

Director's Update

QUALITY • INCLUSIVE • FAITH-BASED • EDUCATION

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Roger D. Lawler
Director of Education

“As a school system we have three goals for 2008-09. One goal concerns *improving student learning* while another involves *building the capacity among all to lead and learn*. Our third priority, *nurturing our Catholic Community*, focuses us more deeply on who we are as a faith community.”



Tuesday, November 11 is **Remembrance Day**. Please take a moment to thank a veteran – and to pray for Peace.

October
2008

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

Leadership & Service

Catholic Schools -- Making Our Community Better

By the time you receive this newsletter, Thanksgiving will have passed and we will be preparing for Advent. Our focus will be on celebrating the birth of Christ – the central focus of our school system.

October brought many examples of thanksgiving...of being grateful. We witnessed some **1,600** students graduate from our five secondary schools and another **790** graduate from our St. Louis Adult and Continuing Education program. We wish each student the best as they pursue their dreams. We know each of them has been well equipped through the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations to make a real difference in this world.

As a school system we have three goals for 2008-09. One concerns *improving student learning* while another involves *building the capacity among all to lead and learn*. The third, *nurturing our Catholic Community*, focuses us deeply on who we are as a faith community.

This newsletter has some interesting information on how we nurture our Catholic community. For example, there is an article on our **Pastoral Care Teams**. These teams are composed of voluntary team members from every facet of a school or central office staff. The teams respond to the spiritual needs of staff and students in good times and respond to crises and loss when times are tough. Pastoral Care Teams are the heart and soul of our Catholic schools.

A second example of faith in action is our annual report on **Charitable Giving and Missions**. Over the past decade our students and staff have raised in excess of **\$3 million** for missions, charities and special appeals such as Hurricane Katrina and Tsunami relief. These funds don't include the thousands of pounds of food and clothing donated each year by students and staff.

The amount raised or items collected for charitable giving and missions is a natural outgrowth of our belief that, through our Baptism, we have a responsibility to be brother and sister to one another. Within Catholic schools we challenge our students and staff to live out the **Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations**. We ask all to be *“discerning believers formed in the Catholic faith”* where faith is integrated with life. We also ask all to demonstrate their commitment as *“a collaborative contributor who contributes to the common good.”*

Nowhere is this more apparent than in our Grade 7, Grade 8 and high school classrooms where many students who are about to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation -- or who are engaged in retreats or simply meeting their diploma requirements -- will be participating in community service hours throughout the school year. This community service is an extension again of who we are...and serves as a shining example for our community.

As we approach Remembrance Day, let us recall the service and sacrifices of so many...let us reflect on what true service to our community really means...and let us honour those whose selfless efforts lift us up and sustain us.





WCDSB thanks CTV News for their support and encouragement of our media students.

You can find more info about CTV News at:

www.swo.ctv.ca

More information about Waterloo Region's Catholic Secondary Schools is available at:

www.wcdsb.ca/info/info.html

Media Moguls In The Making

One of the special things about attending a Catholic High School in Waterloo Region is the number of unique opportunities each student has to expand their horizons.

In early October, a small group of Grade 11 and 12 students in the television production course at **Resurrection CSS** got to see life in a TV studio "up close and personal" when they visited the news set of **CTV Southwestern Ontario**.

The students had a look behind the scenes at the production of the noon news and watched from the control room as the director, producer, audio technicians, graphics technicians and camera technicians put all the nuts and bolts together for co-anchors Kyle Christie and Leslie Gordon.

Right Photo: Resurrection CSS teachers **Richard Sloos** and **Tara Clinton**, along with students **Chantal Marchand, Da Neng Vang, Tim McCulloch, Alyssa Dyck, Amy Sutherland, Matt Kienapple, Julia Hummel, Marc Beck, Brock Sumner, Renée Sambrook, Colin Power** and **Eric Schmidt**, recently joined **Kyle Christie** and **Leslie Gordon** on the set of CTV News.



Don't Be Shy ... Just Say "Hi"

Students in Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools come from 114 different countries and speak more than 70 different languages.

Here are just a few ways they "SAY HI"...

Ni hao * Buna ziu
Merhaba * Zdravstvuite
Hola * Shalom
Nazdar * Namasté
Vitayu * Buon giorno
Bonjour * Selamat pagi
Sekoh * Jambo
Zdravo * Osiyou
Al salaam a'alaykum
Hallo * Szia
Hej * Salaam
Vanakkam * Geia Sou
Guten Tag * Ciao

Every year Waterloo Region's Community Safety & Crime Prevention Council (CS&CPC) sponsors the annual "Say Hi Day" in the Region's schools. This year's Say Hi Day was bigger and better than ever – with more than 70 schools participating.

We're particularly proud that exactly HALF of Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools officially registered this year!

?...Why Say Hi...?

Because, by reaching out to our friends, neighbours and others in our community we can help to build a safer community. Saying "Hi" is a small, but important first step. Building a strong, caring community takes public investment, collective will, and above all, a commitment to our community. And our schools are leading the way!



Our Lady of Lourdes CES received this year's CS&CPC "Connected School" Award. Photo (L to R): CS&CPC Director **Christiane Sadeler**; Regional Chair **Ken Seiling**; teacher **Anna-Marie Febbraro**; principal **Lynn Woodbeck**; CS&CPC Vice-Chair **John Shewchuk**; teacher **Bridget Kuenzler** and CS&CPC member **Christine Bird**.

The excellence of Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools extends well beyond academics to the arts and athletics as well. Check us out on the web:

WWW.WCDSB.CA



Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools

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A Gift Of Literacy & Learning

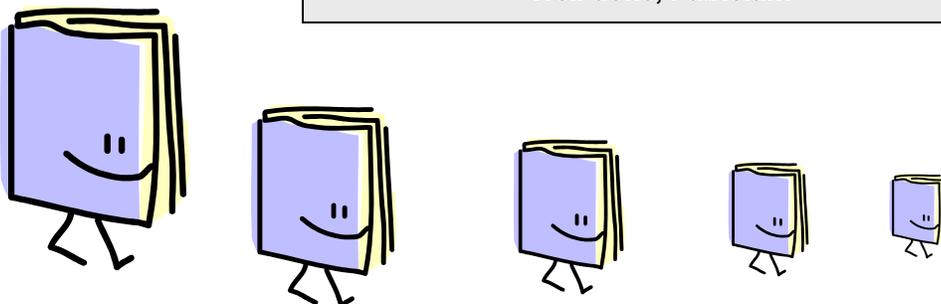
Recently, the intermediate division students at **St. Margaret Catholic Elementary School** in Cambridge spent a great deal of time and energy writing and creating early literacy materials for adolescent students in our system who need age-appropriate reading materials.

Under the leadership of Principal **Deb Zettel-Schmitt** and her intermediate team of teachers **Gary Litschgy, Richard Resendes** and **Tara Avery**, about a hundred books were created featuring designs, repetitive vocabulary and sight words necessary for “new” readers -- but with adolescent themes such as shopping at the mall, listening to an ipod or playing sports.

A special THANK YOU to the students and staff at St. Margaret for your imagination, hard work and selfless commitment to serving the needs of others.

This simple action of “servant leadership” is a terrific example of how we engage all members of our community to serve others as Christ calls us to do.

It's what Catholic schools are all about!



CONGRATULATIONS!!

Speaking of books....we'd like to congratulate **Patricia Marin, Library Technician at Monsignor Haller Catholic Elementary School** in Kitchener.

Patricia – a graduate of Mohawk College -- was recently honoured by the Ontario Association of Library Technicians for having achieved the highest standing across the province in Ontario's Library and Information Technician Program.

Well done, Patricia!!!

Pastoral Care Teams – Bringing Spirituality To Life

By **Jonathan Wright**

As Catholic Educators, we fundamentally believe that the Pastoral Care of our communities is critical to the social, emotional, and cognitive development of our learners. Our faith teaches us that each individual possesses an inherent and essential dignity and that such dignity reaches its highest potential when it contributes to the common good. The charge of Pastoral Care then, is to *foster the God-given capacity for goodness which each of us shares*. This means that every decision and action that we take must consider two questions; does this promote and proclaim the dignity of the person and does it allow the individual to reach the fullness of their potential by contributing to the community? In short, we are called to view all aspects of our professional and personal lives through the lens of relationships.

Much of the business of modern education can become impersonal and tied to mandate and initiative. It is the ever-present challenge of Catholic Education to keep the person at the forefront of anything we do. In order to live up to this calling, each site in the Waterloo Catholic District School Board has a **Pastoral Care Team** that is charged with providing leadership in this area. These teams coordinate liturgical celebrations, social justice activities, and opportunities for wellness and spiritual growth. They are resources in times of compassionate and critical care and constantly advocate for the marginalised within our communities. These groups gather throughout the school year in order to share best practice, learn, and fill their own ‘spiritual wells.’

This year, our system introduced a **Pastoral Care Policy** which articulates the importance and challenge of this work and a newly formed **Pastoral Care Council** which provides system direction and support while representing the full range of partners within our communities.

Ultimately, it is our system's belief that our professional practice cannot be divorced from our foundational faith. The life of Catholic Education exists within the space between people; the relationships through which we learn, grow, and – with the grace of the Holy Spirit – transform the world together as faithful disciples of the Risen Christ.

We ask that your prayers join ours in asking the Loving God to be with us in this vocation.

Jonathan Wright is WCDSB's Religion & Family Life Consultant.



This magnificent painted glass image of the Risen Christ is located in the Catholic Education Centre's chapel. Visitors to the CEC are always encouraged to visit the chapel.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Children's Safety Village

The Children's Safety Village celebrates

“Christmas in the Village”
– Dec. 3 & 4 from 6 to 9 p.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

WCDSB is a founding partner and proud supporter of the CSV's important work.



Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools

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Charitable Donations Rising

| Year | Funds Raised | Increase over Last Year | Student Enrolment | Increase/Decrease |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 2007 | \$427,011 | 12.41% | 22,198 | (1.02%) |
| 2006 | \$379,839 | (5.25%) | 22,428 | (0.74%) |
| 2005 | \$400,869 | 2.33% | 22,595 | 0.28% |
| 2004 | \$391,725 | 29.67% | 22,531 | 0.46% |
| 2003 | \$302,096 | 11.43% | 22,426 | (2.48%) |
| 2002 | \$271,190 | (6.54%) | 22,998 | 0.36% |
| 2001 | \$290,172 | 8.42% | 22,915 | 1.03% |
| 2000 | \$267,633 | 1.80% | 22,681 | (5.15%) |
| 1999 | \$262,892 | 52.9% | 23,919 | 1.82% |
| 1998 | \$171,927 | ----- | 23,491 | ----- |
| Totals | \$3,165,354 | | | |
| Average | \$316,535 | | | |



Despite feeling the effects of the provincial decline in enrolment, our schools and central office facilities continue to come through big-time when it comes to charitable contributions – another example of the added value Waterloo Region’s Catholic Schools bring to Waterloo Region. Our 2007 total of **\$427,011** equates to more than \$19 per student!

Catholic Education – Good News For All

By Noel P. Martin

In a world that is desperate for any form of good news, we in our school communities proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. And this Gospel...this Good News...is for all peoples. It is the Good News that God has come among us, lives among us, and loves us faithfully.

In his address to educators in Washington during the papal visit to the United States, Pope Benedict XVI used these words from St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans (10:15):

“How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news.”

In these words Paul was echoing the words of the prophet Isaiah: *“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news”.* (Isaiah 52:7)

We who are engaged in the work of Catholic Education are among those who bring good news. And it is with our feet -- our going out to meet people where they are -- that we who are called become the ‘beautiful’ messengers of the Good News.

Catholic Education Week

2009 (May 3-8, 2009) will fall within the year that the Vatican has announced as the **Year of St. Paul**, June 2008 - June 2009. This is to celebrate the two thousandth anniversary of the birth of St. Paul.

The five sub-themes for **“Catholic Education: Good News for All”** are: **Embracing Hope; Celebrating with Joy; Building Community; Growing in Integrity; Living with Gratitude.**

Noel Martin is the Director of Catholic Education for the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association.



This year, Grade 9 students at Resurrection CSS were given a special welcome to their new school. Two weeks before school started the students were phoned by members of the **Phoenix Friends**, a handpicked group of school leaders from all facets of the school community and all grade levels. Each Phoenix Friend had about five grade nine students to call and welcome to Rez and also to answer any questions they might have about uniforms, registration, lockers, etc. The Phoenix Friends remained in touch with their groups throughout September -- and students, staff and parents agreed the program was a huge success!



Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools

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