

DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2022



St. Clair Catholic
District School Board

Catholic
Education
Future
Ready



St. Clair Catholic
District School Board

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Message from the Director of Education

The Director's Annual Report 2022 is a compilation of just some the many achievements, educational programs and activities undertaken by our students, our schools and our staff throughout the 2021-2022 school year.

In reviewing the pages of this report, I am astounded at the depth and breadth of the great work that has been done across the system, despite the challenges of a second year of COVID-19.

Late last year, as we began to exit the pandemic, our Pastoral Teams were the first visitors permitted back into our schools. Thank you to our parish partners, who always help us to see that, with our faith to guide us, we can face anything.

As we moved through 2021-2022, we began a gradual return to a more normal school experience, with in-person classroom learning, a return to sports play, enjoying recess with friends from across cohorts and the reoccurrence of social justice projects in our schools, which support so many in our communities and around the world.

Despite these returns to normalcy, we know that the pandemic disproportionately affected some of us more than others. That is why we focused so heavily throughout the 2021-2022

school year on mental health supports for our most vulnerable. Funding from the Ministry of Education was leveraged throughout the year to put in place programs and initiatives to assist those who felt the effects of the pandemic most deeply.

I would like to thank again, the many health professionals at both the Lambton and Chatham-Kent public health units, for their unending guidance and support throughout two years of COVID-19. Their caring expertise helped our students, families and staff to be safe and well in our school communities.

I also want to express my appreciation to all of you – our students, staff and families – for your patience and support during the past two years. You have demonstrated strength, resilience and perseverance.

I know that, as you read through the pages of this report, you agree that we have much to celebrate at St. Clair Catholic. It is indeed a great news report – a testament to the innovation, resilience and compassion with which our school communities faced the trials of the pandemic. As a result, we have begun the 2022-2023 school year with a renewed sense of optimism and a hopeful spirit that will guide us toward better days.

Sincerely,
Scott Johnson
Director of Education

Message from the Chair of the Board



I can scarcely believe that another year has flown by. As we approach 2023, it is good to look back over the 2021-2022 school year and remind ourselves of the tremendous learning, achievement and acts of social justice that our students have accomplished. It is an impressive list.

Of course, none of this could have been achieved without the committed and faith-filled members of our staff across the system. From our teachers and educational support staff, to our custodial and operations staff and our administrative support and senior team, St. Clair Catholic is richly blessed by women and men, who dedicate themselves to our students and families.

Like you, I am so pleased that we have begun to leave behind the darkest days of the pandemic. These were challenging times; but with our focus on mental health and well-being for all, our students had the assurance that they were safe and cared for. With our faith to guide us, there was always hope for a brighter tomorrow.

We remain vigilant; however, we are most thankful for the return to in-person classroom learning. With optimism and confidence, we pray classroom learning will continue throughout this current school year.

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, the 2021-2022 school year was a tremendous success at St. Clair Catholic, as demonstrated in the pages of this report.

God's blessings to you and your family.

Yours in Catholic Education,
John Van Heck
Chair of the Board

Our Response to the Pandemic

The 2021-2022 school year began with many of the public health measures in place that were also present in September 2020. However, by March the Ontario government, on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, began to ease public health restrictions across the province, including schools. With the changes, schools began to return to a learning environment which was more normalized, while remaining vigilant and keeping as the first priority the health and safety of students and staff.

By September 2021, the Board had made an investment of \$9.6 million to improve heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems at schools across the district. Filters on all HVAC systems were upgraded and portable air conditioners and high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filtration units were purchased for classrooms that were not air-conditioned. The \$9.6 million expenditure also included window replacements at some schools, to improve ventilation; and the installation of water bottle filling stations at schools, as the pandemic forced the shutdown of drinking water fountains.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, St. Clair Catholic worked in partnership with the Chatham-Kent and Lambton Public Health units, following the advice and guidance of the local Medical Officers of Health and Public Health Ontario. The Board is grateful for their support throughout this unusual and challenging time.





Learning & Innovation

Teaching transferable skills, critical thinking and creativity



Math Pilot - Special Education/Curriculum Project - Round 2 March/April

During the first term, a math pilot was launched in collaboration with the Special Education department.

This was the second round for supporting the Math Pilot with special education; however, for this round there was no release time, so the “spec ed” portion was integrated as much as possible into conversations and observations with teachers.

The focus was on the junior division. The Board supported three schools and 14 educators/classrooms, with approximately 300 students. A new model was developed – three weeks per school, Tuesday through Friday. This was found to be very effective in modeling the flow of lessons and follow-through with students from day to day. Consistency made it easier to reflect with the educator.

During the pilot period, educators were able to get through an entire topic with all 15 classes and it was effective for participants to support assessment and see student achievement throughout.

The teacher assessment shown to the right is what was tracked in the first term, when educators were released and given time to track their data in this way. Without this release time, individual teachers tracked data in different ways.

Feedback was positive and the team found the shorter timeframe, with consistent days, beneficial. It is expected this model will be used again next year.

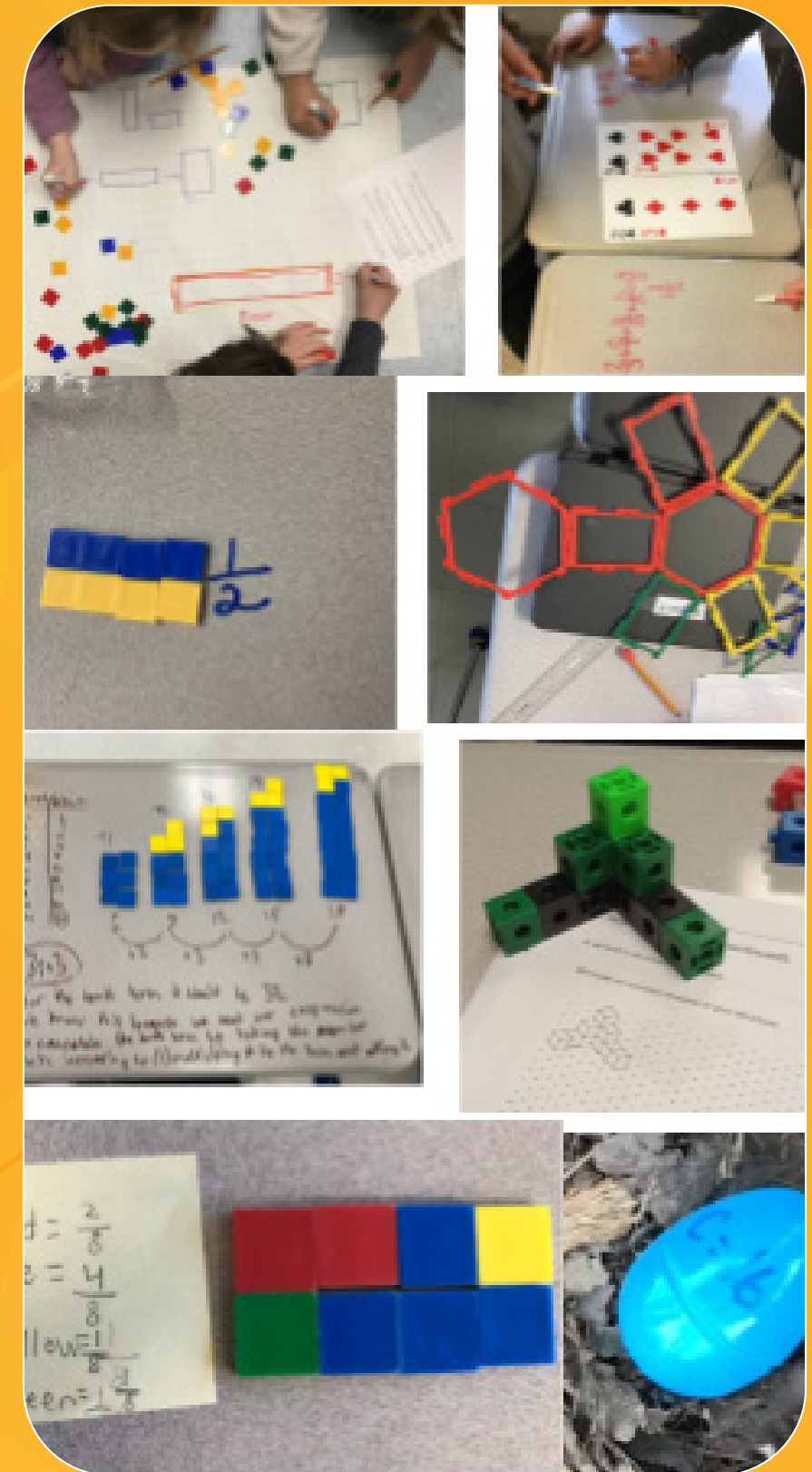
Money previously set aside for release time was used to purchase math learning materials that will be provided to teachers next year. The funds were also used to purchase coding materials. Kits will be assembled for coding activities in K-Grade 2 classrooms.

Three Schools

- Gregory Hogan
- Sacred Heart Sarnia
- St. Philip

Fourteen Classrooms

(Approximately)
300 Students





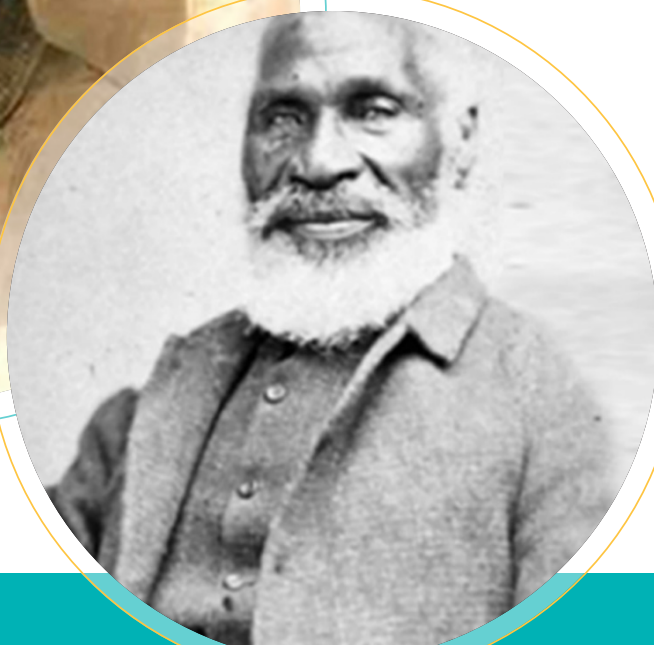
Black History Month – Celebrating the Achievements of Black Canadians

February is Black History Month. At St. Clair Catholic, it is an opportunity annually to highlight and celebrate the achievements of Black Canadians and to reflect on their stories, through their experiences and accomplishments.

Chatham-Kent and Lambton have a rich local history, with abolitionist heroes who helped Black men and women to escape slavery in the south and find new lives in freedom at the terminus of the Underground Railroad. From abolitionists, to war heroes, to sports celebrities and inventors, St. Clair Catholic celebrates the distinguished Black Canadians who have helped to make Canada a rich multi-cultural land.

Many resources were curated for students and staff, as they explore Canada's Black history, in partnership with local Black history museums, including the Josiah Henson Museum of African Canadian History, the Buxton National Historic Site & Museum, the Black Mecca Museum in Chatham, and the Chatham-Kent and Lambton public libraries.

The theme for 2022 was February Forever: Celebrating Black History Today and Every Day. Staff and students embraced the theme, honouring Black History Month in our classrooms, with learning that stretched beyond the month of February.



Sacred Heart Catholic School in Sarnia Certified as an Eco Gold School

Students and staff at Sacred Heart Catholic School in Sarnia have learned that through their hard work and commitment to environmental projects and education, their school has achieved 'gold' status from EcoSchools Canada.

Students and staff took part in numerous learning opportunities, which included programs run by Western University, as well as Ecodemy, a new company based out of Sarnia. Classes also participated in programs such as Fabulous Fall, Nature in Winter and Nature in Your Neighbourhood. Programs through the Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area and the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority taught students about phosphorus and spring water awareness. One class even learned about solar powered cars, which they designed using solar panels and tested out!

The school also spearheaded initiatives such as National Sweater Day, The Big Gulp and National GOOS Paper Day. Daily announcements included facts about how students and families can help the environment at home and information about important days of observance, such as Pollinator Week, National Wildlife Week and World Water Day. Slideshows were presented daily, which included short videos to support student learning.

Once some of the COVID restrictions were lifted, one of the classes collected garbage from the school yard and surrounding areas once a week. Pre-COVID, Sacred Heart had already collected dried up Crayola markers. An initiative to collect dead batteries has also begun.

Through its certifications program for K to 12 schools, EcoSchools Canada nurtures environmental learning and climate action. The organization's award-winning curriculum-linked framework supports school communities, as they assess, track, benchmark and celebrate environmental excellence.





St. Clair Catholic Summer Learning Camps Run for Three Weeks in July

St. Clair Catholic's Summer Learning Camp 2022 wrapped up after another successful year! About 135 students at four locations – St. Angela Merici, Chatham; St. Anne, Blenheim; Holy Family Wallaceburg; and Holy Trinity Sarnia – participated in the three week camp.

It was a tremendous experience for our students, who benefitted from a diverse staff team in each cabin, who work together to meet their well-being and academic learning needs.

Each morning students were engaged in literacy learning to build specific independent reading skills and a love of reading. A full calendar of experiential activities for each site kept students moving and helped foster new friendships and social interactions.

The camp was overseen by two St. Clair Catholic administrators, with the support of an amazing Summer Learning camp staff.

In addition, other members of the St. Clair Catholic staff offered their special gifts and talents for afternoon experiences from physical literacy to art.

Each camp established many connections in the four communities, with visits to local parks, churches, museums and libraries, along with other special activities, including blueberry picking and bowling.

A special thank you goes out to our friends at Noelle's Gift and the Chatham-Kent Ontario Student Nutrition Program, for funding healthy and nutritious snacks at all locations.

Our staff also deserves a special word of thanks, for delaying the start of their summer vacation by three weeks to lead the camps. We are grateful for their commitment to our students and their educational, physical and mental well-being. What an awesome team!

De-Streaming of Additional Grade 9 Courses Announced for September 2022

In March, the Ministry of Education announced the de-streaming of additional Grade 9 courses, as part of the Ontario government's commitment to addressing systemic discrimination and helping to break down barriers for Indigenous, Black and racialized students, students from low-income households and students with disabilities and other special education needs. The purpose is to ensure that all students have an equal opportunity to succeed, thrive and reach their full potential.

The ministry has developed a comprehensive plan to remove Academic and Applied courses (de-streaming) in Grade 9 and issue a revised curriculum policy with de-streamed courses that meet the needs of all students and support all future education pathway options.

St. Clair Catholic supports the Ontario Ministry of Education as it works to provide equal opportunities for all students. These actions will better support all students to achieve their pathway goals to post-secondary destinations, including co-operative education, colleges, universities and the world of work.

De-streaming, which began with a new math course for Grade 9 in September 2021, will be expanded to include a new de-streamed curriculum in science. Geography, English and French as a second language courses will be offered as single stream academic courses.

Streaming is still in place in Grade 10; however, to support the continuum of learning in mathematics, the ministry will be releasing an addendum for each of the Grade 10 Academic and Applied mathematics courses, to be implemented in the 2022-2023 school year. The addendum will outline additional learning expectations for math instruction in Grade 10, which support students in their transition from the de-streamed Grade 9 mathematics course to the current Grade 10 math courses.

Information regarding the new de-streamed courses were shared with Grade 8 students and families. The Board of Trustees received a report on de-streaming at the Regular Board Meeting of Tuesday, March 29, 2022.

Holy Family Catholic School Recipient of Indigo Love of Reading Award

In June, Holy Family Catholic School was selected as the 2022 recipient of the Indigo Love of Reading Award. The grant that accompanies this prestigious award provided a total of \$40,000, which will be distributed from the foundation over the next three years.

The money will be used to build up classroom libraries, the school library/collaborative learning space and to purchase curriculum-related books to enhance literacy programming for all students.

In order to qualify as a candidate for the Love of Reading Award, schools must demonstrate a strong commitment to literacy programming.

The school has expressed its thanks to the Love of Reading foundation for this outstanding opportunity.



Students pose with a cheque for \$40,000 from the Indigo Love of Reading Foundation, which was presented at a recent school assembly.



Students at Holy Family Catholic School Participate in Esports Events; School is Selected as a Finalist in Canada's Schools of the Future Innovation Challenge

Grade 7 and 8 students at Holy Family Catholic School in Wallaceburg participated in an innovative esports program through the North American Scholastic Esports Federation (NASEF). NASEF's mission is to provide opportunities for all students to use esports as a platform to acquire critical communication, collaboration and problem-solving skills needed to thrive in work and in life.



Through the esports program, students participated in competitive esports matches and tournaments in Rocket League®, Minecraft and Chess with other elementary schools across North America. The program helps students to develop social-emotional skills and resiliency, digital citizenship and technological competence.

Holy Family Catholic School has also developed a partnership with esports programs at Ursuline College, Lambton College and St. Clair College. Students collaborate virtually with esports athletes from all three schools. In addition, the school works in partnership with Esports Canada to explore the possibility of creating an Ontario Esports League.

Special thanks to Grade 7/8 teacher Dan Rolo for his great work with this program. Dan is one of 30 representatives from 15 countries to be selected as a NASEF Scholastic Fellow – the organization's only representative in all of Ontario and one of only two in Canada. We are thankful for his passion and expertise in this area.

In June, the school was selected as one of three finalists in all of Canada in the Schools of The Future Innovation Challenge.

The School received a package of resources, including technology and furniture to enhance the programming and our collaborative learning space. It was a great opportunity to enhance the amazing learning already underway with the students of Holy Family Catholic School.



Camp Experience for St. Patrick's Students a Huge Success

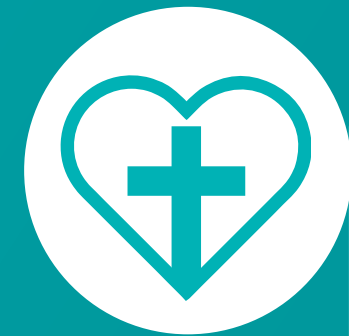
In May, St. Patrick's Catholic High School students with special needs attended an overnight camping experience at Woodeden Easter Seal Camp in London.

Student leaders helped design and lead activities that were inclusive, engaging, and unbelievably fun! All students were able to experience growth in some capacity, whether it was challenging themselves to be away from home for the night, trying a new activity, communicating with new friends, entering a new environment and routine, or leading activities.

The trip was paid for by proceeds from the school's Shamrock Shop and outdoor education funding.

Soon after the camp ended, plans were already underway for next year's adventure!





Faith & Well-Being

Living Catholic values to foster caring, inclusive and safe spaces



Board Pastoral Plan 2021 | 2022

We live our values every day...



**Respect
rooted in love**
By this everyone
will know that you
are my disciples, if
you have love for
one another

John 13:35



**Excellence
for all**
I can do all things
through Christ who
strengthens me;

Philippians 4:13



**Accountability to
God, self & others**
Truly I tell you, just
as you did it to one
of the least of these
who are members
of my family, you
did it to me.

Matthew 25:40



**Engagement in
our work**
Whatever your
task, put yourselves
into it, as done
for the Lord

Colossians 3:23



**Called to serve
our world**
God saw everything
that He has made,
and behold it was
very good

Genesis 1:31

As each of us becomes...



Stronger Together Prayer

O Holy Trinity,
You are calling on us to seize this time of trial
as a time to choose what matters.
Help us to separate what is necessary from what is not;
help us get our lives back on track

with regard to you, Lord and others.¹
Make us stronger together. Forge bonds of unity.
Guide our efforts to rebuild, restore and renew our communities,
with patience, kindness and love,
for the benefit of our common home,

and the one humanity that You love so much.² Amen.

St. Joseph, Guardian of the Redeemer
take under your prayerful protection
the people, animals and places that we commend to you;
those experiencing illness, poverty, disaster, injustice or violence.
Since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary,

show us that your goodness is as great as your power.³
St. Joseph, pray for us.

Inspired by prayers in

¹Dev, and Peace: Recovering Together ² FRATELLI TUTTI, and ³ PATRIS CORDE

Year Two: Key Actions

- Explore the value Excellence for All, connecting our faith to efforts towards mental, physical, spiritual well-being and success for all students.
- Support our call to action as environmental stewards in our continued response to Laudato Si.
- Enhance faith formation activities for stakeholders.
- Explore equity, diversity and inclusion through the lens of the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations.
- Build capacity in the area of digital citizenship through the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations.
- Promote and enhance the implementation of Growing in Faith/Growing in Christ Grades 1-8.



St. Patrick's Wellness Fair a Success

The St. Patrick's Catholic High School Grade 12 Leadership class hosted a Wellness Fair in May 2022, as the school community celebrated Wellness Week. The fair featured representatives and booths from various community organizations, including the Canadian Mental Health Association, School Mental Health Ontario and Sarnia Police.

The organizations were at the school to speak to students and promote wellness and a positive culture within the school community. More than 36 classes attended and visited each booth to learn about the supports and services offered within the Sarnia community to support good mental health.



A student from St. Patrick's takes a photo of a QR code to link them to a youth-led Instagram account run by School Mental Health Ontario, called ThriveSMH.

The Human Connection Challenge a Success!

Staff and students participated in #TheHumanConnectionChallenge during the week of February 21-25 to learn more about how human connection positively impacts our wellbeing. Another focus was how disconnecting from technology, screens, and social media can improve mental health. Kindness, anti-bullying and anti-hate were also important themes, related to Pink Shirt Day in Canada on February 23.

In addition to many activities, the week also included contests for staff and students. Christina Campagna's Grade 1/2 Class at St. Joseph, Corunna created a song, which highlights what they learned during the Human Connection Challenge. In their video, they sing about the importance of connecting with others, being kind, both in person and online, staying safe online, doing a media cleanse and being aware of their digital footprints. Well done!

You can watch the video here: <https://youtu.be/lwTqfPug7KA>



The Human Connection Challenge STAFF CONTEST WINNERS!

Take time to do something you enjoy. Enjoy the outdoors. Spend time doing something together as a family. - Lindsay Chambers

Reminding myself to make sure each student feels seen, heard, known and valued. - Steven Bryce

Media Cleanse is good for the mind, body and spirit! - Lisa Harnarine

One thing I learned this week was the importance of positive relationships. It is so important to do things we enjoy and surround ourselves with people who make us happy. On Family Day, I went shopping and for dinner with my mom. We haven't spent quality time together doing something we both enjoy in a long time. It was a time to catch up and step away from our busy lives, put our phones down and enjoy each others company. - Brooke Smyth

How a simple hello, how are you today and a smile can turn the day around for any students, staff or anyone I came across. It doesn't take any energy to share a smile and a friendly hello and the impact is great. - Robyn Howlett



Secondary Students Participate in Virtual Youth Mental Wellbeing Conference

All St. Clair Catholic secondary students participated in a Virtual Youth Mental Wellbeing Conference to support youth voice and actively engage students in reviewing the 2020-2021 school climate data.

St. Clair Catholic encourages students to share their unique ideas and suggestions for supporting student mental health and school climate.

The conference was led by youth themselves, including students who are involved with their schools' Wellness Committees. Trends from the recent climate survey were presented and explored, with the top three issues identified by students at each secondary school examined.

Ursuline College focused on finding solutions to the following issues:

- Pressure to do well in school;
- Anxiety and fear; and
- A lack of respect

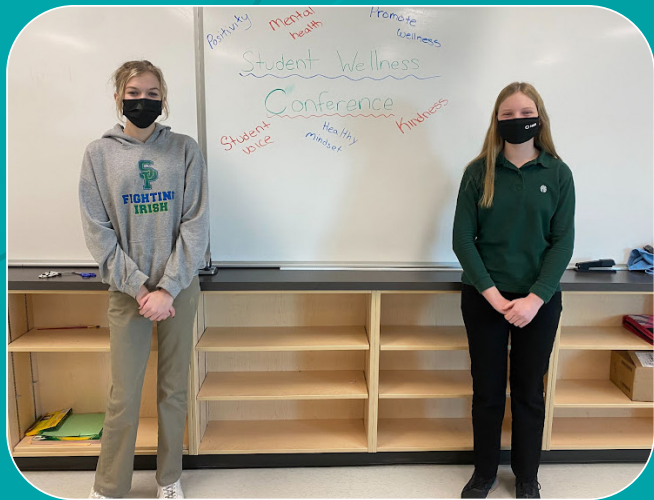
St. Patrick's students worked towards solutions to the following issues:

- Pressure to do well in school;
- Anxiety and fear; and
- Sadness

Through the findings of this conference, the Board was better able to assist and support student mental health and create more positive school environments, with a goal of making St. Clair Catholic schools even more inviting and enjoyable places in which to learn and grow.



Students from Ursuline College and St. Patrick's promote the upcoming mental wellbeing conference in their schools.



#ShareTheGood
#SCCDSB

Catholic Education Week: Rebuild, Restore, Renew Together

During the week of May 1 to May 6, the St. Clair Catholic District School Board celebrated the significant contributions that Catholic Education has made to our communities, the province and to Canada. The theme for Catholic Education Week 2022 was:

Catholic Education: Rebuild, Restore, Renew Together

It was a theme inspired by many considerations.

As we looked forward with hope to exiting the COVID-19 pandemic, we were aware that there was much to Rebuild, Restore and Renew together in 2022. The challenges to personal and spiritual well-being posed by the uncertainty and physical isolation of the global pandemic make the timing and the concerns of Mental Health Week, which is observed simultaneously with Catholic Education Week, all the more relevant.

In addition, ongoing recognition of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission and the relevance of Indigenous culture and spirituality continues to move us forward.



The Ministry of Education's focus on Inclusion and Equity resonates with all educators and administrators, as we desire to serve all of God's children. Pope Francis' encyclical, Fratelli Tutti, helps guide us in this good work.

Catholic Education Week was marked by special activities at all grade levels, including prayer celebrations and service activities. More information regarding events and resources is available on our 2022 Catholic Education Week public website.



St. Clair Catholic District School Board Adopts New Flag Protocol

The St. Clair Catholic District School Board has adopted a new flag protocol, which will guide and direct the raising and lowering of the National Flag of Canada, the Provincial Flag of Ontario and other secondary flags.

The policy sets out a formal procedure for the lowering of flags, as a sign of mourning or respect on the death of public figures, recognized days of remembrance and days of national observance.

In addition, over the coming year, secondary flag poles will be installed at all schools in the district and at the Catholic Education Centre. The Provincial Flag of Ontario will be flown on the secondary poles, except on rare occasions when it may be temporarily replaced by other secondary flags, with the approval of a Request for Recognition Committee, as set out in the policy & procedures. Secondary flags will acknowledge marginalized communities, as identified by the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

In June, the Request for Recognition Committee approved an application from the LGBTQQ2S+ community to fly the rainbow flag each June, in recognition of PRIDE month. The request was approved.

Flying the rainbow flag is not a political statement; nor is it a statement about diverging from the teachings of the Catholic Church, which have not changed. Rather, the flag is a symbol that each person is valued and loved and that our schools are safe, inclusive places of learning. By demonstrating our love and acceptance for all, we can begin to build relationships with all members of our Catholic communities toward a true and lasting encounter with Christ and the abundant life He offers to each of us.

St. Clair Catholic looks forward to recognizing other communities, who are important members of our diverse school communities across the district. The complete Flag Protocol policy and procedure are posted to the Board website.





Partnerships

*Engaging families, parish
and community*



Enbridge Gas Partners with Holy Rosary Catholic School for Habitat Revitalization

Parents and families joined staff and students at Holy Rosary Catholic School on Saturday, June 18 to pitch-in and clean-up the school's habitat.

All volunteers received a t-shirt from Enbridge, which helped to fund the project.

Enbridge Gas is Canada's largest natural gas storage, transmission and distribution company. The company's environmental and social governance goals include a commitment to stewardship of the environment.



Appearing with student volunteers in the photo are (back row L-R) Christina Jacklin, Payton Jacklin, Anna-Marie Minten, Lindsay Jackson, Bernie Orrange, Stephanie Orrange, Caryn Brant and Bryce McFadden Enbridge Gas.

This space is used throughout the school year for outdoor education programs. Our habitat is in need of 'a little love' and we are grateful for the support of our friends at Enbridge in helping us to restore it.

-STEPHANIE ORRANGE
Principal

Heart and Stroke Foundation Tells Seth's Story

In March 2021, Seth Nottley collapsed on the playground at Sacred Heart Catholic School in Port Lambton. After five months in hospital and successful heart surgery, Seth was back home at the end of August. During his recovery, his school sponsored an over-the-top Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser. Now, the Heart and Stroke Foundation has published Seth's story on its website.



Ursuline College Students Partner with LTVCA for Invasive Species Removal Project at Maple Leaf Cemetery

In June, students in the Senior Biology and Grade 11 Environmental Science classes at Ursuline College partnered with the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) in a remediation project on the McGregor Creek bank at Maple Leaf Cemetery.

"This is a great opportunity for our students and a chance for them to participate in a real world work experience," says Jordan King, Environmental Science teacher.

"This remediation project is a huge job and the students are a big help in returning the creek bank to its intended purpose," says Alyssa Broeders of the LTVCA.

In 2009, the conservation authority planted a tall grass prairie along the creek bank. It has since been overtaken by invasive tree species, such as the White Mulberry and Siberian Elm. The students used saws and gardening loppers to remove the trees, so that the prairie grasses can continue to thrive.

Mr. King looks forward to partnering with the LTVCA on more projects in the future.



In the photo with UCC students are (L-R): Chantal Lucarelli, Senior Biology Teacher; Alyssa Broeders, Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority; and Jordan King, Grade 11 Environmental Science Teacher.





Dow Supports Equity in Education at Local Schools

Earlier this year, Dow’s St. Clair River site launched a program with Noelle’s Gift to Children to support equity in local schools.

Through this project, Noelle’s Gift to Children built closets for Lambton County and Chatham-Kent schools. Dow funding supported the construction of the closets and filled them with essential items like food, clothing, toiletries, sanitary products and other necessities that can be accessed discreetly by students in need. As well, Dow volunteers assembled, delivered and stocked the closets.

“This year, Dow is celebrating 125 years and we have a strong legacy of charitable investment in our region. Dow’s former Sarnia site was the company’s first international location outside of the U.S., and now that we have a site in Corunna we continue to invest in this community,” says Amy Cunningham, Training Coordinator and Dow sponsor for the project. “We’re excited to be working with Noelle’s Gift to Children to ensure our local students have the resources they need to succeed.”



About Noelle’s Gift to Children

Noelle’s Gift was established in January 2013, in honour of a beautiful, dedicated caring volunteer and school teacher named Noelle Paquette. She recognized that there are many marginalized students who are victims of circumstances beyond their control and require assistance. Noelle was always aware of others in need and she believed every child deserves an equal opportunity to becoming a “Smash Hit” as she would often say to her students.

“

Our goal is to build a closet for each school, with the wonderful help from The Carpenters Union Local 1256. We will be filling the closets with outerwear and essentials. This will ensure instant access for any child in need.

”

-MICHELE STOKLEY

The project was funded as part of Dow’s ALL IN ERG Fund, which allows the company’s employee resource groups to apply for funding for non-profits who are addressing inclusion, diversity and equity needs in communities where Dow operates. Since the fund was established in 2019, it has supported 37 projects in 20 countries worldwide.



(L-R) Michelle Stokely, Noelle’s Gift Volunteer; Margaret DeGurse, Principal, Sacred Heart Catholic School; Jerry Bernardo, Dow; Amy Cunningham, Dow; Brent Duncan, Dow; John Howitt, Director of Education, LKDSB; Scott Johnson, Director of Education, St. Clair Catholic DSB; Nicole Paquette; Ves Suvajac, Carpenters Local 1256; Lynn Paquette; Mayor Mike Bradley, City of Sarnia



St. Elizabeth Catholic School
Opens Neighbourhood Food
Pantry in Partnership with
NoFrills Wallaceburg

The St. Elizabeth Catholic School community gathered on Saturday, March 26, 2022 to officially open a neighbourhood food pantry, which is located adjacent to the NoFrills Wallaceburg parking lot. The project is the work of Mrs. Clare Quinlan’s Grade 4/5 class, with lots of help from several community partners.

“I am so proud of our students, staff and families who came together to make this neighbourhood food pantry possible,” says Stacy Shepley, Principal of St. Elizabeth Catholic School. “Through this project, and many others like it, our students are living their baptismal call to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community.”

The food pantry structure was built by Scott Mills, a parent at the school, with the Plexiglas donated by Scott Bowen of Glass Guru. Mark Popieul, the owner/manager of NoFrills Wallaceburg consented to have the pantry erected on the grocery store property. The project was funded through a Ministry of Education Experiential Learning grant.

The food pantry is stocked by donations from the school and the community.



Lambton Public Health
was ‘Feeling the Love’
from Gregory A. Hogan
Catholic School

In February, just in time for Valentine’s Day, students at Gregory A. Hogan Catholic School made cards of thanks for the staff at Lambton Public Health. LPH staff expressed their appreciation for the gesture with a post to Facebook under the heading, Lambton Public Health really feeling the love today...

“Staff at Lambton Public Health recently received the most amazing cards from students at Gregory A. Hogan in Sarnia. These beautifully decorated cards with short messages of thanks may seem small but this simple act of kindness is a huge boost to our staff who have been working tirelessly on the frontlines and behind the scenes to serve our communities. A big thank you to teachers Erika McVittie and Lindsey Andali for highlighting what Public Health does to your students and to all students for the kindness you’ve brought our staff.”

St. Clair Catholic Schools Recognize
Bus Driver Appreciation Day

Students and staff in schools across the St. Clair Catholic district showered their bus drivers with gifts and messages of thanks on Bus Driver Appreciation Day 2021.

This annual observance is an opportunity for our schools to show their love and appreciation for the men and women who have the important job of getting our students to and from school safely. On behalf of our Board of Trustees and senior administration, we thank them for the tremendous work they do every day.

St. Michael Catholic
School, Ridgetown

At St. Michael Catholic School in Ridgetown students presented the bus drivers with cards thanking them for ‘going the extra mile.’ Bus drivers also received a pack of Extra gum and a Tim Horton’s gift certificate.

A bus driver is presented with treats from students at St. Michael Catholic School, Bright’s Grove





Catholic Citizenship

*Inspiring ethical,
responsible stewardship*



School Boards Collaborate on Green Team Initiative Through CLASS



An exciting new initiative is underway to help schools of the St. Clair Catholic and Lambton Kent district school boards educate, inspire and empower school communities to become more environmentally friendly. The Green Team initiative is being organized and led by Taylor Maris, Energy & Environmental Coordinator for the boards' shared school services consortium, CLASS.

"Green Team members live their school experiences every day," says Ms. Maris. "Members of our team will use their collective expertise to help identify opportunities to improve environmental performance, then work towards implementing initiatives to make our schools greener."

The team includes students, principals, teachers, Facility Services staff and representatives from the senior administration of both boards. Sub-committees will also be developed to draw in expertise from the larger community, including Indigenous representatives, parents/guardians and community representatives, curriculum leaders, childcare partners, instructional leaders and pastoral representatives.

Reports from the Green Team are expected throughout the 2022-2023 school year.

St. Anne Catholic School in Sarnia Among Top 50 Donors to Terry Fox Foundation

St. Anne Catholic School in Sarnia was honoured with recognition from the Terry Fox Foundation for achieving a spot on the foundation's Top List of Fundraisers. In 2021, the school ranked 17th among all elementary schools in Ontario by contributing \$13,260, which was raised during the annual Terry Fox Run.

"Despite the continued challenges schools face in these uncertain times, it is remarkable how nothing, not even a pandemic, can dim the determination to make a difference in the lives of cancer patients," writes the foundation's Ontario School Team in a letter to the Board.

Special thanks to our students, families and staff at St. Anne, for their continued support over many years for this worthy charity. The funds they have raised assist the Terry Fox Foundation in its important work to give thousands of Canadians the gift of hope.

Since 1980, the foundation has raised more than \$850 million for cancer research.



St. Joseph Corunna Students Partner with Blackburn Media to Share Positive Messages

In April, students in the Grade 6/7 and 7/8 classes at St. Joseph Catholic School in Corunna wrote and recorded positive, uplifting messages, which were broadcast on Blackburn Radio in Sarnia beginning Monday, April 4th.

"Throughout the year, our students have explored various ways to support their own mental health, while also looking to inspire others to keep a positive, healthy attitude in their daily lives," says Daniel Cicchelli, Grade 7/8 teacher at St. Joseph Catholic School.

"This was a tremendous opportunity for our students to share their messages with the wider community and also to learn about the medium of radio at the same time," says Grade 6/7 teacher Eric Babcock.

Branded as "mindful messages" the public service announcements were recorded by the students and produced by Blackburn, to include an announcer extro, which credits the students with "...encouraging hope and positivity in our community."

"I want to thank George Hayes and the great staff at Blackburn Media for providing our students with this amazing opportunity to extend our learning beyond the classroom and for helping us to share these positive messages with the community," says Colleen Cogghe, Principal, St. Joseph Catholic School.

The messages can be heard at this link:
<https://newsdesk.st-clair.net/2022/04/04/st-joseph-corunna-students-partner-with-blackburn-media-to-share-positive-messages/>





Georges P. Vanier Students Support Local Charities

In December, the staff, students and parent community of Georges P. Vanier Catholic School contributed to a fundraising event in support of the Chatham Kent Goodfellows and the Chatham Kent Women's Centre.

More than \$1,000 was donated to each charity. The CK Goodfellows used the donation to help buy gifts and food boxes for those in need in our community so that there is "No Child Without A Christmas". The school community also "adopted" three families through the CK Women's Centre. The money was used to purchase gifts for each family to help make their Christmas brighter.

Grade 8 students collected the donations each day for one week and recorded the school's progress on a graph. The goal was \$1,000, but through the community's amazing generosity the actual donations exceeded \$2,500.

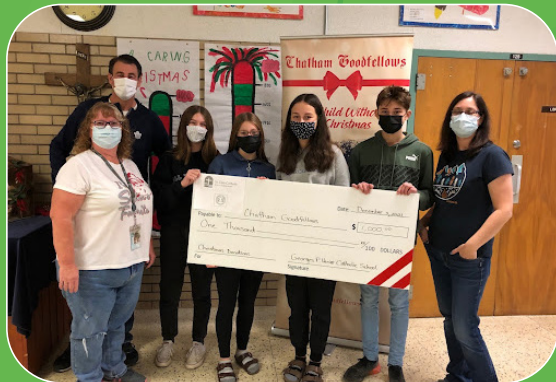
As an extra incentive, hometown Olympian and Georges P Vanier Graduate, Bridget Carleton donated two signed basketballs and a signed Team Canada practice jersey to be raffled off to the students.

In April, the school collected more than 372 pairs of shoes for Canadian Food For Children-CK (CFFC-CK), as part of a Lenten service project. CFFC ships donated items to 20 countries in central South America and Africa.

The students also collected boxes of clothing, toys and candy, which was also donated to CFFC-CK.



In the photo, Georges P. Vanier Catholic School Teacher and event organizer Cathy Bechard (3rd from right) and students present a cheque to Alicia Blair and Sara Devlaminck from the Chatham-Kent Women's Centre (far right).



In the photo, Tim Flanagan and Barb Smith (far left) of the Chatham-Kent Goodfellows accept a donation from students on behalf of the Georges P. Vanier Catholic School community.



In the photo with Georges P. Vanier students are (L-R) Cindy Waddick and Mary Dunlop, CFFC-CK; Melissa Schneikart, Grade 3 Teacher, Georges P. Vanier Catholic School; and Stephanie Zondervan, Grade 3/4 Teacher, Georges P. Vanier Catholic School.

Catholic Teachers' Association Purchases 40 Bicycles and Helmets for Students in Board-wide Employee Fundraiser

The Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA) has again this year led a Board-wide fundraising initiative to purchase bicycles for students across the system. More than \$7,000 was raised in the second annual Dress Down for Wheels event, in which staff were permitted to wear casual dress in exchange for a monetary donation. The money was used to purchase 40 bicycles, bicycle locks and helmets, which were distributed to deserving students across the system, who did not own a bicycle.

Special thanks to our OECTA partners for taking the lead on this initiative, and all of our employees for their tremendous support of our students through the Dress Down for Wheels event. It is a demonstration of the kind and caring adults who serve in our Catholic school communities right across the district.

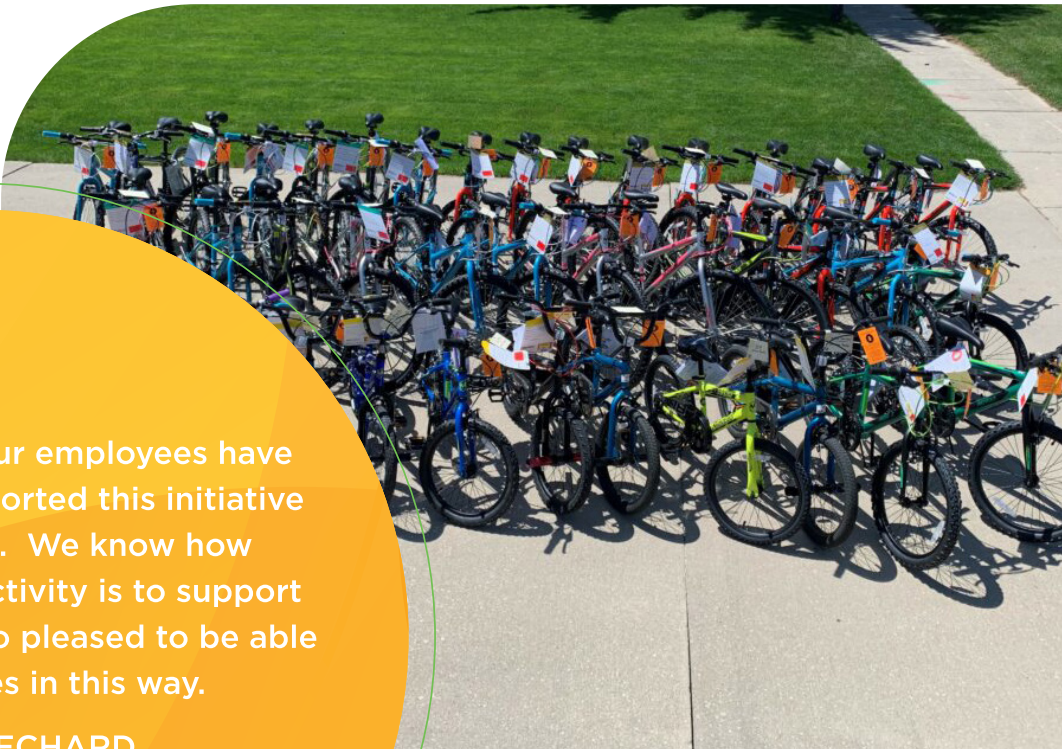
The bikes were distributed to students on May 10, 2022.

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We are proud that our employees have overwhelmingly supported this initiative two years in a row. We know how important outdoor activity is to support wellness and we are so pleased to be able to assist families in this way.

-WAYNE BECHARD
President, OECTA Elementary
St. Clair Unit

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St. Angela Merici Students and Staff ‘Walk for Joc’

The St. Angela Merici Catholic School community held a fundraising walk in May in support of the McGlynn family, as they raise money for the Princess Margaret Cancer Hospital in Toronto.

In 2020, Jocelyn McGlynn lost her brave battle with Acute Myeloid Leukemia. Jocelyn was a former student and Student Trustee with the St. Clair Catholic District School Board.

In addition to the support from the St. Angela Merici community, and in honour of others whose loved ones are fighting cancer, and those who have lost the fight, the McGlynn family spearheaded other fundraising initiatives.

They organized a neighbourhood ride on May 14; and on June 11 and 12, they participated in a bike ride from Toronto to Niagara Falls.

“We are riding in honour of our amazing daughter Jocelyn,” says Jacquelyn McGlynn, a music teacher with the Board. “During her illness she was a selfless voice of advocacy, promoting awareness for blood cancers, sharing the importance of donating blood and encouraging all those who are eligible to join the stem cell registry. We couldn’t be more proud!”

Joc’s commitment to raising awareness resulted in approximately 2,000 people joining the stem cell registry and numerous blood donor clinics.



‘Sharing the Love’ at St. Matthew Catholic School

With the help of some important community partners, students and staff at St. Matthew Catholic School were able to ‘share the love’ with residents and staff at three Sarnia nursing homes in February.

The initiative began as an idea to make and share Valentine’s cards for residents at one long-term care home, and quickly grew to include cards and carnations for the residents of three local facilities.

Thanks to LaPiers Flowers and Gifts in Corunna, Flowers Plus and the Shell Refinery in Corunna, enough carnations were donated to gift to each resident at Trillium Villa Nursing Home, Vision Nursing Home and Standing Oaks.

Students worked on their Valentine’s cards and the carnations were delivered to the school. Staff and students spent the day cutting and tying ribbons around each stem and the flowers and cards were delivered to all three rest homes. In addition, 50 packs of Timbits were included for staff at the three nursing homes.

“I am so proud of our Meteor Family and our generous community partners for the way we all came together to ‘share the love’ this Valentine’s Day. Thanks also to my tremendous staff for organizing this initiative and helping to make it happen,” says Derek Morrison, Principal of St. Matthew Catholic School.

“What a great lesson in love and kindness for our students!”





Catholic School Community Efforts to Support the Ukraine

Fundraising efforts were held in a number of Catholic school communities to support families in war-ravaged Ukraine.

In May, students and staff at St. Patrick’s Catholic High School along with the St. Benedict Council #11164 of the Knights of Columbus bar-b-que’d about 800 hot dogs, to raise more than \$2,000 for the relief effort in the Ukraine and to help support Ukrainian refugees arriving in Canada.

“This event has been a tremendous success,” says Father Dan Vere, Associate Pastor of the Sarnia Bluewater Roman Catholic Family of Parishes. “Through the kind generosity of all who supported this fundraiser, we are able to assist the humanitarian relief effort, both in the Ukraine and those refugee families who are relocating to Canada. I want to thank all of our partners for helping make this possible.”

The hot dogs were donated by the Wyoming Foodland and the buns were courtesy of Kyle’s No Frills at Indian and London Road in Sarnia. Donations were also provided by the Sarnia Bluewater Roman Catholic Family of Parishes and the Catholic Women’s League of St. Michael Bright’s Grove. Pop was being provided by the Catholic Women’s League of St. Joseph Sarnia and private individuals.

Half of the funds will be shared with Caritas, an agency which provides relief to families in the Ukraine; the other half will support Christian sponsors, who are helping Ukrainian refugees relocate to private homes in Canada.



Earlier that month, students in the Grade 5/6 class at St. Matthew Catholic School organized and hosted a school-wide carnival. Carnival for a Cause was a response to the unfolding humanitarian crisis in the Ukraine, when students expressed an interest in helping to support families impacted by the mass evacuation of refugees.

Following a class discussion, it was decided a carnival would be held, with games made by the students and cotton candy sales in support of the cause. Thanks to a persuasive letter developed by the students, a local party rental store donated the cotton candy machine to help support the students.

The event was a huge success, with \$1,166 being raised and donated to St. George Catholic Ukrainian Church. The money was used to support a Ukrainian refugee family that the church assisted as they relocated to Canada.

In June, students at St. Joseph Catholic School in Corunna raised \$1,200 to support a Ukrainian family, which has relocated to Canada. The money was raised through a pizza lunch, with the sale of 71 pizzas and dozens of jumbo freezies.

In March, students and staff at Holy Rosary and St. Philip Catholic schools collected items, in an effort to support the people of Ukraine.

Members of the school wellness teams created announcements and posters regarding the humanitarian campaign. Items such as diapers, first aid supplies and socks were collected and delivered to the London Ukrainian Centre, from where they were shipped to the Ukraine.



Students in the Grade 5/6 class at St. Matthew Catholic School with a cheque for \$1,166, which they presented to St. George Catholic Ukrainian Church.



(L-R) Emma Gauvin, Charley Wallace and Lilly Nead, who helped to organize a pizza fundraiser at St. Joseph Catholic School in Corunna, which raised \$1,200.



Members of the St. Philip Catholic School community pose with some of the many items collected for shipment to the Ukraine.



St. Clair Catholic Schools – Responding to Those Who Need Our Help

Throughout the year, schools across the district respond to the needs of food banks, which support those in our communities who need help.



Successful Irish Miracle and Cyclone Aid Events at St. Patrick’s

St. Patrick’s Catholic High School held successful food drives during Irish Miracle in December and Cyclone Aid in April. The Christmas and Lenten events are in support of the St. Vincent de Paul Sarnia-Lambton Food Bank and Inn of the Good Shepherd respectively.



Stocking Stuffers for Inn of the Good Shepherd from Sacred Heart, Sarnia

Students, families and staff at Sacred Heart Catholic School in Sarnia filled more than 70 stockings with items for Inn of the Good Shepherd. The school collected items that are sometimes overlooked when donations are collected, but are essential for families. These included tooth brushes and toothpaste, deodorant, brushes and combs, winter hats and mittens, sanitary products and baby items.



Holy Trinity Food Drive Supports River City Vineyard Foodbank

A Christmastime Holy Trinity Catholic School food drive supported the River City Vineyard’s emergency foodbank. More than 3,300 non-perishable food items were collected.

St. Elizabeth Chargers Collect More than 1,300 Food Items for St. Vincent de Paul

The St. Elizabeth Catholic School community held a successful food drive in support of the local St. Vincent de Paul foodbank. The donated food was sorted by the parish team at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, to be added to St. Vincent de Paul Christmas food hampers.





**UCC Cares Club
Hosts Food Drive**

In November, the UCC Cares Club hosted a food drive in support of Chatham Outreach for Hunger and the Wallaceburg ROCK Ministries. The event followed a direct appeal from both organizations.

More than 1,000 food items were collected.



**St. Michael Ridgetown Lenten
Project Supports Local Foodbank**

During the Lenten season, students at St. Michael Catholic School in Ridgetown collected more than 800 food items for the Ridgetown Salvation Army Foodbank. The overwhelming response was a demonstration of the school's commitment to social justice works and helping those who are in need.



**St. Anne Blenheim Supports
Canadian Food For Children-CK**

Throughout the six weeks of Lent, students and staff at St. Anne Catholic School in Blenheim collected a number of items to support Canadian Food For Children - Chatham-Kent. The items collected included canned foods, baby and personal care items, school supplies and outdoor play toys. The donations helped people living in poverty in faraway lands.



St. Clair Catholic Recognizes Truth and Reconciliation Week and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Throughout Truth and Reconciliation Week, from September 27 to October 1, the St. Clair Catholic District School Board provided first-hand, age-appropriate learning opportunities across K-12 classrooms, for students, staff and parents. Some learning sessions began on September 21 with youth motivational speaker Theland Kicknosway, Bkejwanong Territory. Theland inspires youth to take action and create change.



Staff and parents had opportunities to learn from Jenny Kay Dupuis, author of *I Am Not a Number* and from Biindigaygizhig, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, as a continuation of learning about the impacts of the residential school system and the role each of us has to support youth in learning the truth.

Classroom, staff and parent sessions continued throughout the week of September 27, including the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, which is also known as Orange Shirt Day. Students and staff wore orange, learned from survivors and family members of survivors and helped to raise awareness.

In June, National Indigenous Peoples' Day was also observed, with activities and events in classrooms and school communities across the district.

Virtual Birch Bark Learning Session Held at St. John Fisher Catholic School

In April, Grade 5/6 and 6/7 students at St. John Fisher Catholic School in Forest participated in a virtual learning session about Birch bark. The session was facilitated by Naomi Smith, a First Nations artist, curator and educator.

During the session, students explored the importance of Birch bark to Indigenous people, through the sharing of facts and traditional stories. During a hands-on activity, students created a model of a Birch bark cup.

Through this interesting and inter-active learning opportunity, students were able to gain a new understanding of the importance of natural materials to Indigenous life.

Special thanks to Ms. Smith for her time and for leading our students through this interesting and meaningful experience.



with the Calls to Action outlined in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report, as we deepen our relationships with Indigenous partners.

The Board of Trustees received a report on the many activities planned for Truth and Reconciliation Week at its September 28, 2021 Regular Meeting.

The acknowledgement of Truth and Reconciliation Week and all the planned activities provided opportunities for schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for future generations. St. Clair Catholic has a history of bringing first hand-learning to communities across the system, in keeping





Milestones

*Celebrations and
Accomplishments*



‘Showers of Blessings’ as Director of Education Deb Crawford Retires

The September 28, 2021 Regular Board Meeting was the last to be attended by Director of Education Deb Crawford. Her retirement, which she announced last March, was effective on September 30, 2021.

“Deb we want you to know how much we have appreciated your leadership over these past several years,” said John Van Heck, Chair of the Board. “Your service to Catholic education stretches back 38 years. You’ve been with St. Clair Catholic for 20 of those years, and we are truly grateful for that!”

As a surprise for Mrs. Crawford, her family, including her husband, children, grandchildren and brother, joined the meeting virtually, as Trustees led a service of prayer and blessing.



“

May you retire confidently, knowing that St. Clair Catholic will remember your influence. May you take leave of your career knowing that the work you leave to others will continue to flourish in your absence. And may you take hold of your new-found freedom with the same enthusiasm that you have given your work.

-MAT ROOP
Vice-Chair of the Board

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A Culture of Noticing – Article by Principal Rob Cicchelli Featured in ‘Principal Connections’ Magazine

An article by Rob Cicchelli, Principal of the St. Clair Catholic Remote Learning School, was featured in the Fall 2021 issue of Principal Connections, a magazine of the Catholic Principals’ Council of Ontario. In the article, Mr. Cicchelli challenged all Ontario schools to develop a ‘culture of noticing’.

“At the age of 12, my elementary school principal may have noticed a young person lacking in confidence,” Mr. Cicchelli writes. “First, he noticed and then he took time to listen, motivate and show confidence in me. He put the wind in my sails and from that time moving forward, I knew I had the potential to learn and be well.”

“Schools are blessed and thrive on the constructive voice and care of all adults who notice ... The simple truth is that as Catholic educators and staff members, we are all called to be the voice and hands of God each day. I would add that when we purposefully add our eyes and ears to this process, we create a pattern of noticing that leads to actions that manifest into a rich culture that will genuinely grace our school communities.”



Rob’s observations paint a vivid picture of the caring and supportive school communities our principals and staff strive each day to create. We are blessed at St. Clair Catholic with strong, gifted and faith-filled Catholic leaders like Rob, who are committed to the wellbeing of their students and families. The Board is grateful for the work they do in support of our schools.



Opening and Blessing Ceremony at New Monsignor Uyen Catholic School

An opening and blessing ceremony was held at Monsignor Uyen Catholic School in Chatham in September to mark the official opening of the newly refurbished school.

The ceremony, held in the school's new atrium foyer, was led by Fr. John Jasica of the Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes. The beautiful and inspirational music was led by Ms. Tina Pumfrey.

Grade 8 students from the school attended the event in the foyer. However, due to COVID gathering restrictions, the ceremony was live-

streamed to the rest of the school. The blessing ceremony included participation from Grade 8 students, Principal Americo Todino, Trustee David Argenti, then Director of Education Deb Crawford and Superintendent of Education Laura Callaghan.

During the ceremony, there was also a tribute to Monsignor John Uyen for whom the school was named. Monsignor Uyen came to Canada from Holland in 1913 and served as a priest in Chatham and Wallaceburg. The school was named for him because of his extensive contributions to education.

The new home of French Immersion in Chatham, Monsignor Uyen Catholic School opened at the Baldoon Road site on September 7, after extensive renovations and upgrades. The \$4.9 million project, which was funded through the Board's annual School Condition Improvement allocation included:

- A new main entrance and canopy with an atrium and main office and conference room renovations;
- A learning commons renovation and introduction of pod-style learning in the south corridor;
- Relocation of the staff room and teacher work room;
- An enlarged gymnasium with a drop down stage, new athletic flooring and new change rooms;
- A refresh of existing classrooms, with a complete replacement of flooring, new paint, new millwork, new tack boards and whiteboards, new classroom doors and window blinds;
- New hallway flooring throughout;
- New asphalt on the playground;
- Technology upgrades including – Epson interactive projectors in all classrooms; Chromebooks and device storage units in all classrooms; 86 inch interactive display panel mounted in the Collaborative Learning space; new audio/video system in the gym, which includes a large format projectors for presentations or digital scenery during theatrical events;
- An outdoor classroom.



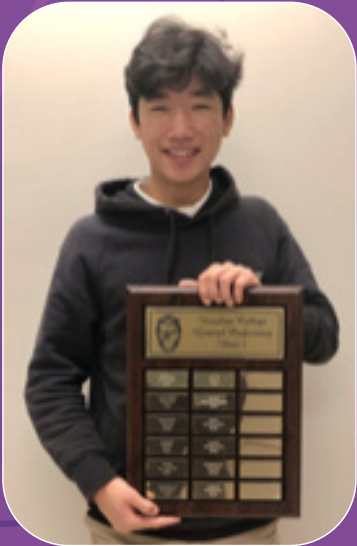
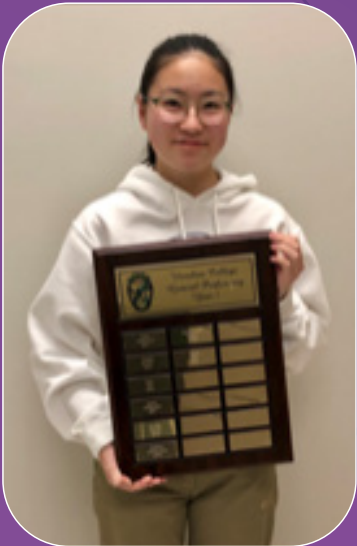
Monsignor Uyen Catholic Schools' new atrium foyer



The ceremony was led by Fr. John Jasica of the Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes



Students participate in a tribute to Monsignor John Uyen



(From L-R) Annie Seo, Samantha Lozon, Jordan Nicholson, and Hanhee Lee.

Virtual Academic Awards Ceremony Held at Ursuline College

Ursuline College Chatham Catholic Secondary School hosted a virtual Academic Awards Assembly on October 28, 2021, to recognize student achievement in the 2020-2021 school year.

The Ursuline College school community proudly honoured more than 500 honour roll and individual subject award winners from both UCC and St. Clair Catholic's first-ever Remote Learning School.

The top achieving students in each grade were recognized for their hard work and dedication to academics, including (L-R) Annie Seo, who earned the top overall average in Grade 9; Samantha Lozon, who was the top achiever in Grade 10; Hanhee Lee and Jordan Nicholson, who shared the Grade 11 award.

Linda Ward Recognized for 30 Years of Dedicated Service as Catholic Trustee

At the Board of Trustees' Initial Board Meeting in December, Trustee Linda Ward was recognized by her colleagues at St. Clair Catholic and across the province, as she reaches the milestone of 30 years as a Catholic Trustee.

Mrs. Ward was first elected to the former Lambton County Roman Catholic Separate School Board in 1991. Since that time, she has served as Vice Chair of the Board and as a Regional Director with the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) since 2007. In that capacity, she served on a number of provincial OCSTA committees, including Labour Relations and Legislation and Finance. She has also served on the Minister's Advisory Committee for Special Education. Her community involvement includes active participation in her parish and 10 years with the Sarnia-Lambton United Way, serving as its President for three years.

"For 30 years, you have worked tirelessly in the best interest of the students of the St. Clair Catholic District School Board and faithfully lived your school system's mission of Learning together today, transforming tomorrow," says Patrick Daly, President of the OCSTA in a congratulatory letter to Mrs. Ward.

Bishop Ronald Fabbro of the Diocese of London also forwarded an expression of his appreciation.

"Your years of dedicated and faithful stewardship of Catholic Education, serving the students and families, is truly a reflection of your love for God," says Bishop Fabbro.

The framed letter from the OCSTA and expression of appreciation from Bishop Fabbro were presented to Mrs. Ward in a brief ceremony, following the Initial Board Meeting.



In the photo - (L-R) Chair of the Board John Van Heck, Trustee Linda Ward, Vice Chair of the Board Mat Roop and Director of Education Scott Johnson, following presentations to Linda Ward from the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association and Bishop Ronald Fabbro of the Diocese of London, in recognition of her 30 years of service as a Catholic Trustee.



Father Chris Gillespie Appointed Board Chaplain

In May, the Board of Trustees appointed Father Chris Gillespie to the position of Board Chaplain, effective July 1, 2022. Father Chris replaces Deacon Jerry Lozon, who announced his retirement after having served as Chaplain for 10 years.

"I am pleased to announce that Father Chris, with the support of Bishop Fabbro, has accepted the invitation to serve as our next Board Chaplain," says John Van Heck, Chair of the Board. "He is no stranger to St. Clair Catholic. As our neighbour and friend, he has frequently celebrated Mass for Board staff, both at Our Lady Help of Christians Church and here at the Catholic Education Centre and we are delighted that he will be joining the Board in this new role."

Father Chris is the Pastor of the Kent Lambton Roman Catholic Family of Parishes, which includes St. Michael, Dresden; Sacred Heart Port Lambton; and Holy Family and Our Lady Help of Christians, Wallaceburg.

Father Chris was born in Scotland and immigrated to Canada with his family at the age of one-and-a-half years. He grew up in Sarnia and attended St. Patrick's Catholic High School. He studied for the priesthood at St. Peter's Seminary in London and was ordained in 1997 at St. Peter's Cathedral.

Following ordination, he served as Associate Pastor at the former St. Pius X, now Holy Family parish in London, Mary Immaculate in London and St. Peter's Cathedral. For 11 years, Father Chris served as a Reserve Army Chaplain and did a tour of duty in Bosnia.

On his return to Canada, he served as Pastor of Immaculate Conception in Stratford, St. Joseph in Clinton, St. James in Seaforth and St. Patrick's in Dublin. In addition to his current role as Pastor for the Kent Lambton Roman Catholic Family of Parishes, he is also Episcopal Vicar for the Kent Deanery.

Special thanks to Deacon Jerry Lozon for his long service to this Board, as a teacher, principal and finally Board Chaplain. Previous to his appointment as Chaplain, Deacon Jerry was a former teacher and principal with St. Clair Catholic, having retired in 2005.

With experience, wisdom and deep faith, he has served four Directors of Education and three Boards of Trustees in the role of Board Chaplain. On behalf of the entire Board, we say a heartfelt 'thank you.'



In the photo are (L-R) Scott Johnson, Director of Education; Father Chris Gillespie, newly appointed Board Chaplain; and John Van Heck, Chair of the Board.

St. Patrick's Student Annabelle Rayson Wins Top Prize at International Water Awards Ceremony in Stockholm

In August, Annabelle Rayson, a Grade 12 student at St. Patrick's Catholic High School in Sarnia, won the top prize from among 36 international entries at the Stockholm Junior Water Prize Awards 2022.

In May 2022, Annabelle was the winner of the Canada-wide Science Fair, for her project Plankton Wars: An Innovative Analysis of Daphnia Genotype Biomanipulation for Algae Bloom Prevention.

In presenting her with award, the panel of international judges in Stockholm called her research a "potential solution for a multi-faceted global problem" and declared that "the fight against harmful algae blooms and their detrimental affects has begun."

Describing Annabelle as dedicated, passionate and creative, the judges said she "...has conducted extensive bio-inspired research to address this pervasive issue."

In accepting the award, Annabelle said she was "absolutely honoured to be on the stage representing Canada" and also honoured to "represent women and girls in STEM."

"Quite often we don't see a lot of us out there. So I'm very proud to be standing up here to represent any little girl at home who dreams of having her own microscope and lab coat!" says Miss Rayson.

Annabelle returned from Sweden and a short time later left for the World Science Fair in the Netherlands.

She is one of two student trustees, who have been appointed by the Board to serve during the 2022-2023 school year.

To stream audio and video of the presentation ceremony in Stockholm click here.
<https://vimeo.com/744722337/9a5be85632>





Investing in Catholic Education

*Responsible, Ethical & Wise Use
of Taxpayer Dollars*



Board Presents 2021-2022 Community Planning and Partnership Update

In September, Trustees received an update on the Long Term Capital Plan, which includes planning for future Board initiatives.

The annual report to Trustees and our community partners shares important planning information. Projects named in the report have all been identified by the Board as priorities; however, they are all at various stages of Ministry approval.

The report is an update to the 2018-2022 document. A new Long Term Capital Plan is scheduled to be released in September 2023.

PLANNING AREA	ACCOMODATION ACTIVITIES
E1: Sarnia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete design and begin construction of Sacred Heart Replacement School• Procure additional portables for Gregory A. Hogan and St. Anne, Sarnia if required
E2: Lambton County	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Procure additional portables for St. Joseph, Corunna and St. Philip, if required• Begin design of child care addition and renovation at St. Joseph, Corunna• Begin design of child care expansion and school addition at St. Philip
E3: Wallaceburg	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete design and begin construction of portapak replacement at Sacred Heart, Port Lambton• Begin design of portapak replacement at Christ the King• Procure portables for Christ the King, if required
E4: Chatham	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete purchase of land for South Chatham Elementary School• Complete design and begin construction of South Chatham Elementary School• Open newly retrofitted Monsignor Uyen in former Our Lady of Fatima school building• Sell St. Vincent and Monsignor Uyen
E5: Kent County	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Procure portables at St. Anne, Blenheim, if required
S2: Kent County-UCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submit land priorities application to purchase land for Ursuline College Replacement School• Begin design of Ursuline College Replacement School

Highlights for the 2022-2023 Budget Year:

PLANNING AREA	ACCOMODATION ACTIVITIES
E1: Sarnia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete construction of Sacred Heart Replacement School• Procure additional portables for Gregory A. Hogan and St. Anne, Sarnia if required• Declare Sacred Heart Sarnia surplus and initiate disposition process (Ontario Regulation 444/98)
E2: Lambton County	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Procure additional portables for St. Joseph, Corunna and St. Philip, if required• Complete design and begin construction of child care addition and renovation at St. Joseph, Corunna• Complete design and begin construction of child care expansion and school addition at St. Philip
E3: Wallaceburg	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete construction of portapak replacement at Sacred Heart, Port Lambton• Complete design and begin construction of portapak replacement at Christ the King• Procure portables for Christ the King, if required• Investigate accommodation review for Wallaceburg planning area
E4: Chatham	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete construction of South Chatham Elementary School• Declare Georges P. Vanier and St. Ursula surplus and initiate disposition process (Ontario Regulation 444/98)
E5: Kent County	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Procure portables at St. Anne, Blenheim, if required
S2: Kent County-UCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete design and begin construction of Ursuline College Replacement School



Ministry Grants Approval to Proceed with New Gregory A. Hogan Catholic School, Sarnia

In March, the Ontario Ministry of Education granted the St. Clair Catholic District School Board the necessary approvals to proceed with construction of a new Catholic elementary school in Sarnia. The \$21.8 million school will be the new home to French Immersion in Sarnia, with students from Gregory A. Hogan Catholic School relocating to the new site, when the school opens.

“We are excited by this next step in the process towards a new Catholic French Immersion school in Sarnia,” says John Van Heck, Chair of the Board. “On behalf of the entire Board of Trustees, I want to thank the Ministry for its tremendous support of this project.”

The \$21,833,171 project to build a new 659-pupil place elementary school includes \$4,589,154 in funding for a five-room child care centre. Also included in the funding is a \$200,000 donation from the Hogan Family,

to support an expanded 900 square foot community room in the new school.

“There is nothing more important than preparing students for the jobs of tomorrow by investing in state-of-the-art learning centres with modern ventilation and safety top of mind,” said Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce. “By building a new Gregory A. Hogan Catholic Elementary School, our government is responding to the needs of Sarnia families and helping young people reach their full potential.”

With the transition of French Immersion students to the new school, the Sacred Heart Catholic School community will relocate to the current Gregory A. Hogan site. As a result, both school communities will occupy facilities that are the right size for their student populations.

Construction Begins on New South Chatham Catholic Elementary School



The Ontario Ministry of Education has granted the St. Clair Catholic District School Board the necessary approvals to proceed with construction of a new Catholic elementary school in south Chatham. The \$19.5 million school will replace the current Georges P. Vanier and St. Ursula Catholic schools, when it opens.

“On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to thank the Ministry of Education for the funding that is making this new school possible,” says John Van Heck, Chair of the Board. “This is exciting news for the students, staff and families of the Georges P. Vanier and St. Ursula Catholic school communities.”

“Chatham students deserve modern and state-of-the-art classrooms to prepare them for the jobs of tomorrow, and hard-working parents deserve access to safe and affordable child care,” said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education. “By building a new elementary school in south Chatham, our government is taking real action to help young people reach their full potential.”

The \$19,538,014 project to build a new 564-pupil place elementary school includes \$2,083,114 in funding for a three-room child care centre. Additional capital funding from the Ministry in the amount of \$1,048,675 for Full Day Kindergarten and a further \$2,007,440 in Board funds, are also included.





Approval to Proceed Granted for \$4.2 Million Renovation at Sacred Heart Port Lambton

The Ontario Ministry of Education also granted the St. Clair Catholic District School Board the necessary approvals to proceed with a \$4.2 million renovation at Sacred Heart Catholic School in Port Lambton.

“I want to thank the Ministry for its tremendous support of this project,” says John Van Heck, Chair of the Board. “This is fantastic news for the students, staff and families of Sacred Heart Catholic School.”

The \$4,197,361 project includes the demolition of an existing portapak, which will be replaced with a 46-pupil space addition. Included in the total cost of the project is \$1,092,010 in funding for a three-room child care centre.

“Working families deserve access to state-of-the-art learning centres with modern ventilation and safety top of mind,” said Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce. “By building additional student and child care spaces at Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary School, our government is responding to the needs of local families as the community continues to grow and helping to prepare students for lifelong success.”

Construction began in May 2022 and will be completed in September 2023.



St. Clair District Catholic Education Foundation Announces On-Line 50/50 Fundraisers

In February, the St. Clair District Catholic Education Foundation announced its first 50/50 fundraiser.

The Foundation is a registered charity, which raises funds to support the strategic goals of the St. Clair Catholic District School Board, for initiatives not covered by Ministry of Education funding.

Our first ‘pilot’ fundraiser was held from February 23 until March 31. At the conclusion of the pilot event, the Foundation sought feedback from the Parent Involvement Committee as to whether it would continue with future raffles. The decision was made to proceed.

Draws were held in April, June and September. Winners were notified and received their prizes.

Raffle proceeds from 2022 will support the Board’s mission of Learning together today, transforming tomorrow. Schools can apply for funds to assist with projects and programs that support school-based environmental stewardship initiatives, in alignment with St. Clair Catholic’s strategic priority of inspiring ethical, responsible stewardship.

Participants must be 18 years of age. Foundation Committee members, directors and accounting staff are not eligible.





Capital Projects 2021-2022

In its on-going commitment to make schools better places to learn, the St. Clair Catholic District School Board has invested in capital priorities, school renewal and school condition improvement during the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board is committed to building and sustaining the infrastructure necessary to support and improve student achievement.

The following capital projects were undertaken during the 2021-2022 school year.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS:

LOCATION	PROJECT
St. Patrick's, Sarnia	• Mechanical Upgrades, Security Upgrades, Window Replacement
Ursuline College, Chatham	• Mechanical Upgrades, Security Upgrades, Interior Upgrades, Site Improvements

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:

LOCATION	PROJECT
Catholic Education Centre, Wallaceburg	• Mechanical Upgrades, Security Upgrades, Window Replacement
Christ The King, Wallaceburg	• Site Improvements, Security Upgrades
Good Shepherd, Thamesville	• Security Upgrades
Gregory A. Hogan, Sarnia	• Mechanical Upgrades, Security Upgrades, Partial Roof Replacement, Window Replacement
Holy Family, Wallaceburg	• Mechanical Upgrades, Security Upgrades
Holy Rosary, Wyoming	• Security Upgrades, Partial Roof Replacement
Holy Rosary, Wyoming	• Security Upgrades, Partial Roof Replacement
Holy Trinity, Sarnia	• Mechanical Upgrades, Security Upgrades, Roof Repairs
Monsignor Uyen, Chatham	• Mechanical Upgrades, Security Upgrades, Roof Replacement, Interior Upgrades
Sacred Heart, Port Lambton	• Child Care Addition and Interior Upgrades, Security Upgrades, Site Improvements
St. Angela Merici, Chatham	• Security Upgrades
St. Anne, Blenheim	• Mechanical Upgrades, Security Upgrades, Site Improvements
St. Anne, Sarnia	• Mechanical Upgrades, Security Upgrades, Window Replacement
St. Elizabeth, Wallaceburg	• Mechanical Upgrades, Security Upgrades, Site Improvements, PA System Upgrade
St. John Fisher, Forest	• Mechanical Upgrades, Security Upgrades
St. Joseph, Corunna	• Mechanical Upgrades, Security Upgrades, Roof Replacement, Interior Upgrades
St. Joseph, Tilbury	• Security Upgrades
St. Matthew, Sarnia	• Mechanical Upgrades, Security Upgrades, Roof Repairs
St. Michael, Bright's Grove	• Mechanical Upgrades, Security Upgrades, Window Replacement, Site Improvements
St. Michael, Ridgetown	• Security Upgrades
St. Peter Canisius, Watford	• Mechanical Upgrades, Security Upgrades
St. Philip, Petrolia	• Security Upgrades, PA System Upgrade

OUR MISSION
Learning together today,
transforming tomorrow



St. Clair Catholic
District School Board



Board of Trustees & Senior Administration

**2021
2022**



BACK ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT)

Carol Bryden, *Trustee*
Chris Kehoe, *Superintendent of Education*
Jennifer McCann, *Trustee*
David Argenti, *Trustee*
James Duff, *Executive Manager - Human Resource Services*
Laura Callaghan, *Superintendent of Education*
Lisa Demers, *Superintendent of Education*
Brenda Rumble, *Trustee*

FRONT ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT)

Linda Ward, *Trustee*
Mat Roop, *Vice Chair of the Board*
Scott Johnson, *Director of Education*
John Van Heck, *Chair of the Board*
Amy Janssens, *Associate Director - Corporate Services & Treasurer*

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