

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

Quality • Inclusive • Faith-based • Education



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**Larry Clifford**  
Director of Education

## A Season of Thanksgiving

With the Thanksgiving weekend fast approaching let's pause to reflect, recognize and be mindful of all with which we are blessed in Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools.

We give thanks for the recent summer holidays, for a smooth and successful start to the new school year, for our mental and physical health, for the core support and love of family and friends, for the freedom and lifestyles we enjoy in this great country of Canada and for the opportunity to attend, work within and support a publicly funded Catholic school system. For all of this – and more -- we are well and truly blessed.

At this reflective time of year it is also important to pray for and support those who are less fortunate – our brothers and sisters who are not offered the luxury of family and friends and all the celebratory customs and traditions associated with Thanksgiving.

On behalf of our Senior Staff Team, the Board of Trustees and all staff and students we ask that God continue to grant us the ability to live out his mission on Earth – working in Catholic education as “servant leaders” supporting each other's needs each and every day.

Good luck, God bless and Happy Thanksgiving!



**Wayne Buchholtz**  
Chair of the Board

## Message from the Board Chair

Welcome to the 2013-14 school year.

We hope that everyone has had an enjoyable beginning to the school year. We are already into the month of October and Thanksgiving is almost upon us.

As we celebrate with our families, remember everything for which we are thankful in our lives and in particular for the opportunity to experience the Catholic schools we have in this Region.

Many parents and students around the world would be overjoyed with the chance to experience the kind of faith-based schools, quality staff and top-notch resources we have here today.

We are truly blessed and have much for which to be grateful.

But Thanksgiving is more than about being grateful for our many blessings.

Thanksgiving is also a time to remember those in need. It is extremely gratifying to see so many of our schools reaching out to those in need both in their schools and in the community.

At our last Board of Trustees meeting we had a presentation from staff and students who participated in the **Dominican Project**. It demonstrated just how strong is our students' commitment to serve the less fortunate in our world.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees – **Joyce Anderson, Manuel da Silva, Janek Jagiellowicz, Frank Johnson, Anthony Piscitelli, Wendy Price, Peter Reitmeier, Greg Reitzel** and our Student Trustees **Alexandru Gheorghe** and **Carlos Valero** – may God bless all of you who live out the Gospel as “servant leaders” to the world.



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

October, 2013



Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools

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**Back to Class!!**  
 The staff of **Our Lady of Grace CES** were in the "Back to School" spirit right away on September 3<sup>rd</sup> – greeting their students in their new "team uniforms"!

## Trustee Profile

For the past few years each **Community Update** newsletter has featured (in alphabetical order) a profile of one member of the Board of Trustees. This month...meet **Greg Reitzel!**



**Fun Fact**  
 Greg is a fire prevention officer with the Kitchener Fire Dept. He says: "Please test your smoke alarms and ensure your children know what to do in the event of a fire!"

Greg is a lifelong resident of the Region, growing up in Kitchener where he attended **St. Teresa CES** and graduated as an Ontario Scholar from **St. Jerome's H.S.** He has lived in New Hamburg for the past 15 years with his wife Sherry and children Jonathan, Kyle and Beth. Prior to becoming a trustee in 2006, he served three years on the **Holy Family CES** school council -- two of the years as treasurer.

Since 2006 Greg has dedicated six years to the **Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)**, chaired the **Audit Committee** and is current chair of the **Governance Committee**. He is active in his parish as an usher and member of the building committee and Holy Family Men's Club.

Greg knows that continuing to strengthen the home-parish-school triad is essential to providing the best Catholic education possible. Greg says: "I truly appreciate the hard work and dedication of the many supporters of our school system and I know working together we can make the system even better. I urge all Catholic ratepayers to get involved and stand up for the system their tax dollars support".

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

[www.wcdsb.ca/about/board/trustees.html](http://www.wcdsb.ca/about/board/trustees.html)

# The World – And YOU – Need Our Catholic Schools!

*By Fr. Fred Scinto, C.R.*

Our age and culture is one of data and information. Information technology, and especially the internet, flood us and overwhelm us with data and information. Our school system has a really good record of preparing children and young people for this kind of age and culture.

But this preparation cannot constitute complete education for our present (and future) world. There is no doubt that technology, which has taken over our world, brings us many benefits and pluses and we all gain from them. However, technology also has a shadow side which, more and more, we and the experts are beginning to understand has a way of dehumanizing us. This means we have to do something to counter this dehumanization.

So more education is needed to do this because the whole person needs to be educated and formed so that he/she can be fully human. And this "more" involves religion and faith. All of us need to know and understand who we truly are, what is our purpose for life, and what are true values that really work in our hectic world, and how do we cultivate joy and hope.

Today's professional literature in a branch of psychology called positive psychology knows that all these things (and more) are needed for us to be happy, balanced, and relaxed in life.

Technology cannot give us the real wisdom we need for life, i.e., how do we relate to each other, how do I relate to my best self, how do I relate to the whole world and the universe, and how do I relate to God?

So we as a Catholic school system educate and form our students so they have the answers they need for a life of wisdom. And in this area our system is very good and proficient. I leave you now with our mission and vision statements: ponder them carefully and how they can beautifully form your child/children for the true world in which we live.

**Our Mission:** As Disciples of Christ, we educate and nurture hope in all learners to realize their full potential to transform God's world.

**Our Vision:** Our Catholic Schools, heart of the community – success for each, a place for all.

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

Before you...

**THINK!**

**T** - Is it true?  
**H** - Is it hurtful?  
**I** - Is it illegal?  
**N** - Is it necessary?  
**K** - Is it kind?

Take the pledge...  
 f THINK t THINK

Brought to you by  
 Waterloo Region  
 Crime Prevention Council  
 Member for a Better Community

**BULLYING AWARENESS WEEK**

**November 17-23, 2013**

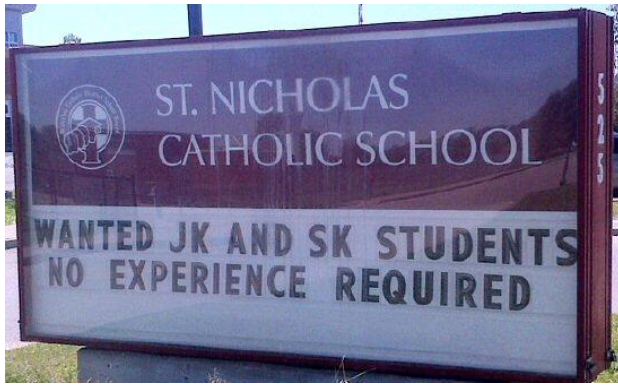
**What are YOU doing to stop bullying?**

**<http://www.bullyingawarenessweek.org/>**





## Sign of the Times



## WCDSB Water Goes Green!

Congratulations to all the WCDSB sites below for helping eliminate **352,828** plastic water bottles from the landfill with their new water bottle filling stations:

- Facility Services – 6,979
- Monsignor Doyle -- 72,299
- St. John -- 16,761
- St. Gregory – 1,893
- St. Anne (K) – 3,081
- Holy Family – 5,398
- Resurrection -- 65,787
- St. Mary's -- 45,950
- St. Benedict -- 105,339
- Holy Rosary – 9,059
- St. Teresa K --15,544
- St. Louis Adult Learning Centres -- 11,717



### FAST FACT!

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*This past summer 24 different WCDSB schools were open for special community activities!!*



**St. Michael CES Grade 7 student Erma Patterson was honoured last June with the 2013 Compassionate Kids Award from the Rotary Club of Cambridge Sunrise. The award recognizes the outstanding contributions and achievements of a young person in Cambridge / North Dumfries.**

## 2013 EQAO Results - Grades 3, 6 & 9



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

[www.eqao.com/categories/home.aspx](http://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](http://www.youtube.com/user/WCDSBVidLink).

The online **Staff Directory** is available at: [www.wcdsb.ca/Directory/index.aspx](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

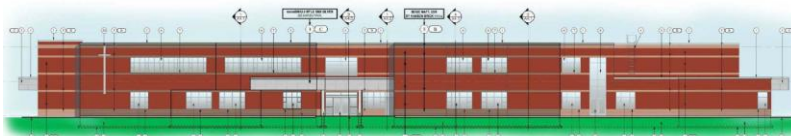
Trustee phone numbers and email addresses are available on the trustee web page at: [www.wcdsb.ca/about/board/trustees.html](http://www.wcdsb.ca/about/board/trustees.html).

### Discover the new Full Day Learning Kindergarten Program



[www.wcdsb.ca/programs/Early-Learning/index.html](http://www.wcdsb.ca/programs/Early-Learning/index.html)

## Coming Soon! The New St. Gabriel CES



Architect's Drawing – Front Elevation

Construction of the new 350 pupil place **St. Gabriel Catholic Elementary School** on Guelph Avenue (at Baldwin Dr.) in Cambridge (Hespeler) is underway. The new JK to Grade 8 school will open in September, 2014 and will be offering full day Kindergarten along with extended day before and after-school programs if there is sufficient demand.

To commemorate the start of construction a special ground-breaking and blessing ceremony was held on Thursday, September 26, 2013 at the school site. Students from **St. Elizabeth CES** and **Our Lady of Fatima CES** who are designated to attend the new school were on hand for this special event.



**BACK AGAIN**  
**Wednesday, November 20, 2013**



**Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools**

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