

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Quality • Inclusive • Faith-based • Education



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Larry Clifford
Director of Education

"We should all pause to consider how blessed we are in our chosen vocations that allow us to serve the needs of pupils."



Merry Christmas!!

As the season of Advent quickly slips away and we eagerly await the coming of our Savior I believe we should pause and give thanks.

On behalf of the Senior Staff team and the people at the Board office I'd like to thank all employees of the WCDSB who support the delivery of a quality, inclusive Catholic education to the pupils of our system. Your talents, energy, skill and dedication are noted and appreciated.

I hope that the Christmas holidays will allow time for all to relax, reflect, and refresh with family and friends. We should all pause to consider how blessed we are in our chosen vocations that allow us to serve the needs of pupils.

I conclude with a poem entitled "**Christmas Thoughts**"...Anonymous

*It's sharing your gifts, not purchasing gifts;
It's not wrapping presents, it's being present
and wrapping your arms around the ones you love;
It's not getting Christmas cards out on time,
It's sending any card, anytime, at the right time;
It's not having the biggest and best Christmas light display,
It's displaying the Christ light that comes from your heart;
It's not Santa coming down the chimney,
It's Jesus coming down from heaven, and giving us the gift of eternal life.*

Good luck in 2013. God bless!



Wayne Buchholtz
Chair of the Board



Wishing all a blessed
Advent & Merry Christmas!!

Message from the Board Chair

A good friend of mine recently sent me a link to a video on YouTube that clearly illustrated for me the real meaning of Christmas. Even though I'm not a fan of country music, it was a tremendous reminder that the real purpose of Christmas is to remind us of the birth of Christ and to celebrate Him.

As we move closer to Christmas Day and celebrate together the joy of Christ, may He be at the very heart of all of our celebrations.

On behalf of all the Trustees, **Joyce Anderson, Manuel da Silva, Janek Jagiellowicz, Frank Johnson, Anthony Piscitelli, Wendy Price, Peter Reitmeier, Greg Reitzel** and our Student Trustees **Erin Jamieson** and **Carlos Valero**, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and successful New Year!

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=OExXItDyWEY

2012 Board Chair's Inaugural Address – December 3, 2012
<http://www.wcdsb.ca/about/board/pdf/CHAIR%202.pdf>

December, 2012



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Class Act!!
As part of Local Government Week Cambridge Mayor Doug Craig hosted the St. Francis CES Junior Achievement (JA) 'Dollars with Sense' financial literacy program students.

Trustee Profile

For the next few years each **Community Update** newsletter will feature (proceeding in alphabetical order) a profile of one member of the Board of Trustees. This month...meet **Anthony Piscitelli!**



Fun Fact
Anthony loves board games. His favourite is Risk. In fact, he likes it so much he has nine different versions!

I have enjoyed my first two years on the Board representing Kitchener and Wilmot. I ran to be a Catholic school board trustee because I believe public education in Ontario is best served through a thriving separate school system. Essential to our success as system is public engagement, which is why I have supported increased interactions between Trustees and the community.

In addition to a passion for Catholic education I also joined the Board to contribute as an organizational leader. I spent five years as a Director with Your Neighbourhood Credit Union where I learned how to be an effective Board member. During this time I completed an extensive training program and became one of the first Accredited Canadian Credit Union Directors in Ontario.

I am also a block parent. This is a great program that is in the process of being revitalized within Waterloo Region. I would encourage you to also consider becoming a block parent; it's an easy way for busy parents to give back to the community.

Contact information for Anthony and the other members of the Board of Trustees is available online at:

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

Getting Ready for High School?

Are you getting ready to attend a Catholic Secondary School? **St. Louis Adult Learning & Continuing Education** can enhance your learning and prepare you for a GREAT experience through the following excellent programs!



<http://stlouis.wcdsb.ca/pdf/Gr8transitiontoGr9.pdf>

Saturday Skills Builder – Saturdays until May, 2013

Certified teachers on Saturdays will teach what your day school teachers are already covering, but with small class sizes (10:1), you'll get extra instruction time and attention in a high school setting. Registration required – **FREE**

Summer Skills Builder – July 2-12, 2013

Take the morning (8:30-12:30) to work on the math, reading, writing & computer skills you still struggle with and then your afternoons are free. Our fun and engaging teachers will prepare you even more with learning strategies, problem solving skills and better study habits so you can succeed in high school. Registration required – **FREE**

Get a HeadStart -- August 22, 23 / 26, 27, 2013

Offered at all five WCDSB secondary schools this program is not just for students who are anxious about going to high school (or their parents that are anxious for them), this program is to help you get excited and be prepared for those first few weeks/months. With small group sessions (10:1), you'll make new friends, meet student and school leaders, connect with some dynamic teachers, get organized, get to know the culture of your new school, find your locker, get your timetable and even have time for spiritual reflection on your new journey ahead. Registration required – **FREE**

International Languages: Secondary Credits (September – June)

Have you participated in the International Languages program on Saturday mornings as an Elementary student or speak another language at home? Why not earn a credit while continuing to learn Portuguese, Polish, Japanese, Spanish or Chinese. You'll free up your timetable in later years with up to 4 credits available for other Secondary Credit courses. All International Languages follow Ministry of Education guidelines and attendance is mandatory for all 33 sessions. Exams are written. \$30 counselling fee.



Left, students & staff from St. Agnes CES took to the WE Day stage on Nov. 14!



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Message from Bishop Douglas Crosby, O.M.I.



The **Sacramental Guidelines for the Initiation of Children** in the Diocese of Hamilton are the result of months of wide consultation with all priests of the diocese, parish ministers, Directors of Education, principals and consultants in our Catholic school boards, and others. I thank everyone for their candid and careful reviews.

These Sacramental Guidelines were approved at the February 14th, 2012 meeting of the Presbyteral Council. The guidelines will provide direction to the pastors and catechetical personnel in the Diocese of Hamilton regarding the expectations for Sacramental preparation in this diocese. They will also serve to standardize the preparation practices in parishes throughout the diocese.

Preparation for Sacraments must be appropriate and never onerous to children or families. Resources to assist in providing appropriate preparation are available through the **Diocesan Office for Catechesis**. For first **Eucharist** and **Confirmation**, collaboration between pastors and catechetical personnel in our parishes and principals and staff at our Catholic schools will be essential for children to benefit fully from the foundational catechesis provided in our schools and the immediate preparation coordinated in the parish. With such collaboration, the transition time will be relatively smooth.

Pastors will assure that the spirit and content of these guidelines are embraced and that parish practice will reflect these guidelines as quickly as possible. By September 2012, discussions with Catholic school personnel should have begun and the guidelines fully implemented by June 2013. May our united efforts help children be welcomed to the Sacraments with the preparation necessary for them to feel the fullness of joy that comes with God's grace!



The complete **Sacramental Guidelines For The Initiation of Children** are available at:
www.hamiltondiocese.com/vicar-for-education.php

THINK ... & "Band Together" to End Bullying!!

In November **St. Mary's High School** and the **Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council** joined forces to launch **Project THINK** and the **Band Together to End Bullying** initiative.

Project THINK is an initiative of the Crime Prevention Council and an extension of St. Marys' successful **Kindness Matters** campaign. The **THINK** initiative encourages people of all ages and backgrounds to ask the following questions before they text, tweet, email or post to Facebook and other social media:

Is it **T**RUE / Is it **H**URTFUL / Is it **I**LLEGAL / Is it
NCESSARY / Is it **K**IND

To help reinforce this important message, on November 12 all students and staff at SMH received a **blue elastic band** to wrap around their cell phone as a reminder to **THINK** first.

In this way, the entire school community showed solidarity with all bullying victims by **"Banding Together"** to create awareness and end bullying. Blue is a recognized colour symbolizing anti-bullying.



Craig Kielburger, Shawn Desman & Marc Kielburger took time out on WE Day to support Project **THINK** & the "Band Together to End Bullying" initiative!

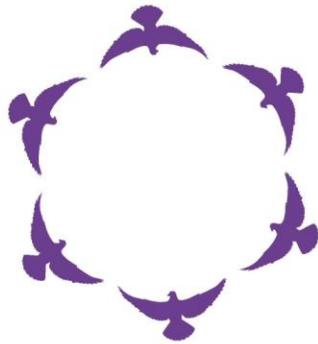


www.preventingcrime.ca
[@preventingcrime](https://twitter.com/preventingcrime)
www.smartoncrime.ca



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Faith
in our
Future

Don't forget to
follow WCDSB
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@WCDSBNewsWire
#WCDSBAwesome

Catholic Schools Educate, Nurture & Inspire Transformation

Join Ontario's Catholic school boards as we celebrate *Faith in Our Future*, a year-long campaign to build greater public awareness of the positive impact of the Catholic education system. Take action and help us share the **value** of a Catholic education.

How has your Catholic education prepared you to make a positive difference in the community and in the lives of those who need help the most? Join us on Facebook and Twitter, or tell your story and take action at:
www.FaithInOurFuture.ca

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