experiences as it does the lessons that have been learned and the strong conviction that it must never happen again.

Eva calls on her audiences to put into practice the beliefs of tolerance and compassion.

Her message resonates with audiences for years after.

In addition to Eva's speaking engagements she has also written two books and produced a DVD of her childhood experiences.

To make her point with students she asked them how many regularly use the word "hate" – and many hands rose.

Then she said this:

"I don't like that my family were murdered," Eva said. "But I don't hate those that murdered my family...I don't use the word hate..."

What hate did [then], hate still does".

Eva went on to ask students to embrace tolerance, acceptance of differences and respect for others – to become ambassadors for peace.

She encouraged the students to abandon bullying and to never let themselves be a silent participant by not stopping bullying when they see it. *"Don't be a bystander, don't be silent,"* she said.

"Remember, today is a new day. Today, you can make a difference".

Today ... 64 years after the end of World War II ... 84-year-old Eva Olsson still makes a difference.



Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools

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Preparing For Catholic Education Week

By Noel P. Martin

Thank you for your commitment to Catholic education and for your support, promotion of and participation in Catholic Education Week each year. The chosen theme for Catholic Education Week 2009 is: **Catholic Education: Good News for All.**

In a world that is desperate for any form of good news, we in our school communities proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. And this Gospel -- this Good News -- is for all peoples. It is the Good News that God has come among us, lives among us, and loves us faithfully.

In his address to educators in Washington during the papal visit to the United States, Pope Benedict XVI used these words from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans (10:15): "*How Beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news.*"

In these words Paul was echoing the words of the prophet Isaiah:

Noel P. Martin is Director of Catholic Education for the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association. For more information about Catholic Education Week 2009 go to www.ocsta.on.ca

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news". (Isaiah 52:7)

We who are engaged in the work of Catholic Education are among those who bring good news. And it is with our feet -- our going out to meet people where they are -- that we who are called become the 'beautiful' messengers of the Good News, Good News for All.

Catholic Education Week 2009 will fall within the year that the Vatican has announced as the Year of St. Paul: June 2008 - June 2009. This is to celebrate the two thousandth anniversary of the birth of St. Paul. The five sub-themes for *Catholic Education: Good News for All* are:

**Embracing Hope
Celebrating with Joy
Building Community
Growing in Integrity
Living with Gratitude**

Please join Ontario's Catholic school boards as we celebrate Catholic Education!





Waterloo Catholic
District School Board

QUALITY • INCLUSIVE • FAITH-BASED • EDUCATION

Welcome

New Kindergarten Students

Registration In Your Neighbourhood
Catholic Elementary School
February 2—February 27, 2009

Children Born In 2005 Are Eligible For Junior Kindergarten
Children Born In 2004 Are Eligible For Kindergarten



For More Information, Please Contact:
Your Neighbourhood Catholic Elementary School
or the Waterloo Catholic District School Board
Website: www.wcdsb.ca Email: info@wcdsb.ca Telephone: 578-3660

School Contact & School Boundary/Transportation Details
Website: www.wcdsb.ca Telephone: 519-570-0915 ext.4349

Students Receive Conestoga College Scholarships

On January 22, 2009, **Conestoga College** awarded its annual degree program scholarships for new students. Of the 20 scholarships awarded this year, **nine** went to graduates of Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools! Accepting the scholarships were:

Kristen Orr -- St. Louis Adult Learning Centres (Bachelor of Science in Nursing)
Nobesuthu Ndlova -- St. Louis Adult Learning Centres (Bachelor of Science in Nursing)

Jessica Steckly -- St. Mary's H.S. (Bachelor of Applied Technology – Architecture)
Konrad Piotrowski -- St. Mary's H.S. (Bachelor of Applied Technology – Architecture)
Daniel Stiplosek -- St. Mary's H.S. (Bachelor of Applied Technology – Architecture)
Daniel Piotrowski -- Monsignor Doyle CSS (Bachelor of Applied Technology – Architecture)
Ryan Meier -- St. David CSS (Bachelor of Applied Technology – Architecture)

Ian Hillier -- Resurrection CSS (Bachelor of Applied Technology – Integrated Advanced Manufacturing)

If you're in Grade 7 or 8 and are thinking about the future, check out the excellent learning opportunities in **YOUR** Catholic high school:

Specialist High Skill Major www.shsm.info / Co-Op & Experiential Learning <http://coop.wcdsb.ca> / University Cooperative Education Program (UCEP) www.wcdsb.ca/ps/UCEP/ucep.html / Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program <http://coop.wcdsb.ca/oyap.html>



Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools

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Winter Meltdown Scores a Hat-Trick!

For the third year running (a natural hat-trick!) the annual **Winter Meltdown Ontario Hockey Tournament for Secondary Male & Female Teams** – sponsored by the **Waterloo Region Catholic Schools Foundation** – was a resounding success!

Thirty-three teams from across Ontario participated in the two-day event (January 7 & 8) and special congratulations go to the **St. Benedict boys** who won silver and the **St. Benedict girls** and **Resurrection boys** who both won bronze.

Way to go “Saints” and “Phoenix”!!

The **Waterloo Region Catholic Schools Foundation** is sponsoring the 4th annual **Bishop's Banquet** in support of Catholic Education. This year's banquet – honouring the **Most Rev. Anthony Tonnos**, Bishop of Hamilton – will take place on Tuesday, May 5, 2009 at the Waterloo Region Catholic Education Centre (St. Mary's Parish Hall).
Get your tickets NOW!
Call **519-578-3660 ext. 2373**



REMEMBER



This year, school starts the week BEFORE Labour Day, not the week after Labour Day. Be sure to make appropriate vacation and child care arrangements!!

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## CONGRATULATIONS

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To **St. Aloysius CES** in Kitchener and **St. Elizabeth CES** in Cambridge. Both schools have been nominated for the Garfield Weston Award for Excellence in Education.

A Prayer For The Trees...& The Earth

Each year – across Waterloo Region – many students and staff are busy making their schools greener and more environmentally sustainable. Last fall, students and staff at **St. Nicholas CES** in Waterloo shared the following prayer as they blessed their new trees. As the long, cold winter of 2008-09 begins through the Lenten season to make way for Spring, we share their prayer with all:

We Plant This Tree

*We plant this tree for those who will follow.
We plant this tree for creatures great and small.
We plant this tree for its bounty and its beauty.
We plant this tree for all.*

*Much of the earth was a broken, barren land
And no end to this waste was in sight,
When over the hillside there came a boy and girl
With hope and a tree in each hand.*

*Then onto the hillside there came more of their friends
With dreams of a beautiful world
Filled with songs of the birds and butterfly wings
As the trees grow and all the earth mends.*

*As the dreamers worked, ten thousand more arrive
Representing all lands of the earth.
As they planted a tree, they were overheard to say
Grow strong and help our home survive.*



Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools

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