

MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Catholic Education Centre 420 Creek Street Wallaceburg, ON N8A 4C4 Telephone: 519-627-6762 Facsimile: 519-627-8230 Website: www.st-clair.net

For further information regarding this release, please contact:

Director of Education Paul Wubben 519-627-6762, ext. 241 E-mail: media@st-clair.net

Superintendent of Education Dr. Frank Leddy 519-627-6762, ext. 388

Chair of the Board Carol Bryden 519-627-8976

Supervisor – Communications and Community Relations Todd Lozon 519-627-6762 Ext. 243 E-mail: todd.lozon@st-clair.net

CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION MOVES FORWARD; NEW ST. PAT'S TO OPEN SEPTEMBER 2014

The new St. Patrick's Catholic High School will be open to students beginning in September 2014. Three years ago, the St. Clair Catholic District School Board conducted an accommodation review of its Sarnia secondary schools, resulting in a decision by the Board of Trustees that the two schools be consolidated into one campus at the St. Christopher site, to be named St. Patrick's Catholic High School. The new school will feature a \$12-million renovation with a 60,000 square foot addition and reconfigured space with extensive upgrades throughout the existing facility.

"The new St. Patrick's Catholic High School will be an outstanding educational facility, which will meet our students' learning needs into the future," says Dr. Frank Leddy, Superintendent of Education and project leader.

The extensive changes mean the current St. Christopher facility will become a construction site for one year, effective end of June 2013. For reasons of student and staff safety, program delivery and to expedite the project's ambitious building plans, the school will be closed to students for the 2013-2014 academic year. All Catholic high school students in Sarnia-Lambton will be relocated to the current St. Patrick's campus on East Street.

"There is still much work to do as we finalize a host of matters related to the 2013-2014 school year, including programs, extra curriculars, timetables, transportation, graduation ceremonies and more," says Dr. Leddy. "However, there will be opportunities for input from joint meetings of school staff, the parent councils and student parliaments and those decisions will be communicated to students, staff and parents in the coming months."

In the meantime, an information meeting has been scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 16, 2012 at St. Christopher. Students, parents, staff and members of the public will have an opportunity to meet the project architect, learn more details about the construction project, view drawings and tour the building to see first-hand all of the tremendous changes in store.

"This is a great opportunity to bring our Sarnia Catholic secondary school community back together again under one roof. We know that everyone joins in our excitement and anticipation, as we look to the future," says Dr. Leddy.

A public information meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 16, 2012 at St. Christopher Catholic Secondary School, 1001 The Rapids Parkway, Sarnia. Members of the media are welcome.