

# Director's Update

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www.wcdsb.ca



Roger D. Lawler  
Director of Education

*"How will we accomplish our mission? How will we ensure we remain the 'heart of the community'?"*

*We invite you in 2010 and in subsequent years to help us through your participation and support to accomplish this vital task".*

## A Mission & Vision for the Future

Happy New Year...and welcome to 2010!! I sincerely hope this year quickly becomes for our students, staff, trustees, parents and parish communities a year that is open to the Spirit; one that assists each of us to – in the words of Pope John XXIII – discern the signs of the times... to seize the opportunity to look far ahead.

During 2009 a process of reflection was put in place across the school system to determine what our mission statement should be and what our vision for our schools should reflect. The process brought together 240 individuals representing students, staff, trustees, parents, our parishes and the broader community. Their input was reviewed and interpreted by a representative group of forty. A small writing team then completed the task. The outcome is a new vision and a new mission statement for our system. They are proclaimed as follows:

### Our Mission:

*"As disciples of Christ, we educate and nurture hope in all learners to realize their full potential to transform God's world."*

### Our Vision:

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

As we begin a new decade our challenge is to look far into the future and determine which opportunities to seize in order to ensure our schools remain vibrant and continue thriving ten, fifteen, twenty years hence. How will we accomplish our mission? How will we ensure we remain the "heart of the community"? We invite you in 2010 and in subsequent years to help us through your participation and support to accomplish this vital task.

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**CONGRATULATIONS**

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To WCDSB's **Margo Jones**.



Margo was recently named **Junior Achievement's Volunteer of the Year**.

## New Early Learning Program

Ontario's new **Early Learning Program (ELP)** is a full-day learning program for four- and five-year-olds. It is designed to improve education for young children and increase supports for young families. In the ELP, kindergarten teachers and early childhood educators will work together to help children learn during the regular school day. Schools will also offer programs before and after regular school hours (where there is sufficient enrolment) led by early childhood educators. There will be a reasonable fee for the childcare component of these programs and subsidies will be available for some families, based on financial need. The program will be implemented in phases until 2015 when it will be available in all schools.

The Phase 1 WCDSB schools for September, 2010 are: **Sir Edgar Bauer CES, Waterloo; St. Ambrose CES, Cambridge; St. Anne CES, Cambridge; St. Anne CES, Kitchener; St. Bernadette CES, Kitchener; St. Gregory CES, Cambridge; St. Michael CES, Cambridge; and, St. Peter CES, Cambridge.**

Information about the ELP is available from each of the above schools or by visiting the WCDSB website at [www.wcdsb.ca](http://www.wcdsb.ca).

**January  
2010**

*Available in colour @ [www.wcdsb.ca](http://www.wcdsb.ca)  
See inside for more!*





Waterloo Catholic District School Board  
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## Welcome New Kindergarten Students

Registration In Your Neighbourhood  
Catholic Elementary School  
February 1—February 26, 2010

Children Born In 2006 Are Eligible For Junior Kindergarten  
Children Born In 2005 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](http://www.wcdsb.ca) © Email: [info@wcdsb.ca](mailto:info@wcdsb.ca) © Telephone: 578-3660

School Contact & School Boundary/Transportation Details  
Website: [www.wcdsb.ca](http://www.wcdsb.ca) © Telephone: 519-650-4934 ext.224

## The Gift of Catholic Education

*By Dr. Mark McGowan*

The following is excerpted from *The Enduring Gift – Catholic Education in the Province of Ontario*:

Catholics in Ontario must be awake to the “signs of the times.”

With legislation supporting funding equity in hand, Catholics cannot afford to become complacent about their education system. In a secular and pluralistic society, denominational rights, particularly in the matter of schools, are not widely supported.

Those who know the story of the development of Catholic schools in this province must realize that these schools are a gift that should not be squandered.

Ontario’s Catholics have a responsibility to nourish, improve and defend their schools as a distinctive and valuable contribution to the vitality of their faith community and to Ontario society as a whole. As history has demonstrated, and as Vatican II has confirmed, the laity have a vital role to play in the development of Catholic education.

There is a need for schools that place Gospel values at the centre of an holistic education. In Ontario, our inheritance as Catholics has been considerable, but so are the challenges that, no doubt, the future will bring.

*Dr. Mark McGowan is Principal of the University of St. Michael’s College at the University of Toronto.*

## Historical Highlights of Catholic Education in Ontario

**1841** – The *Act of 1841* establishes the Common School System of Ontario which had three sectors – a non-denominational sector which would become known later as public schools, a Roman Catholic separate school sector and a Protestant school sector.

**1867** – The British *North America Act* creates Canada. This legislation required that the rights granted in Ontario and Quebec to denominational schools are to be protected and retained.

**1871** – Ontario introduces district secondary school boards apart from the Common School System, which are to be responsible for the new high school system. No provision was made for Catholic secondary schools.

**1890** – The non-denominational Common School System and the separate school system are both given the authority to offer continuation classes, i.e. grades nine and ten.

**1964** – Ontario makes funding of the kindergarten to grade eight programs in separate schools equal to that of public schools. Grades nine and ten continue to be funded as elementary grades.

**1969** – The Provincial Government requires every county or city to have one board of education to administer both elementary and secondary schools -- meaning that common or public school trustees now govern secondary education. This authority is not given to separate school trustees.

**1982** – The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms is enacted, stating *“nothing in this Charter abrogates or derogates from any rights or privileges guaranteed by or under the Constitution of Canada in respect of denominational, separate or dissentient schools.”*

**1984** – Ontario Premier William G. Davis announces that Ontario will grant separate schools the same rights and privileges that were granted to the non-denominational public school system in 1969 – namely, the authority to govern secondary schools to Grade 13.



Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools

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# Healthy & Active Living

**By Kathy Doherty-Masters**

Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools are known across Ontario for their emphasis on "healthy, active living".

Here are just a few of the things we do:

The **Playground Activity Leaders in Schools (PALS)** program allows students in Grades 5, 6 and 7 to lead games and activities for younger students during recess and lunch breaks. PALS increases physical activity, decreases bullying and promotes student leadership. Forty-two of our schools have a PALS program.

**Try it Day** is a day where 300 Grade 9 students have the opportunity to try new physical activities. The goal is to expose students to activities they might do in senior level courses – encouraging them to take an additional Health & Phys Ed credit. Activities include hip hop dancing, pickle ball, boxing, archery, low organizational games, squash, bouldering and spinning.

Our elementary and secondary schools all now have a **Nutrition Policy** that examines what foods are sold and given

to students to ensure that messages from the curriculum and schools are consistent.

Each secondary school has a **Healthy Choices Committee** made up of students and teachers that assist in enforcing the policy.

This year our JK to Grade 3 students will receive instruction on the topics of **Healthy Eating and Daily Physical Activity**. The lessons will focus on the expectations in the new health and physical education program and educating the students on the content of the board's nutrition policy.

Two schools (St. John CES in Kitchener and Sir Edgar Bauer CES in Waterloo) received funding from the "Dare to Dream" grant to set up a room in the school where students and staff can take the opportunity to focus on **Positive Mental Health**.

The rooms are set up with comfortable furniture, encouraging messages and games and activities that promote self esteem and build community. Students at both schools had a big part in writing the grant and input into the décor of the room. Classes at the schools have the opportunity to use the rooms during the day and at recess and lunch breaks.

*Kathy Doherty-Masters is the WCDSB's Healthy, Active Living Consultant.*



St. Dominic Savio "PALS" -- Brendan, Riley and Sarah

## Six Simple Steps to Help Keep You Healthy

1. Wash your hands often using soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Ensure hands are washed:

- After coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose
- After shaking hands
- Before eating
- Before putting in contact lenses
- Before touching your face
- After using the washroom



2. Avoid touching your face as much as possible.
3. Cough and sneeze into a tissue or your elbow. Throw out used tissues right away.
4. Do not share objects that have been in other people's mouths, e.g. toothbrushes, drinks and water bottles, unwashed utensils, cigarettes, lip products, and mouthpieces of musical instruments.
5. Continue doing what you normally do, but stay home if you feel sick. You can return to work or school one day after you are symptom free. Staying home will help prevent the spread of infections to co-workers and the general public.
6. Frequently clean common surfaces such as keyboards, doorknobs, countertops, etc., with warm soapy water, or a mild household detergent.



Healthy, Active Living Consultant Kathy Doherty-Masters and her father, retired WCDSB teacher Pat Doherty both recently had the honour of carrying the Olympic flame. Kathy is one of three graduates of St. Daniel CES in Kitchener to carry the flame. Lisa LaFlamme and Jeff Reinhart were the others.



Students from Our Lady of Lourdes CES marched and sang at November's Remembrance Day ceremonies in Kitchener.



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## Winter Melt-down -- Hot as Ever!

For the fourth straight year the annual **Winter Melt-down Ontario Hockey Tournament for Secondary Male & Female Teams** – sponsored by the **Waterloo Region Catholic Schools Foundation** – was a resounding success!

Thirty-two teams from across Ontario participated in the two-day event (January 6 & 7) and special congratulations go to the **Resurrection boys** and the **St. Benedict girls** who both won silver – and to the **St. Benedict boys** and **Resurrection girls** who won the consolation gold.

The girls' gold was won by London's St. Thomas Aquinas while the boys' gold went to London's John Paul II.

The **Waterloo Region Catholic Schools Foundation** is sponsoring the 5<sup>th</sup> annual **Bishop's Banquet** in support of Catholic Education. This year's banquet will take place on Tuesday, May 4, 2010 at the Waterloo Region Catholic Education Centre (St. Mary's Parish Hall). The guest speaker is **Sister Joan Cronin**, Executive Director of the Institute for Catholic Education

This event sells out fast...  
So get your tickets NOW!  
Call **519-578-3660 ext. 2373**



The **Junior Girls B-Ball team at Resurrection CSS** was recently rewarded with a trip to the Toronto Raptors B-Ball Clinic for having collected 860 lbs of food for the Food Bank of Waterloo Region.

Well done, girls!

## REMEMBER



2010 is a municipal election year and Catholic ratepayers are entitled to vote for Catholic school trustees.

In order to be eligible to vote for your local Catholic school board trustee you must be registered as a Catholic school supporter. To register as a Catholic school supporter please send an email message to [info@wcdsb.ca](mailto:info@wcdsb.ca) or call (519) 578-3660 – ext. 2352.

The **Waterloo Regional Police / Kitchener Rangers "Blue Crew"** recently visited St. Agnes CES in Waterloo. The "Blue Crew" program teams police officers with Rangers players. Their message is for students to study hard and stay in school.



Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools

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