

Director's Update

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Roger D. Lawler
Director of Education

Merry Christmas!!

Advent – and the Christmas season -- is such a beautiful time of the year.

When our environment co-operates, we have many days of falling snow, creating a new blanket of covering to welcome the season.

We have a blanket for the trees that made the transition from autumn to the quietness of a Canadian winter.

We have a change in seasons --all in anticipation. The anticipation is the celebration of the birth of Christ...our Saviour...our beacon of hope. It is our "Happy New Year" as a Church community.

Advent is a season of hope in so many ways.

As we look toward 2010 with promises to live out please take some time to examine particularly the artwork of this season, to thank our staff, and to join our students in anticipation of the arrival of our Saviour.

May the blessings of this season of hope shine upon you now and throughout the coming year.



Marion Thomson Howell
Board Chair

A Message From The Board Chair

As Canadians, there is something about the first snowfall that marks for us the real beginning of the winter season.

As Catholics, the lighting of the first Advent candle marks the beginning of our liturgical season. For many, both bring anticipation of great things to come.

For our school communities, by this time of year classes have been in session long enough that friendships have been established, projects are well underway, teams are up and running and school is an exciting place to be.

At the same time, as the days shorten and darkness sets in earlier, we also know that some members of our community are suffering and are experiencing hardships.

As a Board of Trustees we pray that as you enter this Advent season you may find light and joy in your own lives and that you are able to look to others who need support and brighten theirs.

On behalf of myself and all of the Trustees, **Wayne Buchholtz, Denise Blum, Manuel da Silva, Louise Ervin, Joe Gowing, Fr. Robert Héту, Judy Nairn, Greg Reitzel** and our Student Trustees **Thomas Slabon** and **Nicole Bigelow**, our hopes and dreams are with you for a joyous and peaceful Christmas.

December
2009

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





Rejoice – And Be Filled With Joy!!

By Father Fred Scinto, C. R.

Think of how very happy you are when you get news that someone you really love is coming to see and visit you. In this case, we all rejoice and are filled with joy - as we should be.

Advent and Christmas are all about the Good News that Christ the Son of God comes to see and visit us and stay with us as Emmanuel (God-with-us).

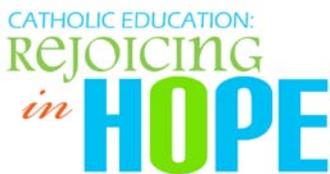
So rejoice and be filled with joy. And slow down during this hectic time of year so you can savour the presence of Emmanuel! God always bless you and grant you a Spirit-filled and holy Christmas.

Amen!

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

...DID YOU KNOW...

Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools and administrative offices have raised more than \$3.5 million for charity over the last decade?



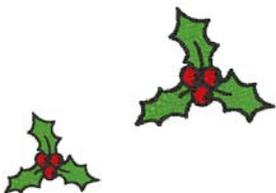
An Advent Reflection...An Advent Prayer

We Reflect...

Advent is a time of waiting and patience, in our daily and faithful lives. Our journey could be compared to that of a refugee: traveling many weeks, then arriving at our destination, only to anxiously await the promise of what comes next. For refugees, the arrival is about survival into new life; for Christians, the arrival centers on Christ's birth and the promise of a God who leads us to new life. As we come closer to December 25th, we remember the rich traditions that accompany our journeys and arrivals and that teach us about our expectations and hopes. Instead of hoping for presents, let us instead hope for presence – giving birth to Christ's presence in our hearts and in our world. Let us pray for a world that will one day be transformed into a full reflection of the Kingdom of God. *(Courtesy Catholic Relief Services)*

We Pray...

God of starlight promise, shine in our hearts. Bring warmth to rid us of coldness, bring truth to dispel deception, bring wisdom to reign over rashness. This Advent, make our hopeful hearts fit places to celebrate the birth of sacred love, again and again. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, newborn child of hope. **Amen.**



~~ Justice, Peace & Joy ~~

*In October the staff of the Waterloo Catholic District School Board were honoured to participate in a presentation at the Centre in the Square by Alexandria-Cornwall **Bishop Paul-André Durocher.***

*Bishop Durocher's talk – centering on Paul's letter to the Romans – called us to be a **"community of justice, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit"**.*

May Christmas in your families and communities be one of justice, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, too!



Bishop Durocher greets children in the day care centre at the St. Louis Adult Learning & Continuing Education Centre in Kitchener.

