

Director's Update

QUALITY • INCLUSIVE • FAITH-BASED • EDUCATION

www.wcdsb.ca



Roger D. Lawler
Director of Education

"There are many hands that help to shape our youth in becoming Church and civic leaders..."

Together you are making a difference".

Celebrating Faith & Excellence Catholic Schools: Shining Brightly in the World

One of the joys of being a parent in our Catholic school system is being able to witness our children receive their sacraments of initiation. In May we witnessed our youngest son accept his role in the Church as **Bishop Bergie** administered the Sacrament of Confirmation upon him and his classmates. Earlier in the month we witnessed several students receive first Eucharist. These two significant steps in the lives of our children bring to the fore in crystal clear images the purpose and role of Catholic schools. We are part of the teaching arm of the Church.

As parents we are the primary educators of our children. In choosing a Catholic school education for our children we also consciously ask the school to support us in our role as primary educators in the faith. To this end, there are many hours of support by school staff both within and outside the classroom in order to assist our children to be ready to receive the sacraments and to be nurtured in both their faith and academic life to make a contribution and difference in this world. It is no small fact that the children who are being registered for Junior Kindergarten in 2009 are the Church and civic leaders of 2030!

There are many hands that help to shape our youth in becoming Church and civic leaders. To each parent, staff member, community member, pastor and parish staff our warmest thanks for your continued support of our learners. Together you are making a difference.



Marion Thomson Howell
Board Chair

Proud of the Excellence We Share

Great school boards, like all great organizations, are successful because of the people who give of their talents, their energy and their dedication every day of the year. In the past month I have had the privilege of hearing the stories of the great women and men who have made our Board their home.

Each year the Chair of the Board selects someone for recognition because of their contribution to Catholic education. This year I received over 25 nominations from staff who wanted me to know about a colleague they believed deserved acknowledgement. To say their stories were impressive is a massive understatement. I heard about teachers who personified creativity, chaplains who are models of our faith, administrative assistants who recognize and respond to their colleagues in personal and heartfelt ways and many more. **Jeannie McCarroll**, this year's recipient of the **Chair's Award**, is described as an ...*"example of going above and beyond for the sake of the system, the school but more importantly the students and would be a role model for all aspiring students"*. The ways in which all of the nominees reflect excellence is cause for us to be proud; the fact that their colleagues wanted them to be recognized shows their generosity of spirit.

I also recently had the privilege of being present in Ottawa when our Director, **Roger Lawler**, received the **Distinguished Leadership Award** from the **Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers Association** for a career dedicated to the betterment of Catholic education. We are proud that Roger's leadership is recognized by his peers across the province. These are the stories of a few, but they are reflective of the many. We should all walk a little taller and feel a little prouder because they have caused the light to shine on the excellence we all share.

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

May/June
2009





One Simple Act of Kindness

By Mary Mayer

The students and staff at **John Sweeney Catholic Elementary School** in Kitchener enjoy a wide variety of activities to meet the needs of the community. It's all part of our philosophy that we want our students to grow as responsible, caring citizens and to play an active role in making the world a better place.

Every once in a while, though, we run across an example that elevates that philosophy to a whole new level.

Recently, some students from John Sweeney participated in the Knights of Columbus Free Throw contest at St. David's High School. While some students break records regionally, one student, **Davies Chilundo**, made us proud for his simple act of kindness.

Davies is an outgoing, polite grade five student who makes friends easily. He recently attended a Cardinal boys' basketball game in our gym and spotted a boy from another school that he had met at the free throw competition. His new friend came to play basketball but realized that he forgot his running shoes and would be unable to play the game.

Davies overheard the boy tell his mother his problem and quickly came to the rescue, loaning the boy his own running shoes. The boy's mother was so grateful that she spoke to a staff member from John Sweeney about Davies. The basketball game went ahead as planned and -- because of the kind generosity of Davies Chilundo -- the boy was able to compete with his teammates that day. Davies acted the way we hope all students would by helping a person in need. This type of action makes all of us at John Sweeney Catholic Elementary School and the Waterloo Catholic District School Board in general very proud of our students.

Mary Mayer is Vice-principal of John Sweeney Catholic Elementary School in Kitchener.

"Dear Lord, in the battle that goes on through life

I ask but a field that is fair;

A chance that is equal with all in the strife

A courage to strive and to dare;

And if I should win, let it be by the code

With my faith and my honor held high;

And if I should lose, let me stand by the road

And cheer as the winners go by".

From "Prayer of a Sportsman" by Berton Braley

...QUOTE...

"The value of creating a healthy school environment goes well beyond achieving better student success".

Leanna Pendergast, MPP

Tips For Parents

Talk about healthy schools activities with your child, your child's teacher and principal.

Support and be actively involved with the healthy schools activities at your child's school.

Participate in healthy activities at home as a family.

Read more @ www.ontario.ca/healthyschools

Healthy Schools Recognition Program

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Elementary School in Kitchener and **St. Michael Catholic Elementary School** in Cambridge were recently recognized by the Ontario government for their pledge to establish healthy eating, physical activity and bullying prevention programs.

Both schools received a "Healthy School" pennant in honour of that commitment.

The **Healthy Schools Recognition Program** highlights schools that have done a little bit extra to become healthier during the 2008-2009 school year.

It's no secret that when students are healthy, they are better able to learn...and when they develop healthy habits at a young age, they are also more likely to continue them in the future.

Schools receiving recognition this year established activities that benefited students in a range of ways including promoting healthy eating, physical activity and mental health, preventing bullying and educating on substance abuse and how to prevent injuries.

"The value of creating a healthy school environment goes well beyond achieving better student success. Blessed Sacrament Catholic Elementary School and St. Michael Catholic Elementary School are not only benefiting their students but the Region as a whole by helping our children be healthy, so they can become productive members of our community" said **Leanna Pendergast**, MPP for Kitchener-Conestoga.

"A healthy mind depends on a healthy body. Congratulations to all of the schools that are taking up the challenge and creating a healthier learning environment for students" said **Education Minister Kathleen Wynne**.



Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools

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Healthy, Active Living

One of the great things about growing up in one of Waterloo Region's Catholic schools is the emphasis placed on what we call "healthy, active living".

Healthy, active living goes way beyond traditional physical education and includes everything from learning about healthy eating to a wide variety of intramural activities, school teams and our ground-breaking **Exercise in Disguise** program that integrates physical activity into everything from reading to math.

Each year, the Ontario chapter of the **Canadian Intramural Recreation Association** recognizes schools

for their intramural programs and other healthy, active living programs like the **"Walking School Bus"** and **"Olympic Days"**.

This year, CIRA recognized the following WCDSB schools with special banners honouring their outstanding intramural programs:

St. Matthew; Our Lady of Lourdes; Monsignor William Gleason; St. Vincent de Paul; St. Michael; St. Nicholas; St. John and **St Teresa (Elmira)**.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Photo below courtesy of Our Lady of Lourdes CES, Waterloo.



Congratulations!!

A number of our students have experienced some major successes recently.

Alyscia McMullin from St David Catholic Secondary School was awarded gold in the "Job Interview" category at the **Skills Canada National Competition** in Prince Edward Island. Alyscia received the highest mark of any member of the 64-person Team Ontario.

WCDSB students were also very successful in the annual **Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association (OECTA)** Provincial Young Authors competition:

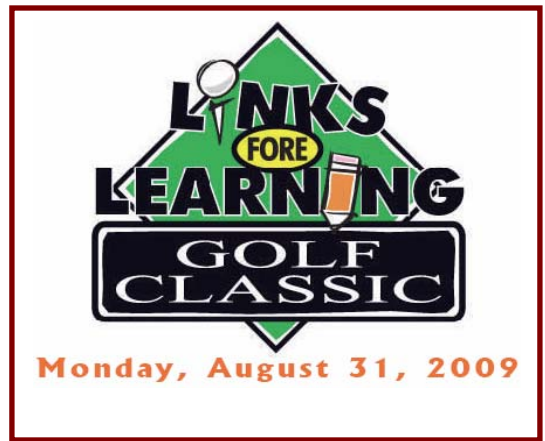
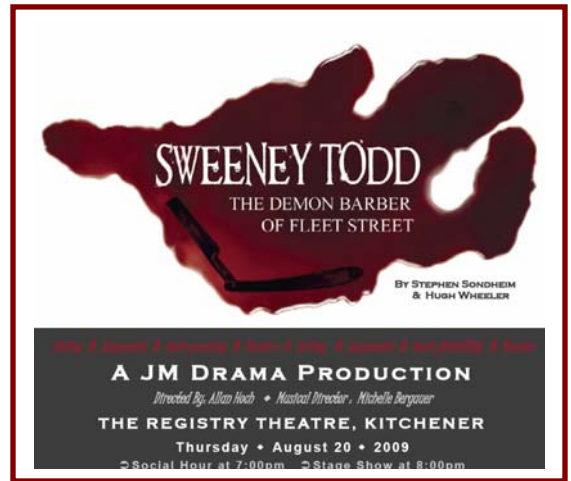
- Jaiden Schutz**, Holy Rosary CES -- Grade 1-2 Poem (Teacher Mary Lou Micheli)
- Emmalise Conway**, St. Augustine CES -- Grade 3-4 Short Story (Teacher Deborah Mawdsley)
- Shannon Lodoen** and **Rachael McDonald**, Resurrection CSS -- Grade 9-10 Play (Teacher Janet Lienhardt)
- Thomas Slabon**, St. Mary's HS -- Grade 11-12 Play (Teacher Jon Zagaja)

STILL HAVEN'T SIGNED UP FOR SCHOOL? THERE'S STILL TIME. VISIT OUR WEBSITE TODAY!



www.wcdsb.ca/about/video.html & <http://www.wcdsb.ca/headlines/events/events-sign-up.html>

Coming Soon!!!



Call the **Waterloo Region Catholic Schools Foundation** for more information about both events: (519) 578-3660 ext. 2373 www.wrcsf.ca/



Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools

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Earlier this Spring several WCDSB students had an opportunity to meet **Severn Cullis-Suzuki** at the Shade's Mills Nature Centre. Following in the footsteps of her famous father, David, Cullis-Suzuki is a prominent young environmentalist gaining acclaim worldwide for her approach to "intergenerational justice" - the idea that adults have a responsibility to young people to leave our natural world intact and even improved for future generations.

REMEMBER



This year, school starts on September 8 – the Tuesday after Labour Day. Our School Year Calendar is available at:

www.wcdsb.ca/about/calendar.html

Looking For Some Summer Fun?

Our partners at the YMCA offer a wide variety of summer opportunities including Adventure & Discovery Days, Specialty Day Camps aimed at specific interests and even a Leadership Development Camp for boys & girls aged 12-16.

For more info:

www.kwymca.org

Visit Our Website

During the first week of May our website surpassed **10 million page views** since we began counting in September, 2005 – making it one of the most-visited school board websites in Ontario.

Check us out at: **www.wcdsb.ca**

Field of Dreams

On May 6th we formally opened the new artificial turf field at **St. David CSS** in Waterloo – the first such field at a Waterloo Region high school.

Special opening day events included an airplane flyover, soccer game and community barbecue.

The field project was possible thanks to an innovative community partnership model that will allow us to recover the cost of the surface and the amenities over the life of the field through after school rentals to various youth and adult community organizations. Seasonal rental agreements have already been established with a number of community partners including **Waterloo Minor Soccer**, **Twin City Tackle Football** and the **University of Waterloo Athletics Department**.

If your organization wishes to establish a rental agreement to use the field please contact Tony Pemberton at (519) 578-3660 ext. 2376.



Photo by Will Knapp



Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools

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