



Waterloo Catholic
District School Board

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



News Release

October 25, 2012
For immediate release

Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools Welcome the World

Waterloo Region, ON – Yesterday's release of the language results from the 2011 census (www.statcan.gc.ca/start-debut-eng.html) revealed something Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools have known for years: the face and voice of Waterloo Region is changing.

Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools currently serve students from 114 different countries who speak more than 70 different languages at home. This diversity creates a rich and exciting learning mosaic that broadens the educational experience for students far beyond the daily curriculum.

WCDSB's schools are assisted in serving this diverse population in several important ways.

First, the board has provided a **Newcomer Reception Centre** for those new to Canada and Waterloo Region. Staff at the centre provide language assessments for newcomer students and are able to provide their families with important information and community contacts to help them become settled quickly in the Region. Appointments can be arranged by visiting your nearest Catholic school. For more information please visit: <http://newcomer.wcdsb.ca/>

The WCDSB also provides a large and rapidly expanding **International Languages Program** via its **St. Louis Adult Learning & Continuing Education Centres**.

The elementary school-level program currently provides instruction in **Bulgarian, Chinese, Croatian, Czech, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, Rohingya, Romanian, Russian, Slovak, Spanish, Tamil, Turkish** and **Ukrainian**. The secondary school-level program currently provides instruction in **Chinese, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese** and **Spanish**. For information about WCDSB's International Languages Program please visit: <http://stlouis.wcdsb.ca/programs/il.html>

The weekly **Chinese Language Program** at Resurrection Catholic Secondary School in Kitchener currently serves more than 460 students (visit <http://grandriverchineseschool.com>) and the weekly **Polish Language Program** at St. John Catholic Elementary School in Kitchener currently serves approximately 230 students (visit: <http://polishschoolkitchener.ca/>). The Kitchener and Cambridge **Portuguese Language Programs** combined serve 315 students.

Finally, St. Louis is the largest English language class provider in Waterloo Region & Guelph to newcomers 18 years of age and older. Through the **free Language Instruction for New Canadians (LINC)** program students quickly develop strong English language communication skills and learn everything they need to know to live and work in Canada. Language instruction classes focus on listening, speaking, reading and writing using the nationwide LINC curriculum guidelines. LINC classes are open to convention refugees, permanent residents and landed immigrants. More information about LINC is available at: <http://stlouis.wcdsb.ca/programs/linc.html>

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 us on Twitter: **@WCDSBNewsWire - #WCDSBAwesome**.

30

For more information, please contact:
John Shewchuk – Chief Managing Officer
(519) 578-3660

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