

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Quality • Inclusive • Faith-based • Education



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Roger D. Lawler,
Director of Education

*"2010-11 promises to be a year of blessings and change. Blessings because we have officially opened our newest school, **Pope John Paul II**; blessings because we are entering our first full year of implementing our new vision, **"Our Catholic schools ~ Heart of the community; success for each, a place for all..."**"*



David Eby – Exec. Director of the B.C. Civil Liberties Association -- is this year's recipient of the **WCDSB Distinguished Graduate Award.**

A Year of Many Blessings In Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools

Welcome to the 2010-11 school year – a year that promises to be a year of blessings and change. Blessings because we have officially opened our newest school, **Pope John Paul II**; blessings because we are entering our first full year of implementing our new vision, **"Our Catholic schools ~ Heart of the community; success for each, a place for all"**; blessings because we have consolidated our resources to provide more timely supports to students in need through our new **St. Don Bosco Catholic Secondary School**; blessings because we continually welcome new and returning students, staff and parents/guardians to our Waterloo Catholic community – a school community that in 2010-11 celebrates the **175th Anniversary** of continuous Catholic education in Waterloo Region.

This year also marks a period of change:

- ✓ We welcome our new Bishop, **Douglas Crosby, O.M.I.**, from the diocese of Corner Brook and Labrador, Newfoundland. Bishop Crosby has been in our region often administering the Sacrament of Confirmation in many of our parishes. He succeeds **Bishop Anthony Tonnos** on November 8, 2010. Bishop Tonnos has served us well during the past 26 years and we wish him well in his retirement;
- ✓ We have a new supervisory officer, **Maria Ivankovic**. She takes over from Manny Figueiredo and is responsible for the St. Benedict and St. Mary's families of elementary schools;
- ✓ We are implementing the first year of the **Early Learning Program** for 4 and 5 year olds. This is a new and exciting program for our earliest learners and will be implemented throughout the system and across Ontario over the next few years;
- ✓ We will begin this year implementing a new interactive computer technology in each of our 1,000 classrooms -- the largest investment in technology in our system in a number of years;
- ✓ Many of our schools will begin participating in the **Ontario EcoSchools Program** as we continue seeking ways to encourage sustainable development and sustainable living in our Region;
- ✓ Following the October 25th school board elections we will have five new trustees among our complement of nine trustees. This change in board leadership occurs at a time when the government has focused the trustee role on student achievement.

As with all change, there will be questions. In processing your inquiry I ask you to follow the communication guidelines that are outlined in this newsletter. As we move forward we do thank God for the many blessings our system has and pray for God's guidance as we adjust to the changes ahead.



October, 2010

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

"Our Catholic Schools: heart of the community -- success for each, a place for all."

Message from the Chair of the Board

On behalf of the Board of Trustees I would like to welcome you back to another school year. While the calendar may say otherwise, September definitely marks the beginning of the year for students, staff and our Board of Trustees.

This year is particularly busy as we anticipate the results of the municipal election which will change a number of faces around the Board table.

Five of our nine trustees are not returning and so much of our energy this fall is being devoted to completing work we began on your behalf.

We would like your help to complete one of those projects.

The Board of Trustees wants to hear your thoughts on what you expect from our Catholic schools. We are inviting Catholic ratepayers to participate in a short electronic survey -- found on our website www.wcdsb.ca. The survey is open until Oct. 15th.

Catholic education is a precious gift and we want to make sure it is the best it can be.

God bless!

-- **Marion Thomson Howell**
Chair of the Board

Important voting information for Catholic ratepayers in Cambridge / North Dumfries*

Check if you are registered to vote for Catholic trustees:

Call the Municipal Clerk's Office at **519.740.4680** or email clerks@cambridge.ca to ask how to check the list of electors.

If your name is not on the list of electors or if the information is incorrect you should:

Go to the Clerk's Office at Cambridge City Hall and fill out an application to be added to the list or to correct information. Proof of identification may be required. Call ahead to **519.740.4680** or email clerks@cambridge.ca to determine what documentation you may need.

NOTE: The Catholic school trustee candidates in the *Kitchener / Wilmot* and *Waterloo / Woolwich / Wellesley* electoral districts have been acclaimed and elections for Catholic school trustee in those areas are not necessary.

...DID YOU KNOW...

*The first Catholic schools in Waterloo Region opened in 1836 in St. Agatha and Maryhill -- that's **20 YEARS** before the Catholic Diocese of Hamilton (which includes Waterloo Region) was formed.*

...AND THAT...

3.6 million Ontarians (33%) -- are Roman Catholic

...AND...

There are 29 Catholic School Boards, approximately 1,500 Catholic schools and 600,000 Catholic students in Ontario!!

If You Have Questions/Concerns At School

We have very successful communication guidelines in place to facilitate communications between you and your school system.

Please follow these guidelines when you have a concern regarding your school:

Step One: Speak directly to the staff member involved. (If the issue is not resolved, proceed to step two).

Step Two: Speak to the Principal. If you have not yet spoken to the staff member involved, the Principal will ask you to do so first.

If your concern involves **transportation**, please call the Transportation Consortium at 519-650-4934.

If your concern involves **Special Education**, you should first speak directly to your school Principal.

If the principal cannot assist, please contact the school Superintendent.

The Role of Trustees: You may contact any Trustee at any time. The Trustee will direct you to follow the process outlined here.

The Role of the School Council:

The role of the School Council is to provide a way for parents to provide advice to the Principal on the learning plan for the school. The School Council is not a forum to discuss parent-teacher-student issues. If these matters are brought to any School Council member or any School Council meeting, the concern is to be referred immediately to the Principal who will ensure the proper process is followed.

Our formal policy is online at: www.wcdsb.ca/AP_Memos/PDF/APC001.PDF



Visit our WRPS partners online at www.wrps.on.ca or get updates via Twitter at <http://twitter.com/wrpstoday>.

The "Horse with no Name" Contest

On June 18, 2010 **Chief Matt Torigian** formally announced the names of Waterloo Region's two new police horses: **Watson & King** (named for Homer Watson and William Lyon Mackenzie King...two of Waterloo Region's most recognized citizens). Congratulations to the students from **St. Nicholas, St. Anne (K), St. Agatha, St. Dominic Savio** and **Notre Dame CES** who were among the eight local schools suggesting one/both of the winning names.



Cst. Rebecca Lava (left, aboard Watson) and **Cst. Tim Pedersen** (right, aboard King) look on as Chief Torigian announces the winners.

Welcome to Waterloo Region, Watson & King!

"Our Catholic Schools: heart of the community -- success for each, a place for all."

WCDSB Joins Ontario EcoSchools Program

Ontario EcoSchools is an environmental education program for grades 1-12 that helps students develop ecological literacy while engaging in practices to become environmentally responsible citizens.

This is a perfect compliment to the philosophy in Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools that sustainable development means *"meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."*

In Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools we believe environmental education is a way for students to be actively involved as agents of change in society -- where they can be part of the solution rather than part of the problem.

The four components of the *EcoSchools* program, **Ecological Literacy**, **Waste Minimization**, **Energy Conservation**, and **School Grounds Greening** will help our students create that kind of transformational change.



It will also significantly further our goal of achieving long-term sustainability in the following key focus areas: **Energy & Water**, **Purchasing & Waste**, **Buildings & Grounds**, **Food & Drink**, **Inclusion & Participation** and **Local Well-being**.

Our goal is to have all WCDSB schools certified to at least the **BRONZE EcoSchools** level by 2015 – and we're very pleased that our very first certified *EcoSchool* (St. Nicholas CES) has already achieved a **SILVER** designation!



EcoZone 

Sustainable development activities in Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools



Discover **EcoSchools** in the **WCDSB EcoZone**:
<http://ecozone.wcdsb>



On August 30, 2010 **Premier Dalton McGuinty** (centre of photo) paid a special visit to our new **Pope John Paul II Catholic Elementary School** in Kitchener. Accompanying the premier was Kitchener-Conestoga **MPP Leeanna Pendergast** (front row, far left) and Kitchener Centre **MPP John Milloy** (dark jacket at right). Both John and Leeanna are graduates of Waterloo Region's Catholic schools and John (who also serves as **Minister of Training, Colleges & Universities**) is a past recipient of the WCDSB **Distinguished Graduate Award**.



Happy Thanksgiving – from the students, staff and trustees of Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools!!

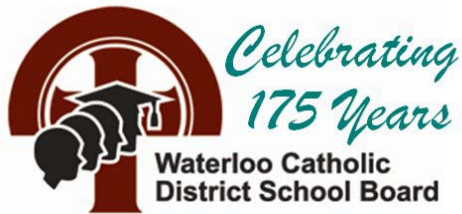
...DID YOU KNOW...
 Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools are among the most giving in Ontario – raising more than \$4 million for various charities since 1998.
...AND THAT...
 Last year alone we raised \$491,667 – the equivalent of more than \$21 per student!!

Discover the new Full Day Learning Kindergarten Program



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

"Our Catholic Schools: heart of the community -- success for each, a place for all."



Share Your Best School Memories

As part of our **175th Anniversary** year our schools will be participating in a **“YEAR IN THE LIFE”** project through which they will document a year in the life of their individual school communities.

Part of the project will involve teaching the students a bit about the history of their own school and about Catholic education in Waterloo Region in general. Here's how you can help:

If you have any particular photos, stories or reminiscences about your time as a student in one of Waterloo Region's Catholic schools, please feel free to email them to info@wcdsb.ca with the phrase **“175th Anniversary Historical Information”** in the subject line. Grandparents of current students who may have attended our schools are particularly encouraged to share their memories.

To read a brief history of Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools – including some reminiscences of our first Director of Education, the **Hon. John Sweeney** – please visit our website at:

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

Follow Our 175th On Twitter & YouTube

As we mark this year the 175th Anniversary of Catholic education in Waterloo Region, the Waterloo Catholic District School Board has launched a **Twitter** feed, **YouTube** channel and searchable online **Staff Directory** to help broaden the public's access to information about the added value our Catholic schools bring to the community.



Members of the public can sign up to receive up-to-date information via **Twitter** at: <http://twitter.com/WCDSBNewsWire>. Videos on **YouTube** are available at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/WCDSBVidLink>.

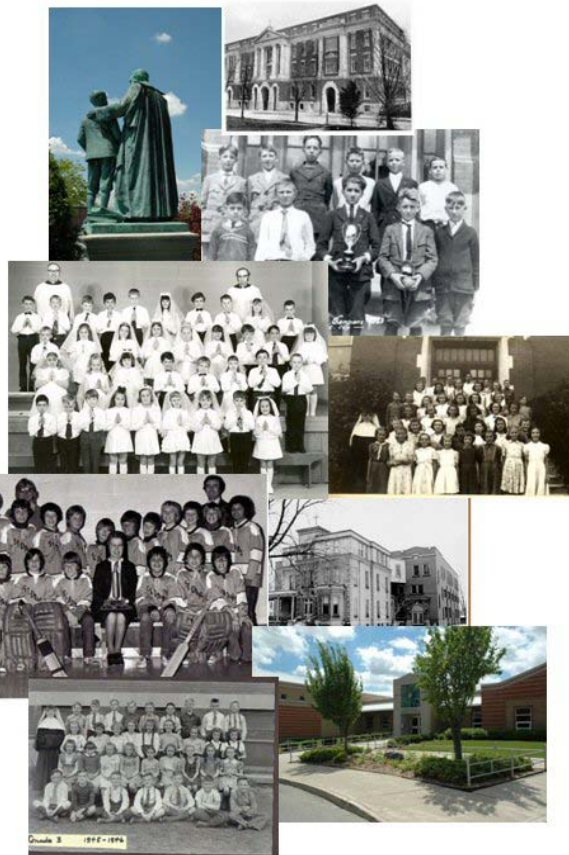
The online **Staff Directory** is available at: <http://www.wcdsb.ca/Directory/index.aspx> or by clicking the “Contact Us” link at the top of the Board's web page (www.wcdsb.ca).

The Board's **NewsWire** subscription service remains available at: <http://newswire.wcdsb.ca/wcdsb-subscribe.aspx> and when the weather is bad our **Delays / Cancellations** page (www.wcdsb.ca/delays-cancellations/index.aspx) has the most up-to-date information.

As always, our website is your source for the most up-to-date information about our schools. We serve up 2.6 million pages of information each year!!



Visit www.wcdsb.ca today!!



Students in the **St. David CSS** auto technology program (above) say a special thank you to **Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Canada (TMMC)** for the donation of a RAV 4 and Corolla. TMMC has been a generous supporter of WCDSB's technology and environmental programs for many years and last spring received the Board's prestigious **Community Partner Award**.

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