

Villanova Secondary School welcomes Grade 8's with an Open House

by Shelby Wye

St. Thomas of Villanova Catholic Secondary School held their Grade 8 Open house last Thursday, January 12.

The open house was 'open' in the truest sense of the word. Parents and future students were able to explore the entire school without barriers, peeking into classrooms and labs.

Many of the classrooms had students there to show the visitors just what Villanova had to offer, whether it was a sample of the dance routine they have been working on or a show of their athletics in the gymnasium. The staff gave their current students plenty of time to shine as they were responsible for hosting the meet-and-greets of the various clubs and classes of the faith-based high school.

The night began with a presentation by Principal Amy Facchineri, who highlighted the ins-and-outs of high school life, including what type of courses appeal to different students and giving a rundown of the different achievements Villanova has accomplished.

"We are very diverse, very fortunate to offer everything on the academic spectrum including our new robotics course," said Facchineri, before the presentation. She



St. Thomas of Villanova Catholic Secondary School's robotics team Wiredcats Robotics had a booth in the lobby of the school to show off some of their creations. The dozens of clubs and teams of Villanova were all present to talk about their projects.



The informational night allowed parents and students to learn more about what St. Thomas of Villanova Catholic Secondary School has to offer, from specialist high school majors to academics available to the clubs they can participate in.

said their school is the only one in the area to offer a full course in robotics.

She reported that 80 per cent of Grade 9 students

achieve honour roll grades, and that 80 per cent of their

students continue to be on honour roll during all four

years of high school.

"We compete at a high level (in academics/athletics) but I think that our culture and policy of inclusion sets us apart from other schools," said Facchineri.

Villanova was recognized last summer as one of 10 Safe and Accepting Schools by the provincial government.

Registration for Grade 8 students can be completed at St. Thomas of Villanova Catholic Secondary School located at 2800 County Road #8 LaSalle.

Parents can call St. Thomas of Villanova Catholic

Secondary School at 519-734-6444 for more information.



Principal Amy Facchineri of St. Thomas of Villanova Catholic Secondary School talked to a crowd of hundreds that attended the annual Grade 8 Open House on January 12. She talked about all the things that made her proud of her school.