



WINDSOR-ESSEX CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Director's Annual Report to our Community - 2007

"Learning Together in Faith and Service"

A Message from the Director of Education



The motto of the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board is "Learning Together in Faith and Service". Whenever we face the challenges of the day, and they can be many, we are wise to revisit our motto. We are not asked to do it alone. We have our faith and wonderful people that surround and support us, and each other to accomplish our mission. We have been given the gift of providing an excellent Catholic Education to our students entrusted in our care by loving parents. Catholic schools are not a duplication of the publicly-funded school system. We must constantly display and be vigilant in expressing our uniqueness. Our message is rooted in the gift of our faith and the gospel teachings of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

We have our dedicated Bishops, Ronald Fabbro and Anthony Daniels, our clergy and our wider Catholic community to assist as well.

Our elected Board of Trustees are committed to providing the best Catholic education possible for all of our students.

Finally, I would like to thank and encourage all of our teaching and support staff for their efforts in service to our young people. You are special and I am very proud, as Director, of the challenging work that you do.

May God continue to bless us as we continue our work in providing the best in Catholic education.



Joseph Berthiaume
Director of Education

Excellence in Catholic Education

Commitment

Pride



Communication... Reaching Out and Responding



This year members of administration and staff, together with the WECDSB Key Communicators' Network, shared school initiatives and good news from their schools within our system throughout the community.

With the successful implementation of the refreshed board website project, a refresh of each school's website was also undertaken.

Relationships with community partners were renewed and strengthened. We continue to work closely with the Diocese of London and in October were blessed to welcome Auxiliary Bishop Daniels to his new office at the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board Administration building.

A committee of representatives from the WECDSB is currently reviewing and revising the strategic plan to address current issues and challenges.

The WECDSB's 2007-2008 Student Trustees, Chynna Resendes and Nerissa Bradley, presented the successes and challenges of the students to the Trustees and Administration. Their outstanding leadership of the Student Senate further enhanced both internal and external communication.

This year a priority was the transparent and accountable communication of budget issues to both employees and ratepayers. More frequent and regular reporting of budget status has been introduced at the senior administrative level at Audit Committee meetings and at Board meetings. This has ensured effective, ongoing monitoring of revenues and expenditures to ensure an annual balanced budget position is maintained at year-end.

Dialogue with the Diocese of London continues to be augmented to ensure mutually beneficial outcomes on business and property related matters.

Refreshed
Website
Project

Community
Partnership

Student
Leadership

Faith Development... Rooted in Christ



The staff and students of the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board supported those in need both locally and internationally this year through various fundraising events and food/clothing/toy drives. As they reached out to those in need they made a difference as they lived their faith.

In October a DVD created to illustrate our students answering their call to holiness as they participated in volunteer activities throughout Windsor and Essex County was shared with over 1000 Catholics at the Bishop's Annual Dinner.

Auxiliary Bishop Anthony Daniels continued his visits to each Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board schools.

Bishop Daniels and local clergy concelebrated a mass for all WECDSB staff at Faith Day 2007. Mathew Kelly shared his message of becoming the-best-version-of-yourself.

With the closure and clustering of more Catholic Churches, Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board administration and staff worked closely with priests and pastoral teams to ensure our students were prepared for sacraments and shared Eucharistic celebrations.

Supporting
Those in Need

Volunteering

Student Achievement... A Successful Outcome for All



The Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board's Learning Support Services is a combined department of Curriculum, Special Education and Student Success. Consultants, Coordinators and the Board Strategy team work together with Supervisors and Superintendents to provide a focused and collaborative approach to student achievement.

The year's EQAO primary and junior Reading, Writing and Mathematics results, along with the Grade 9 Mathematics assessment and the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test results, continued to show general improvement. This is evidence of the commitment and dedication of both staff and students to achieving the successful outcomes for all students.

This year, the WECDSB's commitment to healthy active living for all students was further enhanced by the expansion of the healthy active living teachers in our schools. Our staff and students continue to expand their environmental awareness and several schools have received "green" awards from the Corporation of the City of Windsor.

Staff and students from two schools participated in the City of Windsor's first "Peace Tree Day" in June of 2007. Two other schools received Rotary Peace Pole awards for their commitment to peace in their school community.

The WECDSB has expanded its Day of Champions. Elementary students in grades 6,7 and 8 who will be transitioning to a secondary school Life Skills program after their grade 8 year will share a day of fun, outdoor activities. The intent of this day is to facilitate the building of relationships between the elementary students, parents and teachers with their secondary school team.

As part of the Board's Student Success initiative, elementary and secondary teachers and administrators engaged in a variety of transition activities involving elementary students connecting with their feeder high school. A particular focus was on the cohort of Grade 8 students moving into Grade 9 ensuring a smooth and successful transition into high school. To help students transition into both secondary and post-secondary, students were also introduced to online course selection.

A key component of the board's implementation of the new Safe Schools legislation was a presentation from members of Rachel's Challenge to elementary and secondary students. Rachel's Challenge is an international campaign to generate a chain reaction of kindness and compassion. The program is designed to help parents, teachers and students create schools that are safer places to learn.

Elementary and secondary students were fortunate to participate in a 'reality learning' project: Expedition Africa. Through the innovative use of advanced technology, students were able to follow travel through the continent of Africa. Students from the board participated in virtual question and answer sessions with students in Africa.

WECDSB launched two Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs in the sectors of Arts and Culture at F.J. Brennan Catholic High School and Primary Industries (Agriculture) at Cardinal Carter Catholic Secondary School. SHSM is an important component of the Ministry of Education's and the Board's Student Success Initiative. These specialized programs allow students to focus on knowledge and skills that are of particular importance in certain economic sectors, as they work towards meeting the requirements for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

Commitment
& Dedication

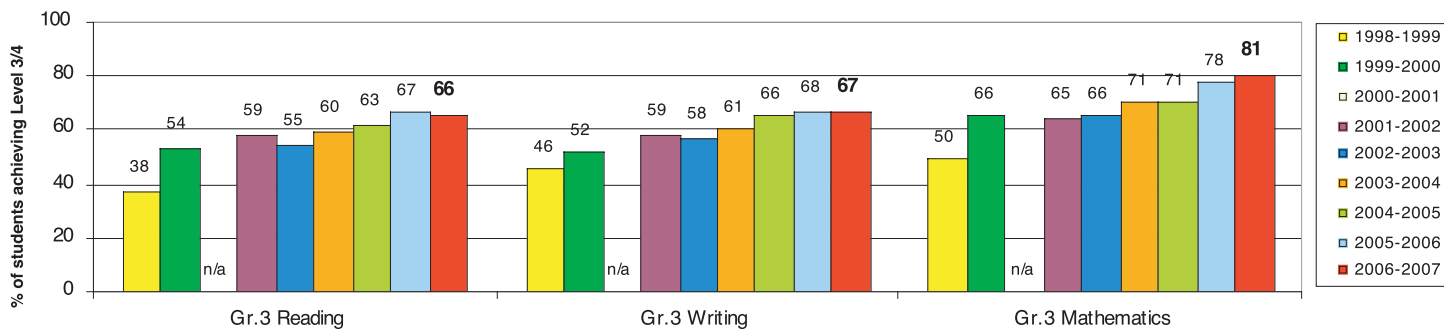
Healthy
Active Living

Safer Places
to Learn

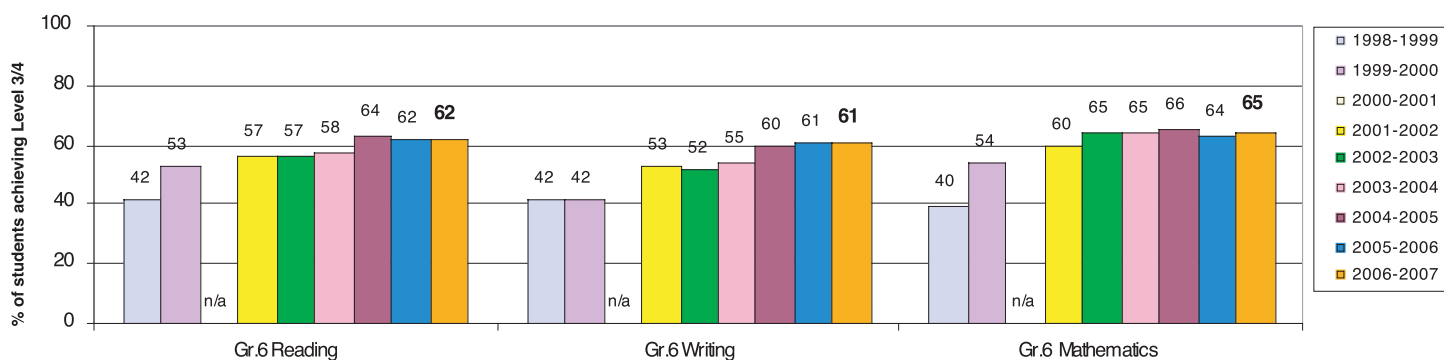


Student Achievement... A Successful Outcome for All

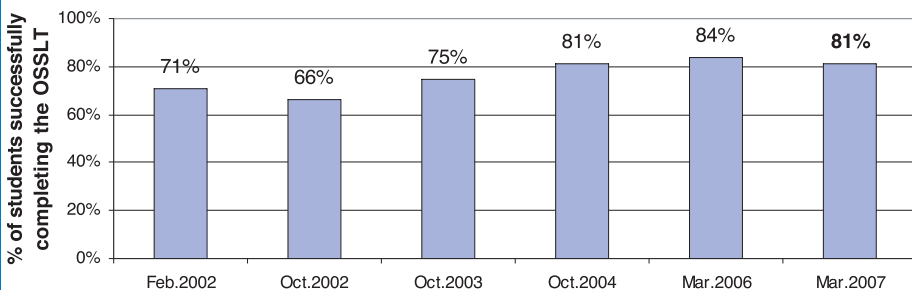
WECDSD Primary (Grade 3) EQAO Results



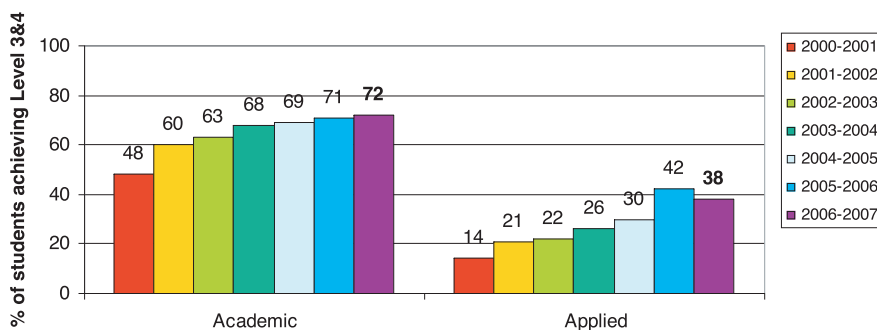
WECDSD Junior (Grade 6) EQAO Results



OSSLT: 5-year overview First Time Eligible Students (fully participating)



WECDSD Grade 9 EQAO Results



Employee Development... Working Together to Improve



This year the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board adopted a safe workplace policy and provided training for violence prevention to all employees.

The Employee Wellness committee continued to sponsor workshops and activities to ensure our employees feel valued and supported.

Training for all employee groups and administrators continued throughout the year. Special Education staff were trained in Behaviour Management Systems, Applied Behaviour Analysis and all new Ministry initiatives. The WECDSB works in partnership with the community providers to meet the needs of all students. The special education coordinators, curriculum consultants and Information Technology staff offer monthly professional development on topics identified by employees and on emerging technologies. These workshops are offered in the evening for any board employee who wishes to attend.

Joe Whelan, a former teacher, principal, and university professor worked throughout the year with teachers and administrators on the topic of differentiated instruction. Teachers developed a combination of teaching strategies responsive to all students' needs.

The School Effectiveness Framework focuses on building capacity in teachers in the area of literacy. Teachers and administrators have had extensive professional development in developing programs and strategies to help all students grow in their personal achievement plan.

Our new teachers have received professional development in many areas in special education, literacy, numeracy, classroom management, organizational skills and faith development through the New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP). Workshops have also been held for the occasional teachers in the area of special education and curriculum.

*Valued &
Supported*

*Differentiated
Instruction*



2007 Year in Review...

