

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

Quality • Inclusive • Faith-based • Education



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## Message From Our New Director



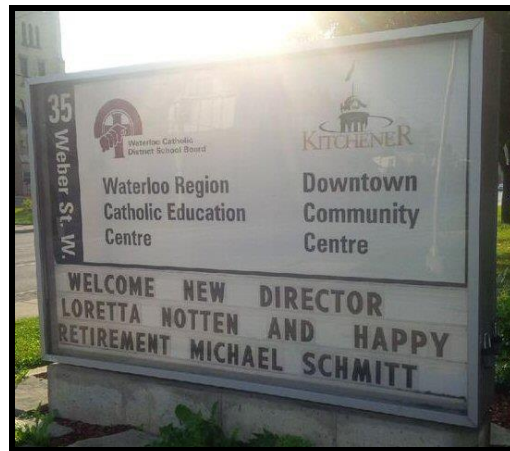
**Loretta Notten**  
Director of Education

It is with a great deal of humility, excitement and anticipation that I welcome you to the 2015-16 school year as your new Director of Education.

I should begin by first extending my sincere gratitude to the Board of Trustees, our Senior Team, our Principals and Vice-Principals and all who have been so wonderfully warm and gracious in welcoming me to the Waterloo Catholic District School Board. In particular, a sincere note of appreciation to outgoing Director, **Michael Schmitt** who kindly assisted me as I began my transition into this new role, and for his many considerable contributions to this Board. We are in his debt and I wish him much happiness in retirement.

While I come to you from the **Toronto Catholic District School Board**, I have long been a fan of Waterloo Catholic and the wonderful educators who live and learn here. I am a proud and passionate product of and advocate for Catholic education. I have had a variety of roles throughout my years in education, from classroom teacher, to school administrator, Program Coordinator and Superintendent of Education, with a number of varied portfolios and most recently as President of the **Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers Association**. All of these experiences have been steps on my journey which have helped me to further discern my vocation and how I might best serve the cause of Catholic education and the students in our care. My wish for you is that you too will hear that invitation to share your gifts and talents, and to thoughtfully discern about the call to leadership you may hear.

*"We have no greater purpose than to fulfill our mandate as schools which are distinctly different, rooted in the love of Christ and the dignity of all. Our challenge is to ensure that this is reflected in the daily lived reality of all our schools and for all our students...They are not the leaders of tomorrow, they are the leaders of today".*



I have a sincere wish to meet and talk with as many of you as possible; to visit your schools and to see the good work happening within your communities. I look forward to observing how in Waterloo Catholic we bring to life our Mission and Vision to be the *Heart of the Community*, to create *Success for Each* and to nurture *A Place for All*. Over the course of this year I hope that we can build a reciprocal relationship where we learn from each other, and build a stronger vision for each of our faith communities and our Board as a whole. We have no greater purpose than to fulfill our mandate as schools which are distinctly different, rooted in the love of Christ and the dignity of all. Our challenge is to ensure that this is reflected in the daily lived reality of all our schools and for all our students.



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

As the year begins, we know that there may be some challenges on the horizon. I trust that we will work through whatever rough waters may come our way on a foundation of mutual respect, with integrity and open communication. We need to be intentional in honouring the voices and experiences of all our stakeholders. I do further hope that we will take every opportunity to celebrate the good news that is happening in our schools each and every day. Share your stories and your pictures with us! We are so blessed and we have to be proud to share our narrative.

The world has become accessible to all and I have no doubt that our students will embrace their role as global citizens and transform the world. They are not the leaders of tomorrow, they are the leaders of today. Let's work together this year in a spirit of hope and collaboration, to ensure that each of our students fully realizes their God-given potential. I look forward to the journey ahead!

Yours in service and appreciation,

**September, 2015**



**Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools**

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On Sept. 15 St. Louis staff members **Colleen Boehmer**, **Sandra Kuppek** and **Sherrie Gardiner** joined Kitchener Mayor (and WCDSB grad!) **Berry Urbanovic** at Kitchener City Hall to support the **Waterloo Region Welcomes Refugees Community Gathering**

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.wcdsb.ca/about/board/trustees.html).

## We Are ALL Children of the Light!

By **Father Fr. Joseph de Viveiros, C. R.**

It was very humbling and surprising to be asked to take on the role of **Spiritual Animator** for our Board! I will remain the fulltime pastor of **St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Kitchener** but regardless of my limited time, I am excited to offer whatever support and guidance I am able to our school system. We have such an awesome gift in the Province of Ontario to have our Catholic schools and I am delighted to increase my support from our local parish school, **St. Paul CES**, to the entire Board!

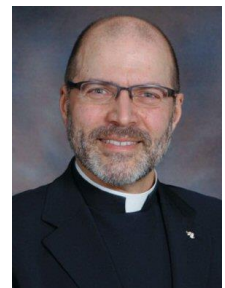
My first official duty was to preside at the Eucharist for Administrators and Principals on Tuesday the first of September. The readings of the day: **1 Thessalonians 5.1-6, 9-11** and **Luke 4.31-37** could not have been more appropriate for the start of the school year. St. Paul instructs us to believe that: "...we are *all* children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness." As we begin this school year we need to let our Christ-light shine from within us for all to see!

We also need to perceive the Christ-light shining from within others especially those who are hurting or from those we find challenging!

St. Paul also calls us to "...encourage one another and build up each other..."

May we be mindful that all we say and do has either the holy effect of encouraging and building up someone or it has the evil effect of damaging and tearing down someone. In the Gospel we encounter a Jesus who has *authority!* Have you ever noticed that authority and authenticity sound alike? The authority of Jesus did not stem from teaching certification but stemmed from his being his authentic self and from his living out his authentic relationship with the Father. This harkens back to the sin of Adam and Eve who were not willing to truly be themselves and wanted to be gods.

Thus, sin comes from inauthenticity. May we be challenged to be and share our authentic selves with all with whom we work. May we live out our authenticity as children of the light, encouraging and building up one another!



**Father Fr. Joseph de Viveiros, C.R., -- Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Kitchener -- is Spiritual Animator of the WCDSB.**

## Federal Election Day Monday, October 19, 2015

Monday, October 19, 2015 is **Election Day** in Canada and many WCDSB schools will be serving as polling places. Please visit the following website for important voting information:

[www.elections.ca/home.aspx](http://www.elections.ca/home.aspx)

"Any response to a major emergency situation is always most effective when governments, local communities and committed citizens work together. Our current federal election campaign is an important moment to engage political candidates and parties on what, if elected, they will do to assist refugees".

~~ Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops ~~



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## Trustee Profile

In October, 2014 a new Board of Trustees was elected and we were pleased to welcome **Bill Conway, Amy Fee, Brain Schmalz** and **Melanie Van Alphen**. Beginning with this issue we will be profiling each. Today...meet **Bill Conway**, Trustee for **Cambridge / North Dumfries**...



### Fun Fact

Bill enjoys lane swimming and recently reached the amazing milestone of swimming a cumulative total of 1,000 kms!

Bill is a lifelong resident of Waterloo Region. He grew up in Cambridge (Hespeler), attended **Our Lady of Fatima CES** and, later, **St. Benedict**, when it was still a junior high school.

A project manager for a local automation manufacturer, Bill was honored to be elected in 2014 as a Trustee after serving on the **St. Augustine CES** school council and **WCDSB Catholic Parent Involvement Committee**. Bill and his wife Kim have a daughter at **Monsignor Doyle CSS** and a daughter at **St. Augustine**.

Bill says: "Catholic education is a gift in which our students' academic achievement is woven with our Catholic faith. As a Trustee I embrace working with the many others who are nourishing and strengthening this gift in Waterloo Region and Ontario".

Information about the Board of Trustees is available online at:

[www.wcdsb.ca/about/board/trustees.html](http://www.wcdsb.ca/about/board/trustees.html)

## Message from the Board Chair



Welcome everyone back to a new and exciting school year. We hope everyone had a wonderful summer and a good start to the school year. Our recent **Spiritual Development Day** allowed us an added boost and strengthened the passion across our system. We have much to be proud of and thankful for across our system.

As we enter a new school year, many are going back to familiar surroundings but some are also entering new spaces with some new faces. We welcome new and returning faces to our system. This year, we are especially pleased to welcome **Loretta Notten** as our new Director of Education. Trustees are looking forward to a great working relationship with our new Director and continuing to strengthen our system. We also thank **Michael Schmitt** for stepping in as Director for 2014-15 and appreciate his input, dedication and commitment not only to the Board of Trustees but to our entire system.

We as individuals across our system and collectively are proud of who we are and stand for as a Catholic school community. We continue to grow together in faith as we look for and encounter new opportunities to reflect on our personal, professional and spiritual growth.

We continue to recognize and appreciate all that supports Catholic education, Catholic community, our system, and especially our staff and students. Together we continue to strengthen our system and we acknowledge all our partners who help us along the way.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, **Joyce Anderson, Bill Conway, Manuel da Silva, Amy Fee, Frank Johnson, Wendy Price, Greg Reitzel, Brian Schmalz, Melanie Van Alphen** and our Student Trustees **Karen Hakim** and **Sebastian Monsalve**, we welcome everyone back to another school year, congratulate you for a job well done and wish you a wonderful year with continued success!

### You asked us HOW TO AVOID SCHOOL SUSPENSION

**Update Public Health after each vaccination.**  
Parents need to provide their child's immunization records to Public Health.

The annual enforcement of the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) helps to keep our students and schools healthy. Immunization protects children from many diseases that are easily spread in schools. See checklist on back for mandatory vaccines.

Public Health will mail letters to those students with incomplete records. If you receive a letter, please arrange a visit with your health care provider to assess and update your child's immunizations, and contact Public Health to update your child's record or to place a legal exemption on file.

**How to provide your records:**  
Online: <https://e-immunization.regionofwaterloo.ca>  
Fax: 519-885-7260 Phone: 519-575-4400 ext. 13009

### Keep Our Students and Schools Healthy!

**Back to School Checklist:**

- ✓ Check your child's Immunization Card to make sure they are fully immunized against these diseases:
 

Mandatory as of July 2014		
• Tetanus	• Measles	• Meningitis
• Diphtheria	• Mumps	• Pertussis
• Polio	• Rubella	• Varicella*

\*Only for children born in 2010 and later

- ✓ Book an appointment with your healthcare provider if needed or contact Public Health to update your child's record.
- ✓ Report each new immunization to Public Health; your Doctor's office does not report these records for you.

**Reminder:** ✓ Students aged 4-6 require a booster dose for tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis and polio.  
 ✓ Students aged 14-16 require a booster dose for tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis.

**Protect your child. Protect our community. IMMUNIZE.**



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# The St. Jerome's LEGACY Lives On...

On September 19, **KW Legacy**, a group largely made up of **St. Jerome's High School** alumni, held its inaugural **St. Jerome's High School Alumni Golf Tournament** to raise funds for meaningful scholarships for graduating students at **St. Mary's H.S., Resurrection CSS, St. David CSS, Monsignor Doyle CSS** and **St. Benedict CSS**.

A **Legacy Champion** from each school is engaged in identifying candidates who in addition to being good students, have shown commitment to serving their community and leaving a positive footprint, and are moving on to post-secondary education.



L to R: Jeff Nagge, Darcy Mintz, Peter Kalbfleisch, Michael Schmitt, Mike Denomme, Brian Denomme, Loretta Notten

The day was a great success with 370 alumni, friends, teachers and sponsors in attendance, raising an incredible **\$80,000!!** The first generation of Legacy scholarships (a minimum of \$2000) will be presented to 2016 graduating classes at each of the schools. There will also be a \$7,000 scholarship for a candidate attending **Bishop's University**, a \$5,000 scholarship for a candidate attending **St. Jerome's University**, a \$5,000 **Remedy Rx Legacy Scholarship** for a candidate attending the **CAP – School of Pharmacy** program at the **University of Waterloo**, and a \$5,000 **John Heffner Sr. Automotive Legacy Scholarship** for a candidate pursuing higher education in a transportation technology program. For more information, please visit <http://kwlegacy.ca/> or contact [miked@kwlegacy.ca](mailto:miked@kwlegacy.ca).



\$1,669,900

That's how much WCDSB has raised since 1983 for the Ontario Heart & Stroke Foundation!  
!! Heart of the Community !!

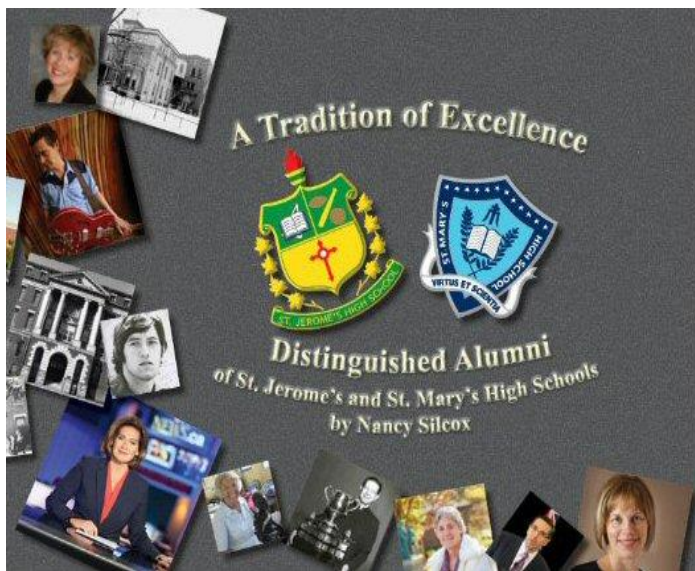
## ...DID YOU KNOW...

### It's Our 180<sup>th</sup> Year?

The first Catholic schools in Waterloo Region opened in 1836 in St. Agatha and Maryhill – that's **20 YEARS** before the Catholic Diocese of Hamilton (which includes Waterloo Region) was formed.

### ...AND...

Our students come from 114 different countries and speak 70-plus different languages.



*A Tradition of Excellence*  
Book Launch  
October 15, 2015  
6:00PM-9:00PM  
St. Mary's High School  
RSVP:  
<http://stmary.wcdsb.ca/>



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