



Waterloo Catholic
District School Board

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News Release

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For immediate release

Blessed Sacrament CES Student Stars in Stratford's "Tommy"

Strong school support makes a difference for young actor

Waterloo Region, ON – **Blessed Sacrament CES** student **Conor Bergauer** has both the talent and the genes to excel on the Stratford stage – but it's the support of his school that has helped elevate him to the next level.

A grandson and nephew of well-known retired WCDSB music teachers **Mike Bergauer** and **Michelle Bergauer** the grade 7 student has had a strong stage presence for a number of years. In fact, Conor played the same role (10 year old Tommy) in a 2011 **St. Mary's High School** production of the famed Pete Townshend "rock opera".

Preparing for a Stratford production can be a grueling experience for even the most experienced performers, let alone those who are still in elementary school.

"Conor has always been a very good and independent student so when the opportunity for "Tommy" was becoming a reality, the school was on board from the start," said his mother Anita. "His teacher, **Michael Leonard**, posts a lot of information on the electronic ClassNet so we know of upcoming tests and assignments and we communicate via email. Conor has written math and other tests off site and we hand them in for marking. Conor wouldn't be able to do this without his school's support and encouragement."

Mrs. Bergauer also notes the play's directors let Conor have time off to celebrate his Confirmation Day – one of the sacraments of the Catholic Church and an important milestone in the lives of Catholic youth.

For his part, Conor says: "Thanks to Mr. Leonard, Ms. Wendling and the staff members at Blessed Sacrament for helping me to be able to do this show".

"It was a pleasure supporting Conor as he pursued his acting dreams", said Mr. Leonard. "Conor was able to balance a heavy rehearsal schedule and schooling. Congratulations!"

"Tommy" runs at Stratford's **Avon Theatre** until October 19, 2013. Conor appears on the following dates:

June: 5,7,11,14,19,22,27,30 | July: 5,7,11,13,17,20,25,28,31 | August: 3,8,11,17,21,23,27,30

September: 4,7,12,14,18,21,26,28 | October: 3,5,10, 13, 17,19

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board, representing more than 100,000 Catholic school supporters, operates 52 schools and five adult education facilities serving more than 40,000 elementary, secondary and continuing education students in Waterloo Region – continuing a 177-year tradition of quality, inclusive, faith-based education. Follow us on Twitter: **@WCDSBNewsire - #WCDSBAwesome**.

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