

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

Quality • Inclusive • Faith-based • Education



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**Larry Clifford**  
Director of Education

*"Easter symbolizes spring and speaks to us of new life and growth through the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus. Through His resurrection our Lord has conquered all."*

## Happy Easter!!

As the temperatures rise and the snow pack begins to melt away it is a true sign that not only is winter coming to an end but also that we are in the Easter season – the most important time of the Church year.

Easter symbolizes spring and speaks to us of new life and growth through the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus.

Through His resurrection our Lord has conquered all!

May He make all your Easter wishes real and bring them to fulfillment in union with family, friends and God our Father...may all of our students, staff, trustees and members of our broader Catholic community be blessed in our vocations...may our individual talents be refreshingly refocused...and may our collective strength as "heart of the community" guide our school year to a successful conclusion.

On behalf of our senior staff team we thank you **all** for your ongoing support of Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools -- and for serving to protect and preserve this bedrock Ontario public institution we call Catholic education.

Good luck...God bless...and Happy Easter!



**Wayne Buchholz**  
Chair of the Board

## Message from the Board Chair

Dear parents, guardians and board staff: We are presently in the Easter season with spring around the corner. We look forward to the rebirth of the earth especially after the long late winter we experienced.

The Board of Trustees is also in the phase of rebirth as we have held a retreat in February and have begun the work of renewing our "ends statements" -- our goals for the school system.

As part of that process we will be seeking your input in the near future. This work is essential in ensuring that the board continues to focus on the needs of our students as they move forward into the future.

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 hope the coming spring brings to each of you a sense of the joy of Easter and the spring with all of its new life and work.



Wishing all a blessed  
& happy Easter!!

March, 2013



Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools

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**8th Annual**  
**Bishop's Banquet**

Proceeds to Support : Faith Formation Programs  
 Within The Waterloo Region Catholic Schools

**Wednesday • May 8th • 2013 • 5:30pm**

Catholic Education Centre • St. Mary's Parish Hall  
 35 Weber Street West • Kitchener • Ontario  
 (corner of Weber St. W and Ontario St.)

Information & Tickets • Please Contact Melody Grominsky Tel: 519.578.3660

A charitable receipt will be issued for a portion of the ticket price.

## 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 **Wendy Price!**



**Fun Fact**  
 Wendy's 35 rose bushes are a tourist attraction in her neighbourhood!

Wendy says: "This is my first term as a Catholic school trustee and I am very honoured and humbled to be representing the Catholic ratepayers of Waterloo Region and in particular Cambridge and North Dumfries.

I care deeply about Catholic education, the students, their families and staff of this system.

I am a retired educator of 28 years with the WCDSB. I was a teacher, vice-principal and principal in our system and I had the unique experience of serving for most of this time at Monsignor Doyle CSS.

My husband (a retired vice-principal of St. David's and St. Benedict's) and I spend time traveling, golfing, gardening and enjoy spending time with our three grandsons who are students in the system.

I look forward to hearing from our Catholic ratepayers and continuing to share the good news of Catholic education".

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

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

## Live to the Full!!

*By Father Fred Scinto, C. R.*

Today we live in a society where things change so quickly that many of us suffer from "future shock;" because the changes are so fast, so much future comes at us that we cannot absorb it all healthily. Therefore, we suffer from "future shock" that really jolts us! Also because this is happening and because we are always on the go, we are developing what professional health-care givers call "monkey mind" – our minds jump all over the place because they do not know how to be "mindful" and be at rest and again this is not good for us.

Easter gives us a magnificent opportunity to celebrate life in all its depths and to live life to the full. Stop, be mindful, and take a moment to reflect on this Easter thought:

"The Easter mystery is the great divide. Do we stand on the side of life or death? Does death nullify everything as is the case in Shakespeare's Macbeth, where life is that sad 'tale told by an idiot ... signifying nothing'? Or, is death a portal leading into the fullness of life, light, and love? Because of faith in the resurrection of Jesus, we can sing in faith with assurance [that it is the latter]." (Bishop Robert F. Morneau).

God raised Jesus from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died, and who descended among the dead to deliver them, alleluia, alleluia!

Fullness of life to everyone and happy Easter!

*Father Fred Scinto, C.R., of the Resurrection Centre for Lifelong Learning, is the Spiritual Animator of the Waterloo Catholic District School Board.*

## Welcome Pope Francis!!



"With joy and gratitude to Almighty God, the Catholic Bishops of Canada, together with their clergy and faithful, welcome their new Supreme Pontiff, Pope Francis. We rejoice in the gift to the Church of its new Universal Pastor, and look forward to the witness he will give to us and the world of the hope that is ours in Jesus Christ.

The Lord promised the Apostle Peter that he would pray for him, so that in turn he might strengthen others (Luke 22.32). Aware that the Petrine ministry is an extraordinarily heavy burden, we unite our prayers to those of our Redeemer, and ask our heavenly Father to pour out in abundance the gifts of the Holy Spirit upon our new chief shepherd.

The election of Pope Francis is truly a cause for celebration. The Petrine ministry is the rock upon which our life of faith in Christ is securely founded (Matthew 16.18). We pledge our love, fidelity and support to His Holiness as he now unites and guides us on our pilgrimage to the Father".

*+ Richard W. Smith -- Archbishop of Edmonton and President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops*



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## Around the Region...



The **K-W Art Gallery's Expressions 38 Exhibit** recently opened featuring artwork from schools within the Region. **Cheryl Soltysiak's** students from **St. Aloysius CES** provided the theme for the exhibition "Strange and Wonderful" based on their artwork of the **Purple People Eaters** as seen in this photo. Cheryl is joined by Arts Consultant **Jennifer Rodrigues**.

Below – staff at the **Catholic Education Centre** rallied against bullying during **Pink Shirt Day** on February 27.



**St. Benedict CSS** students **Raquel Pisciueneri** and **Anne Marie Taborek** pose with the pile of jeans collected on **Jeans for Teens** day. The school collected 311 pairs of jeans in 2 days! Those jeans will go to organizations working with homeless teenagers.

**Monsignor Doyle CSS** science teacher **Grace Mchaina** recently received this letter from a former student:

*Hi, I am not sure you remember me, but I was in your science class approximately 8 or 9 years ago.*

*I emailed you 4 years ago when I was accepted to Medical School to thank you for being the first person who supported my interest in science.*

*I have now been accepted to train in Neurosurgery at the University of Calgary and wanted to again thank you for playing a crucial role at an important time in my life.*

*You cannot underestimate the impact that simple gestures of support can have for young students looking to find their way.*

*Sincerely,*

*Stefan Lang  
M.D Candidate 2013, University of Ottawa  
PGY1 Neurosurgery, University of Calgary*

## Heritage Day at St. Louis



On February 15, 2013 a variety of cultures were on display at the **St. Louis Adult Learning Centre's Heritage Day** celebration as English as a second language students showed off the cultures of their homelands.

A special highlight was the announcement of the grand opening of the **Rohingya Language School** for children in JK-Gr 8, held each Saturday this past year at St. Louis' St. Francis campus. This Rohingya children's language school is quite likely the first and only one in the world. The grand opening ceremonies will be held on Saturday, May 11 at 10am at **St. David Catholic Secondary School**.

**The Working Centre, KW Community Foundation, United Way** and **Mosaic Counselling** are all partners in this pioneering effort.

Rohingyans are considered one of the most persecuted people in the world. Many are refugees coming to Canada and they have no written language only an oral tradition that is being documented / transcribed by local academics.

The above photo featuring **Samid Ullah, Saif Ullah, 5,** and **Samjida Begum** -- Rohingya from Myanmar -- appears courtesy of the **Kitchener Post** ([www.kitchenerpost.ca](http://www.kitchenerpost.ca))



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# Cooperative Education & “Experiential Learning”

**Cooperative Education** (<http://coop.wcdsb.ca/>) is the foundation for all experiential learning programs offered in Waterloo Region’s Catholic Schools. The program offers senior students the opportunity to extend classroom learning at supervised work placements within the community while earning credits. Co-op can be related to any course that the student has taken or is taking while enrolled in the Co-op program, regardless of whether the student is bound for college, university, apprenticeship or the workplace.



**The program consists of two components:**

- ✓ **Classroom Component:** includes pre-placement and reflective sessions with topics such as job search, health & safety, labour market trends, confidentiality, work ethics, unions, etc.
- ✓ **Placement Component:** the student works in a community placement to practice theory learned in the classroom in addition to learning new skills from an employer. A **Personalized Placement Learning Plan (PPLP)** outlines how the placement enhances the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom.

**Co-op allows students to:**

- ✓ Explore a career path; earn credits through a practical experience in the community; increase their understanding of employer expectations and workplace ethics; develop workplace essential skills and work habits; increase confidence, communication and leadership skills; and, improve interpersonal and networking skills.

## Concert at St. David raises funds for orphans

It can be difficult to come across a musician today who can truthfully claim they’re using their talent to help create positive change in the world. But that’s what a group of gifted musicians at **St. David Catholic Secondary School** were doing last Thursday. They came together in the school’s cafeteria to take part in an event called the **Acoustic Charity Concert** to raise money for the **Harambee Project**. The Harambee Project is a joint project between **St. Michael’s Parish** and St. David Catholic Secondary School, and supports the **School Sisters of Notre Dame**, who have adopted a village in Kenya where many children have been orphaned due to HIV/AIDS. The Harambee Project helps to educate these children and raise money for their families in order to break the cycle of poverty and provide a better life for them. The **We Schools in Action** team at St. David Catholic Secondary School has contributed largely to organizing the event and is affiliated with **Free the Children**.



“Each year the team sets both local and global directives/goals,” said Karen Kueneman, a guidance counselor at the school and member of the team. “We Schools also helps to educate all students about the Harambee Project.”

Teacher Pauline Gay said the charity concert idea was created a few years ago to respond to another catastrophic event. “The Acoustic Charity Concert began with the 2005 tsunami and the Celtic community feeling the need to help those in need,” she said. “Since then, it has become a Celtic tradition; one of contributing to the global community to those in need.”

“I’m always impressed with the enthusiastic response we get from our student performers here at St. David, whenever we put together anything that has to do with charity,” said Kevin Coates, a music teacher and director of the event. “A concert of this magnitude takes a great deal of planning and rehearsing. Our student musicians always make me very proud.”

Chloe Blair, one of the student stage managers for the show, said a great deal of work was done in regards to song choice, picking performers and setting up the stage. But it’s a great way to get involved. “It’s a very casual environment for new Grade 9’s or any other students at St. David to come and perform for the first time,” said Blair.

The Acoustic Charity Concert is an annual event at St. David Catholic Secondary School and has raised just over \$8,000. But more than money, the event hopes to inspire students to get involved and create some change in the world.

“This inspirational event helps to inspire youth to be the generation of change,” said Melissa Malcolm, one of the students in charge of ticket sales and a member of the We Schools in Action team. “It was astonishing to see how many youth wanted to buy a ticket for change.”

*Tanja Saric is a coop student at St. David CSS currently on a placement at the Waterloo Chronicle ([www.waterloochronicle.ca](http://www.waterloochronicle.ca)). The above story, written by Tanja, was published on Wednesday, March 13, 2013 and is reprinted here with thanks to Chronicle editor Bob Vrbnac.*



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