

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Quality • Inclusive • Faith-based • Education



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Roger D. Lawler
Director of Education

“As a result of WE Day, each school will participate in follow-up activities throughout the year where they will dig deeper into the social issues our planet faces by committing themselves to become involved in one local and one international project.”

Moving From “ME” to “WE” -- Together

As we continue on our journey of celebrating 175 years of Catholic education in Waterloo Region, I want to take a moment to reflect upon the many charitable activities our learners and staff engage in and highlight, in particular, an exciting new partnership.

Over the years our learners and staff have been very generous in raising funds for local and international charities and mission work. This past year we surpassed the \$3 million mark – tracing back to a baseline date of 1997. Annually our learners and staff engage in many local and international projects that do make a difference. Through these activities we truly do reflect our vision statement: **“Our Catholic Schools: heart of the community -- success for each, a place for all.”**

Our system was delighted when **Marc and Craig Kielburger** from the internationally respected organization **Free the Children** contacted us about an exciting partnership with **Research in Motion (RIM)** to bring **WE Day** and the **WE Schools in Action** program to Waterloo Region. On February 17, **WE Day** brought together more than 6,000 students from 250 local schools to be inspired by an outstanding group of speakers ranging from civil rights activist **Rev. Jesse Jackson** and former U.S. Vice President, Nobel Laureate and environmentalist, **Al Gore** to football great **Mike “Pinball” Clemons**, former child soldier **Michel Chikwanine**, RIM Chief Operating Officer **Don Morrison** and Assembly of First Nations Grand Chief **Shawn Atleo**. **Archbishop Desmond Tutu** and former Prime Minister **Paul Martin** joined in via video.



**WE Day Returns
to Waterloo
Region**



**Wednesday
November 16,
2011**

Our learners and staff were challenged with our world's most critical issues and how they may be part of the solution. As a result of **WE Day**, each school will participate in follow-up activities throughout the year where they will dig deeper into the social issues our planet faces by committing themselves to become involved in one local and one international project. For some schools the **WE Day** experience and follow-up is an opportunity to further enhance social justice projects already underway in the school. For others, learners will be introduced to an in-depth understanding of social issues and action planning.

As a Gospel people, the challenge to all of our students is to live out the **Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations** -- particularly the ones that call our learners to be *discerning believers* where the learner *develops attitudes and values founded on Catholic social teaching and acts to promote social responsibility, human solidarity and the common good*. The **WE Day** experience will bring our learners to a deeper understanding of social teaching as they engage in activities that place them and our Catholic schools at the heart of the community.

In closing, thank you to the Kielburgers, the **Free the Children** team and **RIM** for making **WE Day** possible. Best wishes to our learners and staff who have and do demonstrate daily that our schools are places where social justice is at our core.



March, 2011

Available in colour @ www.wcdsb.ca
See inside for more!



Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools

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Back Row (L to R): Fr. Robert Hétu; Anthony Piscitelli, Wayne Buchholtz; Greg Reitzel; Janek Jagiellowicz; Peter Reitmeier. Front Row (L to R): Anne Marie Hayman; Joyce Anderson; Manuel da Silva; Wendy Price; Claire Matlock.

Visit the Board of Trustees on the web:
www.wcdsb.ca/about/board/trustees.html

Meet Your New Board of Trustees

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board's new Board of Trustees was elected on October 25, 2010. The Board members are:

Kitchener / Wilmot

Joyce Anderson
 Wayne Buchholtz (Vice-chair)
 Anthony Piscitelli
 Greg Reitzel

Waterloo / Woolwich / Wellesley

Fr. Robert Hétu
 Janek Jagiellowicz

Cambridge / North Dumfries

Manuel da Silva (Chair)
 Wendy Price
 Peter Reitmeier

Student Trustees:

Anne Marie Hayman
 Claire Matlock

~~ DID YOU KNOW ~~
There are 29 Catholic school boards in Ontario -- serving 549,000 students.

WCDSB is the 8th largest Catholic school board in Ontario.

Thirty per cent of Waterloo Region's schools are Catholic schools and 27% of area students attend Catholic schools

The Role of Trustees in Ontario School Boards

The following is from Good Governance: A Guide for Trustees, School Boards, Directors of Education & Communities – a joint project of Ontario's school board associations.

As members of the board, trustees collectively carry out the following key roles: establishing vision and climate; planning, goal setting, and appraisal; good governance; policy making; recruiting and reviewing performance of the chief executive; student achievement and well-being; allocating resources; school facilities; student supports; communication.

An effective school board:

- ✓ knows why it exists, what difference it aims to make in the community and develops a plan for this purpose;
- ✓ maintains a focus on student achievement and well-being;
- ✓ functions as a team;
- ✓ serves as a role model for the education system and the community;
- ✓ makes informed decisions;
- ✓ strives for excellent communications with its partners and constituents;
- ✓ has a clear sense of the difference between its role and that of senior management;
- ✓ understands the distinction between policy development and implementation;
- ✓ is accountable for its performance;
- ✓ holds the director of education accountable for effectively implementing the policies of the board;
- ✓ monitors the effectiveness of policies and implementation plans;
- ✓ ensures that local, provincial and federal politicians understand local issues and needs, and encourages them to make education a high priority.

Catholic Education Week, 2011

In our schools the Spirit of God is alive! When you next walk through the halls, stop and listen. You will hear the marvelous work of the students and staff reflecting God's graciousness in their learning and teaching. This year's **Catholic Education Week (May 1-6)** gives us an opportunity to shine a light on our schools with this theme: *Catholic Education: Celebrating the Spirit*. There are five sub-themes, one for each day of Catholic Education Week:

- Monday** - The Spirit of Hospitality
- Tuesday** - The Spirit of Understanding
- Wednesday** - The Spirit of Wisdom
- Thursday** - The Spirit of Justice
- Friday** - The Spirit of Gratitude



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Another Successful Community Home Build Project

Students from St. Benedict CSS celebrate their successful participation in the recent construction of a Reid's Heritage Group home in Kitchener. For information on this innovative "experiential learning" opportunity visit the WCDSB website:

<http://coop.wcdsb.ca/comhome.html>

CONGRATULATIONS

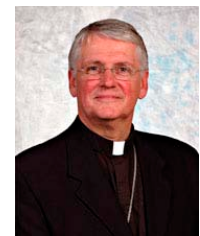
To **SMH Vice-principal Dan Hutter**



Dan – who has also been an instructor at the University of Waterloo since 1998 – was recently awarded a **U of W Arts in Academics Award** for his distinguished contributions to the Department of Classical and Medieval Studies. It was one of 18 awards presented as part of the U of W's 50th Anniversary celebrations.

COMING SOON!

The **Waterloo Region Catholic Schools Foundation** is sponsoring the 6th annual **Bishop's Banquet** in support of Catholic Education. This year's banquet will take place on Monday, May 2, 2011 at the Waterloo Region Catholic Education Centre (St. Mary's Parish Hall). The guest of honour and keynote speaker is our new Bishop of Hamilton, Douglas Crosby, OMI.



This event sells out fast...
So get your tickets NOW!
Call **519-578-3660 ext. 2373** or
[email info@wrclf.ca](mailto:info@wrclf.ca)

New Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten Sites

In early March the provincial government announced the WCDSB elementary schools joining the **Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program** in September, 2012:

- ✓ Canadian Martyrs Catholic Elementary School
- ✓ Christ the King Catholic Elementary School
- ✓ Holy Family Catholic Elementary School
- ✓ Holy Rosary Catholic Elementary School
- ✓ John Sweeney Catholic Elementary School
- ✓ Monsignor Haller Catholic Elementary School
- ✓ Pope John Paul II Catholic Elementary School
- ✓ St. Brigid Catholic Elementary School
- ✓ St. Luke Catholic Elementary School
- ✓ St. Paul Catholic Elementary School
- ✓ St. Teresa Catholic Elementary School (Elmira)

For more information about the program and a list of currently participating schools please visit the WCDSB website:

www.wcdsb.ca/programs/Early-Learning/index.html

10th Annual Waterloo Catholic District Schools

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

Links FORE LEARNING 2011

GOLF CLASSIC - IN SUPPORT OF THE WATERLOO REGION CATHOLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

Monday • August 29 • 2011

REGISTRATION & INFO: 578-3660 • x2373

REGISTER TODAY!!

Links FORE Learning has generated more than \$300,000 since 2002 in support of valuable programs in athletics, arts, science & technology, faith formation and equity for all learners.

~~ 4 Ball Scramble Format ~~
Whistle Bear and Doon Valley

Registration & Breakfast 7:30 a.m.
Shotgun Start – 8:00 a.m.
Lunch – 1:30 p.m.



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LIVING...BEING... Heart of the Community



On February 11 students and staff at **St. Benedict CSS** collected 406 pairs of jeans in a “Jeans for Teens” campaign to benefit homeless youth. Pictured from left to right are students **Lucas Pisciuneri** and **Paula Romero** with St. Benedict chaplain **Bob Rempel**.



On February 23 **English as a Second Language (ESL) & Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC)** students based at **St. Mary's High School** and the main campus of the **St. Louis Adult Learning and Continuing Education Centres** hosted a special “Heritage Day” event where many of the 114 nations, multiple cultures and 70 languages represented in Waterloo Region’s Catholic Schools were celebrated.

Follow Us!

www.wcdsb.ca/follow-us/index.html

twitter YouTube

Celebrating Our Exciting New Partnership With Free the Children & Research in Motion (RIM)

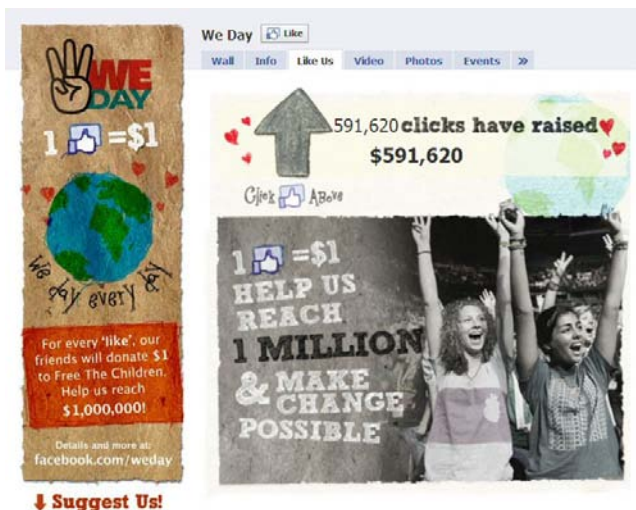
WE Day Waterloo Region is much more than a spectacular one day event for students from the Waterloo Catholic, Waterloo Region, Wellington Catholic and Upper Grand District School Boards. The day is actually a catalyst for the **WE Schools in Action Program** and RIM’s new **Build a Village Award Program**. The goal of **WE Day** is to inspire young people to create change at all levels of society and across geographic boundaries. Waterloo Region is proud to become **WE Day’s** fourth host.

Since 2007 the spin-off effects of previous **WE Day** events in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver have been transformative:

- ✓ Estimated two million hours of volunteer work and over \$10 million raised, benefiting over 500 different local charities;
- ✓ 150 schools built with 6,000 students attending school in rural communities of Kenya, Sierra Leone, Ecuador, China and Sri Lanka;
- ✓ 30 clean water projects implemented with more than 60,000 people gaining access to clean water and sanitation;
- ✓ 200 alternative income projects implemented with more than 1,000 people benefiting in rural communities of Kenya, Sierra Leone, Ecuador, China, India and Sri Lanka.



In addition to sponsoring **WE Day** in Waterloo Region RIM has also committed to building two villages in Kenya and India through Free the Children’s **Adopt a Village Program** which provides access to education, health care, clean water and alternative income projects. Additionally, RIM has created the RIM **Build a Village Awards Program**. This program gives 50 Waterloo Region students the opportunity to participate in a life-changing **Me to We** volunteer trip where they will visit Free the Children’s communities, become immersed in new cultures, build leadership skills and cultivate new relationships. Visit <http://weday.freethechildren.com/buildavillage/> for more information.



www.facebook.com/weday

Each person who joins the Facebook page and “likes” **WE Day** will generate \$1 for Free the Children from generous sponsors. The goal is to generate 1 million “likes” – connecting people from all over the world in making every day a celebration of social change.



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