Welcome international students to an exciting and rewarding year in your Waterloo Catholic District School. This year, international students from 14 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 teachers and principals are very important to your education experience in Canada. They continue to participate in professional development opportunities to better understand various cultures and education systems around the world to better support you. This summer, 37 principals and teachers were in China and Japan specifically for this purpose. If you have the opportunity, do not hesitate to ask them to share their experiences.

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, Chief Operating Officer
International Education
Waterloo Catholic District School Board

**Important Dates**

- **September 2:** Labour Day
- **September 3:** First Day of School (Please visit your school’s website for first-day bell times as they will differ from regular bell times)
- **September 20:** PD Day (No School)
- **October 14:** Thanksgiving
- **October 16:** Report Cards Distributed
- **October 25:** PD Day (No School)
- **October 31:** Halloween
- **November 7:** Term 2 Begins
- **November 11:** Remembrance Day
- **November 15:** PD Day (No School)
- **November 18-22:** Anti-Bullying Week
- **November 20:** Mid-Term Reports Distributed

**School Bell Times**

- **St. Benedict**
  - 8:00 am: Period 1
  - 9:20 am: Period 2
  - 10:35 am: Lunch
  - 11:25 am: Period 3
  - 12:45 pm: Period 4
  - 2:00 pm: Departure Bell

- **Monsignor Doyle**
  - 8:45 am: Period 1
  - 9:56 am: Period 2
  - 11:11 am: Lunch
  - 12:03 pm: Period 3
  - 1:24 pm: Period 4
  - 2:39 pm: Departure Bell

- **St. Mary’s**
  - 9:05 am: Period 1
  - 10:15 am: Homeroom
  - 10:27 am: Period 2
  - 11:49 am: Lunch 1/Period 3
  - 12:33 pm: Period 4
  - 1:11 pm: Lunch 2
  - 1:55 pm: Period 5
  - 3:10 pm: Departure Bell

- **St. David**
  - 8:15 am: Period 1
  - 9:35 am: Period 2
  - 10:50 am: Lunch
  - 11:45 am: Period 3
  - 1:05 pm: Period 4
  - 2:20 pm: Departure Bell

- **Resurrection**
  - 8:10 am: Period 1
  - 9:30 am: Period 2
  - 10:45 am: Lunch
  - 11:35 am: Period 3
  - 12:55 pm: Period 4
  - 2:10 pm: Departure Bell

**Check your school website for other important dates!**
In July 2019, a group of 32 WCDSB educators participated in an educational and cultural Summer Camp in China for two weeks. This exchange was organized by Shijiazhuang Foreign Language School, in Hebei China. We are proud to share two articles below written by WCDSB staff that participated in the China Summer Camp.

Mapping Success in the 21st Century Global Village
By: Terri-Lynn Geisel - Principal at Our Lady of Lourdes CES, WCDSB

“I was unsure of what to expect as I received notification that I was selected as a WCDSB candidate to travel to China as an educator at the Shijiazhuang Foreign Language School (SFLS) in Hebei Province. Undoubtedly, this unique experience of teaching abroad and being immersed in the Chinese culture was rich and memorable.

The Development of 21st Century Skills:
I will never forget the feeling of being somewhere special as our bus entered the gates of the SFLS educational facility. This unknown terrain quickly became our home as our staff formed bonds with each other, the SFLS teaching staff and the students dedicated to our care. The RDO office plays an integral role in effectively managing the SFLS program to effectively provide a robust curriculum that enrich students linguistically, academically, socially and physically. Promoting the skills of the 21st Century concentrated on the development of critical thinking, collaboration, communication, problem-solving and creativity. The combination of being immersed in the SFLS with both teachers and students was fascinating to be a part of. Building a partnership of collaboration with our Chinese teachers was integral to facilitate a meaningful student experience. The combination of 3 curricular areas which included ESL/English, Science and Physical Education was the perfect balance for a well-rounded summer experience which promoted the acquisition of English oral and written language skills. Embedded in our practice was daily reflection regarding the effectiveness of the teaching and learning experiences for our students. This allowed for precise teaching in response to the needs of the learner. This responsive teaching led to a rich experience for all staff and students.

Building Meaningful Relationships:
The ability of all WCDSB staff to develop a sense of belonging through meaningful relationships with both the staff and students was essential to student engagement and academic success. Within a short 5 days, our educators were committed to developing meaningful relationships which were fundamental to student success. Although this in an integral focus within our own school board, I was immediately reminded that building relationships with students is a universal foundation of all effective teaching worldwide. This passion was evident and thriving as students were exposed to a variety of activities that promoted a healthy learning environment for all built on care and mutual respect. The student, teacher and family relationship were also nurtured in a unique and memorable evening where our teachers were hosted by a student and their family for a cultural experience crafted by the Chinese host family. It was truly awesome to be immersed in the culture and history that is so well established and promoted within China.

In summary, participating in this global teaching experience has enriched my life as an educator and global citizen. I have developed a greater understanding of 21st Century learning skills on the global stage and am committed to the importance of developing meaningful relationships to engage and capture the learner. Thank you Waterloo Catholic District School Board for this awesome experience.”
Experience of a Lifetime
By: Lisa Thaler - Teacher at John Sweeney CES, WCDSB

“China was the experience of a lifetime, including travelling by bus and bullet train to be witness to these historical places. From the Great Wall to the Buddhist temples; from the Terra Cotta Army to the street markets and from the old cities to the vast skyscrapers, the contrast between ancient and modern is remarkable! Every day, I was wonderstruck and could not believe I was here, in China! I feel very blessed to have had this opportunity to embrace the Chinese culture, eat my weight in dumplings and Hot Pot meals, and experience local traditions such as Chinese Theatre and tea. The Chinese people are friendly and curious and I learned so much from immersing myself into their daily routines by visits to the malls, supermarkets and beautiful greenspaces. Finally, travelling for two weeks alongside other WCDSB staff allowed me to create bonds with new colleagues and reconnect with old ones. I will forever be grateful for these moments!”

Short Term Immersion Program

This past May, the Waterloo Catholic District School Board welcomed over 130 students from Colombia, South America for our Short Term Program. These students attended our schools every day for 4 weeks, and participated in various activities throughout the Waterloo Region. We also introduced a new music aspect to our Short Term Program, involving Ukelele lessons. This group of students really enjoyed this new addition to the program and it became an instant favorite among the students! Overall, this Short Term Program was intended to provide an immersion experience for both our students and the students from Colombia. They improved their English speaking skills, experienced Canadian culture, and made new lifelong friends with our students and WCDSB teachers. We look forward to welcoming this group back in May 2020!

We also welcomed 60 students in July from Colombia for the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math) Program. This group of students attended Robotics classes where they experimented with Lego Kits, various tools, and other technology based equipment. They even learned how to fly a drone and create their own mini dragster cars that they had a racing competition with! The STEAM Program is a growing program that adds more fun and learning every year. We look forward to offering this program to other countries in the future, to give our international students an entirely new and modern learning experience while visiting us here in Canada.

In addition to these groups, a group of 40 students from China travelled to Canada in July as well and spent 2 weeks attending ESL classes. We also facilitated a visit to Niagara Falls, Canada’s Wonderland and the African Lion Safari. They then had the opportunity to visit Toronto and Ottawa before heading back to China. We can’t wait to welcome these groups again next year and make memories with more future Global Citizens.
School Uniforms
All students are expected to be in uniform at all times while in the school building. 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 ONLY supplied by R.J. McCarthy’s and are purchased by visiting the outlet, calling 1-800-668-8261 or online at www.rjmccarthy.com.

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.

Absences & Lates
When a student is going to be absent from class, a parent/Custodian needs to contact the school and leave a message on the attendance line. A note signed by the parent/custodian may also be provided to the attendance office ahead of time. If a student is late, they are required to report to the office for a late slip. Consequences may apply for lates and 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. Please note that Homestay parents cannot sign students out.

Student Transportation Information
Visit www.stswr.ca to view a student’s transportation details:
1) Click on “Student Login”
2) Enter your child’s Ontario Education Number (OEN—can be found on your child’s report card)
3) Enter the numbers only—no space, no dash
4) Enter your child’s birth date
5) Enter your child’s street number—house number only
6) Select the school your child is attending from the drop down menu
Please note: If you ever change addresses, please communicate the change of address to your school and to your Custodian/Margo Jones.
You can also visit www.stswr.ca to see bus delays and cancellations, subscribe to receive e-mail notifications for late buses and closures and follow us on Twitter.

Together We Are Global
By: Susanne Kallweit - RDO Program Facilitator, WCDSB
“This Facilitator job with the WCDSB is cut out for you Susi, you should apply!” Said my coworker. WOW, did she make a match—she was right! At its core, our Short Term International Programs focus on Global Citizenship. We foster education as well as the rights and responsibilities that our International students have as Global Citizens. As facilitators, we get to interact with students from a variety of cultural backgrounds and countries around the world. Students improve their English by interacting with us and sharing their experiences from their home countries and also here in Canada. Most of our activities are based on experiential learning, but are also geared to add some fun to the program.

Engaging students in the treasures of our region, exploring new interests and often unknown talents, and at times solving technical and organizational challenges has reminded me that successful communication is so much more than drilling vocabulary.

It can be about sharing a meal together, playing a game, dancing, building a toy, shopping at the mall, or simply just laughing together. In general, creating memories for the International students is one of the most important aspects of my role as a Program Facilitator. Some of the activities the students from Colombia and China participated in while in Canada were Quidditch, Ukulele class, Swimming, Martial Arts and Robotics. The STEAM group also had more “Steam” focused activities including creating slime and play dough, and visiting the Toyota plant as well as the Museum of Illusions in Toronto! We went on exciting day trips to Niagara Falls, the Ken Seiling Waterloo Region Museum, the Waste Management Plant, various Fire Stations and many more around KW."