

INTERNATIONAL CONNECTION

Waterloo Region Catholic Schools - Canada - Fall 2018

Important Dates

October 17: Progress Reports
October 26: PD Day (No School)
October 31: Halloween
November 2: Random Act of Kindness Day
November 11: Remembrance Day
November 16: PD Day (No School)

November 19-23: Bullying Awareness Week

November 21: Report Cards

December 7: PD Day (No School)

December 21: First Day of Winter

December 24: Christmas Holidays

Parent-Teacher Interview dates will be posted on each school website.

Check your school calendars, or school website, for more important dates/information!

Message from COO - International Education Services



Welcome all to an exciting and rewarding year in your Waterloo Catholic District School. This year, international students from 16 different countries, from around the world, will be attending our schools.

If you are a returning international student, we hope that you had a positive experience with your family over the summer and that you are ready and motivated to continue your education and life journey with us. If you are a new student to our schools, know that we are looking forward to getting to know you and to helping you achieve your education and life goals.

Our community is very much a global village, offering many opportunities to experience Canadian life, to meet new people from different cultures, and to prepare you for a successful life in the 21st Century. Your school community also offers you many opportunities to grow and develop as a whole person through a variety of course offerings and after-school activities. We encourage you to embrace these new adventures and to become engaged with all the opportunities that are available to you.

Vic Degutis • COO • Research & Development Office/International Education Services
Waterloo Catholic District School Board



Short Term Visit - STEAM Camp



WCDSB introduced its first ever STEAM Camp in July 2018! This exciting and innovative experiential program offered the students and teachers the opportunity to learn and discover the world of science, technology, engineering, arts & mathematics and their relationships through an integrated and activity-based approach. For this program, WCDSB hosted 46 eager students from Colombia for 4 weeks. During that time they built robots, designed art masterpieces, and visited various STEAM related sites in southern Ontario while increasing their critical thinking. Some of the sites visited were: Bruce Nuclear Power Plant, Toyota Manufacturing Plant, Stratford Theatre, Ontario Science Centre, Niagara Falls and many more!

This program also offered a positive Canadian cultural experience and the students from Colombia established new long-lasting relationships. We look forward to hosting this program again and for our Colombian friends to return to Canada!



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International Student Assistance

Studying in Canada for your first time can be a challenge. It is an exciting experience, but also overwhelming! As a new student in Canada, be prepared to learn about the Canadian culture, make new friends, and become a global citizen. Here are some ways you can enhance your experience:

- 1) **Make Friends:** Whether they are in your homestay neighborhood or from your school, this will help you improve your English vocabulary. Making friends with Canadian students will also help you learn more about the culture and make you feel more comfortable in your new environment.
- 2) **Seek Help:** Your school's Guidance Department is somewhere that can provide answers to the many questions you may have. Possible questions can be about tests, exams, courses, grades and many other important topics. Make an appointment ahead of time to speak with a guidance counsellor and remember that punctuality is very important in Canadian culture!
- 3) **Learn the Culture:** To make the experience more rewarding, study the culture and language before arriving to Canada. This will help you interact with other people in a more meaningful way; especially with your teachers. Other cultural areas such as food choices, school rules, and manners are important to know beforehand to help you succeed in Canadian culture.

For more information, or to learn more about the Canadian culture, visit this website: https://www.international.gc.ca/cil-cai/country_insights-apercus_pays/ci-ca.aspx?lang=eng



Never Be Afraid to Ask for Help!

Graduating International Students

If you are graduating at the end of January 2019, please let us know as soon as possible as we are starting to bill for the next school year! Please send an email to Margo Jones: margo.jones@wcdsb.ca.



Becoming a Host Family

If you are a family that is interested in hosting an international student, or know of one, please send an email to: info@wcdsb.ca. Here is an article written by a parent of one of our international students, to their Host Family parent:

"Dear Ileana,

I am Crystal's mother. Crystal has been back in Canada for two weeks and we talked about her life there. She told me that she really enjoyed living with you, and you are all wonderful people. I'm so relieved that she's staying with you, and I really appreciate that you are taking care of my daughter. I am so happy to hear that you are very good at cooking and Crystal loves your food! My daughter is not very good at expressing her feelings, but I can feel her affection and gratitude when I am talking to her.

Because of her father's occupation, (works for Government) we haven't applied for the passport yet, so it may take us some time to deal with it. Maybe this summer, as soon as the application is approved, we will go to Canada and visit you.

My daughter is a strong girl with a sensitive heart. Thank you so much for helping her while I am not there. Words can't express my gratitude."

