



Waterloo Catholic
District School Board

35 Weber Street West • P.O. Box 91116 • Kitchener Ontario Canada • N2G 4G2
Telephone: 519.578.3660



News Release

February 4, 2013
For immediate release

Community Use of Schools Program Puts WCDSB at the “Heart of the Community”

**More than 1.2 million participant visits last year in WCDSB schools;
60,000 hours of community-building program time for outside groups;
128,000 hours of after-hours school activities for students**

Waterloo Region, ON – In another example of the added value Waterloo Region’s Catholic Schools bring to Waterloo Region, the Waterloo Catholic District School Board today announced more than **1.2 million participant visits** were recorded last year as local residents took advantage of the Board’s **Community Use of Schools Program** – amounting to more than **60,000 hours of community-building time** for outside organizations.

From one end of Waterloo Region to the other the program brings to life the Board’s vision statement: **“Heart of the Community: Success for Each, a Place for All”**.

Community Use of Schools (CUS) is an initiative of the Ministry of Education that supports increased access to school space outside of school hours for not-for-profit community groups. Under the program, Waterloo Region’s Catholic Schools are available during the school year Monday to Friday (generally after 6 p.m.) and any time on weekends. Statutory holidays, PD Days and school breaks are excluded.

In the last five years more than **300 different community groups and organizations** have used Waterloo Region’s Catholic Schools to build community after-hours. Activities range from traditional sports such as basketball and volleyball and a wide variety of arts, cultural events and youth leadership development programs such as Scouts, Guides and Junior Achievement to “ultimate Frisbee” on the outdoor fields. ‘Community Use’ of school facilities is in addition to the hours outside of classroom time that WCDSB schools use their own facilities after-hours for homework help, parenting supports, sports and recreation, arts and culture, meetings, etc. Last year this amounted to more than 128,000 hours of after-hours school activities.

Fee schedules and instructions on how to book a facility are available at: www.wcdsb.ca/cuos/index.html. The rental and custodial costs for recognized not for profit groups to use indoor facilities are highly subsidized for most of their activities. Special activities (tournaments, camps, fund raisers, etc.) are also subsidized, but not as substantially as a group’s regular activities. Most outdoor facilities are booked via the respective municipality; however the state-of- the-art artificial turf field and rubberized track at **St. David Catholic Secondary School** can be booked via the school board.

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: **@WCDSBNewswire - #WCDSBAwesome**.

- 30 -

For more information, please contact:

Debbie Dover -- Community Use of Schools Officer
519 578 -3660, ext. 2376 or Debbie.Dover@wcdsb.ca

Quality • Inclusive • Faith-based • Education
w w w . w c d s b . c a