



St. Agnes Catholic Elementary School

February 2017

Hello Parents/Guardians,

The St. Agnes Feast Day was celebrated on Friday, January 20 with a mass at the church followed by a beautiful lunch for all the members of our school community. I wish to take another opportunity to thank the many volunteers who helped to make our lunch so spectacular. The time you spent organizing and preparing the meal is so greatly appreciated. Thank you for giving our school community such an awesome experience.

I also want to take this opportunity to remind you of how important it is that we all follow safety precautions when we are driving in our school parking lots. There have been too many near miss incidents, parking outside of actual parking spots, and, for some, a complete disregard for rules and safety of our students. I feel, therefore, that it is once again, extremely important to write about the importance of following school and by-law procedures and regulations. Below is a list of statements that might bring the message home about following school rules and city laws when it comes to getting your children to and from school safely.

- Schools have vehicular procedures in place for one reason only and that is **student safety**.
- Students require clear sight lines when walking to school. Parking in areas that are designated as No Parking and Fire Routes and blocked off by pylons will add to traffic congestion, thus, increasing the possibility of an accident with one of our young children. By-law officers for the City of Waterloo will issue (and have issued) \$80.00+ tickets to vehicles that are illegally parked or stopped. **Please adhere to the No Parking signs in our parking lot and please do not park in spots that are NOT parking spots.**
- There is nothing I can do to increase the number of parking spaces in our parking lot. Instead, I have to insist on safety in our parking lot.
- All children who do not qualify for bussing should be encouraged to walk to school. The school board has deemed your home a fair enough distance to school to walk. Walking to and from school on a consistent basis will have a positive effect on the health of our students. Of course, the number of idling cars will also decrease, thus improving our environment from the harmful effects of smog.
- If it is absolutely essential for you to drop off your children with your vehicle, and you need to get out of your car, and if there are no spots in our parking lot, then you will have to park in **the church parking lot** or on one of the side streets around the school. In this situation, please be courteous of our neighbours who live on these side streets. It is against the law to block a driveway or park in someone else's driveway without permission. Waterloo By-Law said they will give tickets to cars parked in a Fire Route or No Stopping area.

I hope that I have adequately clarified recent and future concerns you may have around vehicular traffic at our school. We want to thank you for supporting our procedures. We, at St. Agnes, simply want to ensure the safety of all children - your children. **If the parking lot remains unsafe, we will have no other choice but to shut it down completely for drop off and pick up.**

If you haven't already done so, please take a moment to sign up for our Newswire. By doing so, you will receive notices directly from the school to your email. Visit our website <http://stagnes.wcdsb.ca/> for instructions on how to register.

On Monday, February 20, 2017 - we celebrate Family Day. There is no school on this day. Please take time to enjoy an activity with your children and celebrate your family.

Sincerely,
Gloria Lasovich

Living In Faith

From the Director's Annual Report—December 2016

(Entire Annual Report on www.wcdsb.ca)



Welcome to the Waterloo Catholic District School Board's Director's Annual Report for the 2015-16 school year.

In the fall of the year, we launched a new Multi-Year Strategic Plan – Living in Faith - in which we committed ourselves to preserving and enhancing the legacy of Catholic Education in Waterloo Region. This year we celebrated 180 years of providing quality, inclusive, faith-based education. During 2015-16 we collectively committed ourselves to a new Pastoral Plan, set new expectations for student achievement and re-examined how we are building capacity to lead and learn within our system.

The first year of our Pastoral Plan was symbolized by The Giving Tree, in which each school identified the various ways in which we give witness to our faith as People of Love. The authentic engagement of our parishes and our parents was

seen as an aspirational goal to which we should strive. The well-being of students and staff, in mind, body and spirit, was

captured not only with progress on our mental health plan, but in how healthy active living was connected to student

achievement. Over the course of last year, gains were made in the critical areas of student achievement, realizing not only

positive gains in our literacy and numeracy achievement, but also in development of a new Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (BIPSA), which is now very much focused on assessment for learning and responding to the needs of the learner. 21st Century Learning continued to figure prominently in our classrooms and we continued with a substantial investment in our Chromebook strategy, which is helping us transform classrooms across the system into environments rich in digital tools. Several updates to our IT infrastructure, corporate website and support networks were effectively implemented.

Our student leaders exemplified our mission statement as they embraced their role as true agents of change in the world.

Our student leadership conference and Town Hall with the Director of Education brought out a wide array of students, empowered to make a difference in their local and broader community. The

leadership strategy for staff continued to experience excellent growth, with the addition of

formal mentorship and Leadership for Learning sessions open to all staff, thus bringing many opportunities for adult learning to flourish.

Our stewardship of resources continues to be exemplary as we delivered a balanced budget, earning our fourth consecutive Meritorious International Budget Award for excellence in budget presentation. Our strong capital plan saw many of our properties renovated and improved, while the construction of St Anne Cambridge was completed for the school's opening in Sept 2016.

It is a privilege and an honour to work with the staff and broader community at Waterloo Catholic. Similarly, we are proud to share our collective accomplishments with you. Our schools are Heart of the Community, providing success for each and a place for all...and for that, they are truly worthy of celebration.

Loretta Notten



**Mark Your Calendars
For The Annual
St. Agnes Mission Day
On Friday, February 24th, 2017
From 1:15-2:50 p.m.**



More information will come home later in February but in the meantime please begin saving the following items:

New items for our Raffle Table such as unwanted Christmas presents

Items for our Elephant Sale – used toys, books, games, jewelry...

Small items such as candy to be used as prizes for the activities/games

Candy such as large sour keys, large licorice sticks & blow pops (the large suckers with the gum inside) for our candy store



Fit Bit February 2017

Water Does Wonders



Water is the natural choice for kids to stay hydrated and healthy. Our community is looking for ways to help children and families choose water and healthy beverages more often.

- Water contains no sugar, calories, caffeine, or added ingredients like preservatives. It's the natural, healthy, and cost-free beverage choice.
- Drinks that contain added sugar are not a healthy choice – especially when these drinks start to replace the nutritious drinks and foods that growing children need. These types of drinks add extra sugar and calories to kids' diets.
- Sugar-sweetened drinks are the single largest source of sugar in kids' diets and have been shown to contribute to obesity. Too much sugar also increases the risk of heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and tooth decay (cavities).

What about juice and other beverages?

- Children don't need juice, offer whole fruit instead. While 100% fruit juice contains some nutrients, it also has a lot of naturally-occurring sugar and calories. A piece of fruit or vegetable is a healthier choice as it contains important nutrients and fibre, and will leave kids feeling more satisfied. 100% fruit juice (no sugar added) should be an occasional treat.
- After two years of age, children can include unflavoured skim, 1% or 2% milk as part of their daily fluid intake and as a source of calcium and vitamin D. If a child cannot drink milk, fortified, unsweetened soy beverage is a good option.

Take the pledge to promote water for your family at www.waterdoeswonders.ca! Schools, workplaces and community groups can take the pledge for organizations, and help to share the Water Does Wonders! message across our community and through social media networks.

Waterloo Region is one of 45 communities across Ontario taking part in the Healthy Kids Community Challenge (HKCC). The HKCC unites communities with a common goal of promoting children's health through physical activity and healthy eating. The current theme is Water Does Wonders! The HKCC will be encouraging children and families to choose water to satisfy their thirst instead of sugar-sweetened beverages; in schools, through local media, at community events, and across the region.



Catholic Graduate Expectations: Collaboration



For the month of February, we will be focusing on the Catholic Graduate Expectation that is "Being a Collaborative Contributor"

A Collaborative Contributor is one:

- Who works effectively as an interdependent team member.
- Who thinks critically about the meaning and purpose of work.
- Who develops one's God-given potential and makes a meaningful contribution to society.
- Who minds meaning, dignity, fulfillment and vocation in work which contributes to the common good.
- Who respects the rights, responsibilities and contributions of self and others.
- Who exercises Christian leadership in the achievement of individual and group goals.

Who works hard in school so that they can build our community and make it a better place

Here are some things you can do with your child at home to reflect this expectation:

- Have a discussion on how to demonstrate Christian leadership for the good of individual and group goals.
- Discuss what it means to be a good team member (use sports analogies and how it can be transferred into life and school activities)
- Discuss what it means to "Work to your potential."
- Discuss RESPECT - how does this look at school, home, job, friends, relatives, family, etc...

"There is no doubt that it is around the family and the home that all the greatest virtues, the most dominating virtues of human society, are created, strengthened and maintained"



~Winston Churchill