Follow us on Twitter!

Director of International Education Message

International education, global classrooms, mobility - these are strategies being explored and implemented by schools, governments and parents around the world to better prepare their students for the challenges and opportunities in the 21st Century. International students and new Canadians from over 50 countries attending Waterloo Catholic Schools, are exploring pathways to achieve an outstanding English-language education and preparing for a wide range of possible Post-Secondary opportunities. Waterloo Catholic Schools are actively developing programs to create global classroom experiences for our students; including experiences through travel and interactive connections to students around the world through technology.

In February 2019, I had the opportunity to visit India for the first time and to establish relationships that will be mutually beneficial for schools in Canada and India. One initiative which I am excited about is the inclusion of teams from India, and likely Colombia, in the 3 day Model UN conference, being hosted by our schools district and the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) in May. Students from these international schools will participate fully in our conference, visit of our schools, establish international relationships, and enjoy a Canadian cultural experience during their week in Canada.

In March, Dan Witt, International Education Principal, and I are visiting Vietnam and Japan again to continue promoting our school district and to continue refining our positive relationships. We are very much looking forward to hosting the students and teachers from Yokohama, Japan, in our school community in April. Through a formal exchange program, Secondary students and teachers from our Secondary schools will be visiting their new friends in Japan this summer. We will also be piloting an Elementary classroom learning engagement with students in Spain, Colombia and India in the coming months, utilizing video conferencing technology.

Roads were made for journeys not destinations... Confucius"

-Vic Degutis, Chief Operating Officer
International Education
Waterloo Catholic District School Board

The International Education Office Has Relocated!

The International Education Office which is located at 35 Weber St West in Kitchener, has temporarily moved to St. Luke Catholic Elementary School located at 550 Chesapeake Drive in Waterloo. Our phone number and email remains the same, and we apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. This temporary move will remain until the end of September 2019 or until further notice. We look forward to the new and improved WCDSB Board Office after its renovations are completed!

Japan Exchange Program

As part of our International Programing, the Waterloo Region Catholic Secondary Schools will be participating in a Cultural Exchange with Yamate Gakuin High School in Yokohama, Japan. In April, students from Japan will be visiting the Waterloo Region to participate in classes, explore our region and learn about Canada through their host families. This large group of 75 students will visit the CN Tower in Toronto and have a delicious lunch at the Old Spaghetti Factory! Our WCDSB staff and students are really looking forward to meeting our new Japanese friends and making some lasting memories.

In the summer, our Canadian students will visit Japan as the second part of the exchange. This two week cultural exchange program will build an understanding of the Japanese culture for our students. While in Japan, the students will visit Tokyo Disney and embark on a Tokyo Cruise! WCDSB is looking forward to sharing this enriching opportunity and experience of a lifetime with our students.
The Model UN provides rich learning opportunities for our students which seamlessly incorporate the Global Competencies of Critical Thinking, Creativity, Self-Directed Learner, Communication, Collaboration and Citizenship within a global context.

Congratulations to all participating students, and we wish you an abundance of luck in your upcoming and future Model UN Events!

All students are expected to be in uniform at all times while in the school building and library. School Administration reserves the right to send students home whose dress is not in keeping with these guidelines and may result in disciplinary action.

All school uniforms are supplied by R.J. McCarthy’s and are purchased by visiting the outlet, calling 1-800-668-8261 or online at www.rjmcCarthy.com. Only those uniform items sold by McCarthy’s are permissible.

Shirts:
- McCarthy white golf shirt, polo shirt and French cut blouse with school emblem (worn untucked in a neat and tidy fashion, not excessively long and all buttons must be done up).

Pants:
- McCarthy navy blue formal and casual style with McCarthy tab, worn at waist level.
- Capris/shorts with school emblem, worn at waist level.
- Pants are neatly hemmed to an appropriate length and are not to be cuffed, nor tucked into socks; not to be rolled up and the school emblem must always be visible
- Shorts must be no more than 12 cm above the knee. Pants, capris and shorts are not to be rolled or altered in any way (only bare legs or plain navy/skin-tone hosiery under shorts)

School Sweaters (Optional):
- A collared uniform shirt must be worn underneath all sweaters/vests.
- McCarthy navy fleece vest with school emblem: Uniform shirt required underneath.
- McCarthy full-zippered sweater: Uniform shirt required underneath.
- McCarthy vest and sweater with traditional crest: Uniform shirt required underneath.

Please Note:
- The Oxford shirt is no longer an option to purchase; however, students who have already purchased this item may continue to wear it completely tucked in with no more than two buttons undone.
- All Uniform Items are not to be altered in any way stylistically. For example, pants, capris or shorts are not to be shortened, rolled or made narrower by adjusting the seams.
- All non-uniform clothing must remain in your locker. Headwear of any kind, wristbands, excessive jewelry, scarves and accessories are not to be worn.
- Hats will not be worn in school at any time and will be confiscated and possibly held for a period of time.

School Spirit Wear can be purchased online at https://www.schoolwear.ca. Make sure you have the correct ‘school code’ for your school when signing up on their website!

WCDSB continues to build on the Model UN Programs in our secondary schools. A Model UN simulation was hosted by St. David Catholic Secondary School in December 2018 and another is scheduled for St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School in March 2019. These are building towards a three day Model UN Conference hosted by The Centre of International Governance Innovation (CIGI) of Waterloo in May 2019. This promises to be an exceptional experience for all who participate.
Easter marks the end of the 40 days of Lent and traditionally commemorates Jesus’ resurrection from the dead. People simply rely on their calendar to know what day it will fall on each year. Many people will attend a church service on Easter Sunday even if they do not attend church at any other time of the year.

The Easter Holiday incorporates such traditions as the Easter Bunny who brings baskets of goodies to children and decorating and hiding Easter eggs to be discovered on Easter morning. The Easter festivities tie in with many elements that celebrate the coming of spring so decorations and accessories include baby chicks, bunnies, chocolate eggs and elaborate Easter baskets lined with imitation grass and colorful plastic eggs filled with jelly beans, chocolates and treats of all kinds.

Lunar New Year Celebration

The students at Resurrection Catholic Secondary School celebrated the Lunar New Year this past February. They embraced diversity and culture with food, music and a dynamic performance.

The Lunar New Year is the longest Chinese holiday, and it is also celebrated in many other countries around the world. Some of these countries include Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Singapore and more. The Chinese culture decorates everything in red, and special red envelopes are handed out with money in them! The New Year greeting in Chinese is “xin nian kuai le” or “gong hei fat choy.”

Important Information

Mental Health Matters

WCDSB schools attach great importance to the mental well-being of our international students. Students have access to a toll-free phone number that will connect directly with mental health professionals 24/7. This service is confidential and available in multiple languages.

Bus Passes

Students are eligible for a monthly reduced public bus pass or strips of reduced-fare tickets. To use a reduced pass or tickets, students will need to get a GRT photo ID card. Photo ID cards can be purchased at the Charles or Ainslie Street terminals. ID cards can be purchased at any time and expire each year on September 30. Students will need to show proof of student status when purchasing a new ID, and they should bring a current student card, or a school timetable and identification. Click here to learn about the new EasyGO Fare Card that is available to high school students.

There is also a summer-only bus pass and a high school term bus pass:

- Fall Term: September 1 - January 31
- Winter/Spring Term: February 1 - June 30

Note: Eligibility for this pass is determined by Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region (STSWR). Eligible students will be notified by their school. You can pick up your pass at the terminal corresponding to your school, listed below:
  - Ainslie Street Terminal
  - Charles Street Terminal
  - St. Benedict
  - Monsignor Doyle
  - St. Mary’s
  - St. David

As you board the bus, show your GRT Student ID card when using a reduced ticket or monthly pass. Your pass should have the serial number of your photo ID card inscribed with ink, ballpoint or felt marker.

Absences & Lates

When a student is going to be absent from class, a parent/Custodian needs to contact the school before the morning bell and leave a message on the attendance line. A note signed by the parent/custodian may also be provided to the attendance officer ahead of time or after the absence.

If a student is late to class, they may be required to report to the office for a late slip. Teachers may provide consequences for lateness, for absences that are not approved by the parent/Custodian.

If a student needs to leave school early, a parent/Custodian needs to approve the student leaving beforehand and they must sign out at the office. Illness, medical appointment or emergency should be the only reason a student leaves school early.

Report Card & Transcript Requests

For students planning to attend Post Secondary education, a copy of the final report card and transcript will be required. Please make arrangements with the Custodian/Home Stay to obtain a copy since it is usually received after the summer season.

Email & Contact Information

Please update us with your current email address and phone number, along with your parents’ email addresses. It is very important for us to keep your updated information on file. To do this, please call 519-578-3660 ext. 2373.

Report Card & Transcript Requests

For students planning to attend Post Secondary education, a copy of the final report card and transcript will be required. Please make arrangements with the Custodian/Home Stay to obtain a copy since it is usually received after the summer season.

Bus Passes

Students are eligible for a monthly reduced public bus pass or strips of reduced-fare tickets. To use a reduced pass or tickets, students will need to get a GRT photo ID card. Photo ID cards can be purchased at the Charles or Ainslie Street terminals. ID cards can be purchased at any time and expire each year on September 30. Students will need to show proof of student status when purchasing a new ID, and they should bring a current student card, or a school timetable and identification. Click here to learn about the new EasyGO Fare Card that is available to high school students.

There is also a summer-only bus pass and a high school term bus pass:

- Fall Term: September 1 - January 31
- Winter/Spring Term: February 1 - June 30

Note: Eligibility for this pass is determined by Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region (STSWR). Eligible students will be notified by their school. You can pick up your pass at the terminal corresponding to your school, listed below:
  - Ainslie Street Terminal
  - Charles Street Terminal
  - St. Benedict
  - Monsignor Doyle
  - St. Mary’s
  - St. David

As you board the bus, show your GRT Student ID card when using a reduced ticket or monthly pass. Your pass should have the serial number of your photo ID card inscribed with ink, ballpoint or felt marker.

Email & Contact Information

Please update us with your current email address and phone number, along with your parents’ email addresses. It is very important for us to keep your updated information on file. To do this, please call 519-578-3660 ext. 2373.