

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Quality • Inclusive • Faith-based • Education



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Larry Clifford
Director of Education

Welcome Back!!

Hello and welcome to a new school year full of hopes, aspirations and dreams!!

My name is **Larry Clifford**. I am the **Director of Education** for the WCDSB. As this is my first September with the Board I too am excited about the new school year for many reasons. I'm excited for the students, parents and staff who have been preparing for the school doors to open and the bells to ring. New and old relationships will be forged in the many hallways of our 52 schools. We will be educating our children in a publicly funded, faith based culture that allows us to celebrate our relationship with Jesus Christ at home, at church and in our schools. For this we should be forever grateful and give thanks through our daily words and actions.

It is my hope that each and every member of the Waterloo Catholic District School Board family be guided throughout this school year by the virtues of love, faith and hope into loving and long lasting relationships with family, friends and our Father.



Manuel da Silva
Chair of the Board

Message from the Board Chair

Welcome back to a new school year! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer with some much needed rest, relaxation and joyful time with family and friends.

As we enter into a new school year -- in many cases into familiar surroundings but in some cases into new spaces -- we welcome some new and returning faces to our system. This year, at the WCDSB head office the new faces include **Larry Clifford**, our new Director of Education and **David DeSantis**, our new Superintendent of Secondary Schools. Returning in a new capacity is retired principal and new Trustee **Frank Johnson** while Superintendent **Rick Boisvert** -- who did such an outstanding job for us last spring as Acting Director of Education -- returns to his role as Associate Director of Education.

As we enter into the new school year we continue to grow together in faith as we encounter new opportunities to reflect on our personal, professional and spiritual growth. We continue to recognize and appreciate all that supports Catholic education, Catholic community, our system and especially our staff and students. Together we do make a difference.

The Board of Trustees appreciates the gift we have of Catholic Education, our system, staff, students and community -- and together we strive to make the best possible decisions for our schools' futures. On behalf of all the Trustees, **Joyce Anderson, Wayne Buchholtz, Janek Jagiellowicz, Frank Johnson, Anthony Piscitelli, Wendy Price, Peter Reitmeier, Greg Reitzel** and our Student Trustees **Erin Jamieson** and **Carlos Valero**, we welcome everyone back to another school year, congratulate you for a job well done and wish you a wonderful year with continued success!



Happy Thanksgiving – from the students, staff and trustees of Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools!!

September, 2012

Meeting Notice: Southeast Galt School Closure Review

4 – 8 pm, Tuesday, October 16, 2012 -- Holy Spirit CES

15 Gatehouse Dr., Cambridge

www.wcdsb.ca/about/accom/SEGalt/index.html



Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools

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Back to Class!!
21st Century Learning Consultant Patrick Eby shows Premier Dalton McGuinty the WCDSB's new *BrightLink* interactive projector technology – August 2, 2012

Trustee Profile

For the next few years each **Community Update** newsletter will feature (proceeding in alphabetical order) a profile of one member of the Board of Trustees. This month...meet **Frank Johnson!**



Fun Fact
As a long time teacher before becoming a principal, Frank taught four members of senior administration as well as several principals, giving credence to the old saying that, "You can run, but you can't hide".

I've recently joined the Board of Trustees, representing Waterloo, Wellesley and Woolwich. I am a retired educator having worked with the WCDSB for 34 years as a teacher and vice-principal at **St. Jerome's H.S.** principal at **St. Benedict, St. David** and **Monsignor Doyle** and at the system level responsible for Student Success and Special Education. I am passionate about Catholic education and the creation of inviting school cultures that help students succeed. I am honoured to serve the families and students of our system as a Trustee.

My two sons are graduates of the system and attend both local universities. In retirement I volunteer with the **Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council**, the **Grand River Regional Cancer Centre**, **Cancer Care Ontario** and the **Alliance for Children and Youth**. I relax by biking the nature trails in Waterloo Region and can be found at most of the coffee shops in and around Waterloo.

This gives me lots of time to think about topics for my regular guest blog on www.smartoncrime.ca for the Crime Prevention Council.

Contact information for Frank and the other members of the Board of Trustees is available online at:

www.wcdsb.ca/about/board/trustees.html

We Are ALL Family!!

We live in a society where there is so much individualism, narcissism, and sense of entitlement that many of us are forgetful of the fact that by nature we are called to be social beings who develop in community: at base we are more importantly part of a "we" than we are an individual "I." This is true not only of growing children and teenagers who need to get an education for life but for all of us adults too. This year I ask all of our stakeholders, and especially our parents, to emphasize our "we" dimension more.

Our Board's educators (teachers and support staff) are excellent educators whose purpose is to teach our children to live well in every area of their lives: this means teaching them to live well in the kind of world that is ours (as seen above); and this especially means bringing our children to Christ and His sacraments and His community (called Church) so that they can live very well before God.

These are fabulous gifts our educators give the children they are privileged to serve. You know that these are difficult times for educators as the media and our own observations make clear to us. So I ask you to take our educators (especially those working with your children) and make them part of your own extended family.

After all, we already are all part of God's family and the Risen Lord's Body in this world. We truly are all brothers and sisters made so by God the Father/Mother, Christ, and the Holy Spirit. This means praying for those who educate your sons and daughters. It means treating them with respect and honour. It means being grateful to God and to our educators for all the good done for, to, and with your children. It means getting to know our educators who, during the week, daily love and care for and influence and form and teach your children so they can grow holistically.

I began this reflection with observations on our society; let me now at the end return to this briefly. Cultural critics convincingly tell us most of us are not grateful for what we have and what we receive. Gratitude is needed for our culture and society today to be life-giving.

Moreover, gratitude is very healthy for us psychologically, spiritually, mentally, and physiologically, according to positive psychology.

Let us all be more grateful this year to our God and to each other for all we have and receive. Therein lies happiness! May God bless us all in special ways this coming school year. Amen.

Father Fred Scinto, C.R., of the Resurrection Centre for Lifelong Learning, is Spiritual Animator of the WCDSB.

Distinguished Graduate Award
Fr. Toby Collins, C.R.

The prestigious **Distinguished Graduate Award** was initiated by the Board of Trustees in 2005 to honour graduates of Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to their faith and made significant contributions to their community.

This year's recipient is **Fr. Toby Collins, C.R.** – Vocation Director for the **Congregation of the Resurrection**.

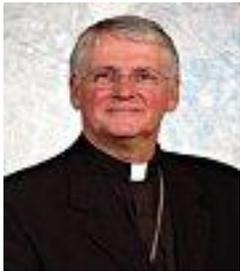
You can find Fr. Toby via the website www.vocationculture.ca or on Twitter at **@Fr_Toby**.



Something to Think About



Message from Bishop Crosby



Last fall, **Pope Benedict XVI** declared a **Year of Faith** marking the 50th anniversary of the **Second Vatican Council** AND the focus of the Church on the NEW Evangelization. It begins on October 11 this year and continues through to November 24, 2013.

The Year of Faith will give us an opportunity to reflect on what we believe, why we believe, and in whom we place our faith. It will be a time for us to *Rediscover the Joy* of believing in Jesus Christ and following His way.

Catholic schools are important places for the teaching of faith – and even more than teaching ABOUT the faith – they are places where faith is lived – where young people encounter the Lord, get to know Him more and more, and go about doing what He taught – making a difference in our world.

This Year of Faith is an opportunity for all of us to renew and deepen our faith, hope and love. May it be a time of blessing for us, for the Diocese of Hamilton, and for the entire Church.



The students at St. Aloysius CES in Kitchener got a special visit from a big green tractor as they prepared for their visit to the 2012 International Plowing Match & Rural Expo in Roseville.

2012 EQAO Results - Grades 3, 6 & 9



You can find our latest results – including school-by-school results – at:

www.eqao.com/categories/home.aspx

WCDSB: There for you 24/7/365 !

Now there are several handy ways for you to keep in touch and stay up-to-date with all the latest news from your Catholic schools:



First...you can sign up to receive up-to-date information via **Twitter** at: <http://twitter.com/WCDSBNewsWire>.

Our videos on **YouTube** are available at: www.youtube.com/user/WCDSBVidLink.

The online **Staff Directory** is available at: www.wcdsb.ca/Directory/index.aspx or by clicking the "Contact Us" link at the top of the Board's web page (www.wcdsb.ca).

The Board's **NewsWire** subscription service remains available at: <http://newswire.wcdsb.ca/wcdsb-subscribe.aspx>.

And...when the weather is bad our **Delays / Cancellations** page is constantly updated (www.wcdsb.ca/delays-cancellations/index.aspx)

As always, our website is your source for the most up-to-date information about our schools. We serve up 2.6 million pages of information each year!!



Visit www.wcdsb.ca today!!



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Communication Guidelines for Parents & Guardians

As partners in education our school staff, the senior team and the board of trustees are always interested in receiving information and feedback from the community. It keeps us in touch with the community and helps us anticipate and deal effectively with any questions or concerns you may have.

However, there may be times when you contact your trustee with questions or concerns and your trustee will refer you to our policy called "**Communication Guidelines for Parents & Staff**". These important guidelines are posted on our website: www.wcdsb.ca/AP_Memos/PDF/APC001.PDF.

The guidelines are in place to help you resolve your questions or concerns quickly right there at your school. While under provincial legislation your trustee does not have the legal power to solve your issue personally they will certainly be a valuable resource in helping you use the guidelines to reach the appropriate staff person for assistance.

The guidelines are very simple: If you have a concern involving your child you should first speak directly to the child's teacher. If the issue remains unresolved, you should speak to the school Principal. If the issue continues to be unresolved, you should speak to the Superintendent of Learning for that school. Contact information is available at:

www.wcdsb.ca/about/senior-admin.html

These guidelines have been a huge success for more than a decade and the vast majority of issues are resolved even before reaching the school superintendent or calling a trustee.

In cases where you do wish to speak directly to a trustee you may contact any of the nine adult trustees at any time. While they have been elected based out of various local municipalities they represent all Catholic ratepayers in Waterloo Region and will be happy to assist regardless of where you live in the Region.

Trustee phone numbers and email addresses are available on the trustee web page at: www.wcdsb.ca/about/board/trustees.html.

Discover the new Full Day Learning Kindergarten Program



www.wcdsb.ca/programs/Early-Learning/index.html



<http://stlouis.wcdsb.ca/>

St. Louis = Success!

On Tuesday, November 13 at St. Mary's Church in Kitchener and Thursday, November 15 at Cambridge City Hall an expected 450 **St. Louis Adult Learning & Continuing Education** students will graduate with their **Ontario Secondary School Diploma** and another 280 will receive certificates in either **Hairstyling, Chef Training** or **Personal Support Worker** programs.

For 25 years St. Louis has been a beacon of hope in the community for those striving toward a better future. And who better to speak on behalf of the school than the graduates themselves:

Dear Principal Cox,

*My name is **Mary Tillich**, & I had been a student at St. Louis all of last year. I'm just beginning my first year at Lakehead University in the Honors Concurrent Education Program, Interdisciplinary Studies majoring in English & History. I wanted to send a quick e-mail just to sincerely thank you & all the faculty at St. Louis who helped me succeed in taking the next step toward my future as an elementary school teacher. I could never have done it without your help. I really wanted to send an email to a truly amazing teacher who had really helped me refine my essay writing skills & had taught me the skills & habits that have, even just on my second day of classes, proven to give me an upper hand & a confidence in my studies that I know I will excel in. So much so, I've actually just written my mom a letter home requesting she mail me my binder from that English class ASAP... **Ms. [Diana] Knoll's** notes are crucial for my success in my university years!*

Dear Principal Cox,

*Hello & hope all is well with you. This is **Ahmad Asey**, your former student. I'm happy to report that I just successfully defended my MA thesis & am now working for the BC Government.*



Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools

w w w . w c d s b . c a