

Director's Annual Report 2006-2007



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey

A Message from the *Director of Education...*



Each year, it is a pleasure and a privilege for me to present this report, which outlines some of the many achievements of the students and staff of St. Clair Catholic. For our Board, 2006-2007 was another year of tremendous success, in which support for student achievement was a priority for all of us who work here. From teachers to custodians and secretaries to support staff and administration... our focus is always to ensure that our students have the best possible learning environments and educational supports.

And it's working! At St. Clair Catholic, our EQAO test scores and graduation rates continue to be among the top one third in the province. This is due to the great strength of our teaching staff, supported by an administrative team which recognizes the importance of investment in professional development and in building strong learning communities. The result of these initiatives is that we continually develop new strategies to help our students to be successful. It is gratifying to see these investments pay dividends in student achievement.

2006-2007 was also the year in which we implemented our new strategic plan, which will guide St. Clair Catholic for the next several years. The plan was developed after focus groups were conducted with 23 stakeholder groups. Together, we have charted a course for the future, which will build on the successes of the past.

Finally, let me say that as I travel the district, I am struck time and again by the fact that our greatest resource at St. Clair Catholic is our people. Teachers, students, parents, support staff, administrators and our parish partners... these are the people who make St. Clair Catholic great. I want to thank each of you for all that you do to support Catholic education in our district.

Sincerely,

Paul Wubben,
Director of Education



Board of Trustees

Seated: Linda Ward, Vice Chair of the Board,
Anita Labadie, Chair of the Board,
Fr. Andy Dwyer, Board Chaplain
Standing: John VanHeck, Brenda Rumble,
Michelle Parks, Carol Bryden, Ross Daly



Student Representatives

Katie Zimmer, Ursuline College Chatham Catholic Secondary School, representing secondary students in Chatham-Kent and Katherine Williams, St. Christopher Catholic Secondary School, representing secondary students in Sarnia-Lambton.

Honouring Excellence...

Dan Tighe Named one of Canada's Outstanding Principals – Ursuline College Principal Dan Tighe was named one of Canada's Outstanding Principals for 2007. The distinguished award is bestowed by The Learning Partnership, a national not-for-profit organization, which honours the extraordinary contributions of dynamic leaders in education at publicly funded schools.

Ruby Charron Receives Premier's Award for Teaching Excellence – Ruby Charron, a grade one teacher at Monsignor Uyen Catholic School, was named a recipient of the Premier's Award for Teaching Excellence in April 2007. She was recognized for excellence in literacy, which is an area of tremendous focus for St. Clair Catholic. Ruby was one of 15 educators, principals and education support workers from across the province to receive the award, and the only one in southwestern Ontario.

St. Michael Catholic School is a School on the Move! – The St. Michael Catholic School in Ridgetown was chosen as one of about 40 Schools on the Move for 2007. Schools on the Move are those schools which have demonstrated improvement in the provincial assessment, and which have a range of well-developed strategies specific to the improvement of literacy and numeracy. As a result of the designation, St. Michael Catholic School will participate in a symposium to share best practices with other schools and school boards across Ontario.

UCC Students Win Top Prize at International Film Festival – Two Ursuline College students won the top prize in the "Jump Cuts" grade 10 to 12 division of the prestigious Sprockets International Film Festival for Children in Toronto. Kurtis Baute and Andrew Beuglet took home the Gertrude Lowengren Award for their film entitled *Eyelid Sky: The Chase*. It was one of 100 video entries from 20 countries around the world.

Providing

Quality Catholic Education...



Math and Language Trek Available On-line – Students of St. Clair Catholic are now able to access a new on-line learning tool. Math and Language Trek, made possible through software developed by the Nectar Foundation, is an interactive program for students from JK to grade 12. The program is available to anyone who has a computer with internet access.

Users simply go to the board's main web page at www.st-clair.net then click on the Math and Language Trek icon and follow the prompts to install the program.

Health and Physical Education Itinerant Teachers – A team of eight teachers continued to broaden and enhance health and physical education programming within St. Clair Catholic elementary schools during the 2006-2007 school year. All students participated in three monthly visits with the itinerant teacher. This will be expanded to weekly visits during the 2007-2008 school year.

Education for All projects – Seventeen primary classrooms, in which the classroom teacher and the program resource teacher share literacy instructional duties, were set up across the district. With the support of the district literacy team, a collegial team teaching approach is utilized to meet the learning needs of all students. Eight schools are participating in a special project to enhance knowledge and pedagogy in the subject of mathematics. Each school team consists of a primary, junior and intermediate teacher, the program resource teacher and principal. School teams have participated in professional development activities and joint planning. It is anticipated that student performance in the area of mathematics will improve as a result of this project.

Premier Assistive Technology Suite – During the 2006 - 2007 school year, St. Clair Catholic purchased Premier Suite Software for all school computers, all student home computers and computers owned by all parents of students who have special needs. This suite of software has many excellent text-to-speech applications that will benefit students.

Gifted Programming – The congregated gifted program was in full swing at both the Chatham-Kent and the Sarnia-Lambton sites. There were 130 elementary and 30 secondary students participating in higher level thinking challenges and activities. Next year we look forward to congregating again, with new, exciting challenges and projects.

Student Assessment – This year was the first year of a two year special project addressing assessment of students experiencing academic difficulties. The focus was on speech and language assessments. An additional speech and language pathologist was contracted to complete additional assessments. The speech and language pathologists also worked collaboratively with the district literacy and numeracy team and primary teachers on early intervention strategies in the area of literacy development.

Welding at St. Patrick's – Students in the new manufacturing course at St. Patrick's Catholic High School had the opportunity to receive 20 days of instruction in welding at Lambton College as part of the program. The students learn basic welding techniques from an experienced welder in a state-of-the-art facility.

UCC Students Earn College Credits – As part of a school to college initiative between St. Clair College and St. Clair Catholic, 11 secondary students from The Pines experienced life at the college level one day a week while earning up to four college credits. The credits are requirements for several programs in the engineering and manufacturing technology program at St. Clair College. This program also helps develop workplace-specific skills and helps students explore opportunities available at the college level.

New Experiential Learning Program – The 1st Hussars, an army reserve unit based in Sarnia, is providing a unique and challenging opportunity for students interested in the military. Students who participate in this cooperative education placement would enter into the first stage of military training and would receive an estimated \$39 per half day. Students must meet all Canadian Forces enrolment prerequisites, which include an aptitude test, an interview process, medical and a fitness test. Students must be 16 to apply. The first graduation ceremony for students from St. Patrick's Catholic High School and St. Christopher Catholic Secondary School was held in June.

Student Achievement EQAO Results...

Student achievement in St. Clair Catholic continues to be strong, with EQAO scores in the top third of school boards across Ontario. According to a School Board Progress report released by the Ministry of Education in February, among the 60 English language school boards in Ontario, St. Clair Catholic was ranked:

- Among the top six for grade 6 EQAO results in reading for 2005-2006
- Among the top seven for progress on grade 6 reading between 2002-2003 and 2005-2006
- Among the top 13 for Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) results in 2005-2006
- Among the top 19 for progress on the OSSLT between 2002-2003 and 2005-2006

Grade 3 and 6 Achievement

	Reading		Writing		Mathematics	
	St. Clair	Province	St. Clair	Province	St. Clair	Province
Grade 3	65%	62%	67%	64%	79%	69%
Grade 6	67%	64%	63%	61%	65%	59%

Grade 9 Mathematics

	St. Clair	Province
Academic	77%	71%
Applied	39%	35%

Grade 10 OSSLT

	St. Clair	Province
First Time Eligible	86%	84%

Events and Milestones –

Celebrating Catholic Education with Our Community Partners...



Bishop Fabbro Celebrates Catholic Education Week Mass – We were honoured to have Bishop Ronald Fabbro, Bishop of London, preside at the 2007 system-wide Catholic Education Week Mass for the St. Clair Catholic District. Liturgical dancers from the St. Patrick's Catholic High School family of schools celebrated the theme Created in the Image of God through the art of dance.

Five Area Catholic Schools Organize Cyber-Bullying and Technology Workshop – St. Patrick's Catholic High School along with four of its partner elementary schools and the Sarnia Police Services organized an information evening for parents, which focused on cyber-bullying and technology. Parents and children from St. Benedict, St. Margaret, St. Peter and St. Therese Catholic School communities attended the evening, paid for through a Parent Reaching Out grant provided by the Ministry of Education



Union Gas Partners with School Communities – St. Patrick's Catholic High School and Holy Family Catholic School received donations from Union Gas during this school year through the company's community service fund, which supports employee-led community service projects. The money was used for landscaping projects at the schools.

St. Joseph Catholic School Raises \$15,319 for Terry Fox Foundation – Through a series of Terry Fox fundraising events, the St. Joseph Catholic School community in Corunna raised more than \$15,000 this year. That placed the school in the top 20 for elementary school donors in Ontario. Sacred Heart Catholic School in Sarnia ranked 23rd. As part of the mission of Catholic education, St. Clair Catholic school communities have a long history of supporting this very worthy charity.

St. Clair's Three Catholic High Schools Raise More Than \$22,000 in Share Lent Challenge – St. Clair Catholic's high school students raised a record \$22,479.44 in the annual Share Lent Challenge, a friendly competition between the three Catholic high school communities. The money is donated each year to the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace. In six years, the Share Lent Challenge has raised \$95,316. This year, students from St. Patrick's raised the most money per student, and were treated to a pizza lunch courtesy of the students at St. Christopher Catholic Secondary School and Ursuline College Chatham Catholic Secondary School.



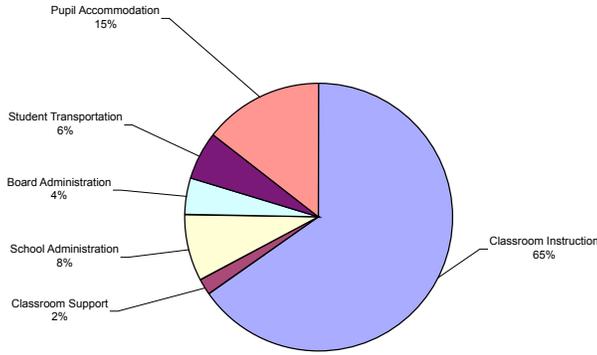
Best Start Partnership Opens Childcare Hubs in two Catholic Elementary Schools – Through the Best Start partnership, childcare hubs were opened at St. Elizabeth and St. Philip Catholic schools. Best Start is an early learning and child care initiative designed to give children in Ontario the best possible start in life and greater opportunities for success at school. It is built on a partnership that

brings school boards together with municipalities and the provincial government.



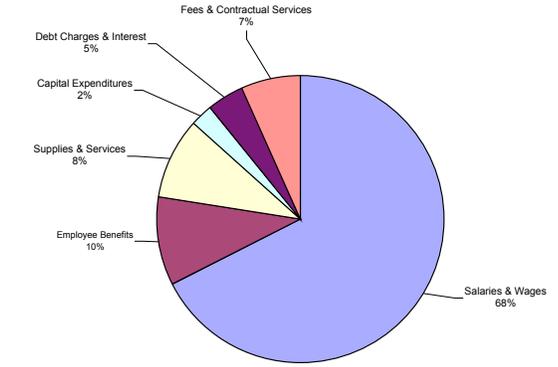
2006-2007 Budget

2006 - 07 EXPENDITURES BY MINISTRY CATEGORY



	\$ million
Classroom Instruction	62.8
Classroom Support	1.6
School Administration	7.7
Board Administration	3.9
Student Transportation	5.8
Pupil Accommodation	14.4
Total	96.2

2006 - 07 EXPENDITURES BY EXPENDITURE TYPE



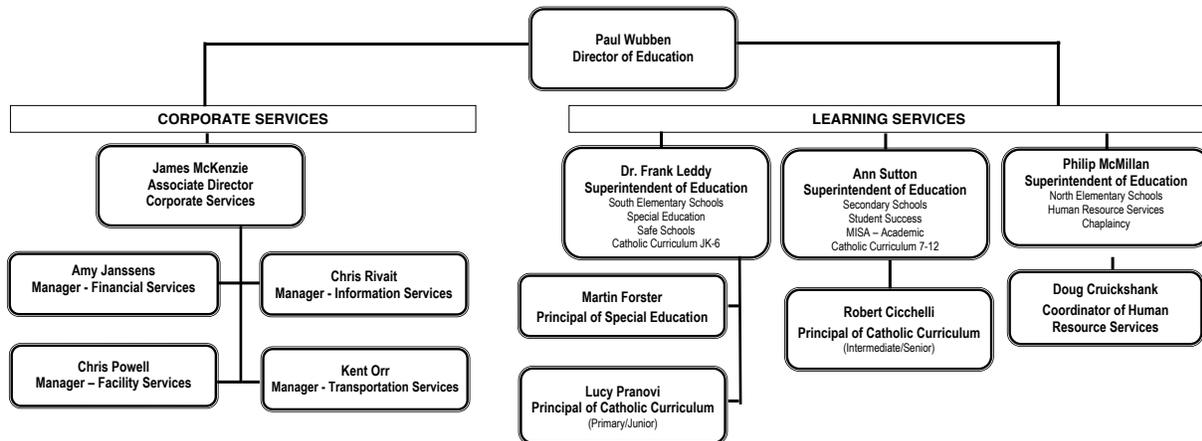
	\$ million
Salaries & Wages	65.6
Employee Benefits	9.9
Supplies & Services	7.6
Capital Expenditures	1.3
Debt Charges & Interest	4.8
Fees & Contractual Services	7.0
Total	96.2

Reinvesting In Our Catholic Schools

Improvements and Upgrades for 2006-2007

- Plumbing upgrades, Holy Family Catholic School, Wallaceburg - \$125,000
- Boiler upgrade, St. Peter Canisius Catholic School, Watford - \$100,000
- Roofing repairs, Sacred Heart Catholic School, Sarnia - \$275,000
- Plumbing upgrades, St. John Fisher Catholic School, Forest - \$300,000
- HVAC upgrades, St. Joseph Catholic School, Corunna - \$500,000
- Roofing repairs, St. Michael Catholic School, Bright's Grove - \$400,000
- HVAC and electrical upgrades, St. Michael Catholic School, Ridgetown - \$1,000,000

Senior Administration 2007-2008



Serving Catholics in Lambton County and the Municipality of Chatham-Kent within the Diocese of London

Enrolment (FTE October 31, 2006)	
Elementary	6,999.50
Secondary	3,394.00
Total	10,393.50

Enrolment (FTE March 31, 2007)	
Elementary	6,997.50
Secondary	3,218.25
Total	10,215.75

Staff (FTE October 31, 2006)	
Teaching	614.50
Non-Teaching	406.50
Total	1,021.00

Schools (June, 2007)	
Elementary	30
Secondary	3
Total	33