



Waterloo Catholic
District School Board

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News Release

December 10, 2012
For immediate release

St. Benedict CSS Celebrates La meilleure classe de français en Ontario!! ("The Best French Class in Ontario"!!)

Waterloo Region, ON – Rebecca Charron always thought she had the best French class in Ontario. Now, she has proof.

Charron's Grade 12 French class recently won the "*La meilleure classe de français en Ontario*" video contest organized by the *French Immersion Program at the University of Ottawa*.

The two-minute video highlights the benefits of French language learning in the school community through music, singing (in French), and dancing. Charron's class of 21 students wrote the lyrics, while St. Benedict Grade 12 student Julia Wittmann composed the music and assisted fellow senior Tully McWatters in producing, filming, and editing the final video.

"Throughout this entire process, the students worked extremely well together, encouraging one another and they constantly surrounded themselves with positive energy", said Charron. "I could not be more proud of this class that we call a family!"

The school was chosen to be one of only five schools from across Ontario to attend a gala event at the University of Ottawa campus. The full-day event included presentations from current university students in the French Immersion program, a laughter yoga session, and an interactive survey. The day concluded with a gourmet lunch along with the presentation of the five nominated videos and the announcement of the winning school.

"We believe that this class has demonstrated learning in French can be a fun experience, and it really looked like they enjoyed creating this video together," said Ottawa's French Immersion Studies Director Marc Gobeil.

The contest -- designed for Ontario French-as-a-second-language classes -- asked students to create a one- to two-minute video showing how their bilingualism, leadership, and community service made them "Ontario's Top French Class" of 2012. The objective of the awards is to encourage Anglophone students taking French programs in high school to continue studying partially in French at the university level.

Each student in the class receives a \$2,000.00 scholarship to the University of Ottawa and several students in the class are applying to the French Immersion program.

This is the first year the school has entered the contest and Charron attributes their success to the people in the class.

"We had the perfect combination of talented people: singers, dancers, musicians, writers and highly-competent French speakers," explains Charron. "They not only impressed the judges, they impressed everyone on our trip from the bus driver, the hotel management, and the university administration. This is definitely an impressive group of young people. Felicitations!"

Check out the award-winning video on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fJHyJ7mRMAw>

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board, representing more than 100,000 Catholic school supporters, operates 51 schools and five adult education facilities serving more than 40,000 elementary, secondary and continuing education students in Waterloo Region – continuing a 176-year tradition of quality, inclusive, faith-based education. Follow on Twitter: **@WCDSBNewsWire - #WCDSBAwesome.**

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