There is an excitement across Ontario schools as more and more school districts are internationalizing their programs and implementing the new provincial government document: Ontario’s Strategy for K-12 International Education 2015. The Waterloo Catholic District School Board is considered a provincial leader in delivering on the goals of this important initiative.

International students from 12 different countries, participating in long and short term programs, are immersed in our classrooms, learning and evolving with Canadian students. In the coming months, our students, teachers and principals will be traveling to France, Japan, China and Colombia to experience other cultures and to learn from the global community. Canadian and international students in our schools are participating in valuable programs including: the International Certificate Program, Model UN projects, Intercultural Awareness & Communication workshops and International Youth Forums.

Our school staff, ESL staff and the International Education Department team are looking forward to welcoming and engaging more international students and educators. We are continually developing new skills, services and programs to better serve all students in our schools and to help them achieve their post-Secondary school goals and ambitions.

Vic Degutis
COO • Research & Development Office/International Education Services
Waterloo Catholic District School Board

Important Information

Interested in studying in Waterloo Catholic schools?

Apply for the September 2017 semester by the end of May! Online application, requirements and procedures can be found at https://www.wcdsb.ca/schools/international-education/apply-for-program.html

Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 13-17, 2017</td>
<td>March Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 28, 2017</td>
<td>Mid-term report card issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>End of May, 2017</td>
<td>Tuition payment deadline for 2017-2018 school year</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 26-30, 2017</td>
<td>Secondary School Examination Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 2017</td>
<td>Canada Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>July &amp; August, 2017</td>
<td>Summer Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 5, 2017</td>
<td>September semester starts</td>
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Did you know...

A student, parent or guardian can access their student’s attendance and more through the Student Information System. Examples of information available would include student mark history, current course schedule, and attendance in each course for that schedule. To access the system parents and guardians will be required to have the student number of the child which can be found on the front of the latest report card or the current course schedule. https://sis.wcdsb.ca

Student Information System

When you access the information on this system, please note that all of the personal information on the screen is accurate. If you are uncertain, please refer your Guidebook. Information on this system includes a mark history, current timetable and attendance for each course on your current timetable along with some personal information.

Should you want to use the service available to you, please contact your school. Once a student/parent has signed out of this service, the student may be re-invited only by making a request in writing to the school.

All login attempts to this system are recorded for security purposes.
**Important Information**

**Mental Health Matters!**

Waterloo Catholic schools attach great importance to the mental well-being of our international students. Students now have access to a toll-free phone number that will connect directly with accredited mental health service professionals 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This service is confidential and available in multiple languages.

**Connect With a Mental Health Professional**

**1.866.684.2595**

**International Student Highlight - Yizhou Wang**

Hi, I’m Yizhou Wang, and I am from Chengdu, China. I have stayed in Canada and I studied at St. Mary’s High School for about three years. Math is one of my favorite subjects, while I also enjoy Chemistry and Computer Science. There is no doubt that they are difficult subjects, but I love to challenge myself.

Studying in Canada means you need to manage your time in a reasonable way. For example, I exercise once I get home after I finish my homework. Then, I study for my IELTS test or study French. In conclusion, I can do many more things after school in Canada compared to China.

In Canadian high schools, the best thing about them is that there are lots of sports teams that I can join. The best sports team that I joined is the swimming team. Not only because I got qualifications for the Central Western Ontario Secondary Schools Association (CWOSSA), but also because I never thought I could do such a good job as a swimmer. We don’t have a swimming pool in my school, so we need to rent a swimming pool in the morning. The training time is 7:00 AM, and I need to get up at 5:30 AM every Tuesday and Thursday. It’s so hard to get up that early, especially in the winter, but I did it and kept doing it for two months. I firmly believe that I learned how to persist in doing something and because of this, I can successfully get my qualification for CWOSSA.

Right now, I’m preparing for my graduation and I hope I can get into a good university. That is my goal, and I’m working on it. I’m not the top student at my school; but if someone wants to know how to “survive” in a Canadian high school, I’d say that the most important thing is being self-aware. Therefore, you always need to be conscious of your daily life and your schoolwork.

Thank you for reading, and I hope you can make many achievements this year.

*Are you speaking English?*

Don’t forget to use English when you are out of school! Here are some free apps you may find helpful: **Duolingo, Memrise, AccelaStudy**

**KEEPING OUR SCHOOLS HEALTHY!**

Did you receive a letter from Region of Waterloo Public Health regarding immunization?

Your vaccination record may not be complete with Public Health. Students under the age of 18 who are not properly vaccinated may be suspended from school.

Need help and more information on vaccines required for school? How to update record? How to get immunized? Go to [Waterloo Region Public Health](https://www.waterlooregion.on.ca) or call the immunization line 519-575-4400 ext. 5001 Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Also check [Public Health secondary school walk-in immunization clinic schedule 2017](https://www.waterlooregion.on.ca).

*(Photos courtesy of Yizhou Wang)*

**Are you speaking English?**

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**Practice makes progress!**

[wcdsb.ca](http://www.wcdsb.ca)
What’s Happening at Catholic Schools?

Korean and Chinese students participating in winter programs

10 Korean students and 12 Chinese students studied at local Catholic elementary and secondary schools in January. Not only did they experience Canadian class culture and improve English skills, but also shared their culture and what they had experienced with Canadian classmates and teachers.

Korean student presenting (Courtesy of Waterloo Learning Centre)
Chinese student presenting to local students
 Farewell party with teacher and classmates

St. Mary Visual Art Class

The grade ten international students Won Hwang, Tongyu Zhang and Huiyi Hao at the St. Mary’s High School demonstrated their perspective drawings in the Visual Art class. They used one-point perspective techniques but a circle format. The result was interesting drawings that received a lot of compliments.

[Photos courtesy of St. Mary’s High School]

In the Waterloo Region Community

Lunar New Year Celebrations

Over 1500 students, family members, teachers and guests celebrated the Chinese New Year at the Grand River Chinese School, one of the international language schools in the Waterloo Region, partner of the Waterloo Catholic District School Board. Students performed Chinese dances and showcased Lunar New Year traditions.


Cultural exchange with Japanese school

As part of our International Programming the Waterloo Region Catholic secondary schools will be participating in a cultural exchange with Yamate Gakuin High School in Yokohama. Students from Japan will be visiting the Waterloo Region in April to participate in classes, explore our region and learn about Canada through their host families. In the summer, our Canadian students will visit Japan. This two week cultural exchange program is an opportunity of a lifetime for students to build an understanding of the Japanese culture.

Colombian groups coming in May & June

The school board will be welcoming Colombian students from Colegio Colombo Británico, Vermont School Medellin, and Colegio Montessori to participate in short-term immersion programs at our local Catholic elementary schools.

Upcoming: Waterloo Region High School Model UN 2017

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board in partnership with the United Nations System, the Waterloo Region District School Board, and the Balsillie School of International Affairs will present the Waterloo Region High School Model UN 2017. This is a one-day regional conference to be held on March 24, 2017, for secondary students. The event will feature three innovative mock UN Committees, UN Human Rights Council, the UN General Assembly, and the UN Security Council, and three topics conversing the international community.

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