

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Quality • Inclusive • Faith-based • Education



w w w . w c d s b . c a



Michael Schmitt
Director of Education

"I look forward to continuing my educational journey with you. And I thank you for placing your trust in us to provide the very best Catholic education for your children. Together, we can ensure that our children become fully alive human beings who help create a society that serves the common good -- that proclaims the message of God and transforms the world of everyday life!"

Heart of the Community

As a proud graduate of **St. Francis of Assisi CES** and **St. Jerome's High School** and a former teacher, principal and superintendent in Waterloo Region's Catholic schools it is an honour to welcome you the 2014-2015 school year as your new **Director of Education**. It is like coming home!

We have a beautiful Mission Statement and Vision Statement in Waterloo Catholic. When I read words like, **"heart of the community, success for each, a place for all"** I am inspired to ensure that everyone who is served by and works for this board is treated with dignity and respect. When I see that our purpose as a Catholic educational system is to act as disciples of Christ to educate and nurture hope in our young people, I am motivated to ensure that every learner in our care is nurtured and supported in school faith communities to achieve to the very best they can.

You have articulated a Catholic vision of education for our students that is about education and formation – one that sees to it that all students learn at high levels and one that sees to it that our students become living witnesses to the Faith. Our role is to work in collaboration and partnership with the home, the parish and the community to ensure that the future you have expressed becomes a reality for each of our students.

Bringing this vision to reality requires all of us to understand that we are here to serve our students and to be mindful that we both form and educate young people – heart, body, mind and soul – to be formed in their faith and educated to be citizens of the world. There is no doubt that this is an awesome task, sometimes fraught with distractions and even conflict. However, we must always look into the eyes of the young people we serve and remember that they are our first call – the very reason we exist as a school system.

I look forward to continuing my educational journey with you. And I thank you for placing your trust in us to provide the very best Catholic education for your children. Together, we can ensure that our children become fully alive human beings who help create a society that serves the common good -- that proclaims the message of God and transforms the world of everyday life!



Happy Thanksgiving – from the students, staff and trustees of Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools!!

October, 2014



The new **St. Gabriel CES** in Cambridge (Hespeler) opened on Tuesday, September 2, 2014. On September 19 during the WCDSB's annual Faith Development Day the St. Gabriel staff showed what Catholic education is all about.



Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools

w w w . w c d s b . c a



Just Sayin' Hi!!
The students & staff of *St. Dominic Savio CES* sent a BIG message on September 25th – “Say Hi Day”.

Communications Guidelines

As partners in education our school staff, the senior team and the board of trustees are always interested in receiving information and feedback from the community. It keeps us in touch with the community and helps us anticipate and deal effectively with any questions or concerns you may have.

However, there may be times when you contact your trustee with questions or concerns and your trustee will refer you to our policy called “**Communication Guidelines for Parents & Staff**”. These important guidelines are posted on our website: www.wcdsb.ca/AP_Memos/PDF/APC001.PDF.

The guidelines are in place to help you resolve your questions or concerns quickly right there at your school. While under provincial legislation your trustee does not have the legal power to solve your issue personally they will certainly be a valuable resource in helping you use the guidelines to reach the appropriate staff person for assistance. The guidelines are very simple: If you have a concern involving your child you should first speak directly to the child’s teacher. If the issue remains unresolved, you should speak to the school Principal. If the issue continues to be unresolved, you should speak to the Superintendent of Learning for that school. Contact information is available at:

www.wcdsb.ca/about/senior-admin.html

Trustee phone numbers and email addresses are available on the trustee web page at:

www.wcdsb.ca/about/board/trustees.html.



BACK AGAIN
Thursday,
November 20, 2013
www.weday.com/we-day-events/we-day-cities/waterloo-region/

Our Catholic Schools: Worth Saving!

By **Father Fred Scinto, C.R.,**

We all have had the experience of losing something precious to us if we take it for granted. Something can become so familiar to us that we tend to forget its value for our lives individually and collectively. This is beginning to happen in Ontario where a growing number of people are wondering why we should have two educational systems, one being our own Catholic system. There is a growing outcry in the province to have only one system and to drop our system, the Catholic system.

That would be a tragedy because then Ontario would lose something invaluable. Our Catholic system works -- and it works very well. Not only has it proven itself as an excellent system in terms of achieving the educational goals and aims set by the Ministry of Education in the Government of Ontario but it is the only system that educates the whole person (body and soul) and does it holistically.

It is a system that looks at the whole of reality, including God and our individual and collective relationship with Him/Her.

It is not only a system that promotes contemporary humanistic secular scientific education and religious/spiritual education but also the total psychological, sociological and cultural wellbeing of the students we are privileged to serve.

Positive psychology today makes clear that every human being needs transcendence (getting beyond one’s self), purpose in life, doing good for others, gratitude,

optimism, positivity, and rites of passage (like the sacraments) in order to develop fully our humanity and to be happy.

Moreover, the Catholic system makes a huge contribution to society by forming students to have a clear morality and a total commitment to society in terms of social justice, ecology, and politics as part of living out Christ’s Gospel and biblical demands.

The Catholic system is in a privileged position to make all this happen. The above is just a small sample of what Catholic education can do.

So Catholic education has great value not only for Catholics but for others in our province!

We must do all we can to safeguard and promote its existence. Learn more about it. Make it more important in your own mind by reflecting on it. Talk about it with your neighbours and co-workers and promote it. Write to your MPP informing him/her that you are a strong supporter of Catholic education and you want it to continue.

If you have children in the Catholic system, get involved in and with the school your children attend. And all of us certainly can pray for the Catholic system, especially that it continues in Ontario.

May the Risen Lord continue to bless our Catholic school system and make it successful and prosperous. Amen.

Father Fred Scinto, C.R., of the Resurrection Centre for Lifelong Learning, is Spiritual Animator of the WCDSB.

Municipal Election 2014
Monday, October 27, 2014
Elections are being held for all nine WCDSB trustee seats. Please visit the following website for important voting information:
<http://tinyurl.com/nf4v8ds>



New St Louis Cambridge Sites

St. Louis Adult Learning & Continuing Education has moved some of its Cambridge programming into the three classrooms in the *St. Benedict CSS Annex*, numerous rooms at *Holy Spirit CES* and two classrooms at *St. Paul's Lutheran Church* on Grand Avenue.

So what's happening in the Annex, now?

Monday to Friday (day and evening), we offer the sought-after, accredited *Personal Support Worker (PSW)* educational program taught by registered nurses and recognized by the *Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care*.

This professional health care program is open to students 18 and older, at a fraction of the cost of college or private institutions. Same quality standard education and employability -- for less money and a chance to earn their last few credits!

Core Essentials, a program for adults that have been out of school for a while and need to upgrade to prepare for secondary school credits is also available throughout the week, during the day.



In the evening, a different set of adult students arrive. *Part-time PSW* students come for the program Monday to Thursday evenings, *English as a Second Language (ESL)* classes on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings and *Correspondence & Guidance Services* on Tuesdays ONLY 3:30-8:30. These students who choose to work toward credits online or through independent learning come to pick up and drop off lessons and get some tutoring support.

Where else are we in Cambridge?

Holy Spirit Catholic Elementary School has graciously welcomed the *International Languages* program on Saturday mornings to accommodate JK- Grade 8 students wanting to learn Italian, Polish, Portuguese and Spanish. A fun way to learn about a culture, a language, and understand the world around us; paving the way for future successes. Registration is ongoing, every Saturday.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church in the heritage district of downtown Galt, just steps from the Cambridge Library & Gallery is where we are offering *ESL morning and afternoon classes* Monday to Friday. Registration is Mon, Wed & Thurs (10:15-12:45).

Open Houses - Wednesday, Oct 22nd
11am- 1:00pm @ St. Paul's Lutheran Church
2:30 - 5:00pm St. Benedict CSS Annex

2014 EQAO Results - Grades 3, 6, 9 & 10



You can find our latest results – including school-by-school results – at:

www.eqao.com/categories/home.aspx

WCDSB: There for you 24/7/365!

Now there are several handy ways for you to keep in touch and stay up-to-date with all the latest news from *your* Catholic schools:



First...you can sign up to receive up-to-date information via *Twitter* at: <http://twitter.com/WCDSBNewsWire>.

Our videos on *YouTube* are available by searching *WCDSBTube*.

The online *Staff Directory* is available at: www.wcdsb.ca/Directory/index.aspx or by clicking the "Contact Us" link at the top of the Board's web page (www.wcdsb.ca).

The Board's *NewsWire* subscription service remains available at: <http://newswire.wcdsb.ca/wcdsb-subscribe.aspx>.

And...when the weather is bad our *Delays / Cancellations* page is constantly updated (www.wcdsb.ca/delays-cancellations/index.aspx)

As always, our website is your source for the most up-to-date information about our schools. We serve up 2.6 million pages of information each year!!



On September 29 former Student Trustee (and now WCDSB teacher) *Kristen Monteiro* (centre) welcomed new Student Trustees *Karen Hakim* (left) and *Maria Paz Rodriguez* (right) to the Board of Trustees.



Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools

w w w . w c d s b . c a

30 DAYS OF THINK!

TRUE • HELPFUL • INSPIRING • NECESSARY • KIND

Enter to Win!
It's easy and fun!

FOLLOW US:

- THINK
- @30DaysofTHINK
- 30DaysofTHINK

Enter as an individual, group or class.

CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY

CAPTURE IT in a photo/video

TAG IT #30DaysofTHINK

POST IT on

NOVEMBER 1-30

THINK FIRST November 1-9

- Share an Internet safety tip
- Create your own THINK acronym
- Create a THINK word cloud
- Create a THINK meme
- Create a THINK banner
- Create a THINK pledge for your school. Make a video and challenge others to take the pledge.
- 'Map your Apps' by creating a digital footprint graphic of all the social media you use—in the shape of a footprint!
- Create a slideshow—how to be a good digital citizen
- Create a recipe for Digital Citizenship—what are the ingredients?

THINK KINDNESS November 10-16

- Compliment someone online
- Perform a Random Act of Kindness. Capture it.
- Create an Image with a KINDNESS caption or quote.
- Create a list of suggested RAKs. Be creative.
- Send a thank you note
- Create a recipe for KINDNESS—what are the ingredients
- Create a KINDNESS word cloud
- Create a picture or poster showing why KINDNESS matters
- Create a KINDNESS pledge
- Create a Bitstrips comic about KINDNESS

THINK RESPECT November 17-23

- Take a selfie with someone you respect
- Share a Netiquette tip
- Create an Image with a RESPECT caption or quote
- List 5 synonyms for the word RESPECT
- Create a RESPECT word cloud
- Create a Bitstrips comic about RESPECT
- Create a recipe for RESPECT—what are the ingredients
- Create a commercial to sell respect—what are the features and benefits
- Create a poster with the slogan "Respect Yourself. Respect Others."

THINK SUPPORT November 24-30

- Take a selfie with a supportive adult at school
- Share links to community supports
- Create a word cloud about where to seek help
- List ways to help a friend
- Write a poem or song about how you are not alone
- Create a video about the importance of getting help or asking for help
- Create a commercial or poster about who to go to at your school if you need help
- Create a THINK acronym about support & help

WEEKLY PRIZES

iPods • iPads • iTunes Cards • Chromebook • Guest Speakers

WEEKLY PRIZES

www.preventingcrime.ca/THINK

Contest rules and regulations available online.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:



Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools

w w w . w c d s b . c a