

Special Message from the Chair of the Board & Director of Education

March 24, 2020

Dear Parents / Caregivers –

Since last we reached out to you, the global situation in relation to COVID-19 has continued to worsen and here at home we have seen unprecedented actions taken by our federal and provincial governments. As you know, schools are now closed and it would appear that this will stretch beyond the Easter weekend, although exactly when we might return to face to face learning is not yet clear. These decisions are being informed by a concern for preserving the health and safety of all, and in this regard we know that each of us shares this common goal. Nonetheless, the news that students will be home indefinitely may be disconcerting to you and your child.

We want to assure you that at the Waterloo Catholic District School Board, we will be working to the best of our ability and in collaboration with the province, to ensure that your child is connected to learning opportunities. We will use the initial two weeks for the board to support our teachers in establishing at least an initial contact with all of their students through the most appropriate means possible, including mail, phone, email or other channel. We will try to use this time to establish what is needed to support teacher-led learning and to aid you as families, to the best of our abilities under the circumstances.

We also want to acknowledge that this could be a time of great uncertainty and anxiety for our students. We would encourage you to visit our board website where a number of resources can be found that may be helpful to you or your child, as you navigate this time. We are also truly blessed to have our faith and prayer to aid us at this time. Our God walks with us always and the Holy Father reminds us that prayer is a sign that we are not alone.

While we are in the process of “gearing up”, we would remind parents that WCDSB has launched **#STEAMDays**, a fun and interactive way to be connected to

activities that have a daily focus on science, technology, engineering, the arts or mathematics. Further, the Ministry of Education has launched the website **Learn at Home** and you are encouraged to visit that site for learning activities.

Finally – we encourage you to closely follow any and all directives from our governments and **Region of Waterloo Public Health**. As a global community – we have never been more connected by an event or issue and now is the time to do everything we can to ensure we can soon return to life as we knew it not so long ago. We wish your family good health. Remain confident that we are here to support you, as we walk as a hope-filled community of faith toward the season of Easter and the re-birth it brings.

Sincerely,

Loretta Notten

Director of Education

Bill Conway

Chair of the Board