



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Welcome Addition

New child care centre opens at Stella Maris

(Windsor, Ontario, Wednesday, February 9, 2022) – The opening of a brand new child care centre located at Stella Maris Catholic Elementary School in Amherstburg last week was welcome news to the families of the community.

“Parents are thrilled,” said Michelle DiCarlo, Executive Director of Creative Child Learning Centre, which opened on Monday at the Girard Street school and is licenced for 73 child care spaces. “They’re loving their new space, the children are adjusting nicely, and the staff are doing wonderful. We’ve come a long way and our team is doing a fantastic job helping families transition to their new space.”

The new centre, built by Alliance General Contracting of Windsor Inc., was funded by the Ministry of Education in 2018 when the board was awarded \$5.8 million to construct three new school-based child care centres. Approximately \$2.1 million was allotted for the Stella Maris project.

“Safe and affordable high-quality child care is essential for Ontario’s economic success, as well as preparing our province’s youngest learners for lifelong success with quality early learning opportunities,” said Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce. “By building a child care addition at Stella Maris Catholic Elementary School, our government is delivering real support to hard-working Amherstburg families.”

Joumana Tawil, the Superintendent of Education who oversees child care facilities for the board described the new Stella Maris centre as a state of the art facility which makes for a wonderful addition to the school.

“With this new expansion we’re able to provide families with quality child care in a convenient setting,” she said. “The children in these programs can transition easily and smoothly into kindergarten in a safe and familiar environment.”

“Parents are very excited to have this new centre located here in our school,” said Tania Sorge, Principal of Stella Maris. “They’re very happy about the fact that it’s centrally located in our community, and a lot of the children in the centre have older siblings in the school, so it’s nice to have the entire family in the same building. It makes things seamless for them.”

DiCarlo said the new facility includes a modern kitchen, a large outdoor play area, and rooms for 10 infants, 15 toddlers, and 48 preschoolers. With the Stella Maris location, her company now has two sites, including one on Murray Street in Amherstburg.

“We had families calling us well over two years ago waiting for this opportunity,” she said of the Stella Maris site. “We’ve had a lot of interest from the community and we’re looking forward to welcoming many new families.”

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