



Celtic News

ST. DAVID CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL

4 High St., Waterloo, Ontario N2L3X5

Tel: (519)885-1340 Fax (519)885-1345

A Message from our Leadership Team...



Merry Christmas
&
HAPPY NEW YEAR

December has quickly arrived and along with it the season of hope and joy even in this pandemic. Christmas is about giving and caring for others. This year we might choose to give more time to ourselves and each other as we follow all of the Public Health protocols. This Christmas will be about doing things differently, just as we have at school since September.

In this time when we are preparing for and celebrating the birth of Jesus, there are reminders all around us that we must continue to build God's kingdom of Peace Joy and Love for our neighbour. Our acts of charity and caring for our neighbours, as well as our daily actions, are how we help each other see the Face of God. In turn, we bring a message of Peace, Hope and Love to our community.

We would also like to share with you that Kevin Hinsperger will be moving to a new school as of January 4th, 2021. He has been appointed as Vice-Principal at St. Louis Adult Learning Center. Mr. Hinsperger has been a valued member of the St. David community for the last four years. Moving from a high school to an Adult Education center is a great opportunity for new challenges and growth. His dedication and student-focus will serve his new community well. We want to thank Mr. Hinsperger for all of his hard work over the last four years supporting our Celtic community and wish him well on the next leg of his journey. Congratulations!

December 13th



THIRD SUNDAY
OF
Advent

At this time, we are pleased to welcome Jordan Figueiredo to the St. David Leadership team. Mr. Figueiredo is coming to us from Monsignor Doyle where he was the Program Head of Physical and Health education. We look forward to the gifts he will bring and share with our Celtic community.

May you each experience the *Gladness* of the Christmas season which is *Hope*, the *Spirit* of the Christmas season which is *Peace* and the *Heart* of the Christmas season which is *Love*.

Wishing all of our families a wonderful Christmas. May we look forward to 2021 with anticipation and hope. May it bring a year of health, happiness, wisdom and peace to all.

Sincerely,
Your Leadership team

Joy



In this issue...

- ◆ Letter from Director
- ◆ Director's Report
- ◆ Transition Opportunity
- ◆ Financial Support
- ◆ Community Support
- ◆ Academic Support
- ◆ Receiving Email
- ◆ Technology
- ◆ NewsWire
- ◆ Transportation
- ◆ Inclement Weather
- ◆ Guidance News
- ◆ Future Celtics
- ◆ Student Activity Council
- ◆ 12 Days of Christmas
- ◆ Chaplain Message
- ◆ Coming Soon
- ◆ Cohort Schedule
- ◆ School Calendar
- ◆ Contact Information
- ◆ Communication Tools



Letter from the Director of Education

Christmas Letter to the WCDSB Community from the
WCDSB Director of Education, Loretta Notten.

Use this LINK:

Christmas Letter 2020



Director's Report — 2020

A highlight of every year for the WCDSB is the release of the Director's Annual Report.

Every school board in the province is required to produce such a report, and ours is always a comprehensive and wide-ranging look back at the previous year's many accomplishments.

More than perhaps anything else we produce, it provides a multi-faceted illustration of what we mean when we say our schools are "Heart of the Community".

You can view the report here: <https://annual.wcdsb.ca/>



Opportunity to Transition to/from Remote Learning

Starting on January 4, 2021 until January 6, 2021, the Board's Transition survey will be open for parents to indicate one of the following choices:

1. Have your child transition from St. David CSS to the virtual school (St. Isidore);
2. Have your child transition from St. Isidore back to St. David.

Parents must complete the survey to indicate a transition from St. David to the virtual school or vice versa between January 4-6, 2021 or your child will not be able to make a transition.

This choice will apply for the remainder of the year – including into the warmer spring months of April, May and June. Watch the [WCDSB website](https://www.wcdsb.ca/) for the survey (<https://www.wcdsb.ca/>)

Financial Supports

New Ontario "Support for Learners" Financial Assistance Program

The Ontario government launched the Support for Learners program. Through this program, the government is providing financial support to help parents and guardians with additional costs during the 2020-2021 school year, during the second wave of COVID-19. Eligible parents or guardians will receive a one-time payment of:

\$200 for each child up to age 12

\$250 for each child or youth up to age 21 years with special needs

This is a new program, and all parents or guardians who are residents of Ontario with eligible children will need to submit a new application for each child.

Go to Ontario.ca/SupportforLearners for more information and to apply for the one-time financial support. The deadline to apply is January 15, 2021.

Support for Learners funding is intended to directly support parents to provide children and youth with key educational resources like workbooks, school supplies, technology and developmental resources during these unprecedented times.



Community Support Services



Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868

Here 24/7 (Crisis Line): 1-844-437-3247

Front Door Access to Child and Youth Services: 519-749-2932

If you are feeling unsafe or are experiencing Family Violence:

Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region 24 hr crisis line: 519-742-5894

[Link: Contact Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region](#)

Families needing support with accessing food – Emergency Food Hamper Program:

519-742-0662 [Link: House of Friendship](#)

Community OutReach Workers are assigned to all neighborhoods in Waterloo Region and are an excellent resource to help kids and families with supports and resources in the community.

To find out who your OutReach worker is, call 519-742-8327 x 240 or email info@familyoutreach.ca

[Link: Family Outreach Program](#)



Academic support during the school year



Attention St. David Community of Parents and Students:

Does this pandemic have you feeling a little more stressed than usual when it comes to finding success academically? Not sure where to turn for help?

Obviously COVID-19 has forced all of us to adapt and find new ways of doing things, and that's exactly what your Student Success Team at St. David has done. We know you can't drop into Room 229 for extra help or for tutoring, but you can arrange to meet with a Student Support Teacher online through Microsoft Teams.

So whether you have an IEP, need support with English as a second language, or just need help to complete a task, just follow these simple steps below, and it can connect you with the academic help you need!

- Visit the school website <https://stdavid.wcdsb.ca/>

From the main page, look for this icon:

- Click on St. David Student Supports link (the picture with the coloured doors).
- From there, students can create a booking with specific services, including Special Education/ Student Success.
- When creating a booking, students must select the service, and then enter their name and school email address (____@wcdsbcloud.ca).
- Once created, a notification will be sent to the student's email, as well as to the Support Teacher that the booking has been created.



We encourage all students to use this support, especially during the ASYNCHRONOUS days (those Remote Learning from Home days) when they are not Face-to-Face with their teacher in the building.

Receiving email from the school

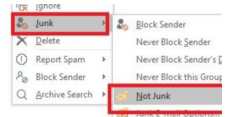
How do I mark a junked email as safe?

Note: some email applications may have a slightly different process to mark emails as 'Safe'.

Step 1: Open your e mail application and click the Junk or Spam Email folder

Step 2: Find the email you wish to mark as safe (always receive in Inbox) and right-click on it.

Step 3: Select **Junk** and then click **Not Junk**



The email will be marked as "not junk" and returned to your Inbox.

Future email like this will not be sent to your Junk Folder.

****If you do not find our emails in your spam/junk folder and are still not receiving email from the school, please email [Erin Kelly](mailto:erin.kelly@wcdsb.ca) at erin.kelly@wcdsb.ca**



Technology

Please check the WCDSB student [email account](#) frequently as that is where your key information will be sent.

[Click Here for useful links for students including instructions on how to login to your WCDSB email account.](#)

Student Log In:

Username: LAST 5 digits of the student number + first 3 letters of their last name

Password: Birthdate (MMDDYYYY or DDMMYYYY)

(the students may be prompted to change their password)

Checking Google and D2L

Students are expected to engage and participate in instruction and learning every day. In doing so, students will need to login daily into their Google Class or D2L accounts to participate in and complete a variety of

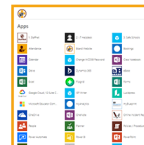
How to Login to D2L and Google Classroom – Print Version

- Student Login Process – Arabic
- Student Login Process – English
- Student Login Process – Korean
- Student Login Process – Mandarin
- Student Login Process – Russian
- Student Login Process – Spanish
- Student Login Process – Vietnamese

Student Links



Change Password



My Applications



WCDSB Learn @ Home

Student Helpdesk: 519-578-3677 ext. 2316 (Leave a Message)

NewsWire

Stay informed!

To receive news releases and updates via NewsWire, [click here](#)



Transportation Information & Notifications



SEATING Plans

Students need to be reminded that seats on the bus are assigned and they are not to sit anywhere other than their assigned seat. The seating plans are used for contact tracing as needed.

Masks are required by all students to ride the bus. There will be masks on the bus available for a child who may have forgotten their mask.



Video: [Staying safe when riding the school bus during COVID-19](#)

Parents can login and view your child's transportation details by going to www.stswr.ca and following these 5 easy steps:

1. Click on "Student Login"
2. Enter your child's Ontario Education Number (OEN)
This can be found on your child's report card Numbers only, no space, no dash
3. Enter your child's birth date
4. Enter your child's street number
House number only
5. Select the school your child is attending from the drop down menu



Please note: Any address changes must be done through your school, email erin.kelly@wcdsb.ca.

Visit www.stswr.ca to see bus delays and cancellations, [subscribe](#) to receive e-mail notifications for late buses and closures. Follow STSWR on Twitter.

Inclement Weather (unsafe driving conditions)



In the event of an inclement weather day being declared, and the buses are cancelled due to the weather and unsafe driving conditions, the schools will be closed and students will have a remote learning day. Teachers will communicate through their Google Classroom or D2L learning management system. Teachers will post work in the morning, no later than 10 a.m. and students will work on their own timing in their home. This will allow all students to access learning and we will be continuing to keep one and all safe. Teachers will be available during normal bell times on the closure day via email as well as through the class D2L or Google Classroom site.

For updated information please monitor the WCDsb website, social media feeds, and radio stations for information on cancellations.

From your Celtic Guidance Team

Student Supports

Book an appointment with Student Success or Guidance.

[Click Here](#) to book an appointment.

Survey to Change mode of learning

Stay tuned to the WCDSB website for more information.

<https://stisidore.wcdsb.ca/switching-learning-environments/>

myBlueprint

Please don't be alarmed if your myBlueprint account is not accurate right now. myBlueprint isn't synced with Aspen yet. WCDSB IT staff, together with myBlueprint IT staff, are working to resolve the issue.

Grade 12 Google Classroom Code 4qogszg

Stay up to date on Post Secondary information and scholarships.

Community Service Hours

Graduating Grade 12's - You are only required to verify **20** hours of Community Service for this school year.

University Application Information

All students should have received their PIN for the Ontario University Application Centre.

We encourage you to apply before the Christmas break so that you have time to enjoy your break and don't have to rush to meet the deadline of January 15th, 2021 <https://www.ouac.on.ca/>

College Application Information

If you are applying to College, you will need to create an account on the OCAS website. February 1st, 2021 is the application deadline. <https://www.ontariocolleges.ca/en/apply/important-dates>

OSAP

Students can now apply for the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP). Please visit www.osap.gov.on.ca for information and use the aid estimator to quickly assess what financial assistance you may receive.

GUIDANCE DESIGNATION

Ms. K. Dietrich
ext. 5637

A - E

Ms. J. Nagy
ext. 5638

F - O

Ms. K. Kueneman
ext. 5634

P - Z

& International Students

Celtic Graduation Information

Future Celtics



St. Agnes
Flames



Grade 8 Students:
Stay tuned for our
Future Celtics
webpage!



Student Activities Council

Christmas Greetings from the Student Activities Council!

December has been a busy month! The St David Student Activities Council would like to thank our entire school community for your support with our sock drive to help warm our community, as well as your participation in our in-school and online events. Christmas sweaters, gingerbread houses, morning Christmas music, classroom door decorating, and our Christmas video, show us that the Christmas spirit is alive and well here at St. David!

On behalf of our entire Student Activities Council, we would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas. Stay tuned for lots of great things to come in 2021.



"12 Days of Christmas" Challenge

- What's one unexpected blessing from 2020?
- How were you "Salt & Light" during covid?
- What strengths or lessons are you bringing into 2021?

If you're looking for creative ways to make this Christmas special, we are sharing some conversation starters to spark hope, resiliency and growth over the holidays. You can use this [template](#) to create a "12 Days of Christmas" jar and pull out 1-2 questions or challenges each day to do together as a family. Do you have a cool story from this activity that might be an encouragement to others? Tweet it out to us @WCDSBWellness and @WCDSBSocialWork.



A message from our Chaplain



ADVENT

Hello Celtics!

What are you expecting for Christmas this year? No homework for two weeks? The Iphone 12? The Pandemic going back to code yellow so you can go skiing or spend a week at the cottage with all the cousins? Your stomach become a bottomless pit so you can eat shortbread non stop? 24/7 of great Netflix movies?

It is easy to think of Christmas images, isn't it, because there is no season of the year so full of tradition and full of anticipation. It takes a Scrooge, with a heart of stone, not to become excited about the approach of this joyous occasion....especially after this past year – can it get more horrible?

But I wonder, have you ever been disappointed by Christmas? Did you expect something Christmas that didn't materialize? Dad and mom couldn't afford those extra things, the stores weren't open to shop yourselves if you did have the money...and we can't gather in groups more than 5! How brutal is that?

Well, to be honest, this old Chaplain has experienced Christmas that way...and more than once, without any COVID19 nightmare. We can build up such impossible hopes and dreams that they can't all possibly be filled. That is one reason people often feel a bit blue when Christmas is over. There's so much build up the last two weeks of school with activities that we naturally expect something to happen; and, when it doesn't, well, it is a let down.

It is indeed rough...but you know what the real message of Christmas is about? It's about what we don't expect. That's right. Christmas isn't about what we expect; it's about what we don't expect. Think about it.

- ◆ Zechariah and Elizabeth didn't expect to have a baby in their old age.
- ◆ Mary didn't expect to become the mother of the Son of God. She couldn't believe it when the angel told her. "Why, I'm not even married," she said.
- ◆ Joseph didn't expect his young bride to be pregnant.
- ◆ Herod didn't expect to be disturbed by word of the Child.
- ◆ The shepherds didn't expect to see angels in their fields.
- ◆ The Magi didn't expect to find the Savior of the world born in a manger in a poor little country village like Bethlehem.
- ◆ The whole thing was a surprise. God surprised everybody that first Christmas.

And when you think about Jesus' teachings, you realize that surprise is in the nature of who God is. God is full of surprises. You see, it isn't a matter of what we're expecting for Christmas. It's what we don't expect. That's what we ought to be looking for, what we don't expect because that's the way God is. God is a God of surprises.

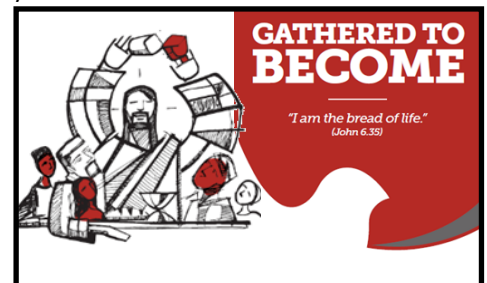
I don't have anything against traditional Christmas celebrations. In fact, I love them. I enjoy the trees and lights and Christmas pageants and music and presents and all the rest (especially Midnight mass). But we ought to realize that God may have some surprises in store for us this Christmas. God may not come to us in the old familiar ways. God may speak to us in some new event, in some place where we least expect it.

I am brand new to the school...chaplain to crickets (well, that is what I feel it sounds like with you in the school – it sooo quiet!) I've hardly met any of you. And I cannot have an assembly nor a liturgy to see all of you together.

I didn't expect that though...I was warned it would be a different year. But you know what I didn't expect, and it happened? Those that I did meet have been so kind, so friendly and so happy! It is a delight to walk into your classrooms for a Q&A. I LOVE meeting the SAC students as they choose your morning song when the bell rings (even though they don't like Meghan Trainor). And I love your eyes that make contact with the new person (me) as I walk down the hall. I feel very welcomed.

The surprises of God! We never know where they are or when they are coming. But the word of the Gospel is that they are and that they do come. And this is what Christmas is all about.

Blessings to all of you Celtics this Christmas season!
Miss Annabel, chaplain



COMING SOON



Sunday December 20th



FOURTH SUNDAY
OF
Advent

PRAY Loving God, you are Emmanuel, God with us. You come to us in Jesus. You reach out to us today in every child and friend. Bless our relationships that they may always reveal your love to others. Amen.



Friday December 25th

MERRY CHRISTMAS



For Unto Us a Child Is Born



Friday January 1, 2021

Happy New Year!

Monday January 4, 2021

Return to Learn!

Monday January 4	Tuesday January 5	Wednesday January 6	Thursday January 7	Friday January 8
8:15am - 10:45am (Morning) COHORT B Period 3 (face to face)	8:15am - 10:45am (Morning) COHORT B Period 3 (face to face)	8:15am - 10:45am (Morning) COHORT B Period 3 (face to face)	8:15am - 10:45am (Morning) COHORT A Period 4 (face to face)	8:15am - 10:45am (Morning) COHORT A Period 4 (face to face)
(Morning) COHORT A Period 3 (At Home Learning)	(Morning) COHORT A Period 3 (At Home Learning)	(Morning) COHORT A Period 3 (At Home Learning)	(Morning) COHORT B Period 4 (At Home Learning)	(Morning) COHORT B Period 4 (At Home Learning)
12:40pm - 1:55pm (Afternoon) ALL STUDENTS Period 4 (Online Learning)	12:40pm - 1:55pm (Afternoon) ALL STUDENTS Period 4 (Online Learning)	12:40pm - 1:55pm (Afternoon) ALL STUDENTS Period 4 (Online Learning)	12:40pm - 1:55pm (Afternoon) ALL STUDENTS Period 3 (Online Learning)	12:40pm - 1:55pm (Afternoon) ALL STUDENTS Period 3 (Online Learning)

Quad 2—Cohort Schedule & School Calendar



To access the cohort schedule, visit our website:

<https://stdavid.wcdsb.ca/>

You can click on the large slider on the homepage or the smaller icon under the slider.

Quick Link to the cohort schedule— [Click Here](#)



For key dates, exams, PD Days, etc. please check out the **calendar** our school website <https://stdavid.wcdsb.ca/>

You can then access the calendar by going to PARENTS > School Year Calendar

Quick Link to our school calendar - [Click Here](#)



Contact Information

Phone: 519-885-1340

Attendance Phone Number: 519-885-4352

Website: <http://st.david.wcdsb.ca>

If you need to contact your son or daughter's teacher, please feel free to contact them via email below:

To email a staff member please use the following method: *firstname.lastname@wcdsb.ca*

[Link to Staff List](#)

If you need to contact your son's or daughter's Guidance Counsellor, Student Success and Special Education teachers or Administrator, please feel free to contact them via email below:

Administrators:

A to I - [Kevin HINSPERGER](#)

A to I - [Jordan FIGUEIREDO](#) (effective January 4th)

J to S - [Michael AMBEAU](#)

T to Z (& International) - [Glenda LEUSINK](#)

Student Success/Spec Ed.:

Community & Active Living Students = [Maureen O'GRADY](#)

A—Kowt = [Garry KRAEHLING](#)

Koy—Z = [Steve BEDIC](#)

Guidance Counsellors:

Last Name A to E - [Kristen DIETRICH](#)

Last Name F to O - [Jennifer NAGY](#)

Last Name P to Z - [Karen KUENEMAN](#)

and International Students

ESL Monitors:

[Anne MASOJC](#) and

[Heather PIETROBON](#)

St. David Communication Tools



Follow us on.... Twitter – [@StDavidCeltics](#) and Instagram at [stdavidcss](#) and sign up for **Newsire**

To receive news releases and updates via Newsire, [click here](#)

NOTE: You may withdraw your consent at any time by clicking on the link at the bottom of each email.

