

Muskoka Woods adventure

LAKESMERE News
June 1, 2017



The Gr. 8 students from Our Lady of the Annunciation School in Stoney Point recently returned home from an educational adventure at the Muskoka Woods Leadership Camp.

Fifteen kids made the trip along with their teacher Patrick Siddall.

"I believe everyone involved enjoyed their experience at Muskoka Woods," Siddall said. "The students were challenged in a variety of activities that included a high ropes course, a zip line, and the giant swing to name a few.

The Muskoka motto of 'You don't have to be the best, you just have to do your best' was on full display as students were faced with many challenges, including the weather. Rain or shine the activities went on as scheduled."

Before leaving on the trip, the students were busy fundraising for the trip as it cost \$450 per student to attend. This covers transportation, lodging and the price of activities. T

hey stayed in cabins, with the boys staying on one side of the resort and the girls staying on the opposite side.

There were high school leadership students there in the cabins with them throughout the nights. The camp is a very safe environment with paramedics and chaperones always on site.

While at the camp, the students were encouraged to do some journal writing to reflect what they learned.

For Siddall, it was his fourth years attending the camp.

He said the students always come back from the trip with a new sense of teamwork and about how to be a leader - skills they can use in their everyday life.

He added that while at the Muskoka Woods Leadership Camp, the students showed a lot of perseverance to not only conquer the challenge of the activities, but to do so in the wet and cold conditions.

"Positive attitudes, teamwork, laughter and encouragement helped everyone succeed," he said. "This Muskoka experience is a great way for students to build confidence and character, as well as create memories that will last a lifetime."

St. Louis supports Hiatus House

By Bryan Jessop

Students at St. Louis Catholic Elementary School have stepped up by the box load to assist the victims of domestic violence.

The lengthy list of charitable causes supported by St. Louis recently added yet another organization, as Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6 students chipped in with the combined donation of about 1,400 items for Windsor Hiatus House clients. The idea surfaced when Grade 4-5 French Immersion teacher Andrew DiPietro — a Windsor resident — visited the city's branch of the shelter and noticed a list of needed items posted inside.

"I just saw a list of the things they needed and thought my class could help out," he explained. "I'm very proud of them. It was a good leadership opportunity and they really felt like they made a difference — which they did. There was no reward for them. It was just something they really wanted to do."

DiPietro's class of 19 led the school-wide initiative, starting with the writing of letters that were sent to the homes of the school's roughly 400 students. The philanthropic gesture was also promoted with an assembly presentation, P.A. system announcements and classroom-by-classroom visits where a donation box was placed in each room. With a goal of collecting one item per pupil, the May 8 to May 26 campaign surpassed by about 1,000 contributions. Donations from the Hiatus House list included hygiene products, toiletries, make-up, jewelry, women's and children's clothing and other day-to-day products.

All items collected had to be new and were mostly purchased from local Dollar Tree and Dollar Store retailers. DiPietro explained that Junior and Senior Kindergarten classes collected the most for the local Hiatus House's inventory, estimating that their contributions accounted for as much as half of the entire school's donation total. The sum rested at about 1,300 once the campaign officially ended, but late contributions eventually elevated the total by another 100 items.

"Some kids brought in some high-end stuff too, so it was



Above - The Grade 4-5 French Immersion class of Andrew DiPietro reveals a collection of about 1,400 items donated by JK to Grade 6 students at St. Louis Catholic Elementary School to Windsor Hiatus House Wednesday, May 31. The items were collected from May 8 to May 26 and will be delivered later this month.

Left - Grade 1 students Marla Amaral (left) and Selina Gualteri help bring a collection of donations for the Windsor Hiatus House to the main entrance of St. Louis Catholic Elementary School.

a good mix," he noted. "The kids in my class were blown away by the amount of support from the other classrooms. It was a great surprise for them."

The collection of boxed donations could be dropped off at Hiatus House in Windsor Wednesday, June 14 during a field trip for DiPietro's class to tour the facilities of St. Clair College. Otherwise, the St. Louis teacher will make other arrangements to have the items delivered.

"I think they'll be pretty happy," DiPietro said, noting that Hiatus House was not aware at the moment of the amount of products collected by St. Louis students.

Thousands of students to visit regional Water Festival



Nearly 4,000 students from across the Essex region learned about water science, water attitudes and water conservation next week at the Essex Region Children's Water Festival.

Students from Gosfield North Central Public School and St. John de Brebeuf Catholic Elementary School were among those taking part at the Southwestern Ontario

Heritage Village.

"This year marked our 14th Children's Water Festival, and through that time period, we have helped to educate over 55,000 members of our community about the importance of protecting and conserving our precious water resources," says Danielle Breault Stuebing, Chair of the Steering Committee.

"Participants, who are mostly students from grades three through five, experienced over fifty hands-on learning centres gaining a better understanding of the critical importance of water, particularly in light of some of the challenges presently facing our Great Lakes. This is truly an example of experiential learning at its best, and we're always delighted to hear back from teachers that this is one of their best field trip experiences each year."

All activities are curriculum-based to meet the teaching objectives of the Ontario Curriculum. Hundreds of students from secondary schools across the region also participated by volunteering and teaching the activities to the younger students.

Fit to be Pied!

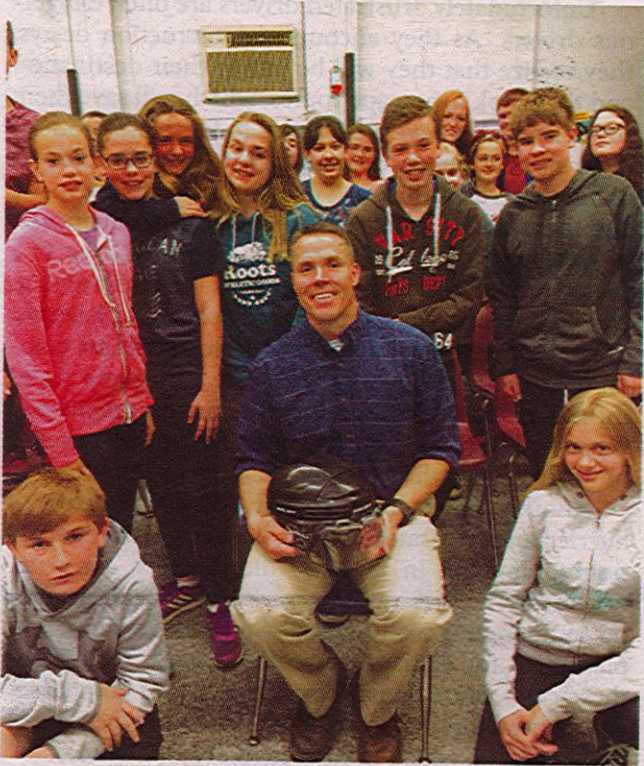


Last Friday, the staff of Our Lady of the Annunciation School kept their end of the bargain!

Since the students raised a goal of \$1500 for the Heart and Stroke foundation, six students were randomly selected to 'pie' a staff member in the face!

It's all about STEM

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math



On Friday, May 19th, Dr. William Altenhof, Mechanical Engineering Professor at the University of Windsor, paid a visit to the Gr. 7 and 8 students of Our Lady of the Annunciation Elementary School in Stoney Point. While there, he shared the secrets of his personal accomplishments as a successful professional engineer, a design innovator, and a lead project researcher – hard work, perseverance and passion!

Dr. Altenhof successfully brought the science of engineering to the world of the 13 and 14 year olds. Through his high tech. computer simulations, Dr. Altenhof was able to demonstrate the effects of energy dissipation systems in the impact of a hockey puck hitting a protective visor, a front end collision on a child in a restraint seat, and the details of NASCAR driver Dale Earnhardt's collision that ended his life all too soon. The students were

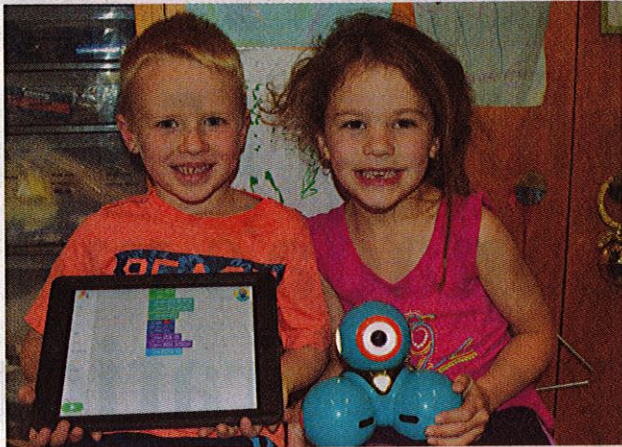
focused and their interest was piqued.

The presentation closed the gap in their thinking about Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. The students came to the realization that STEM is everywhere – they're connected to it; it's a part of their every day lives. They all left with a better understanding of the significant role engineers play in improving life for all mankind.

LAKESHORE NEWS

JUNE 8, 2017

Learning 'Coding' with Dash



Luke, 6, and Lydia, 5, learn how to code using Dash.

**Story and photo by
Matt Weingarden**
Staff Reporter

The teachers at St. John the Baptist School in Belle River are turning programming into child's play by using robotics to teaching computer coding.

Dash is a small blue robot, invented by a California company, that can be programmed to do numerous tasks in the classroom. Its head, which spins around, has a single, Cyclops-like eye. Sometimes Dash emits a cheerful chime and lights up and does the 'silly dance' — a sign that it approves of its programmer's actions.

The JK and SK class at the school has been learning to code using Dash and a simple

i-Pad. The i-Pad allows the young students to program a number of simple commands using building blocks to create a sub-routine. These simple commands can include moving in a forward and backwards direction at a programmed speed and turn in 90, 180 and 360 degrees.

Amanda Jean, an occasional teacher, has been working with the JK/SK students for 3 months.

"This month in particular we have been concentrating on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) and the Dash robots have come to the school this year," said Jean. "We're seeing the use of the robots at all age levels in our school from Kindergarten to Gr. 8."

Jean is amazed at how quickly the students are able to pick up on the technology. She says that she showed the kids a few simple things and gave them a few ideas — and although the students are still just learning to read, they are able to pick up on the sounds that Dash emits, as well as using pictures and graphics they are able to control and understand without reading even being involved.

"These kids have come up with the programs on their own — moving forward, backwards and turning just through experimentation," Jean said. "It's incredibly user friendly — much of it involves trial and error."

Jean says that the younger children are being introduced to use this type of technology, the more open they are to learning new things without hesitation — just jumping in.

"These kids are our future engineers and designers," said Jean. "It's pertinent to their education as they make their way through their learning years."

Monarch Trail project continues in Leamington

By Bryan Jessop

A partnership between the Municipality of Leamington and Parks Canada will continue to help local wildlife feel right at home.

On Tuesday, June 6, a team of just under 100 volunteers converged behind the former Zellers building just north of Pulford Avenue, where they met Parks Canada staff and municipal employees to embark upon the third phase of a project along the Leamington Monarch Trail. There, 92 volunteers stepped forward to plant a wide assortment of native flower, plant and shrub species along with municipal representatives and staff from Point Pelee National Park.

"Working together, we can help the monarch (butterfly) population thrive," stated Municipality of Leamington CAO Peter Neufeld. "Milkweed gardens, like those planted along Leamington's Monarch Trail, are just the beginning of the municipality's efforts to help restore and support the large number of monarch butterflies that migrate through the Leamington area, and support our movement toward ecotourism."

The plugs and shrubs were planted along the trail in three different beds that had previously been worked up by Municipal Works staff, allowing the new growth to cover its east side from Pulford Avenue to as far north as Oak Street East between Victoria Avenue and Ontario Street. Fifty-two Cardinal Carter science and geography students — making up just over half of the 92 volunteers — as well as staff from Red Sun Farms, AMA Plastics, about half a dozen students from Mighty Oak Elementary Private School near Belle River and other members of the general public assisted with the one-hour process.

"We're really happy with the turnout," said Municipality of Leamington manager of communications and public relations Lindsay Gammon. "It's great to have so many students come out along with community volunteers. It's encouraging to see people of all ages get behind a project like this."

The project in support of Monarch Butterfly and other local species of insects and birds began at roughly the same time of year in 2015, where a group of about 100 volunteers planted about 3,000 samples of plants and flowers along the same trail starting immediately north of the Robson Road/



A team of volunteers plants a wide assortment of native species along the Leamington Monarch Trail Tuesday, June 6. A team of nearly 100 planters in addition to Parks Canada staff, Leamington Municipal Works staff and volunteers from Cardinal Carter Catholic Secondary School and throughout the community planted three beds with native plants, flowers and shrubs in support of biodiversity for local species of birds and insects. (SUN Photo)

Foster Avenue East intersection and proceeding as far north as Seacliff Drive, south of the Kinsmen Sports Field. Last year, the same municipal/Parks Canada partnership recruited volunteers to plant similar species along the trail between Seacliff Drive and Pulford Avenue.

This year's team of volunteers was treated to a barbecued hot dog lunch for their efforts. The group proceeded northward from Pulford to Oak with the guidance of Point Pelee staff, after which point volunteers also received gift bags that included milkweed seeds courtesy of Kingsville's Red Sun Farms. Propagation trays and plugs were provided by AMA Plastics, based in Ruthven.

This year's plant life species included sky blue aster, heath aster, cylindrical blazing star, pale leaf sunflower, woodland sunflower, showy tick trefoil, Indian grass, switch grass, little blue stem, swamp milkweed, butterfly milkweed, common milkweed and bergemont. Shrub vari-

eties included fragrant sumac, downy arrow wood, downy service berry, nanny berry and spice bush.

Point Pelee park staff explained that the three-year biodiversity project has been successful, with plugs planted in the first two years continuing to grow and thrive. Point Pelee and municipal staff have continued to join efforts to maintain and remove weeds from the beds along the Monarch Trail planted within the last two years.

"As a recognized leader in conservation, Parks Canada is proud to be a monarch butterfly champion, and the natural spaces created as a result of this project offer a win for nature and a win for Canadians," said Point Pelee National Park superintendent Maria Papoulias. "The native grasses and wildflowers, including milkweed, planted along the town's walking trails will attract birds and butterflies to the area and will help residents and park visitors connect with nature and Canada's outdoors."

JUNE 14, 2017

Local youth recognized with student award

Libro Credit Union has awarded a total of \$62,000 to student leaders from across southwestern Ontario through the Libro Student Award Program, supporting youth leadership and building prosperity across the region.

Each of the 31 youth honoured with a \$2,000 award demonstrated outstanding leadership, commitment and service in their local communities through volunteerism while balancing a high level of academic performance.

Domenique Mastronardi of Leamington, a student at Cardinal Carter Secondary School, was one of the eight local recipients of the award. Other local recipients were from Kingsville, Woodslee, Harrow, Essex, Belle River, LaSalle and Blenheim.

The local students were presented with their awards at a celebration at Oxley Estate Winery.

"The level of commitment these students have towards their communities and academics is inspiring," said Lori Atkinson, Libro's Regional Manager for Essex-Kent. "With such bright futures ahead, we are thrilled to contribute to the education of these eight exceptional young leaders."

Since 2012, Libro has awarded more than \$300,000 to 135 students between the ages of 17 and 25 through its Student Award Program.



Denise Milkins (left) of the Libro Credit Union Leamington Branch presented Cardinal Carter student Domenique Mastronardi, of Leamington, with a \$2,000 Libro Student Award.



Above - Students with the Cardinal Carter Catholic Middle School Soccer and Hockey Academy programs head out for a 10 km walk along the Trans Canada Trail as part of the third annual CWATS celebration in Leamington June 5. The group was joined by classes from Margaret D. Bennie Public School for the event, set up in the Leamington Kinmen Recreation Complex gymnasium to celebrate the completion of the Trans Canada Trail - also known as The Great Trail - in Essex County.

(SUN Photos)



County Wide Active Transportation System representatives and members of the Municipality of Leamington take the Couch Potato Pledge along with Cardinal Carter Catholic Middle School and Margaret D. Bennie Public School students Monday, June 5.



Cardinal Carter Middle School student Adonia Hatzle won the Garmin Fitbit watch, presented by Leamington membership services and marketing supervisor Geoff Stephenson (right) and Healthy Kids Community Challenge Windsor-Essex community health project manager Joe Parent.



by Sylene Argent

Students at Holy Name Catholic Elementary School learned what it means to help spread positivity during a special school-side assembly that took place in the outdoor classroom last Wednesday morning.

Mrs. Barbara Gaspard, a teacher at Holy Name, explained the students are grateful to have received the Peace Pole Award, which the Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland presented during the ceremony.

Gaspard explained to the students having a Peace Pole is a big responsibility. She said there are more than 200,000 Peace Poles in 1800 countries around the world. They are monuments to peace.

"Knowing our Peace Pole at Holy Name Catholic Elementary School is connected to hundreds of thousands of others across the world should humble and inspire us as we have come to this movement that is so much bigger than us," Gaspard said to the students during the assembly. "Peace can only be fostered through acceptance and understanding our difference."

Members of the Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland were on hand to officially gift the Peace Pole to the students. They explained they have installed 33 of these Peace Poles at schools throughout the region through this project, and were thrilled to install one at the local catholic school.

Their hope is that the Peace Pole will inspire the students to promote friendship, cooperation, and team work.

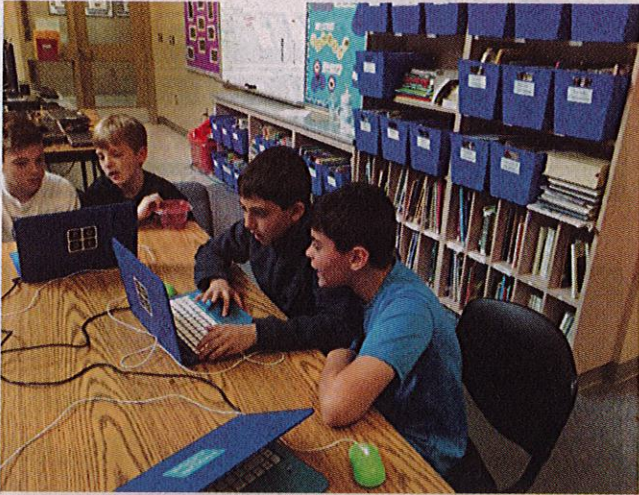
The Rotarians said they were impressed with the application for the project the school submitted, and noted the students will have to continue supporting great projects that exemplify and foster peace and caring for others. They were given a plaque with the Peace Pole, and every year they will have to add a new plate to it that describes how they are continuing to remain a peaceful school.



All of the student also received a bracelet inscribed with the phrase, "May Peace Prevail on Earth," which is shared with the Peace Pole in different languages. It was hoped the students will wear the bracelets proudly as a reminder to make a difference at home and in the community.

During the ceremony, some of the students performed a dance to John Lennon's "Imagine," while others later took the opportunity to play their recorders. The kindergarten students chimed in to add the element of song to the event with the singing of "Light a Candle for Peace."

It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's the Code Mobile



**Submitted by
Caleigh F. and Sydney R.**

The Code Mobile came to St. William school recently to visit the Gr. 4 and 5 Wildcat classes in the 'Centre of Innovation.'

This was a post-celebration of the Canada Learning Code Week.

Two instructors, Kassandra and Crystal, helped the students create their own unique ending for a short film about a polar bear trying to find a job, using coding. The thinking caps were on and the students were revved up to go. Some had a moral to their story, some an open line to a sequel and many different genres were presented.

The instructors taught the Wildcats some new codes and certain codes were selected to be

demonstrated on the big screen in front of all the eager students. The students who volunteered to share the newly learnt skills on screen also explained why they chose certain codes to create the ending to their short film.

Our class also made connections to the axis used in graphing and the x, y coordinates used when moving an object using coding.

The students were set free to work in pairs, or do pair programming, switching between the role of the driver, the person typing the code and the navigator, the person who checks over the code.

The roles are switched every few minutes. The students learned this method is the most effective and cost-saving to re-

duce mistakes in the coding job world. Why not start training the right way for a possible future job now? The program used by the students was called Scratch Jr.

After the presentations, Kassandra and Crystal gave the students advice on what you need to do if you want to become a coder. Both have been coding since they were ten years-of-age.

They have been all around the world to places such as: Whitehorse, YK, Ottawa and all the way to Switzerland, to talk to kids and teach them about coding. The two began their coding journey on a program called Neopets, which all the students can use.

Each Wildcat that participated had a great time creating their unique ending to their stories, while sharing smiles and laughter.

A great learning experience was had by all. We even taught our teacher some tricks.

All who participated received badges of completion. Coding is for life!

Watch out for the teal streak, hey teal, Wildcats and The Code Mobile!

Cardinal Carter combines award ceremonies

By Bryan Jessop

The Cougars may officially represent a '1A' school, but they're now making a 'Triple A' effort to honour their most exceptional students.

Cardinal Carter Catholic Secondary School held its first annual Evening of Excellence Awards to celebrate the accomplishments of students in three separate departments — academics, arts and athletics. The first of its kind ceremony for the local Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board facility took place in its own amphitheatre Wednesday, June 7 before a crowd of 300 students, staff and family members.

In previous years, the three elements of the September to June school year honoured their greatest achievers on separate occasions. New Cardinal Carter physical education department head Judith Brown, who assumed the position following the retirement of Mark Renaud, took on the task of organizing the Evening of Excellence Awards, which will take place in the same format for upcoming school years.

"Being able to see everyone as a whole through the entire student body is a nice way to do things," said Brown, who spent the previous 19 years with the staff at F.J. Brennan Catholic High School in Windsor. "People will get used to it. I really think it's going to grow."

Student of the Year nominees were highlighted in video montage format throughout the evening in a style that Brown compared to Oscar nominees for each category. Prior to the awards ceremony, staff members made a list of candidates for Student of the Year and from there, whittled the field down to a short list of five, each of whom were featured during the Evening of Excellence Awards. The finalists were introduced alphabetically starting with Liam Bergeron, followed by Hannah Iacobelli, Dimitria Liovas, Dominique Mastronardi and Sharon Rodas Roldan.

Presentations began with Individual Awards, announced as follows:

- Leadership — Mia DiCiocco and Melissa Gebrael;
- Math Awards — Michael Thachuk (Grade 9 Pascal and Fryer), Evin Resendes (Grade 10 Caley), Jordan Avelar (Grade 10), Sami Lambier (Grade 11 Fermat and Hypatia);
 - Top 25 per cent of 700-1,500 students, Math Awards — Evin Resendes and Jordan Avelar (Grade 10, Caley), Jordan Avelar and Alexia Resendes (Grade 10, Galios);
 - 4932 Award for Robotics — Hannah Iacobelli;
 - Al Linnell Arts Award — Sharon Rodas Roldan;
 - Spirit of Arts Award — Anthony D'Aversa;
 - Tech Crew Leadership Award — Caitlyn Massad;
 - Tech Crew Member of the Year — Devin Anastasio.

Afterwards, individual sports team awards for fall, winter and spring seasons were presented by coaches to the following:

- Cross Country**
 - Rookie of the Year — Abby DiLaudo;
 - Junior MVP — Brianna Zakaria;
 - Most Improved — Carly Demers;
 - Coach's Award — Katie Zuccato;
- Junior Football**
 - MVP — Thomas Saba;
 - Offensive Player of the Year — Matt Carvalho;
- Senior Football**
 - MVP — Dante D'Andrea;
- Senior Girls Basketball**
 - MVP — Katrina Ingratta and Kylie Murracas;
 - Coach's Award — Delaney Ribble and Veronica Daoud;
- Junior Boys Volleyball**
 - MVP — Alec Symons;
 - Coach's Award — Luca Quenneville;
- Senior Boys Volleyball**
 - MVP — Charbel Nohra;
 - Coach's Award — Daniel Daoud;
- Junior Boys Basketball**
 - MVP — Matt Carvalho;
 - Coach's Award — Nico Gualtieri;
- Senior Boys Basketball**
 - MVP — Ryan Raffoul;
 - Coach's Award — Solomon Sleiman;
- Junior Girls Volleyball**
 - MVP — Darigan Chambers and Oana Balint;
 - Coach's Award — Kylie Cioci;
- Senior Girls Volleyball**
 - MVP — Megann Gillett;
- Girls Hockey**
 - MVP — Gioia DiCiocco and Kayla Collison;
- Junior Hockey**
 - MVP — Matt Carvalho;
- Badminton**
 - Senior MVP — Ashley Najem;
 - Junior MVP — Evan Nassif;
- Senior Boys Soccer**
 - MVP — Rookie of the Year — Rickelmy Lima;
 - Commitment Award — Michael Moavro and Nick DiCoarlo;
- Senior Girls Soccer**
 - MVP — Katie Zuccato;
 - Coach's Award — Kylie Cioci;



Winners for Cardinal Carter's autumn sports teams accept their awards during the first annual Evening of Excellence Awards Wednesday, June 7 in the school's amphitheatre. The event was the first of its kind for Cardinal Carter, where academic, arts and athletic awards were announced and distributed simultaneously. (Submitted photos)



Cardinal Carter's dance team is recognized for its achievements during the first annual Evening of Excellence Awards Wednesday, June 7 in the school's amphitheatre.



Members of the Cardinal Carter A Club — students who maintained an average of 90 per cent or higher in 26 courses — are awarded during the school's first annual Evening of Excellence Awards.

Continued on page 27

Junior Soccer

- MVP — Camron Taouil;

Baseball

- MVP — Lucas Lamotte;
- Most Improved — Mitchell Demelo;

Track and Field

- Coach's Award — Daniel Mafra;
- Most Improved — Ke-Ann Laliberte;
- MVP — Julia Pearce;

Gymnastics

- MVP — Julia Pearce.

Next on the evening's itinerary were awards for various categories in the arts, presented as follows:

Drama

- Most Promising Junior Actor — Alex Morin;
- Most Promising Senior Actor — Costa Liovas;
- Outstanding Performer — Liam Bergeron;

Visual Arts

- Most Promising Junior Artist — Carline Bembem;
- Most Dedicated Artist — Sharon Rodas Roldan;

Music

- Most Valuable Junior Musician — Rowan Massad;
- Most Valuable Senior Musician — Diane Tannous;
- Junior Vocalist of the Year — Nathan Correia;
- Senior Vocalist of the Year — Sami Lambier;

Dance

- Most Dedicated Dancer — Dimitria Liovas;
- Most Promising Dancer — Kiana Dobson;
- Most Valuable Junior Dancer — Olivia Stanton;
- Most Valuable Senior Dancer — Kelsey Augustine.

Presenters then acknowledged Cougar athletes nominated to First Team All Star status, including Ryan Raffoul (basketball), Marlee LaSala (volleyball and soccer), Katie Zuccato (soccer), Amber Martinho (volleyball), Megann Gillett (volleyball), Gioia DiCiocco (hockey), Alyce Church (hockey), Kayla Collison (hockey), Michael Moavro (soccer), Nico Gualtieri (soccer) and Aidan Massad (baseball). Also lauded were the school's dance team for six first place finishes at the All Ontario Dance Competition, the junior boys basketball team as WECSSAA and SWOSSAA champions, the senior boys soccer team as WECSSAA and SWOSSAA winners and Julia Pearce as an OFSAA bronze medalist.

Moving on to academics, achievement awards went to the following students for attaining a minimum 90 per cent average in the first se-

mester, midterm and second semester;

- Grade 9 — Olivia Stanton, Abby DiLaudo, Skylar Whitney and Marielle Nehmetallah;
- Grade 10 — Evan Nassif, Sydney Youssef, Alexia Resendes, Myah DiLaudo, Oana Balint, Fadi Naom;
- Grade 11 — Caleb Coulter, Sami Lambier and Diane Tannous.

A Club Awards for an average percentage of 90 or higher in 26 courses went to Liam Bergeron, Dominique Mastronardi, Matthew Prebeg, Hannah Iacobelli, Kirsten Mollison, Maud Van Gellecum and Katie Zuccato.

Student athletes of the year were Abby DiLaudo and Eric Taveres in Grade 9, Kylie Murracas, Nico Gualtieri and Matt Carvalho in junior and Marlee LaSala and Michael Moavro in senior. Major C Awards were granted to Hannah Iacobelli, Dominique Mastronardi, Dimitria Liovas, Matthew Prebeg and Katie Zuccato.

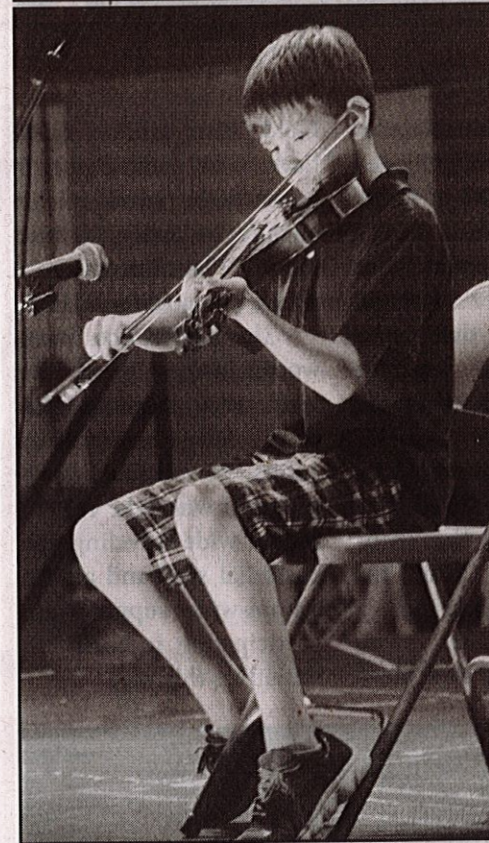
To conclude the event, Student of the Year was awarded to Liam Bergeron, presented by principal Dwayne Brunet.

Eagles at S.J.B.'s 'Got Talent!'



Students at St. John de Brebeuf elementary school took to centre stage this past week for their talent show, "SJB's Got Talent!" event of the year. Performances included solo dancing and group choreography, singing a la soloist and duet varieties along with some impressive fiddling, acting and piano playing. Pictured above, it was a lively dance mix by this troupe as they added some great stage moves to the singing performance that helped open up the first set. Students all praised the support they received from their judges (Teachers Miss Janisse, Mme. Lariviere, Mrs. Market, Mrs. Stenger, and Mrs. Wismer) who offered their expert eye and great encouragement to empower the local students and their performances. See more highlights on Page Ten.

Photo by Nelson Santos



Talent levels were soaring at St. John de Brebeuf school this past week as the young eagles took to the stage to showcase some memorable performances. Pictured above are just a few of the sparkling highlights that entertained two audiences with music, acting, and singing just to name but a few of the amazing number at the school Talent Show.

Photos by Nelson Santos

St Anthony Catholic Elementary School 2017 Graduates

by Shelby Wye

The St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School Grade 8 graduation ceremony was held on Friday, June 23 at St. Anthony of Padua Church and later at Knights of Columbus Hall in Harrow.

Principal Joe Iacono said that the students went through 13,860 hours to receive the diplomas they were going home with that night. He said they should be proud of their accomplishments and know that they didn't do it alone.

"Your parents, your family, and God has been with you," said Iacono. He said he was very grateful for their staff and all the support they received from parent volunteers and local organizations and was most thankful for the group of graduates themselves for all their work and dedication.

"Grade 8s at the pillars, the backbone of the school," said Iacono, saying they will be very missed by their younger peers at St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School.

Grade 8 teacher Mrs. Welsh thanked the Harrow Knights of Columbus for their dedication to help St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School throughout the years.

Arial McCallum presented the valedictorian speech. She had personal remarks and memories with each of her peers and got a lot of laughs through her reminiscing. She said as students they are like buildings, all home to various and individualized purposes and talents.

"But we still and always remember St Anthony's, the place that built our foundation," said Arial. "St. Anthony has made it so that we can be the change we want to see in the world."

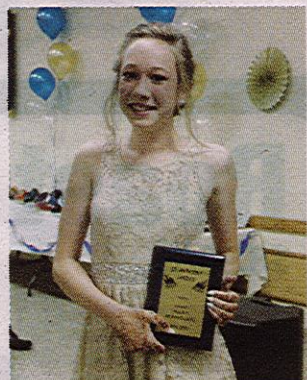
The 2017 graduates of St Anthony Catholic Elementary School were Marissa Adams, Brayden Baumgartner, Noelle Bezdán, Madison Brennan, Antonio Brown, Joseph Cabral-Kool, Matthew Clark (Honour Roll), Joshua Caixeiro (Honour Roll), Morghan Curtis, Joshua DeLeebeck, Riley Desjarlais, Madison Di Lillo, Joshua Dufour, Adam Fairlie (Honour Roll), Tabetha Gomes, Amelia Gréco, Jazlyn Hanson, Olivia Holland (Honour Roll), Koby Iles, Mackenzie Keeton (Honour Roll), Lucas Machado, Riley Marques, Lauren Martyn, Ariel McCallum (Honour Roll), Chris Moore, Trey Moore, Joshua Myers (Honour Roll), Olivia Nye, Shawn O'Brien (Honour Roll), Randy Quick, Nathan Slobodnick, Evelyn Stephenson, Lily Struhar (Honour Roll), Tiago Torres, Grace VanHantum, William Wilson and Aksel Zavaros.

For the French award, Tabetha Gomes was recognized; Religion award, Lillianne Struhar; Geography award, Matthew Clark; History award, Jazlyn Hanson; Arts award, Riley Marques; Mathematics award, Shawn O'Brien; Physical Education award, Joshua Dufour; Science award, Adam Fairlie; English award, Joshua Myers; Instrumental Music award, Arial McCallum

The Most Improved Student award was given to Lucas Machado, the School Spirit award to Morghan Curtis, the Christian Spirit award to Trey Moore, the Male Athlete award to Koby Iles, the Female Athlete award to Olivia Holland and the General Proficiency award to Shawn O'Brien. The winner of the CSC Volunteer and Full Circle Thrift Shop \$100 bursary was Tabetha Gomes.



The St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School celebrated the success of their Grade 8 graduates. A ceremony was hosted in their honour on Friday night, ending with a dinner and dance at the Knights of Columbus Hall.



Riley Marques was the recipient of the Arts award.



The General Proficiency award was given to Shawn O'Brien.



The Geography award recipient was Matthew Clark.



The Most Improved Student award was given to Lucas Machado.



Arial McCallum was the recipient of the Instrumental Music award.



Adam Fairlie received the Science award.



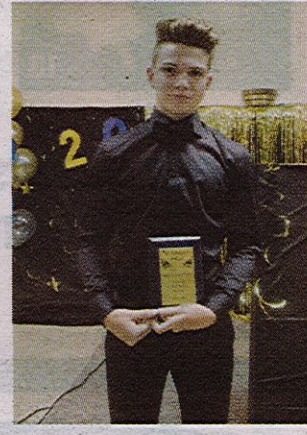
The School Spirit award was given to Morghan Curtis



The winner of the CSC Volunteer and Full Circle Thrift Shop \$100 bursary was Tabetha Gomes.



The Female Athlete award went to Olivia Holland.



The Male Athlete award was given to Koby Iles.



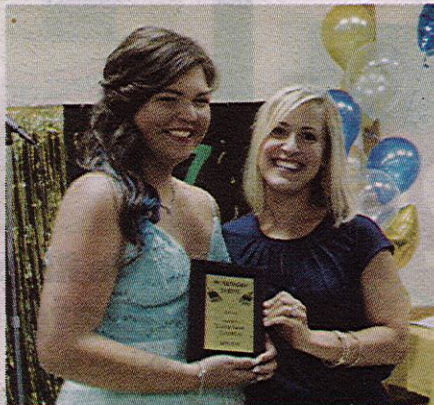
Joshua Myers was the recipient of the English award.



Jazlyn Hanson received the History Award.



The Christian Spirit award went to Trey Moore.



For the French award, Tabetha Gomes was recognized.



The Religion award went to Lillianne Struhar.

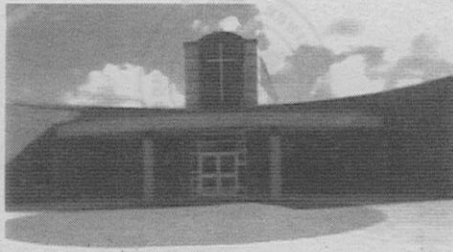


The Physical Education award went to Joshua Dufour.



The Mathematics award went to Shawn O'Brien.

St. John de Brebeuf Catholic School Class of 2017



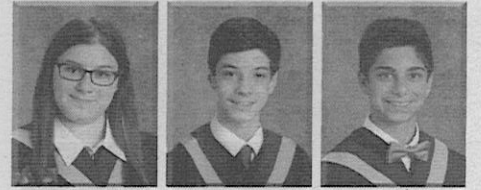
KATIE ADJIN SIERRA ALGRA LILIANA ALTENHOF



DOMINIQUE BRADFORD CHELSEA BRUSH TREVOR CARON



EMMA AVELAR VANESSA BEMBEM CHRISTINA BRADFORD



SERAFINA CIANCIO GARRET COPPOLA JASON DARAICHE



REBECCA DENUNZIO MACKENZIE DROUILLARD MACKENZIE DRUMMOND LUCAS FRATARCANGELI PARKER GANDERTON DARREN GATES MELANIE GOSSELIN PETER HAMM ASHTIN HINES OLIVIA KOMSIC



SARAH LEGG BRANDON MARTENS WESLEY MARTENS LEXI MASTRONARDI MADELINE MASTRONARDI CALEB MICHAUD LOGAN PEDRO MIKAYLA PORRONE GAGE RAMSAY THAYNE RAPOSO



LAYNE SONNENBERG GIDEON SPEVAK TRISTEN STANTON CHAD STENGER NOLAN STEPHENS SONNIE STOMP MONTANA TUCKER JOYCE VAN PAASSEN SANNE VAN PAASSEN LAUREN WEBER EMMA WOODHAM

Eagles Nest of 2017

The Class of 2017 are spreading their wings as graduates officially received their diplomas from St. John de Brebeuf Catholic elementary school. Commencement ceremonies were held this past Thursday evening at Cardinal Carter Secondary School.

Jason Daraiche was chosen as the Valedictorian for 2017 and in his speech defined everything that it has meant to be an Eagle and the pride graduates hold as a St. John de Brebeuf Eagle.

“An Eagle is defined as a powerful and strong bird that is known

for its keen sight and soaring flight, but at St. John de Brebeuf, an Eagle, is someone who is determined to be their best, rising undefeated by any or all challenges,” remarked Jason.

He continued by noting that graduation night represents the closing of another chapter in their lives and they now set forth to cautiously and bravely prepare themselves for a new and exciting beginning that may also be intimidating all at the same time.

Said Jason, “We have each experienced numerous successes and challenges and at each time, someone has gently picked us up, straightened out our feathers and encouraged

us to try again.”

Defining each step along their grade school career Jason identified key messaging that included ‘encouragement’, ‘acceptance’, ‘great opportunities’, ‘loyalty’, and ‘excitement’ as true ‘eagle’ characteristics and values found in each of his fellow graduates and what it has meant to be one. “My advice to all would be to take it one step at a time and to never give up no matter the struggle, hardship or problem. And when you need a friend or a helping hand--look around. We are Eagles and together we help those who are in need.”

He concluded, “Lastly, I asked our Principal Mrs. Wismer what being an Eagle means to her and

she said, ‘A true eagle respects and includes everyone and keeps that spirit of inclusion in their hearts as they continue to soar to new heights.’ She could not have said it any better!”

“We will always be Eagles and I wish each and everyone of you the best of luck!” added Jason. “Thank you for your friendship and the many memories that I will cherish always. Congratulations to all of the graduates of 2017!”

A number of awards were presented during the evening.

Principal’s Award – Joyce van Paassen and Garret Coppola; Language Arts – Rebecca Denunzio; Mathematics – Trevor Caron; Geography

– Gideon Spevak; Science – Vanessa Bembem; History – Caleb Michaud; Visual Arts – Mackenzie Drummond; Drama – Olivia Komsic; Music – Peter Hamm; Dance – Lexi Mastronardi; French – Melanie Gosselin; Physical Education & Health – Lauren Lafleur; Athletes of the Year – Matthew Lafleur and Chelsea Brush; CWL – Mikayla Porrone and Sarah Legg; Most Improved – Sonnie Stomp and Parker Ganderton; Perseverance – Sierra Algra and Emma Avelar; Optimist Award – Sanne van Paassen; OPP Community Policing Award – Madeline Mastronardi; Citizenship – Jason

Daraiche and Katie Adjin; Honour Roll – Katie Adjin, Lexi Mastronardi, Gideon Spevak, Sanne van Paassen, Jason Daraiche, Maddy Mastronardi, Olivia Komsic, Sonnie Stomp, Caleb Michaud, Montana Tucker, Mikayla Porrone, Lauren Lafleur, Garret Coppola, Melanie Gosselin, Rebecca Denunzio, Trevor Caron and Joyce van Paassen.

St. Anne students learn disc golf at Lakewood



Lakeshore News photos: Bill England

A group of St. Anne Catholic High School students experienced the sport of disc golf at the new Lakewood Park course during their phys. ed class last Friday. Marta Tapias, pictured above, prepares to release the disc as Ron Hebert, of Windsor Essex Disc Golf looks on, while in the photo on the left, Frankie Calvaruso attempts a throw towards the basket.



We like our Engineers!



On June 19th, we were honoured to welcome Mrs. Ilievski to OLOA to share her career choice with the Gr. 6 students.

Not only did she engage the students by sharing her responsibilities in her role as the Controls Implementation Supervisor for the N. American Engine Programs at Ford., but most importantly she emphasized the importance of having a Growth Mindset in life.

Taking the CWATS challenge to not be a couch potato

Students from St. John de Brebeuf and Kingsville District High School joined municipal, county, and Windsor-Essex County Health Unit representatives in vowing not to be a couch potato. That was part of the In Motion pledge repeated Monday at the Carnegie Arts & Visitor Centre.

The event included the celebration of the completion of 150 km of local trails.

“It’s a perfect coincidence that 150 kilometres of trail is built for Canada 150. This achievement was made possible through dedicated partnerships formed through CWATS,” said Jane Mustac, Manager of Transportation Planning for the County of Essex. “Locals can now say that we are connected to The Great Canadian Trail and they can Walk, Ride – Canada Wide.”

The trails link all seven Essex County municipalities and the



Pictured are scenes from Monday’s County Wide Active Transportation System celebration in Kingsville. Several area students took the challenge to not be a couch potato.

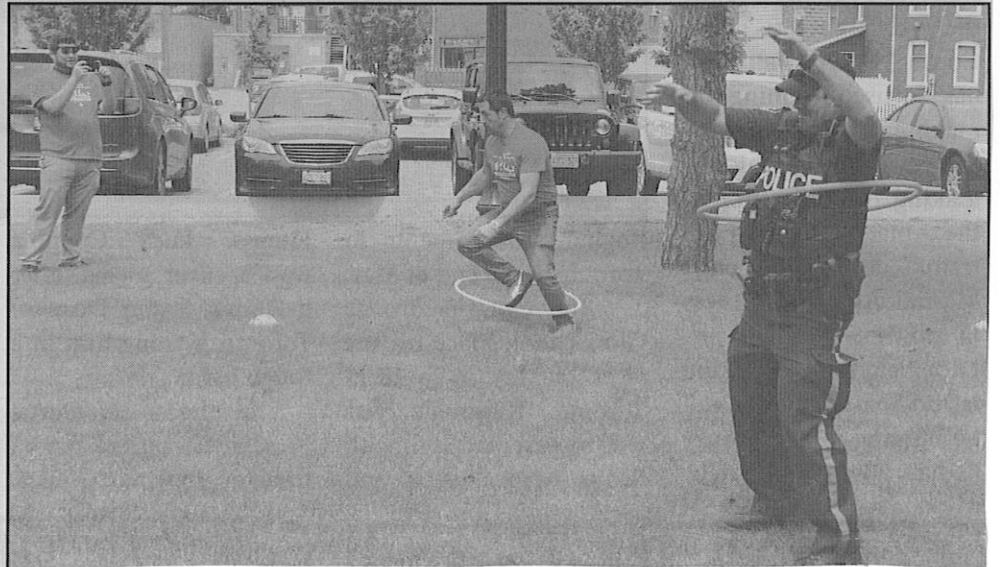
Photos by Steve l’Anson

City of Windsor.

Kingsville Mayor Nelson Santos welcomed everyone to the event noting that Kingsville is committed to another four kilometers of trail this year, including stretches along County Road 50 (Heritage Road), County Road 34 and

Seacliff Drive.

Following speeches, members of the public joined KDHS students in a walk and bike down Division Street South. St. John students enjoyed an obstacle course alongside Mayor Santos and Kingsville Safety Officer Constable Steve Campbell.



St. Anne student's art recognized at Queen's Park for Canada 150



TAMAR HARRIS

More from Tamar Harris ([HTTP://WINDSORSTAR.COM/AUTHOR/TAMARHARRISWINDSORSTAR](http://windsorstar.com/author/tamarharriswindsorstar))

Published on: July 3, 2017 | Last Updated: July 3, 2017 7:44 PM EDT



Emma McConnell's Ontario Discovered is one of 10 pieces of art made into banners displayed at Queen's Park. **DAX MELMER / WINDSOR STAR**

It's an enduring, quintessentially Canadian question: what is Canada, and who do we want to be?

If you ask 15-year-old Emma McConnell, she'll tell you.

Rather, she'll show you. A copy of her art, celebrating the diverse and inclusive attitudes that make Ontario great, hangs outside of Queen's Park in celebration of 150 years of Canada.

The original Ontario Discovered is a water colour and acrylic on canvas. It's one of 10 illustrations created by young Ontarians that were made into banners and hung from street light stanchions on the Ontario's legislature buildings in Toronto.

"I was excited that it got recognized," said the soon-to-be Grade 10 student at St. Anne Catholic High School. "We need to recognize more that people all over the world should be together, not dividing each other."

In the centre of the painting is a street post showing the way to "at least one country from every continent," Emma said.

"All the countries are supposed to mean that everyone from all over the world can come to Ontario to live together," she said. "In the corner, there's a rainbow to mean that we'll make things together in the future."

A hockey arena — with the word arena written in English and French in honour of Canada's bilingualism — has a Tim Hortons inside. The arena sits underneath famous Ontario buildings such as the CN Tower, the Royal Ontario Museum and Ottawa's Peace Tower.

The painting was inspired by things Emma saw on the news, such as refugees and the American travel ban.

"Then I was thinking about how we should actually be allowing refugees to come in and live with us, because they're people, too," Emma said. "I even made sure to put Syria on there."

Karen McConnell said her daughter speaks "very much about how Canada is very inclusive.

"It doesn't matter what disability you have, where you're from — everyone matters.... I think she says that, in her (painting). There's opportunity here."

Karen thinks her daughter's political views, stimulated by the U.S. election, emerge in her art.

"When you compare the two countries, it's astounding," Karen said. "I remember having lots of discussions with Emma about that, at the time she was doing her picture."

Inclusion when it comes to health care is especially important for the McConnell family. Emma has Irlen syndrome, a vision disorder, and recently had surgery on both her feet.

Those challenges have encouraged Emma to advocate for people with disabilities.

"When you hear about some of the struggles people have over there, with health care," Karen trails off. "I think it's just, over here, we care about what happens to our neighbour. No one wants to see someone suffer, and we'll do what we can. We're not perfect but we try really hard."

Emma said that without the health-care system in Ontario, "and everyone trying to help each other and work together, I wouldn't have been able to have surgery."

Karen sees art as a therapeutic escape from the challenges her daughter has experienced.

"It's been quite a journey for her," Karen said. "But I find when Emma does her art, she's calm, she's very thoughtful. It's almost like a form of meditation for her."

Emma's art has seen her honoured at Lakeshore's town hall and the provincial legislature.

Earlier this year, while in the Greater Toronto Arena for a hockey game, the McConnell's visited the banner hanging at Queen's Park. The banner will stay up until December.

Karen said that seeing her daughter's artwork was one of her proudest moments: "I was a puddle," she said.

"We know that not everyone gets that opportunity, so we are very proud and very humbled," Karen said. "We're just pleased for her, to get that kind of recognition."

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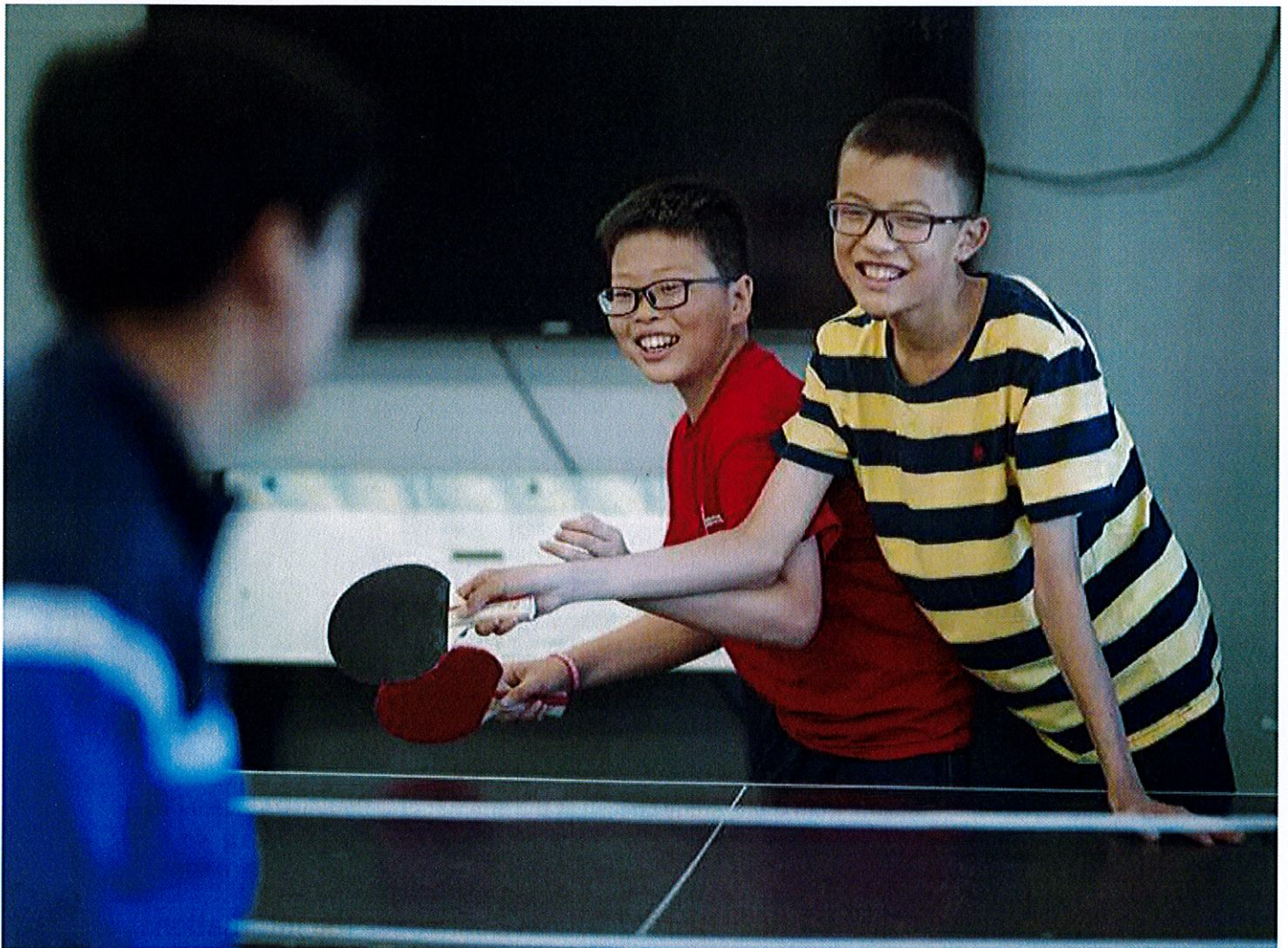
School board launches immersion program for international students



DAVE WADDELL, WINDSOR STAR

More from [Dave Waddell, Windsor Star](http://WINDSORSTAR.COM/AUTHOR/DAVE-WADDELL-WINDSOR-STAR) ([HTTP://WINDSORSTAR.COM/AUTHOR/DAVE-WADDELL-WINDSOR-STAR](http://WINDSORSTAR.COM/AUTHOR/DAVE-WADDELL-WINDSOR-STAR))

Published on: July 6, 2017 | Last Updated: July 6, 2017 5:52 PM EDT



International students from China, Yuming Bao, 13, left, and Chenyuan Cao, 13, take a ping pong break during the International Summer Academy at Central Park Athletics, July 6, 2017. **DAX MELMER / WINDSOR STAR**

While their Canadian peers have turned their attention to pools and the beach, 14 Chinese

students will get their official baptism in Canadiana by taking to the ice Friday at Central Park Athletics.

Xiaoming Zhang, who is entering Grade 11 at Catholic Central this fall, had already survived his first Canadian winter but with ice-skating still on his bucket list.

"I've slid along snow like skiing but not on ice," Zhang said. "It's the thing I'm looking forward to the most."

It's all part of an introduction to the Canadian experience and education system the Catholic school board hopes will whet the appetites of international students for full-time placement in Windsor.



International students from China study English at the International Summer Academy at Windsor's Central Park Athletics, July 6, 2017. *DAX MELMER / WINDSOR STAR*

The Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board sees the International Students Summer Academy as both a recruiting tool and an opportunity to make the transition to Canada easier for the students. Seed money for the academy came from a \$15,000 grant from a provincial fund promoting international education.

“For many, it’s a way to dip their toe in the water and see if coming here for a semester or a year or two is for them,” said Dan Fister, superintendent of education for innovation and experiential learning.

“Some may stay this year or in future years while others have been with us for a year and are working on upgrading their language skills further. Going forward, as we fine tune and tweak this, I can see this as an important piece for helping international students make the transition to full-time school in Windsor.”

Students currently attending the academy range in age from 10 to 19 years old.

The inaugural edition of the academy will offer English language instruction for three hours in the mornings and then different recreational and sports activities in the afternoons. The students will be talking about Asian culture a couple times a week with the 110 elementary school students in the Minds on Learning Academy held in the same building.

As part of their package, the international students get three meals a day at Central Park. The food is being prepared by Grade 9 students enrolled in a high school culinary credit course given as part of the board’s Summer Reach Ahead program.

The international students will also get a crash course in Canada through a field trip to Point Pelee and a four-day excursion that takes in Niagara Falls, Toronto and Ottawa.

The international academy is offered in two four-week blocks.

The cost for room, board and tuition is about \$2,600 per month. Transportation to school, which runs from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., is also provided.

The approximately 46 students expected this summer stay with local families or at St. Clair College's student residence.

"I'm doing four weeks, then I'm going home to China for a visit," 16-year-old Zhang said.

"I arrived in Canada late (November). I had to wait for my visa, so I'm making up the time on my English."

Zitong Li, 16, arrived Tuesday night for a few weeks to get a taste of life in the Canadian school system, and he's already made up his mind.

"I'm just afraid my mom will say no because I've already made my mind up I want to stay," joked Li, who wants to attend university in Canada.

Both students said the desire to study abroad is a popular one in China. Li said six of his former middle school classmates have already left to study abroad.

The school Zhang attended back home had a split stream, one for those planning to study domestically and one for those intending to go overseas.

"It's an advantage," said Zhang of studying in Canada.

"In China we have a big exam to write to get into university. It's very competitive to get admission.

"Here there's more opportunity to go to university."

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Vivian Revin-Kubik teaches English to international students from China at the International Summer Academy at Central Park Athletics, July 6, 2017. **DAX MELMER / WINDSOR STAR**



International students from China learn English at the Catholic school board's International Summer Academy at Central Park Athletics, July 6, 2017. **DAX MELMER / WINDSOR STAR**

sports

Saints capture second straight OFSAA title in London



The St. Anne Saints boy's baseball team claimed their second-straight OFSAA title in June in London. The Saints back-to-back win makes it three gold medals in four years and four-straight trips to the OFSAA Final.

Story by Evan Mathias
Special to the Lakeshore News

It's not exactly how they drew it up, but the St. Anne Saints boys baseball team captured their second-straight OFSAA title last month in London.

St. Anne lost the WECSSAA title this year to the Riverside Rebels and had to battle their way through the losers bracket to reach the OFSAA tournament, entering as the second seed to the OFSAA Final Four.

Extra Baseball played

Despite playing extra baseball the Saints managed to claw their way back and defeat the Renfrew St. Joseph Jaguars, the club that beat Riverside in the OFSAA semi-final.

"This one was nice because there was a lot of doubters," said Saints' coach Steve Burke. "It was really satisfying because nobody expected

us to win. The fact that we were ranked number one and we did win basically showed everyone that the committee got it right."

St. Anne's win at OFSAA made it back-to-back gold's at the tournament and four-straight trips to the final, claiming three gold medals and one silver.

An Impressive Feat

Staying competitive for so many consecutive years is considered an impressive feat because of what is generally a high turnover rate for high school sports.

"We're really fortunate, we got a lot of kids that tryout. The reputation of

Saints baseball is there where kids are coming to play baseball. We have these kids coming out of the woodwork," said Burke. "We have a good rotation right now where we will lose four or five kids every year and out of the several hundred kids that come to St. Anne in Grade 9 and 10 we hope that there is four or five who can fill those spots."

A Winning Tradition

Burke said that there is a winning tradition for baseball at St. Anne, but it's not himself who will instill the winning attitudes into his players.

"I leave it up to my senior students, the older

guys, the captains," said Burke. "My philosophy is I'll coach them and I'll give them the rope to see how far they'll take it and see how serious they are. It goes to that winning tradition, you win and people take it serious."

Those senior star players of Carson Burke, Cameron George, Matt Gravelle and Chris Mousseau lead the team on and off the diamond, doing whatever it took to win according to Burke.

"They were all in Grade 10 and sat the bench and watched us lose in the final. They looked at the kids that were graduating and they thought in their minds 'that's not going to

be us, we want to win," said Burke. "It's huge, they were the ones watching and learning what we had to do to win and carrying that tradition and now they were the leaders. They were the ones showing the Grade 10's and Grade 11's what it takes to win. It's so valuable to have that."

Motivation

While he lets his players be the leaders and motivators, he will throw in some motivation of his own.

"I told these guys at the beginning of the year,

the only team that is going to beat you guys is yourselves," said Burke.

The winning traditions of baseball is alive and well at St. Anne and looking to the future Burke doesn't see a rebuild anywhere in site.

"Next year we will have to rely on four or five guys to get the job done instead of the seven or eight we had," said Burke. "Looking ahead with the team, we can get there again (to OFSAA) I don't know if we'll be successful and win, but we're going to give it a shot."

'There is hope:' Catholic Central student awarded \$80k scholarship

[Tamar Harris](#)

June 11, 2017 6:26 PM EDT



Jomanah Chahrour, a Syrian refugee and now student at Catholic Central High School, has been awarded a \$80,000 Schulich Leader Scholarship which will help her continue studies at McMaster University in the fall. Dan Janisse / Windsor Star

Jomanah Chahrour has already moved halfway around the world, and now her studies are quite literally taking her to the stars.

Chahrour and her family lived in Syria until 2011, when they were forced to flee the civil war ravaging the country. When Chahrour came to Canada, she could not speak English fluently, she missed her home and she was terrified for her loved ones still living in the midst of a brutal civil war.

Today, the 19-year-old is weeks away from graduating from Catholic Central High School, and plans to attend McMaster University in the fall.

And Chahrour was recently one of 25 students in Canada to be awarded a \$80,000 Schulich Leader Scholarship.

The scholarship is awarded annually: 25 engineering students receive a \$100,000 award and 25 science, technology and math students are awarded \$80,000. Students are nominated by their high schools, and select candidates are awarded the scholarship by partner universities.

Chahrour was nominated by Christena Slivocka from Catholic Central's guidance department. She's the first Catholic Central student to receive the award.

"For like two weeks, every morning, I'd wake up and check the email just in case I was dreaming," Chahrour said. "I was still worried the whole time. What if it's actually not happening?"

But it is happening — and Chahrour's friends and teachers say there is no one more deserving.

Academic excellence is one of the scholarship's requirements, which Chahrour easily meets with a 94 per cent in chemistry, 98 per cent in physics, 92 per cent in calculus and an 82 in functions.

But the scholarship is also a measure of perseverance.

"You have to really work hard toward your dreams," Chahrour said. "I think nobody would have thought I would go to McMaster (or) get this scholarship, when I first came."

Chahrour's family initially arrived in Edmonton, where they lived for a year and a half.

It was a hard time for Chahrour. She learned English grammar in Syria but couldn't speak fluently, which made making friends in her new home difficult.

Watching the devastation in Syria from afar also took a toll.

"Over the summer, I literally knew the name and the number of every person who died in a day," Chahrour said. "That's how much I was into it. And I wanted to know, because I was hoping that it would end soon. But it never did.

"So I was like, oh my god, I have to stop watching the news. And since I stopped, I've been feeling better. Because it's depressing to see your friends, your family, people you've seen in the streets, just be tortured and die."

Chahrour's family lived in Damascus, Syria's capital. She said some parts of the city were untouched by the war.

"But other areas, like where I lived, the protestors used to walk just in front of my house," she said. "And the police and soldiers would come with guns, and they would chase them. It was violent.

“They would even threaten you if they see you on the window. If they see you in the street — they just take you.”

Chahrour’s mother stopped letting her attend school in Damascus because the five-minute walk was too dangerous. Chahrour called that time in her life “really terrifying.”

Still, leaving Syria was difficult, and Chahrour didn’t want to go.

“Of course, I didn’t know the risks of staying. My parents sort of had to drag me to the airplane. But now I appreciate being here — I really, really appreciate it.”

The family arrived in Canada on a visitor’s visa then applied for refugee status. Today, they’re permanent residents.

Chahrour’s immediate family settled in Windsor, except for her older brother who is currently studying in Barrie. Chahrour’s father owns Greek Town Pita on Ouellette Avenue, and her mother studies at triOS College. She also has two little siblings.

When Chahrour told her family about the scholarship, she said they were over the moon.

“They were so happy,” she said. “They were telling the whole universe about it.”

Chahrour’s passion for physics and space has remained a steady presence since her childhood, from Damascus to Edmonton, from Edmonton to Windsor, and from Kennedy High School to Catholic Central.

“In astronomy, you’re not touching anything,” she said. “When you’re doing simple physics like measuring speed, distance, stuff like that — you can just see it, time it, find out.

“But when you’re talking about space, it’s all observation and then thinking and coming up with theories. That is just amazing. It gives you the opportunity to be creative, because there is no impossible in physics. Anything can happen.”

Chahrour tutored her peers in math and sciences daily, during an after-school Youth First program at Catholic Central.

“I was telling Jomanah that she’s actually going to be viewed as a leader, someone who we will look to as Canadians, for the next generation of scientists,” said Heather Dupuis, the Youth First program co-ordinator.

“And how exciting is that? It’s amazing to think about. This is a win not only for her as a person — this is a scholarship for our entire community.”