



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OUR VISION

Catholic Education † Future Ready

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Catholic Education Centre

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USER GROUP COMMITTEE ASSISTS WITH DESIGN STAGE OF NEW GREGORY A. HOGAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The design process is underway for the new Gregory A. Hogan Catholic School, which will be built on The Rapids Parkway in Sarnia.

“This is an important step in the process,” says Deb Crawford, Director of Education. “We want stakeholders to have a say in what they value as the plans for the design of this new school are developed.”

On January 26, 2021 the Board announced that Cornerstone Architecture of London had been selected to design the new building. Alison Hannay is the lead architect for the project and she is currently facilitating a series of virtual input sessions with stakeholders.

“We are pleased to have an enthusiastic and dedicated group of people who are committed to developing a vision for what the new Gregory A. Hogan Catholic French Immersion school will look like when it opens in September 2023,” says Scott Johnson, Superintendent of Education.

The input session participants include students, parents, teaching and support staff from Gregory A. Hogan Catholic School, and support staff from Special Education, Catholic Learning Services, CLASS, Facility Services and senior administration. A session was also scheduled for Trustees and a child care user group will provide input into the five child care classrooms that will be included in the new school.

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LENTEN ACTIVITIES GUIDE HELPS DIRECT A JOURNEY FASTING, PRAYING AND CARING FOR EACH OTHER

As a community of faith, each year during our Lenten journey God call us to a time of fasting, praying and caring for others along the way. It is also a time of hope; which is perhaps more important now than ever before.

“The current restrictions on daily life as a result of the global pandemic are a significant challenge for many of us,” says Deb Crawford, Director of Education. “The suffering and isolation that many experience make it more important than ever that we share the love of Christ with each other.”

Under the direction of Superintendent of Education Laura Callaghan, the St. Clair Catholic District School Board has developed a Lenten Guide for staff. The guide is a resource that helps teachers to connect classroom learning and activities for students during this important 40-day journey.

Highlights from the Lenten Guide include:

- Connections to the Board’s Strategic Plan, with a focus on two values – *Respect Rooted in Love* and *Accountability to God, Self and Others*;
- Connections to the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations with suggested actions for living the OCGEs;
- Classroom and School Lent Challenge – *Leave Your Heart Print*;
- Development and Peace Share Love Share Lent Campaign;
- Lenten resources for students, staff and community.

Additional Lenten resources for families are available on the Board website at the following link: [Living Our Faith \(sccdsb.net\)](http://www.sccdsb.net)

To read Director of Education Deb Crawford’s Lenten message to parents/guardians, visit the Board website at: [Our Lenten Journey - A Message from Deb Crawford | Newsdesk \(st-clair.net\)](http://www.st-clair.net)

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ARCHITECTURA INC. SELECTED TO LEAD PROJECT AT SACRED HEART CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN PORT LAMBTON

Architecttura Inc. Architects of Windsor, Ontario has been selected as the firm that will lead the project at Sacred Heart Port Lambton. The work will include a portapak demolition, school and child care addition and retrofit upgrades.

A request for proposals (RFP) was issued on January 8, 2021 and seven proposals were received. An open and competitive procurement process was followed. An evaluation team individually reviewed and scored the proposals and later met to review them together. Architecttura Inc. was selected based on the collective scoring and consensus of the committee.

“Architecttura understands the importance of this project to both the Board and the community of Port Lambton,” says Amy Janssens, Associate Director. “Their submission included an outline for the process to design the project, as well as their ability to develop consensus and to successfully meet program requirements while being mindful of schedule and budget constraints.”

Administrative staff will begin working with Architecttura to schedule user group input sessions.

“We have worked with Architecttura in the past and look forward to another successful working relationship on the Port Lambton project,” says Mrs. Janssens.

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NOELLE'S GIFT – ENSURING THAT EVERY CHILD HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO 'GROW UP GREAT!'

At this evening's Regular Board Meeting, Trustees were updated on the tremendous contributions of *Noelle's Gift* to students and families over the past several years.

"What a remarkable legacy for Noelle Paquette," says Deb Crawford, Director of Education. "The support that is provided to our students and families by the Paquette family on behalf of the *Noelle's Gift* foundation is truly amazing."

Noelle's Gift was established in January 2013 to honour Noelle Paquette, who was a dedicated and caring teacher with the St. Clair Catholic District School Board.

"Noelle recognized that there are many students who experience circumstances beyond their control and require assistance," says Lisa Demers, who administers the *Noelle's Gift* fund on behalf of St. Clair Catholic. "She was always aware of others in need and believed that every child deserves an opportunity to become a 'smash hit,' as she would often say to her students."

The *Noelle's Gift* mission is to improve the lives of children in the community. The organization values learning, healthy nutrition, physical activity and the provision of necessities to support student success.

The funds from *Noelle's Gift* are instrumental in supporting our students and families," says Ms. Demers. "The additional hardships faced by families during the COVID-19 global pandemic has resulted in an even greater number of requests from our principals to access these funds."

Funds expended over the past three years include:

- \$24,238.79 from September 2018-August 2019
- \$55,766.82 from September 2019-August 2020
- \$33,790.34 from September 2020-January 2021

The funds are utilized to provide necessities such as groceries and clothing, assist with medical expenses and provide other miscellaneous items to support students and their families.

"*Noelle's Gift* stays true to its mission," says Mrs. Crawford. "It supports our families every day by improving the lives of the children we serve both at St. Clair Catholic and right across our community."

The Board of Trustees expressed its sincere appreciation to Lynn Paquette, the mother of Noelle Paquette. Ms. Paquette was invited to this evening's virtual Board meeting for the presentation of the report to Trustees.

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ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC CONTINUES WORK TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY IN SCHOOLS ACROSS THE DISTRICT

In August 2020 the Ontario Ministry of Education provided funding and guidance on air quality and ventilation in schools. St. Clair Catholic's allocation was \$227,000. Since that time, the Board has used the Optimizing Air Quality in Schools funding to develop a number of strategies, which support healthy and safe learning environments for students and staff.

These include:

- Upgrades to air filtration – All HVAC equipment is being inspected monthly by an HVAC technician. Air filters have been upgraded and are changed every three months.
- Hiring a mechanical consultant – Chorley and Bisset has been contracted to conduct school assessments to review air distributions, school HVAC equipment and to advise the Board on best practices.
- Purchase of portable air conditioners and HEPA air purifier units – Teaching spaces with limited HVAC equipment and conditioned air have received portable air conditioners with HEPA air purifiers for safe and comfortable environments.

“Our Board is committed to learning environments that are safe and healthy for students and staff,” says Deb Crawford, Director of Education. “We support this funding from the Ministry and will continue to work with our consultant to expend the funds in ways which produce the best and most effective results.”

On February 1, 2021 the Ontario government announced the second phase of Safe Return to Class Funding, which includes an additional \$227,000 funding allocation for Optimizing Air Quality in Schools and Ventilation. A plan for use of this further funding, supported by recommendations from Chorley and Bisset, has been submitted to the Ministry.