

COMMUNITY

Director's Update

QUALITY • INCLUSIVE • FAITH-BASED • EDUCATION

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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.

Advent is a season of hope in so many ways.

As we look toward the new year 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

Happy New Year! As the fall term comes to a close and Advent begins, we have just celebrated our liturgical new year and have entered a time of anticipation as Christmas approaches. December 1st also marks the beginning of a new year on the Trustee calendar which begins with the election of Chair and Vice Chair for the coming year.

With Manuel da Silva, who was elected Vice Chair, I am looking forward to working with staff and fellow Trustees and am particularly excited about our new *Vision of Inclusion* and *Future of Catholic Education* committees. These committees will help us fully articulate exactly what it means to be a 'quality, inclusive, faith-based' educational institution in a post-modern world and will help us as we make decisions that affect our system.

People frequently ask me how the Board of Trustees make decisions and how we do our jobs. We govern by setting policies that define how we want the system to operate and then we monitor how well the system performs against those targets.

As elected representatives, we bring our own wisdom and beliefs to our work, but it is important that our decisions are informed by the input of the people we represent. In the spring we passed three new policies that define our commitment to our students, staff and to the public. They are defined in policies IV002, IV003, and IV004 and may be found at www.wcdsb.ca/ap_memos.html.

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 **Alex Chmura**, Merry Christmas.

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2008

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



Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools

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Advent – A Season of Hope

By Father Fred Scinto, C. R.

We are in Advent Season! A powerful and beautiful season of hope!

Hope is very much in the air after the election of the new American President, Barack Obama who wrote the New York Times bestseller, *The Audacity of Hope*. He realized at one point in his life “an inability to appreciate...those blessings that were right there in front of me.” Then came hope, a dogged optimism that has sustained Americans in the past; Obama admired in those he met “a relentless optimism in the face of hardship.”

Hope is based on core values. Obama speaks also of a cynicism that is about -- a cynicism that destroys hope. We must resist this and have the audacity of hope, i.e., “having the audacity to believe despite all the evidence to the contrary.”

Translating this into action means being useful to others. This Advent have the audacity of hope in regards to God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit. God grant you a really hope-full Advent! Amen!

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



**HELPING NEW CANADIANS
DISCOVER CATHOLIC
EDUCATION**

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New Beginnings

Just as Advent offers the promise of new beginnings for us all, the parents and staff at **Monsignor Haller CES** are offering newcomers to Canada a head start in understanding the education system.

Under the leadership of parents **Dalia** and **Edgar Najera**, school staff and Settlement Worker **Lisset Jacinto** last Fall organized an evening of learning for newcomer parents.

Presentations addressed the following topics:

Ontario School System (presented by **Paul Smith**, Principal), Helping Your Child Succeed in School, (presented by **Eva Kruzlics**, ESL Teacher),

Understanding the Report Card (presented by **Lorraine Peters**, ESL Teacher), and YMCA Community Settlement Services (presented by **Lisset Jacinto**).

YMCA Community Services also offered child care to the eleven children and, with the help of an interpreter, parents were able to ask questions.

The school plans future evenings to help newcomer parents and their children succeed.

What a wonderful Christmas present!



Helping Those In Need At Christmastime

Students at **Holy Family CES** and **Monsignor Gleason CES** have together collected more than 1,000,000 grains of rice for the World Food Bank (they are aiming for 2 million grains!).

The students track their progress by placing symbolic paper “rice grains” in “rice bowls” strategically placed throughout the schools. Each paper grain represents 500, 1,000, 10,000 or 25,000 individual grains of rice.

..... **To Get Involved**
www.FreeRice.com



Special “Supply Teacher”

K-W Symphony conductor **Edwin Outwater** recently wowed a Grade 10 music class at Resurrection CSS.



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