2016 has been an exciting year for international education around the world. Students and parents realize that they must pursue every opportunity to develop global competencies to prepare for global citizenship in the 21st Century. Waterloo Catholic Schools are welcoming international students and educators into our classrooms, hosting guests from over ten countries, and sharing our Canadian culture and quality English-language education. Our principals and teachers believe that international students and teachers in our schools contribute to a richer learning environment for all learners.

The professional staff in our International Education Services department take their responsibility to supporting our international students very seriously and make every effort to support their positive and successful education and life experience. The wellbeing of international students and their development as well-rounded individuals is a high priority. Ultimately, students’ success in achieving their post-Secondary destinations is the common goal.

The International Education staff wish all of you a peaceful season and success and health in 2017.

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

Check Attendance and Report Cards Online
https://sis.wcdsb.ca/

Parents and Guardians: You can check your child’s attendance weekly on our School Board’s Student Information System using the child’s student number and birthdate. You will see your child’s timetable as well as their past grades; and you can also click on the attendance for each class.

December 25, 2016  Christmas Day
December 26, 2016 – January 6, 2017  Christmas and New Year break, schools will be closed
January 1, 2017  New Year’s Day
January 9, 2017  Classes Resume
January 27 – February 2, 2017  Secondary School Examination Days
March 13-17, 2017  March Break
June 26-30, 2017  Secondary School Examination Days

Check out our network:
@Wcdsb_Intl  weibo.com/wcdsb
International Student Highlight - Tim Zhou

Hi. My name is Tim Zhou. I’m from Dongying City, Shandong Province, China and I came to Canada in August, 2015. I am a Grade 12 student at St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School. I’m currently studying in the University Cooperative Education Program, taking two secondary school courses and one university course at the University of Waterloo. I’m also working for two finance professors doing assistive research at Wilfrid Laurier University.

The course I like the best is Microeconomics, because I am interested in finding out how the market works and the way trade is done. Studying here in Canada is different from studying in China in many ways. At my high school in China, we have a much busier daily schedule. Every day we are in school until ten at night. Students don’t get to choose their own courses to take, and everyone is taking the same class. Studying here in Canada asks for better self-regulation and initiative, since teachers don’t supervise students as much as they do in China. We have much more free time after school, so we can do the things we want and develop our own interests. For me, I normally go to the gym after school, and sometimes I go swimming or play badminton with my friends. I’m actually planning to join the archery club at UW soon, and I think it will be really entertaining. I find exercising really helps me to focus in class and stay energetic throughout the day.

After I receive my high school diploma, I plan on going to university and pursue my education here in Canada. I love the comfortable living style and the free studying environment in Canada, and it enables me to truly focus on the things I love to work on. From my perspective, many international students that come to Canada for the first year aren’t prepared for it, making it easy for them to get distracted and waste their time. So, it’s really important for them to remember what their goals are and work hard to accomplish them. Furthermore, students at my age should learn to manage their time wisely, and they should try to get their work done as soon as possible. Never procrastinate!

What’s Happening at the School Board?

Two groups of 20 students from Colombia participated in the short term immersion program offered at the School Board in September and October. Not only did they attend ESL classes to improve their English, but they also attended a variety of activities to experience Canadian Culture & School.

Representatives from the University of British Columbia, the University of Waterloo, the University of Guelph, and Wilfrid Laurier University, presented to our Grade 12 international students on university application and admissions.

Robert Holowack, a Technological Studies Consultant at WCDSB, is offering Robotics and Automation Workshops for students and teachers in Colombia in January 2017. (Photo: St. David CSS Robotics Team)

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

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