

# Go Kat go!

SHORELINE  
AUG 16/13

**ONE STEP  
CLOSER:**  
Kat Moscone  
advanced to the  
top six in YTV's  
sixth season of  
The Next Star  
on Monday.

Photo courtesy of  
Emily Blake/YTV

## St. Gregory School grad advances to Top 6 of YTV's The Next Star

It was probably the longest 15 seconds of silence Catherine 'Kat' Moscone has ever had to endure.

With five of the six finalists selected by the judges on YTV's singing competition The Next Star on Monday, Kat anxiously awaited their revealing of which contestant would claim the final spot.

The 13-year-old St. Gregory Catholic School graduate's name would be called, advancing her to the next round.

She earned praise from the judges after her performance of Jessie J's "Mamma Knows Best" with rock bassist/producer Mark Spicoluk dubbing her "Kat Commander" and country singer Tara Oram calling her the "firecracker of the group".

Kat, who will be attending St. Anne Catholic High School in September, was selected from over 5,000 kids across Canada to participate in The Next Star, now in its sixth season.

### Vote for Kat!

The community is encouraged to vote for Kat Moscone by sending a text message to the number 98888 on your mobile handset and typing STAR 6.

Online voting can also be done at [NextStar.YTV.com/finalist](http://NextStar.YTV.com/finalist).

In the end, only one will win the coveted title and receive the grand prize at the series' finale on September 22, broadcast live from Canada's Wonderland.

Each of the six hopefuls will record an original song – which will be available on iTunes – and also star in their very own music video.

The winner will also receive a \$5,000 Sears shopping spree, a one-song recording deal distributed through Sony Music Canada, and an Epiphone Masterbilt Guitar.





St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School welcomed four new staff members to its faculty this year. Pictured above are Chantale Miron, Andrea Hayes, Melanie Mills and Nicole Jensen.

#### St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School

Over at St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School, 17 new junior kindergarten students have enrolled in classes, a number that is right in line with the average annual enrolment at the school, said St. Anthony's principal, Carl Bull. Around 215 students in total are currently enrolled at the school.

Full time kindergarten is being offered at St. Anthony's for the first time this year, something that Bull said is going over very well with both students and staff members.

"We are extremely excited to be able to have that extra time with these young students to help in developing them even further," said Bull. "It's a great opportunity to expand their learning and really kick start their entire educational career."

In addition to changes to the kindergarten program, Bull said that he will be expanding the school's technological initiatives even more this year and has added five new iPads to the 10 already in the school's collection. His goal for this year, said Bull, is to have students create their own technological and electronic content to be posted on the school's blog and YouTube channel.

"This is phase two of this technological initiative and we're expanding its scope this year to include students from JK to grade 8. I'm very

excited about it," said Bull. beginning at 5p.m.

"...I want to focus on the importance of having students create the content rather than just consuming it. It's useful to learn how to manage that and understand where it comes from...It's my hope that some students will go beyond that to reach a broader audience with their messages."

Some of the new faces at St. Anthony's include Melanie Mills, grades 6/7, Nicole Jensen, E.C.E. teacher in JK/SK room, Andrea Hayes, E.A., and Chantale Miron, grades 4/5.

A Meet and Greet Barbecue is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, September 18

# schools

## Ellepola new Catholic Board Council of Ontario Student Trustee Association president

*'High expectations' for year ahead, says Grade 12 Brennan student*

The Windsor-Essex Catholic School Board congratulates Madeline Ellepola on her new position as president of the Catholic Board Council of the Ontario Student Trustee Association.

Madeline is serving a second term as student trustee for the WECDSB and is in Grade 12 at F.J. Brennan Catholic High School.

She believes that "by coming together as one cohesive Catholic student body, great things can happen through the power of youth and faith".

"We have big plans for the year," said Ellepola, hinting at a provincial Mass involving Pope Francis.

"We have high expectations. We're very excited."

Madeline's beliefs are rooted in her faith and practiced through

example. She is active in her St. John Vianney parish, as a youth leader, Sunday School teacher, Youth in Ministry volunteer, and youth representative on the Parish Pastoral Council.

She hopes that by participating in parish activities and serving the community, students will come back to their Catholic roots.

Madeline has been active in various outreach projects including "Wrapped in Love" which collected hundreds of blankets and sleeping bags for the homeless; and delivered them to the area homeless shelter.

She strongly believes that only through action and participation, can we truly understand the needs of others.

### Student Association Council

Madeline has actively participated in the Student Association Council at Brennan.

She has served as Minister of Affairs and has spear-headed a number of projects such as collection drives and visits for students to help in the community.

Personally, she won the 2013 inaugural award from Windsor's Awesome Foundation for her idea entitled "Krazy Krutches for Kids" – K3 – which paints and personalizes crutches for children and youth who are recovering from surgery and/or are on crutches for a long term basis.

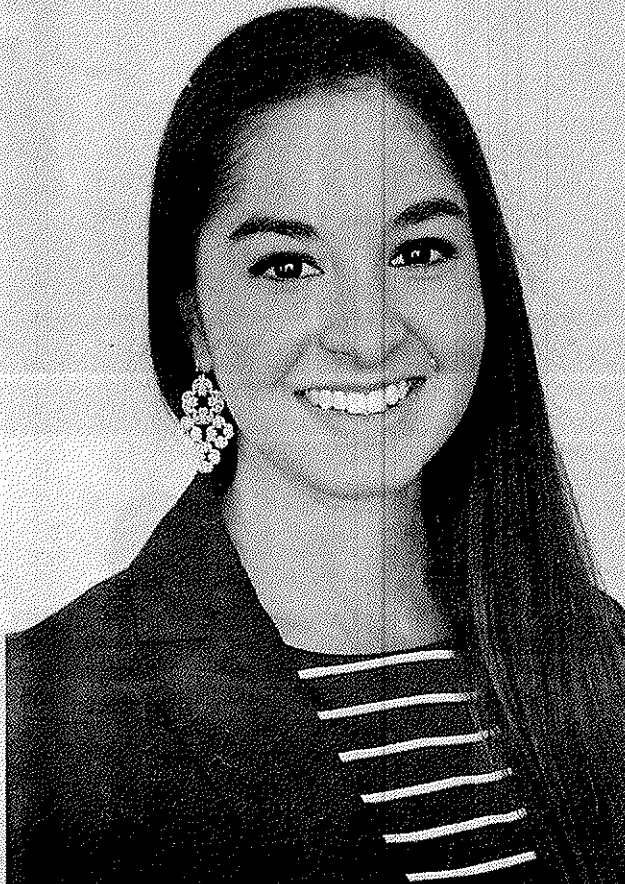
The service she provides is free to her customers, using the grant money from the Foundation.

She established her first business at the age of 15 when she began "Maddie-Cakes" from which she baked and designed cakes for customers.

When not at school or working as president or trustee, she spends her time coaching an U5 soccer team or refereeing.

She is Brennan's volleyball team manager, plays soccer, participates in school masses, and organizes the semi-formal and prom.

Upon graduation next year, Ellepola plans to pursue a business degree in hospital administration. She has narrowed down her university choices to Queen's, Ottawa, and Western.



**ELECTED:** Madeline Ellepola is the new president of the Catholic Board Council of the Ontario Student Trustee Association.



Photo courtesy of Dino Villella

**A IS FOR . . .**: Clockwise from top left, St. Gregory Catholic School students McKenna Burke, Alexander Persichilli, Ashley Queenville, and Danica Scarano are pictured with a supply of apples for the 'Good Down the Core' program.

# St. Gregory gets off to a 'Good, Down to the Core' start!

## Choir, soccer, foot and bus patrol, and more already underway

The students at St. Gregory Catholic School began their new year with much excitement and bright smiles.

Children and parents were greeted and welcomed to the new school year by school principal Mrs. DiPasquale, the entire St. Gregory staff, and our Parish priests, Father Gary Goyeau, Father Antony Kolenchery and pastoral youth minister Marguerite Hewer.

The community assembled in the school's court-

yard for a beautiful outdoor Liturgy of the Word and received a special blessing for continued happiness, good health, and success.

It was a beautiful way to start the new school year celebrating our unity, our pride, and above all, our Faith.

The 2013-14 school year promises to be an exciting and rewarding journey for our children and families and has already kicked off to a busy start.

Within the first week of school, students have had an opportunity to join the school's choir, soccer teams, foot and bus patrol group, door monitors, classroom helpers and recycling team.

Special thank you to Parent Council chairperson Wendy Daniel for providing apples for our "Good Down to the Core" students.

The staff at St. Gregory Catholic school wishes all of the students a memorable and rewarding school year.

## High schools preparing newcomer students with NOW program

The Windsor Star

Joel Boyce

Last Updated: Aug 30, 2013 - 7:07 AM EDT



Newly arrived immigrant students participate in a orientation session Thursday, Aug. 29, 2013, at the Catholic Central High School in Windsor, Ont. (DAN JANISSE/The Windsor Star)

Arien Velasquez wants to pay it forward to new immigrant high school students because she's been down that road before.

The first day of school may be frightening and challenging for every student. But for newcomers from a different country who speak a different language, it's downright terrifying, Velasquez says.

"I know what they are going through because I was in their shoes two years ago," she said.

Velasquez, a 14-year-old peer leader for the Newcomer Orientation Week program, moved to Canada from El Salvador in 2011 to be with her father. Scared, nervous and barely capable of carrying a sentence in English, she felt like an outcast in the new world she now called home.

The NOW program at Catholic Central high school broke the ice and washed away her fears. Everyone in her school is like a second family to her now. And it's been like that since Day 1.



Arien Velasquez, 14, a student at Catholic Central High School was one a peer leader welcoming newly arrived immigrants to the school. (DAN JANISSE/The Windsor Star)

“You meet other people who are going through the same things,” she said. “You realize ‘It’s not just me.’”

NOW is an innovative program funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada. Employed by settlement agencies and school boards, the program helps give newcomer youth a head start in high schools across Ontario.

The program began at eight Ontario high schools in the summer of 2007. After the program exceeded expectations, it expanded to other communities across Ontario. It made its way to Windsor in 2008, hosting workshops in Forster and Catholic Central high schools.

Iole Iadipaolo, manager of Settlement Workers in Schools program, said NOW is important in Windsor because of the diverse community.

“We are a magnet for newcomers in the Midwest,” Iadipaolo said. “Most of our schools are very diverse and full of different kinds of ethnic groups.”

Catholic Central alone has more than 30 new students from overseas.

Principal Amy Lofaso said it is a top priority to help these kids settle in before the first day of school.

On the first day, peer leaders and supporters will wear their white NOW T-shirts so new students can find them easily in the crowded hallways. According to Lofaso, it is not only the students who have gone through the NOW program who want to lend a hand.

“My other students, who were born in Windsor, go out of their way to make sure everyone is accepted,” the principal said. “This is something everyone believes in.”

From Aug. 20 to 23, NOW peer leaders were trained at Forster to learn about different ethnicities and cultures. The peer leaders then met with more than 30 new students during the NOW orientation week, which began Aug. 20 and ended Thursday.

Newcomers navigated the school layout and were informed on daily routines, such as morning announcements lockers, lunch times and the school code of behaviour. They learned the do’s and don’ts of wearing the school uniform, and the availability of different sports, extracurricular activities and clubs.

New students were also taught about things outside the walls of their school, such as public libraries and community centres.

But most importantly, the NOW program helps make new friends — people who will support them once school starts.

“It is definitely a family,” Lofaso said. “From the students who come half way across the world or across the street, we’re a very accepting culture over all. We love that here. It’s imbedded into this school.”

Velasquez said her peers helped her to like Canada more than she already did.

“If we see someone in the school who is scared, we help them,” she said. “We don’t care what your background is or your religion, we’ll help you.”



Catholic Central principal Amy LoFaso speaks to newly arrived immigrant students during an orientation session Aug. 29, 2013, at the school. (DAN JANISSE/The Windsor Star)



Newly arrived immigrant students participate in a orientation session Thursday, Aug. 29, 2013, at the Catholic Central High School in Windsor. (DAN JANISSE/The Windsor Star)



# Schools tackle skills gap with hands-on course



Assumption's Jasee Yalda uses a band saw Tuesday under the instruction of teacher Mark Gillis in technology class. One student said she took the class because she knows the workforce is changing and wants to keep her options open.

**Photograph by:** Nick Brancaccio, The Windsor Star , The Windsor Star

**Claire Brownell, The Windsor Star | Sep 04, 2013 | Last Updated: Sep 04, 2013 - 9:01 UTC**

For 15 Grade 9 students at Assumption, the first day of school involved safety goggles and a band saw.

Mark Gillis, who teaches the class and is also head of technology at Assumption high school, demonstrated how to cut a block of wood. "Keep your eyes on your work. There you go," he told a student as he pushed the block through.

Shop class is a high school tradition, but there are a few things about Assumption's integrated-technologies course that are anything but traditional. Girls made up a good chunk of the students and everyone there had chosen to learn about construction and manufacturing when they could have taken art or drama.

The Catholic board is launching into the second year of a dual-credit course with St. Clair, and the public board said there has been a noticeable increase in the number of students taking co-op credits.

After a couple of years of post-recession headlines about available jobs going to people outside the Windsor region because local workers didn't have the right skills, students seem to be starting to get the message about how to tailor their educations to maximize their chances of finding work.

According to a report from the Conference Board of Canada this summer, the gap between the skills workers have and the skills employers are looking for is costing the province of Ontario as much as \$24.3 billion every year.

A recent report from Workforce WindsorEssex also found that a shortage of skilled workers in the mould, tool, die and machining sector cost local companies almost \$43 million every year in overtime and lost business, despite the region's high unemployment rate.

Students graduating high school are told to follow their dreams and pursue their passions, but aren't always given enough information to determine whether there will be jobs available in the fields they're passionate about after they finish expensive post-secondary degrees.

Workforce WindsorEssex has been working with local schools to try to change that - and executive director Tanya Antoniow said it seems to be working.

Antoniow said representatives from her organization give presentations about the local labour force at schools about twice a week. She said she sometimes needs to dispel some myths about what it's like to work in certain growing sectors, but she's usually pleasantly surprised by how much students know.

Antoniow said when she reaches out to employers to ask them what students can do to prepare for the workforce, practical hands-on experience comes up a lot. "They often cite co-ops and internships as being great avenues," she said.

Dan Fister, the superintendent in charge of student success at the public board, said the number of students enrolled in co-ops has increased from about 1,200 a couple of years ago to as many as 2,000 this year. He said hands-on, interactive learning is attractive to today's technologically savvy youth.

"Kids learn by doing. Given their digital world, they learn pretty pragmatically, through hands-on and exploration and inquiry-based, which they're used to doing by Googling everything," he said.

That's certainly true for Ilyanna Murphy, one of the students who learned to use a band saw at Assumption on her first day of high school. Murphy said she's interested in law and drama, but also loves robots and working with her hands.

Murphy said she knows the workforce is changing and wants to keep her options open.

"With technology today, it's possible there's going to be more robotics and engineering than the jobs we see today," she said. "I haven't ruled anything out."

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