

# 2018

## DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT



Growing in Faith – Growing in Learning



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

*Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey*

# DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

## *Our Mission*

*Walking together in Christ's light with parish and family, we are called to build a safe and inclusive Catholic learning community and to serve as partners in the formation of life-long learners by:*

*Living our faith; Promoting educational achievement and innovation;  
and Fostering stewardship, leadership and social justice.*

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am proud to present this Director's Annual Report 2018, which highlights some of the many innovative and effective educational programs and initiatives undertaken at St. Clair Catholic throughout the 2017-2018 academic year. Throughout the pages in this report, you will see that we have met or exceeded many of the strategic targets and goals outlined in the document *Lighting the Way – Rejoicing in Our Journey: Our Plan for Excellence in Our Catholic Schools – 2014 and Beyond*.

With close attention to our mission, our dedicated staff ensures that students learn within inclusive and safe Catholic learning environments, with opportunities to thrive and develop to their full potential. Guided by our new pastoral theme, which is inspired by Psalm 139, students and staff have celebrated God's gift that we are all "fearfully and wonderfully" made in His image. This joyful and inspiring theme is enhanced by the Ontario Bishops' pastoral letter for Catholic education *Renewing The Promise*.

Throughout the year, our Board has celebrated Catholic education across our communities. During gatherings of the Catholic community in both Deaneries, we have worked to deepen our commitment to support and enrich Catholic education, as we strive to ensure that our students are formed in the Catholic faith and the transformational hope of the Gospel message. This report highlights but a few of the myriad of Catholic social justice and charitable outreach activities that are led by our educators, students and families.

St. Clair Catholic offers our students learning experiences that are reflective of the global and digital age in which we live. Our renewed focus upon the Catholic Graduate Expectations provides a framework for educational achievement for all, which engenders the development of critical thinking, creativity and responsible citizenship, both globally and locally. Educators work every day to leverage new technologies to improve student

achievement and develop the transferable skills that are needed for the future.

A balance of foundational skills in mathematics and literacy and the exploration of new ideas and concepts foster diverse and engaging learning activities. School improvement plans include setting goals to improve achievement as well as student mental, physical and spiritual wellbeing. Community partnerships help to prepare our students for academic and practical success through innovative career-based opportunities involving colleges, co-operative education and apprenticeships. Educators participate in a variety of professional learning opportunities in support of our goals, as St. Clair Catholic evolves as a learning organization.

In the background, our support staff ensures that our school facilities are positive places in which to learn. The members of our Board of Trustees are committed to fiscal responsibility and forward planning, as they work to advance Catholic education in our communities. This year marks the beginning of new school construction projects at St. Clair Catholic, as together we build new school communities and partnerships. These are exciting days!

Thank you for entrusting us with the responsibility and privilege of educating your children. Our caring and devoted staff is committed to providing our students with the best quality education, rooted in Catholic teachings and filled with the hope and faith that will carry them into the future. I am proud of our dedicated educators, support staff and administrators, who make our schools places of excellence, where our children can thrive and be joyful in their learning. We are a faith-filled, inclusive and innovative Catholic learning community, strengthened by our partnerships with home, parish and community. Our students are at the core of everything we do!



Sincerely,  
Deb Crawford  
Director of Education



# Living Our Faith – Renewing Our Passion and Purpose

## Celebrating Our Faith as a Community

A day of spiritual growth, community building and celebration of Catholic education was held as the staff of the St. Clair Catholic District School Board gathered in Sarnia and Chatham for a system-wide faith development day - Renewing Our Passion and Purpose.

The Board is pleased to have this opportunity every two years, to bring our staff together for an uplifting and faith-filled celebration of our vocations as Catholic educators and support workers.

The Lighting Our Way Award was also presented. This year's honourees were Bill Nelson, Principal of Sacred Heart Catholic School, Sarnia; Lidia De

Carolis, Secretary St. Anne Catholic School, Sarnia; and Ron Sterling, Teacher at Good Shepherd Catholic School, Thamesville.

Keynote speaker for the day was Anne Jamieson, the Director for Catechesis for the Diocese of Hamilton.

The day also included the celebration of Mass and greetings from Chair of the Board John Van Heck and Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey (in Sarnia) and Chatham-Kent-Leamington MPP Rick Nicholls (in Chatham).



*(L-R) Lighting Our Way Award recipient Lidia DeCarolis, Director of Education Deb Crawford, Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey, Chair of the Board John Van Heck and Lighting Our Way Award recipient Bill Nelson.*



*(L-R) Lighting Our Way Award recipient Ron Sterling, Chair of the Board John Van Heck, Director of Education Deb Crawford and Chatham-Kent - Leamington MPP Rick Nicholls.*

## Renewing The Promise – A Pastoral Letter for Catholic Education

In the Spring of 2018, the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario released a Pastoral Letter for Catholic Education entitled *Renewing The Promise*. The letter invites all those who share responsibility for Catholic education in Ontario to reflect on challenges and opportunities and offers us encouragement as we discern how the Holy Spirit is calling us to respond.

The Bishops assert Catholic education's role in supporting families and shaping students in their search for the hope in their hearts as they come to know and encounter Jesus through the beauty of the Gospel. The Pastoral Letter celebrates the contribution that Catholic schools make to society in partnership with families and parishes.

Special gatherings of the Catholic community representing Catholic education's foundational triad

of home, school and parish were held in April and May in Chatham and Sarnia.

This important gathering represented our entire faith community with representatives of the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Women's League, parents, parish members, trustees, principals, Board administration, union and association presidents and our pastors.

The purpose of the meetings was twofold: First, to explore together the new Pastoral Care of Our Catholic Schools document. Joe Bezzina, Director of Pastoral Services with the Diocese of London, led the discussion. The group also reviewed the new religion curriculum *Growing in Faith - Growing in Christ*, which was recently released in schools.



*Representatives of the Catholic community in Sarnia-Lambton (left) and Chatham-Kent (right).*

## Growing in Faith – Growing in Christ

A new religion program – *Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ* – has been approved for delivering the religion curriculum in Ontario Catholic schools. The document is endorsed by the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario and guided by the Catholic Elementary Curriculum Policy for Religious Education in Grades 1-8, the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the General Director for Catechesis. This new program, published by Pearson Canada, has now been purchased for every Grade 1-5 classroom at St. Clair Catholic.

“*Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ* creates strong links between home, school, and parish. The classroom experience helps students to deepen their love of God and their neighbours. Using the best pedagogical practices, the program seeks to engage students in knowing and living their faith. This will not only help them today, but will also prepare them for tomorrow as they grow and mature and make significant contributions to our society as faith-filled Catholics who radiate the joy of believing.”

*The Catholic Bishops of Ontario and Western Canada*



## Blessing the Ground Ceremony – New North Chatham Catholic Elementary School



*Chair of the Board John Van Heck and Chatham-Kent – Leamington MPP Rick Nicholls pose with students at the Blessing The Ground ceremony in January.*

A beautiful and meaningful “Blessing of the Ground” ceremony was held at the site of the new north Chatham Catholic elementary school, 801 McNaughton Avenue, W., Chatham in January.

Despite some light rain, a brief ceremony was held at the site, including the unveiling of a sign, which proudly proclaimed the site of our new north Chatham elementary school. Dignitaries

and guests then moved inside to the warmth of the Red Line Room at the Thames Campus Arena, where the formal ceremony was held.

In May, students from the St. Agnes, St. Vincent and Our Lady of Fatima Catholic school communities traded in their books and pencils for hard hats and shovels to help turn the sod for the new school. It was another important milestone in the journey towards the opening of the new school.

Guests at both events included MPP Rick Nicholls, officials from the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, members of the Ursuline Order and parish partners, neighbourhood residents, senior administration and trustees of the Board, and parents, students and staff from the three Chatham schools who will come together to form the new school community.

The Board looks forward to next steps towards two additional new elementary school builds – one in south Chatham and one in Sarnia.



*(L-R) Fr. Jim Higgins, Vice Chair of the Board Michelle Parks, Director of Education Deb Crawford, students, Chatham-Kent Councillor Trevor Thompson and Nicole da Silva, Special Assistant to MPP Rick Nicholls.*

## Catholic Elementary Schools Partner with Farm Credit Canada for Drive Away Hunger Campaign

Students and staff at five Catholic elementary schools in Chatham-Kent and Sarnia-Lambton helped out with Farm Credit Canada’s Drive Away Hunger food collection campaign.

Through this campaign, our students learned what it means to serve others. They have answered Pope Francis’ challenge to ‘find room in our hearts for those around us who lack shelter, food and clothing.’

Participating schools included Georges P. Vanier, St. Ursula, Monsignor Uyen and Our Lady of Fatima in Chatham-Kent; and St. Philip in Sarnia-Lambton.

In total, the five Catholic schools collected 6,780 pounds of food, which was donated to the Chatham Outreach for Hunger and Oil Springs food banks.

Farm Credit Canada is Canada’s leading agriculture lender, with a mission that includes social and environmental stewardship.



*Angela Vyn (left) and Kurt Makey of Farm Credit Canada pose with student helpers at George P. Vanier Catholic School.*



## Another Successful 'We Scare Hunger' Campaign at Ursuline College

After 12 years of helping local food banks restock the shelves between the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, the We Scare Hunger Halloween food drive led by UCC students is still going strong.

Each year staff, students and volunteers are amazed by the generosity of the community. It is a tremendous experience for our students when they see first-hand how they can join with the community to help others. When we all work together we can accomplish great things!

In addition to UCC, the door-to-door campaign included elementary students from St. Joseph and St. Ursula Catholic schools in Chatham, St. Anne in Blenheim and St. Michael in Ridgetown.

Victory Ford, a longtime supporter of We Scare Hunger supplies volunteers and trucks each year to help get the donated food from UCC to the Chatham Outreach for Hunger food bank.



## Irish Miracle and Cyclone Aid Campaigns at St. Patrick's Catholic High School

At St. Patrick's in Sarnia, the school's two annual food drives were a tremendous success. During Advent each year, the Irish Miracle, now in its 34<sup>th</sup> year, collects upwards of 6,000 grocery bags of food, which is donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, to help the organization fill its Christmas hampers. Volunteers go door-to-door, canvassing every home in Sarnia, Bright's Grove and Point Edward.

During Lent, the annual Cyclone Aid food drive delivered more than 5,400 bags of food and \$700 in cash donations to the Inn of the Good Shepherd. The Cyclone Aid and Irish Miracle food drives are opportunities for our students to live out Gospel beliefs and connect with the community in ways that help meet people's needs.



# Promoting Educational Achievement and Innovation

## Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations



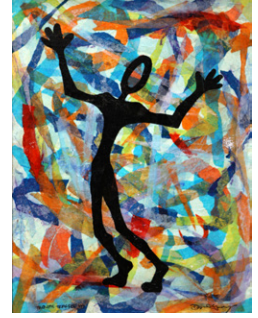
A Discerning Believer  
**Self-Regulation**



An Effective Communicator  
**Organization  
Collaboration**



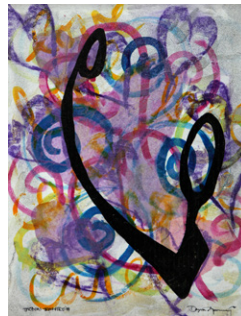
A Reflective, Creative & Holistic Thinker  
**Initiative  
Self-Regulation  
Independent Work  
Collaboration**



A Self-directed, Responsible, Life-Long Learner  
**Responsibility  
Organization  
Independent Work  
Initiative**



A Collaborative Contributor  
**Collaboration  
Initiative**



A Caring Family Member  
**Initiative**



A Responsible Citizen  
**Responsibility  
Organization  
Collaboration  
Initiative**

We support our learners to demonstrate the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations and become contributing Catholic global citizens. This is the WHY behind what we do.

School teams continue to examine these foundations and ways to embed them in learning experiences. Our goal is for every learner to achieve at the highest academic levels by:

- Building a sense of belonging in our classrooms by creating a flexible environment that enhances learning for every learner;
- Fostering engagement by providing meaningful opportunities for exploration, inquiry and visible thinking;
- Enhancing expression by reflecting together to respond to student learning; and
- Nurturing well-being by supporting responsive relationships and interactions.

In addition, our classrooms are examining the learning conditions necessary for learning to happen. Educators are reflecting on specific ways to set these conditions in their classrooms to support all learners to meet their individual potentials.



## Innovative Learning

St. Clair Catholic educators are exploring innovative practices, as we prepare our students for the future. Learning spaces are evolving to include a variety of technologies to enable students to be collaborative participants in learning. University student mentors support STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) learning for students and educators, such as using coding in math games, or testing solutions to an engineering problem.

All classrooms at St. Clair Catholic provide access to technology for students, to leverage their learning. We know it is important for students to have the tools necessary for learning in our digital, global world. As a system priority, we have achieved a ratio of two students for every device, using a variety of technologies, including Chromebook and tablets.



### We continue to support learning in innovative ways:

- All elementary schools participated in learning sessions to support innovative practice;
- Six STEM tutors were brought into three of our rural elementary schools for five weeks. Teachers were involved in the planning and implementation of STEM activities;
- Information Services department refreshed (replaced and updated) 423 Chromebooks, 60 PCs and 24 Chromebases. Curriculum Services department purchased 196 new tablets for Grade 1 classes in 2017-2018.
- Technology Enabled Learning and Teaching worked with staff and students across all schools K-12 in a wide array of digital tools (i.e., coding, Google GSuite);
- Every Grade 1 classroom received a set of tablets to leverage literacy skill development. Teachers are learning together to enhance strategies to meet students where they are as readers and move each child forward. Technology is used to support meaningful practice opportunities, give students creative ways to express their ideas and to document student learning and growth.

## Students at St. Anne in Blenheim Participate in Coding Hack-A-Thon

Grade 6 to 8 girls from St. Anne Catholic School in Blenheim participated in the Spring 2018 Hackergal Hack-A-Thon, along with girls from hundreds of elementary schools across Canada.

Hackergal is an organization that encourages young girls to have fun learning computer science and coding. The organization's hope is to inspire girls to pursue careers in the field of technology.

The hack-a-thon is an event that typically lasts for several hours, in which a number of people meet to engage in collaborative computer programming.





## Developing Strong Literacy Skills

Strong literacy skills underpin learning for all students. These skills support effective communication, and equip learners for achievement and success. Our classrooms provide a comprehensive approach to literacy, engaging students in whole class, small group and one-on-one learning opportunities. As students develop communication skills in reading and writing it enables them to transfer these skills and apply them across the curriculum. We know strong literacy skills are a key tool to discern and interpret information. We provide opportunities for our students to engage in relevant texts with connections to the world so that they build the skills necessary to think critically about what they read, voice opinions and express their ideas effectively.

A student's level of phonological awareness at the end of Kindergarten is one of the strongest predictors of future reading success in Grade 1 and beyond. Phonological awareness is the area of oral language that relates to the ability to think about the sounds in a word – the word's phonological structure – rather than just the meaning of the word. It is an understanding of the structure of the spoken language – that it is made up of words and words consist of syllables, rhymes and sounds. All Kindergarten students are assessed and instruction responds to support all of our students in the development of these skills as a foundation for reading.

Our speech pathologists work with our schools to support these assessments and the implementation of appropriate strategies to move our students forward.



## Special Education – Lexia Core5 Reading Program Supports Developing Readers

One of the strategic priorities of the St. Clair Catholic District School Board is to promote educational achievement and innovation. To support the Board's goal of improving literacy skills in our schools the Board purchased 500 Lexia Core5 Reading program licenses. The activities in the Core5 program support and build on our classroom curriculum and focus on developing reading skills in six areas: phonological awareness, phonics, structural analysis, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

The Lexia Core5 Ready Program provides explicit, systematic, adaptive learning and scaffolding instruction for students as they struggle and helps advance them to higher levels as they demonstrate proficiency (90% mastery). The data-driven instruction predicts and prescribes next steps and the real-time student data reports identify individual student progress.

Students begin the Core5 Reading Program at a starting point that fits their needs and work in

online activities throughout the week. The on-line activities include direct instruction and feedback as a child learns new skills. Teachers receive student progress and performance reports to determine if paper-and-pencil activities are required for practice. Printed achievement certificates highlight progress in the program and celebrate student success.

The Board focused on providing licenses to Grade 2 students reading below grade level and Grade 3 - 8 students identified with LD Communication, who were reading below grade level. All Grade 2 teachers, school program resource teachers, consultants and school administrators and some curriculum team members and special education team members received program training. Three teachers received advanced training certifying them to train and support Board staff.

At the end of year one, 20% of the students who began the program reached grade level in reading.

## Summer Learning

To further support development of literacy skills, St. Clair Catholic provides additional learning opportunities through our *Summer Learning Camp*. During a three week period in July, primary students engage in literacy and numeracy experiences in the morning and experiential learning during the afternoon. Summer learning students show marked improvement in reading. Our data shows that students improve up to 5 levels in reading over the course of the three week program. They also strengthen their numeracy skills. Summer learning camps were offered in 10 classrooms at four sites in Blenheim, Chatham, Wallaceburg and Sarnia.

St. Clair Catholic also offer a summer learning experience to intermediate students. During our *Young Minds Making Change Camp*, students build critical literacy skills through a variety of learning experiences connected to authentic, relevant and

real-world issues. This camp was offered in three classrooms in Chatham, Wallaceburg and Sarnia.

Summer learning at St. Clair is a partnership with our families and the community, as we support our students to encourage a love of reading and math, improve their skills in these areas and also in working collaboratively, critical thinking and problem solving.



## Summer Learning By the Numbers

### Primary Summer Learning Camp

- 24 teachers
- 30 volunteers
- 8 post-secondary STEAM Team members (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math)
- More than 150 students

### Young Minds Making Change (Intermediate Camp)

- 6 teachers
- More than 70 students





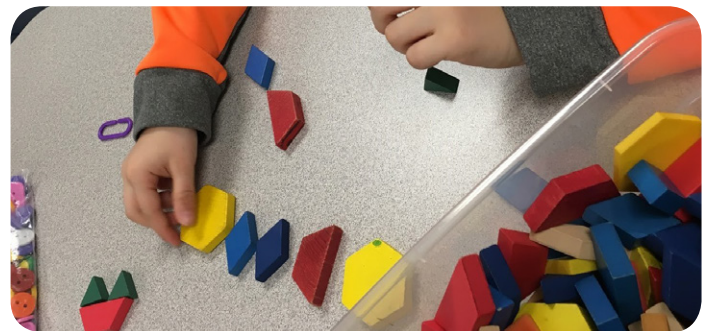
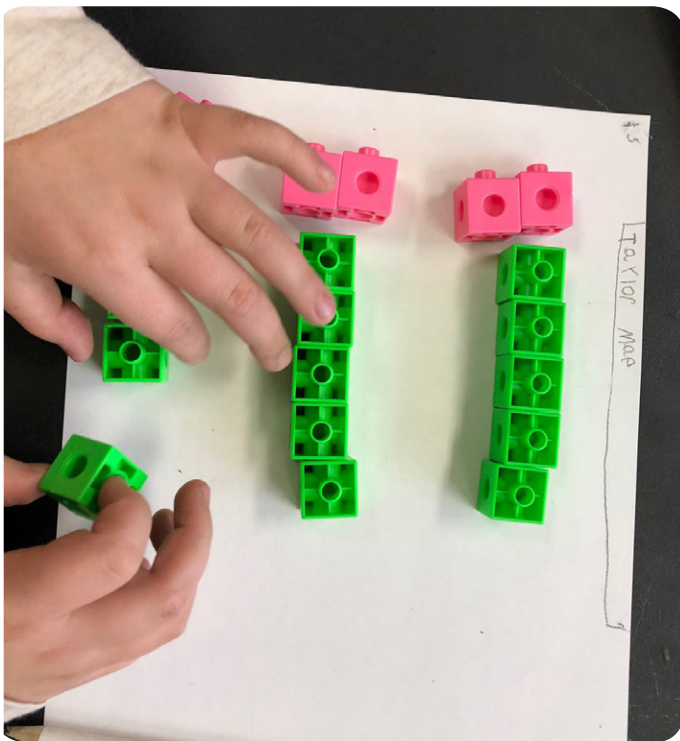
# Numeracy: A Strong Foundation in Mathematics Concepts and Skills

## Elementary Math

St. Clair Catholic District School Board classrooms continue to implement a balance of instructional methods, which includes exploration, collaboration, direct instruction and practice to provide students with many opportunities to develop their understanding and give them a strong foundation in concepts and mastery of fundamental math skills.

School math representatives engaged in professional learning sessions as part of the Renewed Math Strategy (RMS). Identified RMS schools worked to explore student strengths and teaching strategies to move students forward:

- All elementary schools had two or more math representatives participating in a professional learning network;
- All schools participated in ongoing professional learning focused on numeracy;
- All schools participated in professional learning supported by EQAO representatives;
- Intensive weekly numeracy support was provided to seven RMS schools identified by the Ministry of Education.



## Renewed Math Strategy Support

St. Clair Catholic continues to share math learning with our Math Community website, which serves the ongoing needs of students, parents and staff. All professional learning sessions and resources are linked within the website to provide consistency across the system.

To view parent resources in the Math Community website go to:

<https://sites.google.com/sccdsb.net/sccdsb-math-community/home-connections>

## Secondary Math

St. Clair Catholic District School Board secondary math teachers participate in the Ministry of Education's Achieving Excellence in Applied Courses (AEAC) program. This program investigates how educators can embed a balance of direct instruction and collaborative and inquiry-based learning for students in applied level mathematics. The primary goals of the program are to:

- Increase the expectations for success in the applied classrooms;
- Increase the engagement of students in the applied classrooms;
- Increase the achievement of students in the applied classroom.

Using the physical environment of the classroom, including windows and white boards, students are regularly invited to collaboratively share their thinking. Through the use these "vertical classrooms," digital technology and on-going teacher feedback, students continue to improve overall achievement in mathematics, both in the EQAO assessments and report card data.

## French Immersion and Second Language Learning

St. Clair students from JK to Grade 12 build literacy skills in French. Second language learning has many academic and cultural benefits to students. Students also have the opportunity to learn in French at our four French Immersion schools – St. Anne, Blenheim; Monsignor Uyen, Chatham; Christ The King, Wallaceburg; and Gregory A. Hogan, Sarnia.

Events which celebrate the French culture are held regularly at French Immersion schools. In April, students, staff and parents at Monsignor Uyen held a Cabane a Sucre Festival, celebrating a number of beloved French-Canadian spring traditions. They wore plaid shirts and toques and participated in 10 indoor and outdoor activities, in a fun and authentic immersion into the French-Canadian culture.

An outdoor luncheon was prepared by parent volunteers, which included du jambon (ham), des feves au lard (baked beans), du sirop d'erable

(maple syrup) and cookies made with maple syrup. Students also told French stories, sang songs of the Voyageurs, and participated in French-Canadian folk dances and games, such as portage races and sleigh rides.



## Early Learning

Our Early Years teachers and registered Early Childhood Educators participated in two full day sessions to deepen understanding of pedagogical documentation to support written communication, using the new Communication of Learning tool. Educator teams investigated ways to promote inquiry-driven programming and support ways to engage with parents, as they continue to enhance inquiry opportunities for our youngest learners.

Early Years teams also continue to build capacity in the area of mathematics through the examination of the counting principles and activities to support early numeracy development.



## New Teacher Induction Program – NTIP

Thirty-seven elementary and secondary teachers participated in the New Teaching Induction Program last year. These newest members of the St. Clair Catholic family engaged in a variety of sessions, which included:

- Developing strategies to build caring classrooms and effective classroom management;
- Parent communication strategies;
- Enhancing assessment and evaluation practices; and
- Collaborative union planning.

The group also participated in a retreat with their mentor teachers and explored their call to serve through the vocation of teaching with Father John Comiskey. St. Clair Catholic's Mental Health Lead Chris Preece also explored strategies with the group for building capacity in this important area.



# Equity, Diversity and Inclusive Education

## Indigenous Education

St. Clair Catholic believes in the importance of educating all students and staff about Canada's Indigenous peoples. Under the guidance of the Board's Indigenous Education Lead, a number of professional development initiatives and school celebrations were held across the district during 2017-2018.

- Library technicians received a half-day session from Goodminds, which offers resources in bias-free teaching and education resources related to Indigenous studies;
- Early Years educators collaborated to plan for embedding culturally significant learning opportunities into the classroom;
- Shared and guided reading material was purchased for elementary schools, along with professional development for teachers to introduce materials into the classroom;
- Grade 4 classroom and secondary history teachers participated in professional development connected to the new revised curriculum with community partners;
- Grade 6 classes from half the elementary schools across the Board and Grade 6 classes from Walpole Island and Hillside Elementary Schools participated in a "Lacrosse Day" where students learned about the history of lacrosse along with the skills of lacrosse from community partners;
- Secondary schools recognized the legacy of residential school survivors by hosting a school wide Orange Shirt Day and continue to work on opportunities for the Indigenous Student Leadership Groups to learn about Indigenous history, culture, traditions and perspectives.



## Celebrating Diversity Day with Singing, Dancing and a Healing Circle

In November, students at St. Joseph Catholic School in Tilbury completed a healing circle mosaic containing more than 6,500 glass tiles, which represents unity of the four races of mankind.

Under the leadership of Brenda Collins, a Métis artist, students made a healing circle, or medicine wheel. The design is rooted in Indigenous teachings, which bring together all cultures and age groups, to promote positive relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.



At St. Anne Catholic School in Blenheim, students in JK to Grade 4 were treated to a display of singing and dancing by representatives of the Aamjiwnaang and Walpole Island First Nations.

They demonstrated how the beliefs and traditions of Canada's First Nations are carried out through storytelling, singing and dancing. The demonstrations included a Grand Entry, such as those that are performed at Pow Wows, held by First Nations across Canada and the United States.



## Wellbeing – Strong and Resilient Students

Good mental health and wellbeing among all students is a priority at St. Clair Catholic. A number of initiatives to promote good mental health and wellbeing were undertaken throughout the 2017-2018 school year, including:

- The Student Wellbeing and Support Team provided social emotional learning programs to more than 5,800 students, with the majority receiving the MIND UP program. This program content is based in evidence and focuses on brain-based science. Among students who received the program 95% demonstrated an increase in knowledge related to social emotional health. As well, 94% of teachers believed the program was valuable to their students' learning, compared to 97% of students.
- The team also worked directly one-on-one or in small groups with more than 980 students from JK to Grade 12, helping them learn and practice positive coping and self-advocacy skills.
- Student voice was demonstrated through student wellness councils, which developed strategies and activities to address wellbeing in their school culture. The development of pro-social norms was a strategy effectively used in 22 of 28 schools.
- More than 850 staff in our Board were trained in specific areas related to mental wellbeing such as suicide prevention and support, physical literacy and mental health, brain health and positive coping strategies for students and self.
- School climate data was provided to each school with comparison charts from 2016 to 2018. Schools that engaged in foundational wellbeing support had improvements in school climate data related to learning, safety and overall wellbeing.



## Celebrating Wellness with Student-Led Events Across the District

A special Wellness Celebration was held in June to mark the end of a successful year-long schedule of student-led wellness events at St. Clair Catholic schools across the district.

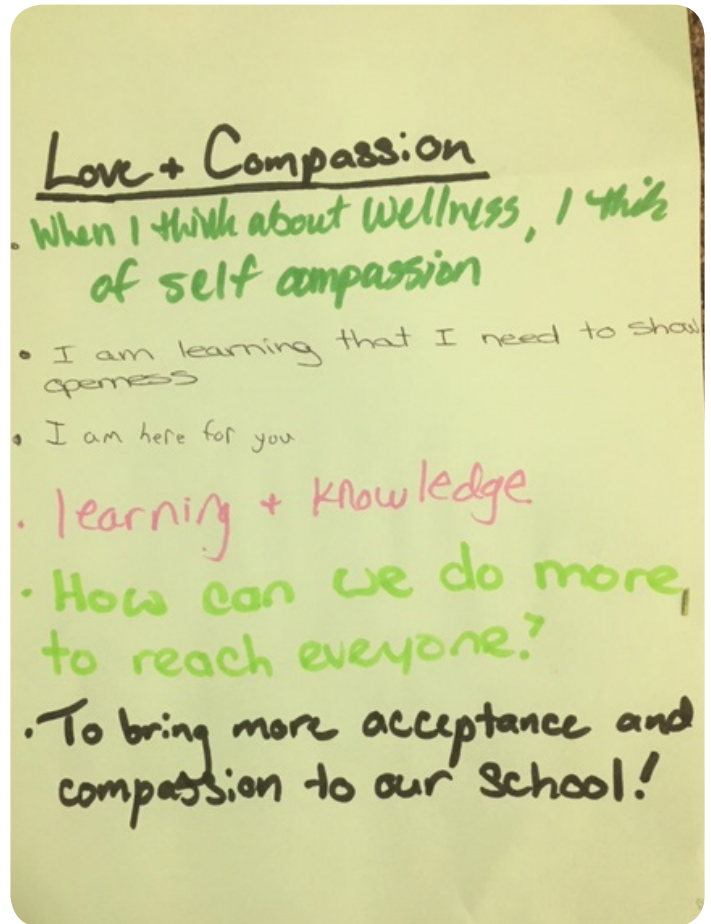
We are very proud of the commitment to wellness that our students demonstrated throughout this school year. Our school-based wellness committees showed great understanding of this important issue and tremendous creativity in the types of events that were planned in our school communities.

The events focused on a number of themes – healthy eating, building confidence, kindness matters, being positive and Heroes in the Hallway



are just a few. The students reported on the success of their events at the Wellness Celebration.

It was a tremendous day of learning, sharing and celebrating our success in this important area.



## Special Education – Pilot to Improve School-Based Support for Children

In the 2017–2018 school year, the St. Clair Catholic District School Board selected St. Matthew Catholic School in Sarnia as the host site for the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Children and Youth Services pilot to Improve School-Based Supports for Children and Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

A dedicated space developed on-site allows external practitioners to come into the school and deliver services to students with ASD. The pilot focuses on developing support for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder through Education

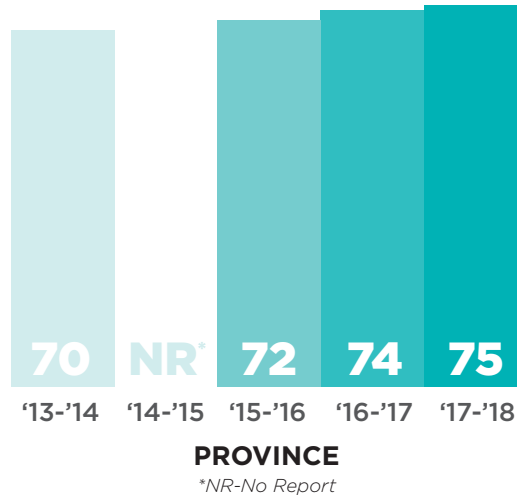
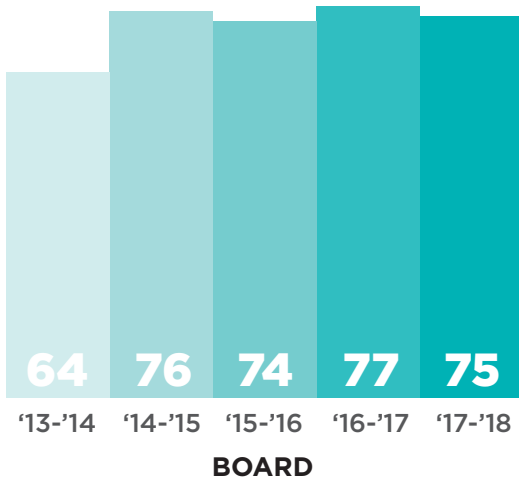
Assistant training and the development of the dedicated space for students currently receiving Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) therapy. A project coordinator and a Board Certified Behaviour Analyst oversee the program and support school staff.

An external researcher and a Provincial Advisory Team consisting of representatives from school boards, autism providers, parents and other provincial stakeholders, are supporting the implementation of the pilot provincially.

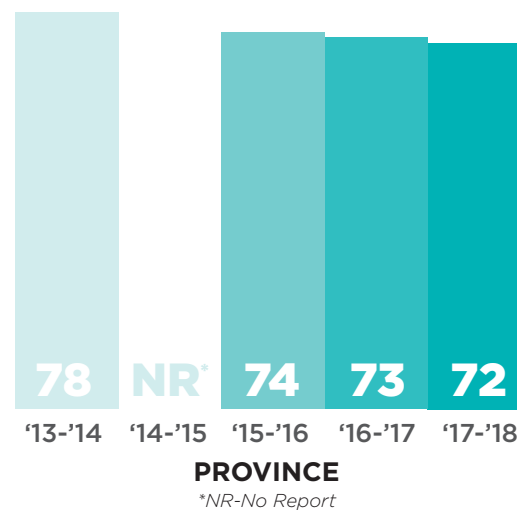
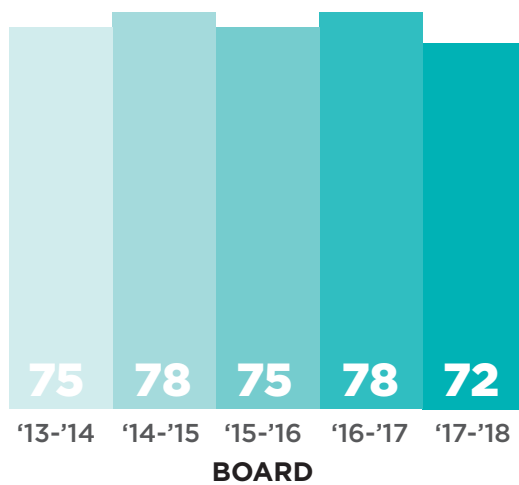
# Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) Assessment Results

## GRADE 3:

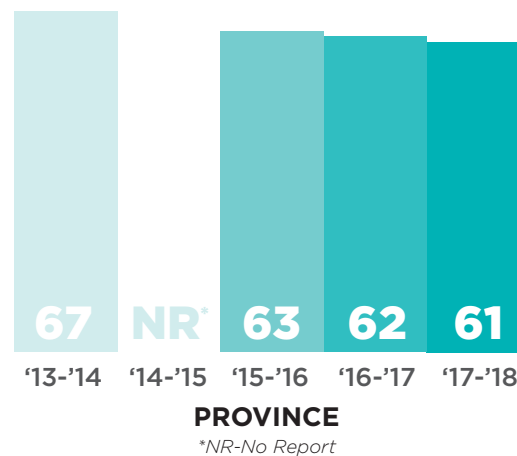
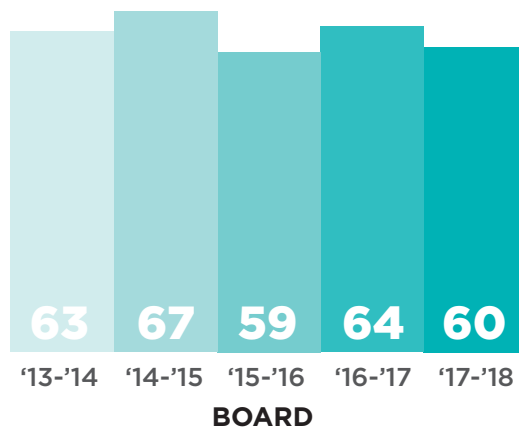
### READING



### WRITING



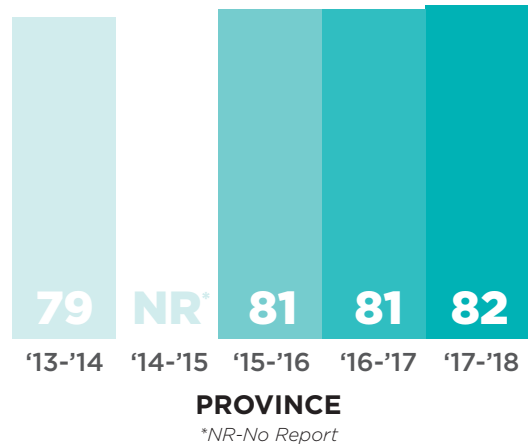
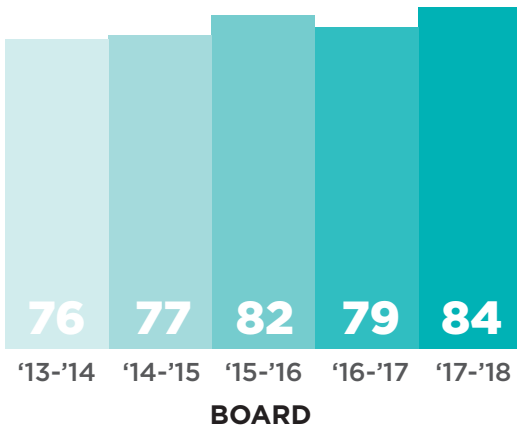
### MATHEMATICS



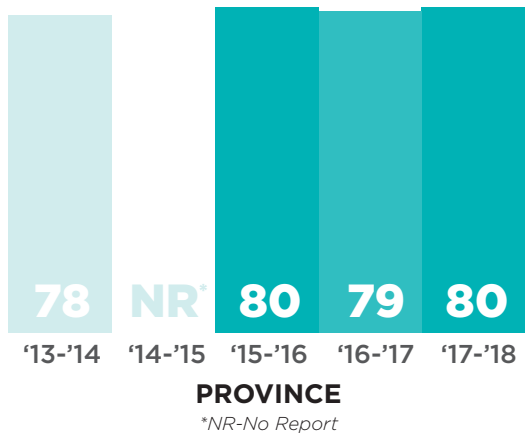
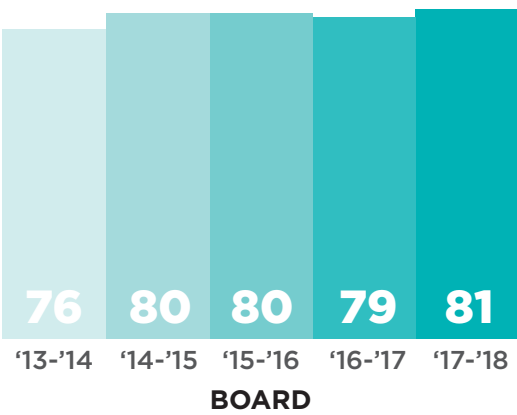


# GRADE 6:

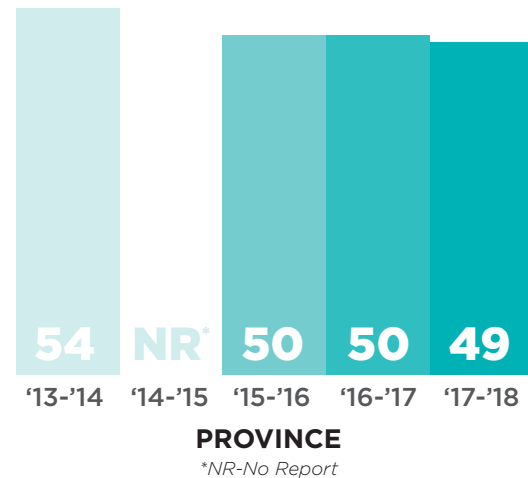
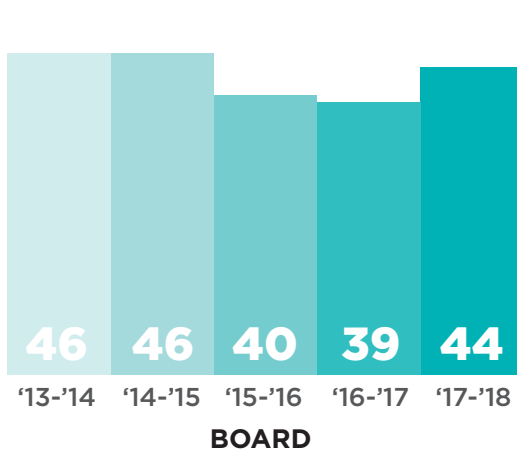
## READING



## WRITING

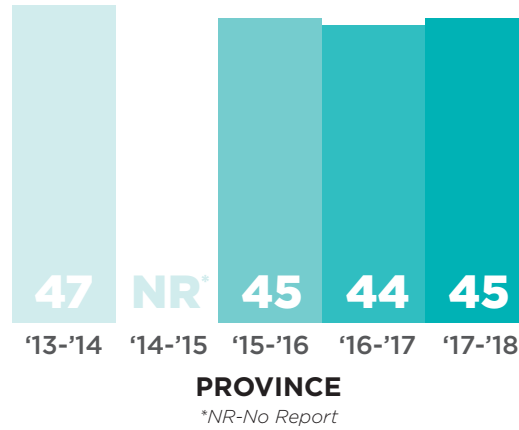
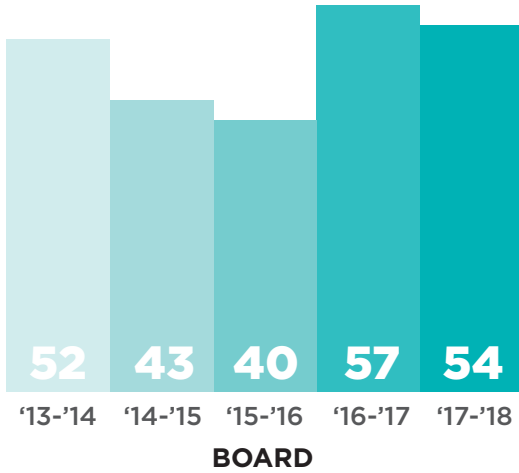


## MATHEMATICS

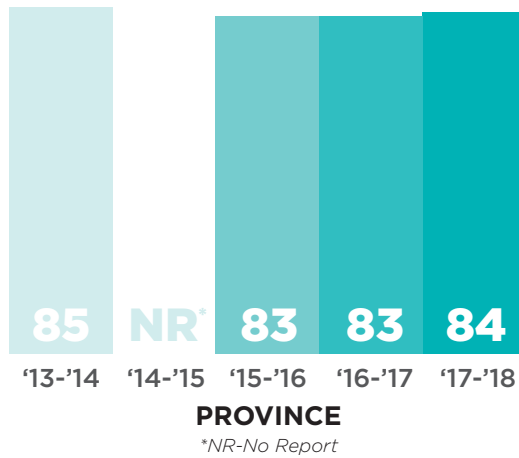
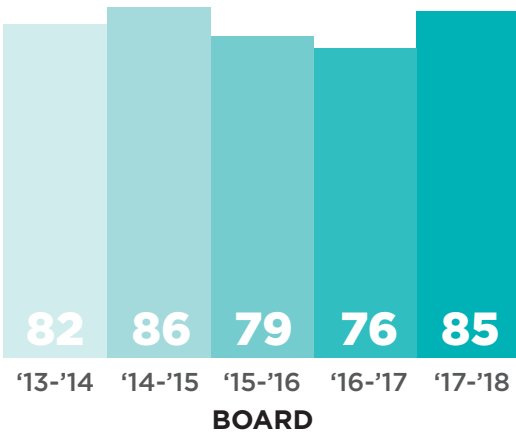


# GRADE 9 MATHEMATICS:

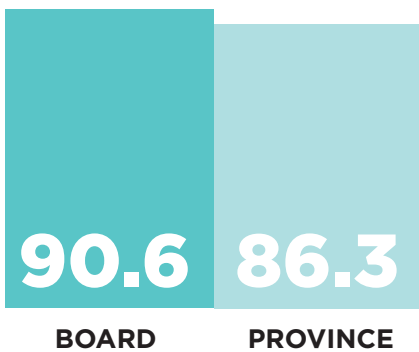
## APPLIED



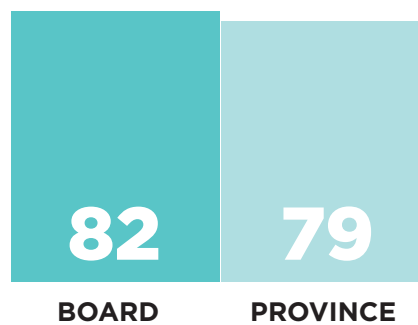
## ACADEMIC



## 5 Year Graduation Rate as of August 2017



## Student Success: Earning 16 credits in Grade 9/10





# Fostering Stewardship, Leadership and Social Justice

## Community Partnerships

St. Clair Catholic strives to build relationships with our community partners in an effort to provide real world problem-solving opportunities for our

students, while at the same time improving the communities in which we live and learn.

## St. Patrick's Students Receive Ontario Heritage Award from Lieutenant Governor

Students in the Grade 11 Communications Technology class at St. Patrick's Catholic High School were presented with the prestigious Ontario Heritage Award by Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell at a ceremony at Queen's Park in February.

The students were recognized for their Eye Was Not There 360 project, which involved creating a series of 360 degree videos of notable Lambton County attractions, under the guidance of their teacher Robert Walicki. Each online video features a tour guide describing the historical locations.

The Ontario Heritage Award for Youth Achievement recognizes the most exceptional individuals and groups, who have contributed to conserving Ontario's cultural and/or natural heritage.

"These exceptional individuals, organizations and communities are champions of our past and architects of our future," said Lt. Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell in a statement released following the ceremony. "On behalf of a grateful province, I thank them for their exemplary achievements in conserving the best of Ontario from which we may learn and mature."



Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell presents the Ontario Heritage Award certificate to Teacher Robert Walicki and students of the St. Patrick's Catholic High School Grade 11 Communications Technology class.

## Ursuline College Students Participate in 24 Hours of Service

Each year in April, a group of senior students at Ursuline College Chatham Catholic Secondary School participated in 24 Hours of Service.

Beginning on a Friday afternoon, they helped out seniors at a neighbouring retirement home and provided a meal for the patrons of the St. Agnes Soup Kitchen. In the evening they had the opportunity to make prayer bracelets and sleeping mats for developing countries. Their service continued into Saturday morning and afternoon, when they cleaned up the shoreline of Erieanu beach, in addition to the facilities of Camp Vincent.

In addition to their servant works, the students raised enough money to feed all of the patrons at the St. Agnes Soup Kitchen and pay for one child's registration to Camp Vincent this summer.

One of the goals for the event is for students to recognize the divine in themselves in order to become the hands, head and heart of Jesus Christ.



## The Muskoka Woods Experience – Building Faith in a New Generation of Leaders

In May, hundreds of Grade 7 students from across the St. Clair Catholic District School Board in Chatham-Kent and Sarnia-Lambton participated in the annual Muskoka Woods Experience with the student leaders from their Catholic high schools – St. Patrick's in Sarnia and Ursuline College in Chatham.

It is a tremendous faith-building, leadership and outdoor education experience. Each year, the Muskoka Woods Experience brings together secondary student leaders and Grade 7 students for a wide variety of growth opportunities for every student.

Special thanks is extended to Father John Comiskey for his leadership, mentorship and for celebrating inspirational Masses, that lifted our faith and brought us into a close and moving encounter with Christ. He connected with our students in ways that will impact their faith and their growth as young men and women for many years to come.

Muskoka Woods offers a challenge by choice environment, where students are encouraged to step outside their comfort zones in ways that embrace new relationships and personal challenges.





## Holy Rosary Catholic School Receives Certification from Ontario EcoSchools

In June, Holy Rosary Catholic School certified with the Ontario EcoSchools program, joining a growing movement of more than 1,900 certified schools across the province.

Ontario EcoSchools works with 58 school boards across the province to nurture student leadership and foster environmental learning and action in schools. Certification is based on a provincial standard of excellence established over 13 years of benchmarking. Currently, the program certifies 39 per cent of all schools in Ontario and reaches one million students.

The school has embarked on several major initiatives as part of the certification process. Reducing waste has been a key focus for students. Through composting, recycling, reusing and

repairing the school has cut its garbage output from seven bags a day to just one. Parents also report that their children are requesting changes in the home – including the purchase of reusable containers; rather than disposable sandwich bags.

St. Clair Catholic is proud to be part of this growing network and we celebrate the excellent work of Holy Rosary students and staff.

Holy Rosary became involved in the EcoSchools program through the St. Clair Catholic District School Board's Chatham-Kent Lambton Administrative School Services (CLASS). With the support of CLASS, resources from the EcoSchools "Kickstart Program" and funding from the Council of Directors of Education (CODE) Holy Rosary's drive towards certification was launched.



## School Board Profile

(as of October 31, 2018)

Schools: 28 (Elementary: 26; Secondary: 2)  
Enrollment: 8,714 (Elementary: 6,115; Secondary: 2,599)

Classroom Teachers: 510 (Elementary: 352; Secondary: 158)  
Instructional Support Staff: 268  
Principals and Vice Principals: 36  
School Office Support Staff: 47  
Facilities Support Staff: 77  
Board Administration: 26

## Stewardship of Resources – Investing in the Future of Catholic Education

The St. Clair Catholic District School Board is committed to building and sustaining the infrastructure necessary to support and improve student achievement. In its ongoing commitment to make schools better places to learn, the Board invested \$3,588,705 in school renewal, school condition improvement, greenhouse gas reduction, early years capital and community hubs projects during the 2017-18 school year.

School	Project Description	Cost
Our Lady of Fatima	Wall Assembly, Universal Washroom, and Service Upgrades (In Progress), Design for Future Mechanical Upgrades Project	863,933
St Matthew	Classroom Upgrades, Childcare Space Retrofit, Parking Lot Expansion	629,577
Holy Family	Classroom Upgrades	503,441
Ursuline College	Roof Replacement, Siding Upgrades, Sidewalk Upgrades (In Progress)	501,139
Holy Trinity	Classroom Upgrades, Childcare Space Retrofit, Learning Commons Upgrades	482,013
St John Fisher	Site Improvements	166,858
Christ The King	Classroom Upgrades, Roof Replacement, Site Service Upgrades	95,601
St Anne, Blenheim	Classroom Upgrades, Fencing	66,978
St Joseph, Corunna	Learning Commons Upgrades, Classroom Upgrades	66,528
Gregory Hogan	PA System Upgrades, Interior Renovations	62,677
St Patrick's	Classroom Upgrades	34,299
St Michael, Ridgetown	Site Improvements	23,847
St Michael, Bright's Grove	PA System Upgrades	22,035
Good Shepherd	Siding Upgrades	20,503
Sacred Heart, Port Lambton	Roof Replacement	15,985
St Elizabeth	Roof Top Unit Replacement	13,983
St Joseph, Tilbury	Security System	10,187
St Peter Canisius	Roof Replacement	9,121



## Board of Trustees and Senior Administration – 2017-2018



Front row (L-R) Carol Bryden, Trustee; Michelle Parks, Vice Chair; John Van Heck, Chair; Deb Crawford, Director of Education; Jerry Lozon, Board Chaplain.

Back row (L-R) Brenda Rumble, Trustee; Anita Mallette-Snobelen, Trustee; Scott Johnson, Superintendent; Laura Callaghan, Superintendent; Lisa Demers, Superintendent; James Duff, Executive Manager – Human Resource Services; Mat Roop, Trustee.

Absent: Linda Ward, Trustee; and Amy Janssens, Associate Director – Corporate Services & Treasurer



**ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC**  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

*Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey*