



St. Clair Catholic
District School Board

**DIRECTOR'S
ANNUAL
REPORT
2025**



Catholic
Education
Future
Ready



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Message from the Director of Education



It is my honour and privilege to present my very first Director's Annual Report, since my appointment as Director of Education in April 2025. This report documents a year in the life of St. Clair Catholic, as told through the great work of our students and staff. It is a story of tremendous student achievement in our classrooms and on the courts and playing fields; inspiring social justice initiatives, as we live our faith by serving those in our communities who need a little help; and warm, welcoming, safe and inclusive spaces in our schools across the district, where all students can learn and thrive.

The report is organized through the four priorities, as set out in the Board's Strategic Plan: Learning & Innovation; Faith & Wellbeing; Partnerships; and Catholic Citizenship. There are also sections of the report which are dedicated to other central pillars, which reflect the Board's values. These include the many milestones that have been celebrated by staff and students throughout the year; and a final section which recognizes the Board's commitment to the ethical and responsible stewardship of our resources.

I am excited to begin the process, with our Board of Trustees and senior administration, of developing a new strategic plan, which will carry our Board into the future. This initiative will require collaboration with all stakeholders – students, staff, trustees, parents, parishes and community partners. I look forward to leading us through a thorough and invigorating process, to advance a new and refreshed strategic plan, which will guide St. Clair Catholic through the years ahead.

I hope as you read through the pages of this report, you will recognize, as I do, that we have much to be thankful for at St. Clair Catholic. We are blessed with dedicated and faith-filled staff, who are committed to leading our students through a discovery of learning and deepening their faith. We have an inventory of first-rate school facilities, either brand new or recently renovated and modernized, which are the envy of the province. And we have supportive families and parishes, who together with our Board of Trustees and senior administration, are devoted to the mission of Catholic education and strive every day to help our students to be their best and to live their calling as disciples of Christ.

May God bless you and your family with His very best for the year ahead!

Sincerely,
Lisa Demers
Director of Education

Message from the Chair of the Board



Each year, the Director's Annual Report offers us the opportunity to reflect on the tremendous successes of the past, while looking forward to a new year filled with hope and promise.

As you can see in the pages of the report, St. Clair Catholic is a dynamic and vibrant Catholic school community, with dedicated and faith-filled staff and engaging, authentic and future-focused educational opportunities for all learners, enhanced by supportive parents, dedicated parishes and trusted community partners.

Indeed, 2024-2025 was a year of incredible success and change. We welcomed Bishop Fabbro, as we celebrated the opening and blessing of two brand new Catholic school communities – St. Teresa of Calcutta in Chatham and Gregory A. Hogan in Sarnia. We invested in a renewal of the former Gregory A. Hogan to become the new home of the Sacred Heart Catholic School community in Sarnia, with further investments in capital improvements at schools across the district. In announcing his retirement, we celebrated the long and impressive career of Scott Johnson, who served Catholic education with distinction for 33 years. And we welcomed Lisa Demers as our new Director of Education, who will lead St. Clair Catholic into the future.

I know I speak for all Trustees, when I say we look forward to working with Mrs. Demers, as we begin a process which will lead to a new strategic plan. Through reflection and with bold, forward thinking, we will develop a plan for the years ahead.

What will not change however, is our enduring commitment to the mission of Catholic education, which is to lead every student to a future filled with hope and success, as responsible citizens formed in the Catholic faith and living as disciples of Christ.

That is my prayer every day. I wish for each of you and your families God's abundant blessings!

Yours in Catholic Education,
John Van Heck
Chair of the Board



Learning & Innovation

Teaching transferable skills, critical thinking and creativity





Elementary Literacy

In 2024-2025, as part of St. Clair Catholic's Literacy Plan, the University of Florida Literacy Institute (UFLI) structured literacy resource was purchased and implemented in K-2 classrooms across the district, to align reading instruction with the Ontario Language 2023 curriculum.

UFLI is a research-based and evidenced-based program. It is explicit and systematic and teaches students the foundational skills necessary for proficient reading.

Lexia Core5 licenses were purchased for all Grade 1-3 students to further support literacy instruction and practice. Lexia Core5 is an adaptive, research-based reading program built on the science of reading and covers six key areas: phonological awareness, phonics, vocabulary, structural analysis, fluency and comprehension.

Literacy support teachers worked closely with classroom teachers across the system to implement UFLI and Lexia in the classroom modeling, co-teaching and working with students in small groups.



Elementary Numeracy

2024-2025 was the second year of the Math Achievement Action Plan (MAAP) with seven St. Clair Catholic schools identified as priority schools.

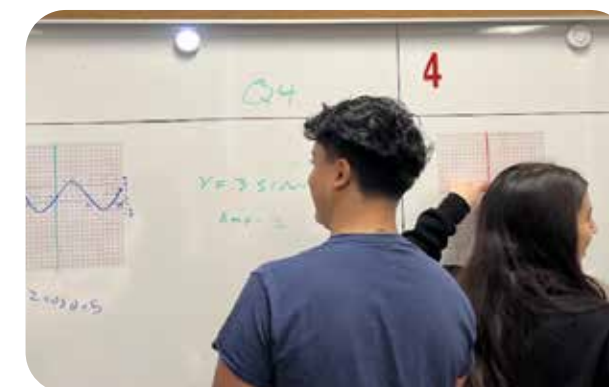
2024-25 was the second year of the Math Achievement Action Plan (MAAP) and St. Clair Catholic had seven schools identified as math priority schools. Math facilitators worked closely with classroom teachers and the school principals in 31 classrooms across the seven schools. Math facilitators modeled and co-taught lessons and also led small group lessons.

Beyond the priority schools, the math team worked on improving the scope and sequence document from Kindergarten to Grade 8 by adding more sample lessons, assessments and fact fluency practice. In addition, elementary students continued their math practice using KnowledgeHook, which is our digital math tool.



Secondary Numeracy

Both St. Patrick's and Ursuline College continued work to support math learning across the grades in secondary.



For Grade 9, teachers from both high schools met early in the year and worked collaboratively to identify the scope of topics in the Grade 9 destreamed math course. This work set the tone for teaching and learning for students.

Additionally, after school help sessions were available at both high schools for students to support their learning and prepare them for the next step in their journeys.



MATH UP

Learning to Code: Moving Full STEAM Ahead in 2025

Learning to read, execute, modify and create code continues to be a key focus at St. Clair Catholic. In January, introductory coding sessions were delivered to 28 junior and intermediate classes across the district. Using Scratch as the primary platform for teaching coding expectations within the elementary mathematics curriculum, these sessions guided teachers and students through navigation, block coding structures and the fundamentals of computational thinking.

Scratch provides students with an engaging, equitable and safe digital environment that aligns directly with MathUp, our core mathematics resource. To further support classroom implementation, video lessons and slide decks have been developed and made available to all Grade 4-8 teachers and are integrated within the Board's K-8 scope and sequence for mathematics instruction.

Empowering Students, Strengthening Connections: The Impact of UCC's Black Graduation Coach

Pelumi Akinyemi is making a meaningful impact at Ursuline College Chatham (UCC) as St. Clair Catholic's Black Graduation Coach, a role dedicated to mentorship, advocacy and student success. Through his work, Mr. Akinyemi is fostering a school environment where Black students feel seen, supported and empowered to achieve their goals.

Mr. Akinyemi has spearheaded several initiatives at UCC, most notably the creation of the Student Affinity Space, a welcoming environment which invites Black students to come together to share experiences and celebrate their cultures. Non-Black students are also invited to engage in meaningful conversations and strengthen connections within the school community.

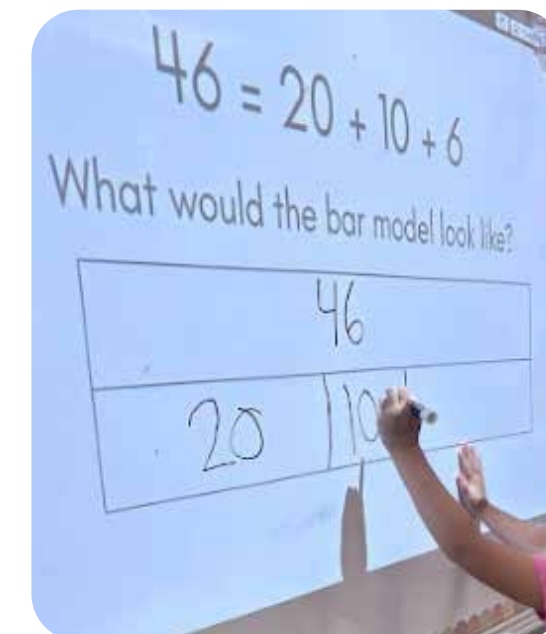
Through his leadership and daily interactions with students, Mr. Akinyemi is helping create a more inclusive and supportive school culture. His work is a demonstration of St. Clair Catholic's ongoing commitment to equity, inclusion and student achievement.



Summer Learning

The summer learning program took place over 3 weeks in July 2025 at 4 different schools across St. Clair Catholic - Holy Family, Wallaceburg; St. Anne, Blenheim; St. Matthew, Sarnia and St. Teresa of Calcutta, Chatham. In all, 78 students, mostly entering Grade 3 in September, spent the first part each morning engaging in digital math practice and math lessons focussed on the number and algebra strands. Of students who completed both the pre and post assessment, 76% of students improved after the three weeks of math learning.

The second part of each morning was dedicated to experiential learning and included Dairy Farmers of Ontario, dance instruction, CK and Sarnia police, Lacrosse, Oil Museum of Canada and a variety of STEAM activities.





Cooperative Education & Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)

During the 2024-2025 school year, a total of 124 students were enrolled in cooperative education classes. Among these, 98 placements were in skilled trades, with students registered as participants in the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP). Support from the ChathamKent and Sarnia-Lambton communities remains instrumental in the success of our cooperative education program, with new placements being introduced each year. One student completed Level 1 Welding (300 hours) at St. Clair College. Additionally, eleven Grade 12 students were awarded skilled trades bursaries of \$1,000 each, which was funded by the Ministry of Education

Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Programs

A total of 249 students in Grades 11 and 12 were enrolled in 11 Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs. Thanks to SHSM funding, more than \$45,000 was allocated for training and an additional \$33,000 was provided for classroom resources. Field trips were organized to career fairs and several post-secondary institutions, offering students reach-ahead and experiential learning opportunities related to their chosen career paths. The Board anticipates that these programs will yield 97 SHSM Red Seal Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) graduates.

Dual Credits & School Within a College (SWAC) Programs

In the 2024-2025 school year, students successfully completed a total of 234 dual credits available to both secondary and School Within a College (SWAC) students. Within the SWAC program, 32 students from UCC and 11 students from St. Pat's achieved their Ontario Secondary School Diploma.



Headstart Program Empowers Incoming Grade 9s for High School Success

Over three days in August, St. Clair Catholic's Headstart program welcomed 82 eager incoming Grade 9 students at Ursuline College Chatham (UCC) and St. Patrick's Catholic High School in Sarnia. The program, designed to ease the transition from elementary to secondary school, provides participants with a unique opportunity to build confidence and form early friendships before the school year officially begins.

Each day began with focused sessions on math competency, during which students engaged in numeracy activities to strengthen their mathematical foundations. After a morning snack break, the students moved on to elective programming, where they sampled a variety of subjects across the secondary curriculum.

Feedback from students highlights the program's effectiveness in helping them to begin the new school year with enthusiasm and prepared for success!





St. Clair Catholic's String Music Program Inspires a New Generation of Musicians

The St. Clair Catholic string music program, which began more than 15 years ago, has grown into a thriving community for students to explore their musical gifts. Elementary music teacher Jennifer Trinca emphasizes the program's inclusivity, in her strong belief that music should be a part of every child's life. The program has inspired students to pursue music outside of school, a testament to the power of music in the lives of young people. Each December, students celebrate their musical gifts and the Christmas season, with the Strings are the Thing! Concert at Our Lady Help of Christians Church.



St. Joseph Tilbury Selected by MusiCounts to Receive New Musical Instruments

St. Joseph Catholic School in Tilbury was selected as one of 85 schools across Canada to receive \$10,000 in funding for new musical instruments by MusiCounts. MusiCounts is a music education charity, associated with the Canadian Academy of Recording Sciences and the JUNO Awards. The grant is the result of an application by music teacher Jacquelyn McGlynn.

Mrs. McGlynn opted to purchase a class set of pan drums and a class set of tone chimes. The non-Western instruments will have a lasting and positive impact on the school's music program, giving FDK to Grade 8 students the opportunity to learn about new cultures through music.

St. Clair Catholic Schools Hit the Right Note in 2024 CBC Music Class Challenge

St. Clair Catholic proudly celebrated the national recognition of six outstanding student groups, who earned Top 10 honours in the 2025 CBC Canadian Music Class Challenge — a record-setting year for the Board in this nationwide celebration of student music-making, under the direction of Music Specialist Jacquelyn McGlynn.

Each year, the CBC challenge invites students from across Canada to learn and perform Canadian music in ways that reflect their unique voices and musical communities. For St. Clair Catholic, this year was nothing short of spectacular with students performing in Indigenous languages, exploring non-Western instruments and sharing their talents in ways that moved hearts from coast to coast.

Among the highlights, the Grade 5/6 class at St. Angela Merici Catholic School placed third in Canada with their vibrant rendition of Life Is by the Arkells, which was performed using handbells and steel pan drums.



Other St. Clair Catholic classes named to Canada's Top 10 include:

- St. Angela Merici Grade 6 (Mrs. Cobb) – *Yohahí:yo* (Junior Instrumental, Grades 4-6)
- St. Angela Merici Grade 8 (Ms. Bechard) – *Life Is* (Junior Instrumental, Grades 7-9)
- St. Joseph Catholic School Tilbury Grade 8 (Mr. Churchill) – *Yohahí:yo* (Junior Instrumental, Grades 7-9)
- St. Angela Merici Music Club Grades 1-2 – *Yohahí:yo* (Primary Passion Prize, FDK-Grade 3)
- St. Angela Merici Grade 8 (Mrs. Ennett) – *Yohahí:yo* (Culture Passion Prize: Non-Western Instruments)



Chess Tournaments Provide Challenging Enrichment Experience for Students

Chess tournaments continue to experience growth across the district. St. Clair Catholic students have participated in the tournaments for 36 years. Due to high demand, two years ago the event was separated to provide one tournament in Sarnia-Lambton and one in Chatham-Kent. In 2025, Holy Trinity hosted just over 275 students from 14 schools, up from 240 last year; and Monsignor Uyen hosted 140 students from eight schools, up from 105 last year.



The divisional winners were:

SARNIA LAMBTON:

- Best Overall Primary Team: Sacred Heart
- Best Overall Junior Team: Sacred Heart
- Best Overall Intermediate Team: St. Matthew
- Best Overall Girls' Team: St. Anne

CHATHAM-KENT:

- Best Overall Primary Team: Christ the King
- Best Overall Junior Team: Monsignor Uyen
- Best Overall Intermediate Team: Monsignor Uyen
- Best Overall Girls' Team: Monsignor Uyen

Building Success in Our Children & Youth SEL Conference a Resounding Success

In October, the St. Clair Catholic District School Board hosted Building Success in Our Children & Youth, Ontario's first-ever Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Conference. The event was held at the Delta Armouries in London, bringing together educators, health professionals, parent groups and researchers, to explore the importance of SEL.

The conference featured leading experts, including Dr. Kim Schonert-Reichl from CASEL, child psychiatrist Jean Clinton, Dr. Julie George and Dr. Gina Cherkowski. Attendees also heard from Chris Preece, St. Clair Catholic's Mental Health and Wellbeing Lead and Director of Education Scott Johnson, both of whom emphasized the critical role of SEL in supporting student development and creating a positive school environment. The conference was a unique opportunity to network and learn from leading voices in the field.

NTIP Training Day Welcomes New Teachers

The St. Clair Catholic District School Board welcomed 29 new permanent teachers with a full-day New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP) orientation. Held in two sessions, the day provided new teachers with the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the Board's teaching culture. The training covered topics such as developing mentor relationships, creating inclusive classrooms, understanding privacy protocols and embedding Indigenous teachings into the curriculum. The program promotes lifelong professional learning and ensures new educators are equipped for success in their careers and in fostering student growth.



Celebrating International Week of Deaf People and Day of Sign Languages



The St. Clair Catholic District School Board proudly recognized the International Day of Sign Languages and the International Week of Deaf People in September. The theme, Sign up for Sign Language Rights, encouraged advocacy for Deaf learners. Lauri Doig, Elementary Teacher and Special Education Itinerant, created a week-long curriculum for schools, featuring introductions to ASL, lessons on the history of ASL and Deaf culture and a final performance of Waiting on the World to Change in ASL.

Beau Cockburn, a Deaf computer technician with the Board, shared his personal experiences, highlighting the importance of early access to sign language and the need for interpreters and inclusive educational environments. The week's events highlighted and reinforced the standard that inclusion and access to education are rights, not privileges, and emphasized the power of sign language in communication and culture.



Project SEARCH Interns Gain Independence with Transit Training

Interns from the St. Clair Catholic District School Board's Project SEARCH program recently participated in a comprehensive transit training session with Sarnia Transit. The training provided both classroom instruction and hands-on experience, equipping adult learners with the skills and confidence needed to navigate the city bus system independently. The training covered essential skills and provided a boost in the students' confidence and independence. This important learning opportunity opens doors for individuals with disabilities by providing them with the skills and support they need to succeed.



St. Clair Catholic Students Explore Water Conservation at CK&L Water Festival

In October, students from the St. Clair Catholic District School Board participated in the Chatham-Kent Lambton Children's Water Festival at C.M. Wilson Conservation Area. The event provided hands-on learning experiences for Grade 4 and 5 students on water science, conservation and environmental protection. Over three days, 475 elementary students participated in learning at 42 interactive stations, while 75 secondary students from Ursuline College acted as volunteer facilitators. The festival is a collaborative effort between school boards, conservation authorities and community organizations and aligns with curriculum goals to promote the real-world application of water-related science.



Biodiversity Festival Brings Environmental Education to Ridgetown Students

In October, students from Grades 6 to 8 at St. Michael Catholic School in Ridgetown participated in an engaging Biodiversity Festival in the schoolyard. The purpose of the event, held in partnership with Rondeau Provincial Park and the Friends of Rondeau, was to inspire students to care for biodiversity and their local environment. The festival, supported by a grant from Enbridge's Fueling Futures fund, featured a captivating presentation by the Canadian Raptor Conservancy and interactive stations, where students engaged in hands-on activities, including nature journaling and building bat boxes. The event highlights the importance of community collaboration in delivering environmental education and the Board's commitment to experiential learning.

UCC Students Bring Spa Day to St. Angela's Meadow



In October, the Grade 12 Hairstyling & Aesthetics class from UCC partnered with St. Angela's Meadow Retirement Lodge, to provide a special Spa Day for residents. The students offered manicures, arm massages and paraffin wax treatments gaining real-world experience, while also engaging in meaningful community service. UCC Teacher MaryLynne Seliga noted that the opportunity teaches students the importance

of connecting with others. The partnership instills values of compassion and service and is a powerful reminder of how education can extend beyond the classroom.



Christmas Season Celebrated with Student Performances Across the District

Catholic schools across the district celebrated the Christmas season with a variety of stage performances and musical concerts. Christ the King Catholic School marked the festive season with a concert featuring songs in both French and English, highlighting the school's French Immersion program. It also featured a live performance by the string instrument musicians in the school's music classes. The concert brought together families and the school community, in a celebration that reflected Christ the King's commitment to creativity, community and the joy of learning through the arts.



At St. Anne Catholic School in Blenheim, students brought the magic of Frozen Jr. to life with two enchanting performances. The students' talent was showcased through memorable songs, dynamic scenes and creative staging, to the delight of families, friends and community members. The production celebrated the school's dedication to the arts and the joy of the holiday season.



St. Clair Catholic Students Excel at University of Windsor's Youtopia

Holy Family's Grade 7 and 8 students shone at the University of Windsor's virtual Youtopia competition in December, showcasing innovative, eco-friendly business ideas. Participating in a ten-week Youthrive program, students developed micro-businesses, honing skills in marketing, budgeting, product development and presenting.



Two Holy Family teams advanced in the competition, with Wilderness Coasters taking first place for their handcrafted coasters made from recycled wood.

Team members impressed judges with their sustainable, high-quality product, earning a \$400 prize, which they generously shared with the second-place team.



Jackson Cain, a Grade 8 student at St. Peter Canisius Catholic School in Watford, earned the Innovation Award for his creative business idea of custom-designed fishing lures.

He wasn't the only standout from St. Peter Canisius. His entire Grade 8 class embraced the challenge, learning valuable skills in marketing, budgeting, and problem-solving. Two groups from St. Peter Canisius advanced to the next round in the Youtopia competition.

Youtopia, a virtual program of the University of Windsor, helps students to create their own eco-friendly micro-businesses.



St. Clair Catholic Marks Black History Month with Learning and Reflection

In February, St. Clair Catholic schools observed Black History Month with initiatives which fostered learning, reflection and community engagement. A new Black History Month resource portal was launched to provide educators with curated materials, including books, videos, and interactive content, to deepen students' understanding of the contributions and resilience of Black Canadians.

Highlights included a panel discussion at UCC featuring members of the United Alliance and local Black professionals, who shared personal stories, insights and leadership experiences. Students at schools across the district engaged in meaningful dialogue about history, culture, identity and equity, to inspire reflection and action that extends beyond February.



In May, Mrs. Clark's Grade 5/6 class at St. Angela Merici participated in the Buxton Museum's inaugural Students Speak Black History Series. Guided by the theme Stamp Your Story, students created original stamps, featuring inspirational Black figures, bringing history to life through art and storytelling. The students' artwork was displayed at the Buxton Museum, highlighting the power of sharing stories to inspire change in schools and communities.



St. Anne Students Learn Inclusion Through Wheelchair Basketball

Students at St. Anne Catholic School in Blenheim participated in a powerful lesson on acceptance and perseverance, through an interactive wheelchair basketball session led by the Essex Wheelchair Basketball League.

Grade 4 to 8 students experienced the challenges and teamwork required to play the sport while using a wheelchair, deepening their empathy and their understanding of inclusion. The event encouraged students to step outside their comfort zones, while celebrating diversity and the strength found in overcoming obstacles together.



St. Patrick's Student Athletes Introduce Wrestling to Younger Students

Kindergarten to Grade 8 students at St. Michael, Holy Rosary and St. Philip experienced an engaging introduction to wrestling, led by St. Patrick's student athletes. The session highlighted the physical and mental benefits of the sport, while inspiring younger students to explore athletic opportunities in high school.

Through demonstrations and stories of accomplished wrestlers, the initiative promoted confidence, fitness and community engagement, with secondary students serving as positive role models for the next generation.





Spotlight Shines on the Performing Arts at Catholic Secondary Schools

St. Patrick's Catholic High School students lit up the Imperial Theatre stage with their production of Mamma Mia! in March. The beloved musical, featuring ABBA's greatest hits, played to packed audiences, with an extra performance added due to high demand.

The production featured a cast of 29 performers, five crew members and 28 musical numbers, making it one of the school's largest undertakings. Students embraced the show with enthusiasm, bringing energy, talent and joy to every song and dance number.



In April, students at Ursuline College Chatham brought the magic of Disney to the stage with Disney's Descendants: The Musical. The high-energy production delivered an unforgettable experience packed with comedy, adventure and hit songs from the beloved Disney channel's original movies.

With unforgettable performances, dynamic choreography and the magic of live music, Disney's Descendants: The Musical was a must-see event.



Sammies Perform O Canada at Bluewater League U18 All-Star Game

The St. Angela Merici choir, The Sammies, wowed the crowd at the Bluewater League U18 All-Star Game in February, performing O Canada on the ice at St. Clair College's Thames Campus Arena. Students sang with confidence, while a group in the penalty box signed the lyrics, creating a moving moment for attendees. Led by Music Specialist Jacquelyn McGlynn, the choir showcased teamwork, dedication and school spirit, leaving a lasting impression on the arena audience.



St. John Fisher Students Explore Filmmaking at Kineto Theatre

St. John Fisher students joined peers from area schools for a filmmaking workshop at the historic Kineto Theatre in Forest. The session introduced students to storytelling, production and editing. Participants viewed student-created films, a new artist short film series and a music video, produced in partnership with Kettle and Stony Point First Nation. The experience encouraged students to experience storytelling and inspired many to create and submit original short films for competition.





Hands-On Learning Takes Centre Stage During Minister Dunlop's Visit to UCC

In December, Ursuline College Chatham (UCC) welcomed the Honourable Jill Dunlop, Minister of Education, for a visit and to experience firsthand the school's outstanding skilled trades programming. Accompanied by MPP Trevor Jones, Mayor Darrin Canniff, Director of Education Scott Johnson, Superintendent of Education Chris Kehoe, UCC Principal Lisa Harnarine and Vice Principals Tiffany Clarke, Peter Cowan and Katie Simon, Minister Dunlop toured classrooms, where students demonstrated their expertise across a variety of trades, including construction, manufacturing and hairstyling and aesthetics.

Minister Dunlop noted the increasing demand for skilled trades workers and expressed her appreciation for the strong representation of young women in the skilled trades classrooms.

UCC's hands-on learning approach provides students with invaluable opportunities to explore potential career paths. Many students expressed excitement about pursuing skilled trades, while others shared how the experience continues to shape their decisions for post-secondary education.

The Board extends its gratitude to the UCC school community for warmly welcoming the Minister and showcasing the best of what UCC has to offer. It truly was a Lancer Proud day!



Indigenous Education

National Truth and Reconciliation: A Journey of Learning and Healing

From September 23 to October 4, the St. Clair Catholic District School Board honored Orange Shirt Weeks, as students learned firsthand from Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Survivors and family members of survivors of residential schools. The Every Child Matters flag, created by Cedric Isaac of the Bkejwanong Territory, was flown at schools across the district.

Classrooms welcomed Indigenous community members, including filmmaker Derek Sands, who shared his film Gaa ZhaaWiijig: Survivors, and former NHL player Jason Simon, who shared his story of resilience. This direct learning from local survivors and their families provides students and staff with a deeper understanding of the truth of residential schools, inspiring them to take action toward reconciliation.



St. Clair Catholic Observes Red Dress Day in Support of MMIWG2S+

In May, St. Clair Catholic marked Red Dress Day, the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, Two Spirit and Gender Diverse People (MMIWG2S+). Students participated in reflective activities and learning initiatives to promote understanding and empathy. Anishinaabe artist Moses Lunham from Kettle and Stony Point First Nation led an art-for-action session, encouraging students to use creativity to raise awareness and advocate for justice. Flags were lowered to half-mast and the Every Child Matters flag was flown at all schools and board locations, as a visible sign of remembrance and solidarity.





St. Clair Catholic Honours Treaties Recognition Week

During Treaties Recognition Week, from November 3 to 10, St. Clair Catholic students and staff participated in a series of events and activities to deepen their understanding of treaty rights, relationships and responsibilities. Students engaged in Treaty Education and Land-Based Learning, which was guided by Indigenous Knowledge Keepers, Elders and local community partners, including Dean Jacobs, Neva Isaac Sands and Steve Tooshkenig, of the Bkejwanong Territory, and others. The learning experiences included stories, art and song, and aimed to foster a greater appreciation for Indigenous histories and perspectives. Students also used Treaty Learning Tool Kits, featuring books by Indigenous authors. The week's events highlight the Board's commitment to furthering an understanding of our shared responsibilities as treaty people.



UCC welcomed Dean Jacobs of the Walpole Island First Nation for a presentation on Treaty Education. As founding director of the Walpole Island Heritage Centre and former chief, Mr. Jacobs shared his knowledge of local treaties, land use, economic development and environmental research. Students explored the historical significance of treaties and their contemporary relevance to Bkejwanong Territory. His presentation connected history to present-day realities and offered students a meaningful understanding of Indigenous governance, sustainability and community leadership.

Wallaceburg Students Participate in Mkwenmaanannig Giizhgdag Observance

In November, students from St. Elizabeth, Holy Family and Christ the King Catholic schools in Wallaceburg participated in the Mkwenmaanannig Giizhgdag observance to honor Indigenous Veterans Day. The annual event, hosted by the Bkejwanong Children's Centre and its partners, brought students and community members together for a commemorative ceremony. The experience enriched their understanding of history and heritage, deepening the board's commitment to truth and reconciliation, by fostering respect and appreciation for Indigenous contributions and tradition.





EKAN Learning Series Deepens Cultural Understanding

The St. Clair Catholic District School Board, in partnership with local Elders and Knowledge Keepers from Aamjiwnaang First Nation, Bkejwanong Territory and Kettle and Stony Point First Nation, launched the Ezhi Kendmang Anishnaabe Naadziwin (EKAN): Sharing the Knowledge of the People learning series. This three-part, land-based adult learning program brought together St. Clair Catholic staff and local community members, to deepen their understanding of Anishinabek culture and strengthen their skills for working with Anishinabek youth. Participants found the interactive and hands-on learning experiences to be transformative, as it directly connected with educators. The EKAN series reinforced the importance of cultural understanding, equipping staff to make meaningful connections with Anishinabek youth.



Youth-Led Powwow Brings Culture, Leadership and Learning to Life at UCC

In May, Ursuline College Chatham (UCC) was alive with the sound of drums, the beat of dancing feet and the vibrant energy of a school community gathered together. Hosted by Kidwin Zhiingwaak – Voice of the Pines, UCC’s Indigenous Youth Leadership group, the Powwow welcomed students, staff and community members to honour and experience the beauty and spirit of Indigenous culture.

The day began with two Grand Entries, where students stood in respect as eagle staff carriers, veterans and dancers entered the arena. Kidwin Zhiingwaak youth carried the flags and head dancers led all the dancers into the arena, which included both Kidwin Zhiingwaak youth as well as community youth and adult dancers, who performed a variety of dance styles, from grass dancers to jingle dress dancers. Two drum groups led a social dancing segment, which added to the experience for the entire school. The Powwow’s grand finale delivered a powerful afternoon performance that made a lasting impact.

Educational booths, Indigenous food samples, and artisan tables, which were led or supported by UCC students, local colleges and universities and community partnerships, further enriched the day, with celebration, learning and a sense of community.





Wallaceburg Schools Unveil Collaborative Indigenous Art in Powerful Community Celebrations

In May, St. Clair Catholic’s three Wallaceburg elementary schools were filled with song and celebration, as the communities gathered for the unveiling of three new Indigenous art installations—powerful symbols of learning, collaboration and connection to the Anishinaabe community.

Holy Family, Christ The King and St. Elizabeth Catholic schools each hosted colourful and moving celebrations that included opening songs, prayer in Anishinaabemowin and reflections from the Anishinaabe artists who led the work: Cedric Isaac of Bkejwanong Territory, John Williams of Aamjiwnaang First Nation and Moses Lunham of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation. The artwork was co-created with Kindergarten through Grade 8 students and each installation reflects a different theme that connects the Anishinaabe community to the schools. The artists worked alongside students to bring the vision for each school to life in a way that honours Indigenous traditional knowledge, perspectives and local history.

The art installations were made possible thanks to a generous donation from retired St. Clair Catholic educator and former trustee Carol Bryden and will remain a permanent and proud feature of each of the Wallaceburg schools.



Holy Family Catholic School



Christ The King Catholic School



St. Elizabeth Catholic School



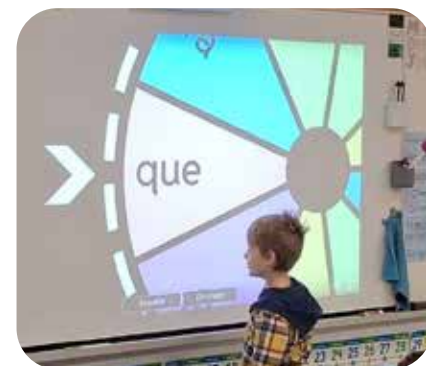
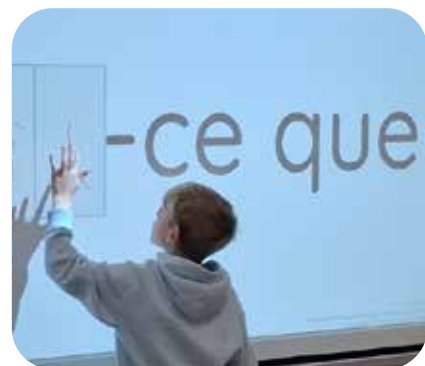
French Immersion

FSL Elementary

In response to the Ontario ministry-mandated early reading literacy screener, K-2 French Immersion (FI) teachers were trained to administer the Acadience Reading Français screening tool to their K-2 FI students. Acadience Reading Français is a screening tool that supports teachers in identifying K-2 FI students who are at risk for early reading difficulties in French, in order to provide timely instructional support and help prevent the occurrence of later reading difficulties.

In 2024-2025, the I Can Read in French/Je sais lire en Français French structured literacy program was fully implemented across all four French Immersion schools in Grades 1-3. The program is structured, explicit, systematic and multi-modal and teaches FI students foundational French literacy skills, aligning with the science of reading. Pratique Phonémique was also purchased for Grades K-3/4 French Immersion classrooms and Core French classrooms to teach students phonemic awareness skills in French.

Similar to Lexia for English students, Lalilo Premium licenses were purchased for all Grades 1-3 FI students to further support French literacy instruction and practice. Lalilo is a web-based literacy program that offers differentiated phonics and reading instruction in French.



FSL Secondary

From 2023-2024 to 2024-2025, the St. Clair Catholic District School Board saw an increase in the number of Grade 12 FSL students challenging the DELF (Diplôme d'études en langue française) exam. Grade 12 Core and FI secondary students at St Patrick's and UCC are given the opportunity to challenge the DELF exam in the spring. Upon successful accreditation, a DELF certificate is awarded by the French Ministry of Education to certify French proficiency for Grade 12 students learning French as a second language. It is recognized globally by universities, employers and institutions. The certificate is valid for life and is based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).



Christ the King Catholic School Celebrates Franco-Ontarian Day

In September, Christ the King Catholic School celebrated Franco-Ontarian Day, honoring Franco-Ontarian heritage, culture and language. Students and staff wore green and white, which are the colours of the Franco-Ontarian flag. The flag was blessed by Father Chris Pietraszko during the festivities and the school community participated in afternoon games and activities. St. Clair Catholic's French Immersion program enhances students' cognitive abilities, problem-solving skills and cultural sensitivity. The celebration emphasized the school's commitment to fostering a vibrant, bilingual community.



Celebrating the French Culture

French Immersion students at Gregory A. Hogan and Christ The King participated in a French culinary experience through a program called Chef à l'école. Students learned a French recipe to bake les biscuits sablés à la lavande et citron (Lavender Lemon Shortbread cookies) with Chef Suzanne! During their baking session, students learned about French-Canadian Métis history and played a French musical instrument - les cuillères (spoons).



Fête Française Celebration at Gregory A Hogan Catholic School

During Catholic Education Week, Gregory A Hogan Catholic School came alive with the sights, sounds and flavours of French culture as students, staff and families gathered for the school's Fête Française.

The school was transformed into a bustling French fair, with students leading the way en Français. A highlight of the evening was the French café, where students greeted guests, took reservations and served delicious French delights such as poutine and crêpes. From maître d's to kitchen staff, students embraced their roles with joy and professionalism, offering a truly immersive experience.

Beyond the café, the school buzzed with energy. The gym was decorated with student artwork, while science fair displays lined the hallways, showcasing innovation and learning. The Fête was more than a celebration – it was a living demonstration of student excellence and the joy of learning in action.



LeFLOFRANCO Brings Music and French to Life at UCC

St. Clair Catholic French Immersion and Core French students from UCC, St. Anne Blenheim, Monsignor Uyen and Christ The King experienced an electrifying performance by LeFLOFRANCO at UCC in February. With DJ Skorpe setting the beat, students danced and sang, along with the urban pop performance, blending music, culture and language in an event which brought the French language and culture to life. The visit was made possible through grants from the Canadian Parents for French and ImmersART.





Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) Results for 2024-2025

The Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) has released the school, board and provincial results for the 2024-2025 Grade 3 and 6 assessments for reading, writing and mathematics, Grade 9 math and the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test.

St. Clair Catholic students have made important achievement gains on EQAO assessments and that the growth reflects both the positive impact of the work being done with students and the commitment of staff to helping all students achieve.

In elementary, the most significant gains were in the Grade 3 and 6 reading results, with both showing a seven-percentage-point increase over the previous assessment. Grade 3 and 6 writing also showed growth. In secondary, Grade 9 math students scored eight percentage points higher than the previous year. On the OSSLT, 88% of first-time eligible students were successful, which is three percentage points higher than last year and the provincial average.

St. Clair Catholic students improved in seven out of the eight provincial assessment categories. These results align with the Board’s strategic priorities and Student Achievement Plans, which are developed and reviewed annually. The Board will review these results in detail as it develops its next multi-year strategic plan.

Grade 3 results for St. Clair Catholic Students:

- Reading: 77% (+7%)
- Writing: 65% (+2%)
- Math: 67% (+1%)

Grade 6 results for St. Clair Catholic Students:

- Reading: 85% (+7%)
- Writing: 84% (+4%)
- Math: 45% (-2%)

Grade 9 Mathematics results:

- Math: 58% (+8%)

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) results:

- Literacy Test Success Rate: 88% (+3%)





Faith & Well-Being

Living Catholic values to foster caring, inclusive, equitable and safe spaces





Theme Pilgrims of Hope Guides St. Clair Catholic Community Through 2024-2025



The St. Clair Catholic District School Board's 2024-2025 Pastoral Plan was guided by the theme Pilgrims of Hope, which was presented to Trustees in September. The theme encouraged the community to embrace hope, drawing on the example of Jesus Christ. The year-long celebration of Catholic Education was framed by this theme, fostering a deeper connection to faith and a heightened sense of community.



Pastoral Plan 2024-2025

Month	Sub-Theme "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us..."	We are Pilgrims of Hope with Jesus Christ and the teachings of the Catholic Church at the centre of our journey. Hope is foundational to our faith. We find hope in God's grace and love. "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us." / "Nous devons garder allumée la flamme de l'espérance qui nous a été donnée." (Letter on the Jubilee Year of Hope, February 11, 2022)
September	by being caring family members	How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! (Psalm 133:1) As pilgrims of hope, we are called to be caring family members who attend to family, school, parish and the wider community with respect rooted in God's love.
October	by striving to grow as learners, thinkers and communicators	"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13) As pilgrims of hope, and in light of Gospel values, we are called to learn together today to transform tomorrow as self-directed, responsible, lifelong learners; reflective, creative and holistic thinkers; and effective communicators.
November	by ensuring the faith and well-being of all	"Encourage one another and build each other up." (1 Thess 5:11) As pilgrims of hope, created in the image and likeness of God, we are called to foster caring, inclusive, equitable and safe spaces for all.
December	by living as discerning believers	"Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take." (Proverbs 3:5-6) As pilgrims of hope and formed in the Catholic Faith community, we will celebrate the signs and sacred mystery of God's presence through word, sacrament, prayer, forgiveness, reflection and moral living.

Month	Sub-Head	Action
January	by being collaborative contributors	"For we are God's coworkers, working together." (1 Corinthians 3:9) As pilgrims of hope and with God as our guide, we are called to find meaning, engagement, dignity and vocation in work which respects the rights of all and contributes to the common good.
February	by living as peacemakers	"Live in peace and the God of love and peace will be with you." (2 Corinthians 13:11) As pilgrims of hope, we are called to be peacemakers. God's commandment to love all neighbours near and far demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict.
March	by responding to poverties in our world	"Don't delay giving to those in need." (Sirach 4:1-10) As pilgrims of hope and imitators of Jesus, we are called to serve the world in ways that put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.
April	by caring for creation	"You are called to care for creation not only as responsible citizens but also as followers of Christ." (Pope Francis) As pilgrims of hope, we are called to be accountable to God, self and others through Catholic Citizenship that inspires ethical and responsible stewardship of God's creation.
May	by serving in solidarity as responsible citizens	"Do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8) As pilgrims of hope, we are called to serve the world as responsible citizens who give witness to Catholic social teaching by promoting peace, justice and the sacredness of human life.
June	by honouring human dignity	"Honour everyone." (1 Peter 2:17) As pilgrims of hope, we are called to uphold and protect the life and dignity of every human person created equally in the likeness and image of God.



Annual Welcome Back Mass Unites Community in Faith

The St. Clair Catholic District School Board held its annual Welcome Back Mass in September, at Our Lady Help of Christians Church in Wallaceburg, marking the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year. Celebrated by Father Chris Pietraszko, the Mass brought together principals, students, parents and staff, filling the church with prayer and song. The event was an opportunity to welcome more than 70 new staff members, each of whom received a bible, blessed by Father Chris. The Mass is a celebration of the Board’s mission and vision and an annual renewal of our commitment to Catholic education.



The Saidat Show Inspires Students to Make a Difference

On October 23, St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School hosted The Saidat Show, a dynamic performance that inspired and energized students. The performance inspired students to embrace kindness and collaboration and to actively work together to build a more inclusive and supportive school community.



Holy Rosary Catholic School Unites in Prayer for the Month of the Rosary

October is the Month of the Rosary and to celebrate, the students and staff of Holy Rosary Catholic School in Wyoming gathered for a powerful Living Rosary Prayer Service. The outdoor service was a moment for the entire school community to honor the rosary and the namesake of their school through prayer. Leading up to the service, students made their own rosaries and learned about the significance of each bead and prayer. Older students led the prayers and mysteries, while younger students formed a living perimeter, symbolizing unity in faith. The event served as both a tribute to the Month of the Rosary and celebration of the school’s Catholic identity.



Grade 8 Transition Day at UCC Welcomes Future Lancers

On November 6, St. Clair Catholic secondary schools hosted Grade 8 Transition Days, welcoming students from across the district. As Grade 9 students were away participating in Take Your Kids to Work Day, the schools dedicated the day to introducing Grade 8 students to their communities.

At UCC, the event included a warm welcome presentation, a pep rally led by LINK Leaders, and a variety of hands-on learning activities in science, art and sports. Students also enjoyed a pasta lunch served by UCC staff.



Youth Empowerment Summit Builds Leadership and Wellness

More than 100 students from across the district gathered at St. Anne, Sarnia in November for the Youth Empowerment Summit, funded by the Michael Carty Award from the Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario. The day included interactive workshops on mindfulness, yoga, self-care, healthy relationships, art and the medicine wheel, with support from Lambton Public Health and local community partners. Students left inspired to bring wellness, leadership and community-focused practices back to their schools, reflecting the Board’s commitment to nurturing confident, compassionate student leaders.



Kindness Week Promotes Well-Being and Inclusion

In November, St. Clair Catholic schools celebrated Kindness Week in recognition of Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week. Students and staff participated in activities developed by the Board’s Student Support and Wellbeing Team, including reflective exercises, kindness-themed poetry contests and a “Kindness Jar” to capture daily acts of kindness. Schools also took part in “Odd Sock Day” to celebrate diversity and individuality. The annual event highlights the role of kindness in building safe, inclusive and supportive school communities, empowering students to recognize the impact of their actions on the well-being of others.





Feast Day Celebrations Bring the Values of Our Patron Saints to Life

In 2024, students across St. Clair Catholic schools celebrated the Feast Days of their schools' patron saints through meaningful faith activities. In November, St. Elizabeth Catholic School in Wallaceburg honoured St. Elizabeth of Hungary by donating to the local food pantry, teaching students compassion and service. In September, St. Michael, Ridgetown marked the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel with prayer and creative lantern crafts, emphasizing courage, faith and spiritual guidance. These celebrations encourage students to reflect on the virtues of their patron saints and live those values in their communities.



St. Matthew Breakfast Club Builds Community and Well-Being

The Breakfast Club at St. Matthew in Sarnia has become a cornerstone of the school's culture, bringing Grade 6 to 8 students together twice a week for nutritious meals, sports activities and social connection. Originally started to provide morning gym time for volleyball teams, the program quickly expanded to include all students and a variety of sports. Themed mornings add fun and creativity, while healthy breakfasts support students' nutrition. Beyond athletics, the club fosters social and emotional well-being, strengthens friendships and inspires confidence, in a vibrant, inclusive program that gives students a strong start to their day.



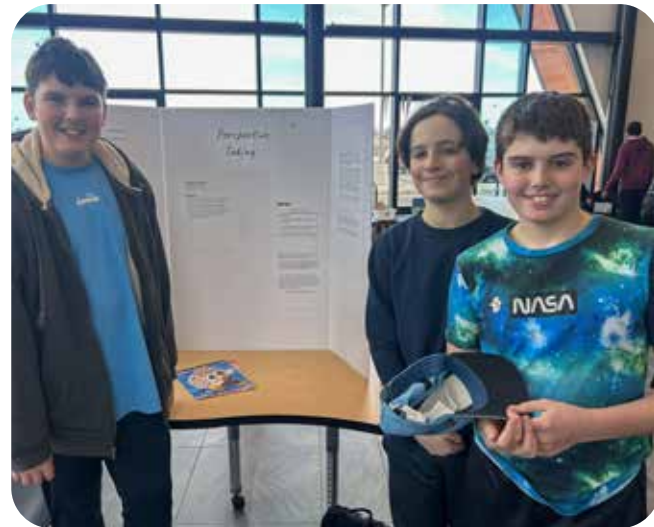
PALS Program Cultivates Leadership and Connection at Sacred Heart

The Playground Activity Leaders in Schools (PALS) program at Sacred Heart Sarnia fosters leadership, teamwork and inclusivity among students. Trained student leaders organize and lead recess games that promote respect and collaboration. In October, PALS student leaders showcased their skills during a presentation to the Board, leading trustees and senior administration in fun and engaging activities. Supported by staff and local health unit partners, the program continues to grow, enhancing student well-being, building friendships and strengthening the school community.



MindUP Fair at Gregory A. Hogan Inspires Leadership, Mindfulness and Connection

Gregory A. Hogan Catholic School in Sarnia hosted a MindUP Fair, in which six intermediate classes led hands-on activities exploring mindfulness, kindness and self-care for more than 400 primary and junior students. Older students took on leadership roles, guiding peers through activities including sensory experiments, relaxation techniques and mindfulness exercises. The event connected learning and well-being, giving younger students practical tools for self-care while fostering leadership, teamwork and creativity among the older students.



Holy Family Hosts Successful Family Wellness Night

In April, Holy Family Catholic School welcomed families for its second annual Family Wellness Night, celebrating student well-being in mind, body and spirit. The evening featured interactive stations with healthy snacks, fitness activities, journaling, meditation and social-emotional learning exercises. Participation from community partners, including CK Public Health, the CK Public Library and Indigenous partners, helped to enrich the event and emphasize faith-centered wellness for the whole school community.



Empty Your Backpack Presentation Inspires Students at St. Patrick's and UCC

Secondary students at St. Patrick's and Ursuline College participated in Sam Demma's Empty Your Backpack presentation, which explored mental health, self-reflection and perseverance. Delivered live, and livestreamed to students in Grades 6-8, the session encouraged students to let go of emotional burdens and focus on personal growth. The presentation complemented St. Clair Catholic's mental health programming, by building connections and opening conversations about wellness across grade levels.





Sacred Heart Students Celebrate Family Day with Loved Ones

Sacred Heart Catholic School in Port Lambton ended Family Day week with a heartwarming celebration, welcoming the families of junior and senior Kindergarten students for an afternoon of connection and fun.

The event featured a special performance, with students singing family-themed songs and sharing routines they had prepared. Families enjoyed treats and explored activity stations together, including colouring, portrait painting and reading.

The celebration highlighted the importance of school community and family connections, reinforcing the message that the Sacred Heart family extends beyond the classroom.



LINK Programs Ignite School Spirit and Prepare Grade 9 Students for Success

In August, student leaders and staff from UCC and St. Patrick's secondary schools held their annual LINK days, welcoming new Grade 9 students into their school communities. This orientation day is designed to ease the transition into high school by pairing incoming students with senior mentors, known as LINK leaders, who guide and support them throughout the year.

Grade 9 students participated in a variety of engaging and helpful activities, including an energetic welcome-to-school pep rally, school tours, timetable reviews and mastering their locker combinations. These activities provided opportunities for new students to familiarize themselves with their school, meet peers and connect with senior student leaders, who will continue to support them as they navigate their first year.

LINK day has been particularly beneficial for students coming from other school boards. The program extends beyond orientation, with events like "Cocoa and Cram," where students prepare for exams together; and a LINK dance, to further strengthen the connections formed on LINK day.



St. Clair Catholic Schools Celebrate Global Unplug Day



In March, students and staff across St. Clair Catholic participated in Global Unplug Day, taking a break from screens to focus on mindfulness, creativity and connection. Schools offered activities such as creative arts, outdoor play and dancing to encourage students to explore positive ways to unplug.

At Sacred Heart in Sarnia, students engaged in yoga, art and reflection; while St. Teresa of Calcutta students highlighted teamwork and movement through group activities and dance. The event reinforced the importance of disconnecting to recharge and nurture well-being.





Partnerships

*Engaging families, parish
and community*





Shell Canada “Pays It Forward” with Surprise Pizza Lunch at St. Joseph Corunna

In a heartwarming gesture of community support, Shell Canada treated students and staff at St. Joseph Catholic School in Corunna to a surprise pizza lunch. The generous donation was part of the company’s Pay It Forward initiative, aimed at giving back to the local community. Shell employees personally delivered and served the pizza, in a demonstration of Shell’s commitment to building strong community ties.



School Butterfly Murals a Show of Support for the Children’s Treatment Centre

The St. Clair Catholic District School Board, through the Build for the Kids – Butterfly Campaign, partnered with the Children’s Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent (CTC-CK) in a fundraising project. Launched in October, students across Chatham-Kent created and decorated paper butterflies for murals in their schools, as a symbol of the partnership with CTC-CK. The campaign successfully surpassed its fundraising goal, raising more than \$540,843, with St. Clair Catholic schools contributing \$3,360.



Sarnia Sting School Day Game Brings Community Together for a Win

In October, students from St. Clair Catholic schools in Sarnia-Lambton attended the second annual School Day Game to cheer on the Sarnia Sting. The event, held at Progressive Auto Sales Arena, brought thousands of students together, to create an energetic and spirited atmosphere. The Sting’s 2-1 shootout victory over the Flint Firebirds sent students into a frenzy, with their cheers filling the arena.





Noelle's Gift to Children

In an inspiring gathering at Holy Trinity Catholic School, volunteers, school leaders and community partners celebrated the work of Noelle's Gift to Children. The foundation, created in memory of St. Clair Catholic teacher Noelle Paquette, has made a lasting impact by providing essential resources to students. Fueled by a recent \$50,000 donation from the Judith & Norman Alix Foundation, the organization continues to expand its vital programs.

The Noelle's Gift Closets, which provide essentials, such as clothing and school supplies, were installed in all local elementary and secondary schools, with more being built by Lambton College trades students. The foundation also supports the Student Nutrition Program and provides emergency funds for urgent student needs.

Founder Lynn Paquette expressed gratitude for the community's support, noting that the organization is committed to helping students who need daily essentials to attend school. A new promotional video highlights the generosity and dedication that keeps Noelle's spirit of kindness alive.

Watch the video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F3biFiQB9ho>



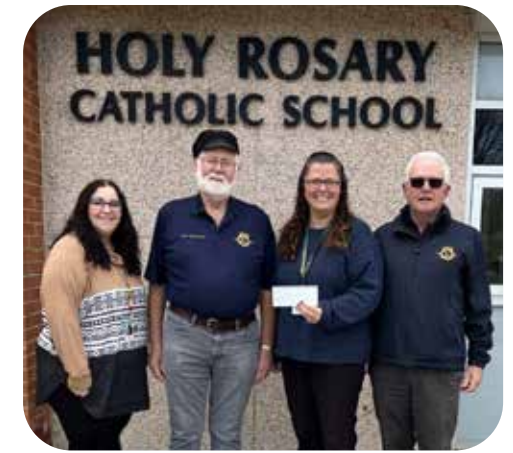
Light Up the Night for Noelle Raises \$19,000 for Noelle's Gift in Chatham-Kent

The first-ever Light Up the Night for Noelle - CK Edition brought more than 240 participants to Mud Creek Trail in Chatham, raising more than \$19,000 to support local children through Noelle's Gift. Students, staff and community members of all ages joined the one- and five-kilometer events. The fundraiser marked an exciting expansion of Noelle's Gift in Chatham-Kent, with many St. Clair Catholic staff and students participating as runners, volunteers and supporters.



Wyoming Lions Club Donation Supports Holy Rosary Schoolyard Improvements

Holy Rosary Catholic School received a \$1,000 donation from the Wyoming Lions Club in November, marking the launch of a fundraising campaign to upgrade outdoor equipment and school yard facilities. The contribution supports the school's vision of creating a more engaging and safe outdoor space for students. The donation demonstrates the importance of community support in bringing the school's revitalization plans to life.



Special Olympics Events Showcase Inclusion and Community Spirit

In December, St. Clair Catholic schools hosted two Special Olympics events, celebrating inclusion, sportsmanship and community engagement. St. Patrick's welcomed athletes and supporters to a 3-on-3 basketball tournament; while St. Angela Merici hosted an elementary-level sports festival, featuring soccer, basketball and curling.

These events provide athletes the opportunity to showcase their skills and enthusiasm, while student volunteers gain valuable leadership experience. The Special Olympics celebrations highlight St. Clair Catholic's commitment to inclusivity, student engagement and fostering a supportive environment for all.





St. Clair Students Explore Skilled Trades Through Hands-On LiUNA Experience

Grade 7-8 and secondary construction students from St. Clair Catholic schools visited LiUNA Local 1089 in Sarnia in November to explore careers in skilled trades. Students toured the facility, observed industry-standard tools and equipment and participated in hands-on activities suited to their grade levels. Elementary students practiced tool identification, concrete forming, VR training, and mini-scaffolding assembly, while secondary students tackled full-sized scaffolding, safety harness training, pipeline cribbing and advanced concrete techniques.

The program offers students a glimpse into skilled trades, sparking curiosity, inspiring career exploration and reinforcing the value of experiential learning partnerships.



St. Michael Students Shine at Sing for the Sting and Give Back to the Community

St. Michael, Bright's Grove students participated in the annual Sing for the Sting initiative during the Sarnia Sting's Teddy Bear Toss. Students performed the Canadian and American national anthems, then helped collect thousands of stuffed animals thrown onto the ice by fans, which are donated to local charities.

As part of the Sarnia Sting's Confident Kids Program, players later visited St. Michael students, sharing hockey skills and promoting healthy, active lifestyles and mental health awareness. The event highlights the power of community partnerships, giving students a unique experience that combines athletics, generosity and teamwork.



St. Clair Catholic Highlights Career Pathways for Students with Disabilities Through Project SEARCH

St. Clair Catholic hosted a Project SEARCH Information Night in February, showcasing a school-to-work transition program for students with intellectual or communication disabilities. In partnership with the YMCA of Southwestern Ontario and the Goodwill Career Centre, the program provides hands-on internship experiences to help students build skills and confidence for the workforce.



Attendees learned about program opportunities, met the team, and toured internship facilities, gaining insight into the transformative impact of community partnerships in creating meaningful career pathways for all students.

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Celebrating Nutrition Month Across St. Clair Catholic

St. Clair Catholic schools marked Nutrition Month in March by highlighting the connection between healthy eating and student success. Activities included classroom lessons, cooking projects and the Great Big Crunch event. Through the support of the Ontario Student Nutrition Program and Noelle's Gift, schools continued to provide universally accessible meal programs and fresh ingredients, ensuring all students had the nourishment needed to thrive.

In partnership with the Caring Cardinals and Chatham-Kent OSNP, Holy Family Catholic School students kicked off spring with a vibrant veggie bar. Students sampled a colorful variety of fresh vegetables, while connecting with peers, volunteers and school leaders. The event highlighted healthy eating, discovery of new foods and community connection, to reinforce the school's commitment to student wellness in mind, body, and spirit. The event was made possible through the generous support of Matt's Paper and Noelle's Gift to Children.



The student nutrition program at St. Matthew Catholic School received a generous donation of \$1,200 from the Seaway Kiwanis Club of Sarnia-Lambton. The Seaway Kiwanis are committed to improving communities and supporting children.



St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School students enjoyed a special Soup for School Food event, featuring garlic potato soup generously donated by Mamma Maria's Ristorante in Chatham. Organized by the Ontario Student Nutrition Program in Chatham Kent (OSNP-CK) in partnership with school staff, the event brought more than 700 students and staff together for a shared meal and experience of community.

Local partners, included CK Public Health, FirstOntario Credit Union and Noelle's Gift to Children. St. Clair Catholic leadership joined in to serve and support the event. Extra soup was also shared with Hope Haven, a local shelter, extending the spirit of generosity beyond the school community.



In November, National Parfait Day was celebrated at St. Joseph Catholic School in Tilbury, with the school's Healthy Heart and Mind Wellness Team serving parfaits. Students were able to choose from healthy ingredients, such as strawberries, raspberries and blueberries, yogurt, graham cracker crumbs and more. The initiative was part of the school's food day celebrations, with a focus on trying new foods and making healthy choices. National Parfait Day is held in November each year.

In September, Hunger Action Month was observed. Hunger Action Month is a nation-wide campaign promoting awareness about hunger and inspiring change in our communities. In Chatham-Kent, the Soup For School Food Campaign, partnered with participating restaurants to offer soup specials in March. Meanwhile, in Sarnia-Lambton, the Lambton Food Procurement Pilot Program was launched, to evaluate the benefits of centrally procuring food for student nutrition programs. This pilot aims to enhance nutrition programs at no additional cost to schools while ensuring compliance with nutrition standards and improving food safety.

The Ontario Student Nutrition Program (OSNP) in both Chatham-Kent and Sarnia-Lambton are supported by many local partners, including Noelle's Gift to Children, First Ontario, Enbridge, Maycourt, the Egg Farmers of Ontario, Stacked Pancake House, JMHI Insurance and the IODE.



Holy Family Wraps Up Successful Jays Care RBI Program

Holy Family students participated in a 12-week Jays Care Baseball program, to build skills, stay active and foster friendships across grades. The season concluded with a celebratory event in which students received Jays Care t-shirts and hats.

Led by school staff and supported by the Jays Care Foundation, the program emphasized social-emotional learning and teamwork, giving students a fun and engaging opportunity to connect and grow through sport. Holy Family is one of 957 schools across Canada hosting a Jays Care program in 2025.



St. Peter Canisius Students and St. Clair Conservation Work to Grow a Greener Future

Mr. Sottosanti's Grade 5/6 class partnered with St. Clair Conservation in May to plant trees in the St. Peter Canisius school yard, supporting the school's commitment to environmental stewardship and community collaboration.

The partnership with St. Clair Conservation teaches students the importance of working together to protect our planet, not only for today but for generations to come.



Bright Ideas Take the Spotlight at Enactus One Future Championships

In May, Grade 7 and 8 students from across St. Clair Catholic showcased bold ideas and entrepreneurial thinking at the annual One Future finals at Lambton College. The event, hosted by Enactus Lambton, was the culmination of a 10-week program that challenged students to identify a community need and develop a meaningful solution aligned with one of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

A team of students from St. Michael Bright's Grove was runner up and earned top honours among St. Clair Catholic students, with their project 'Ballin' for a Better Tomorrow' taking home second place overall. The student-led initiative combined environmental action and youth engagement through a 3-on-3 basketball fundraiser that supports biodiversity. Funds raised go toward producing and distributing "flower bombs" — small bundles of native seeds designed to attract pollinators and boost local ecosystems.

All of the projects were examples of young people demonstrating their care and concern for the local or global community and taking action to make a change for the better. This year's One Future initiative engaged more than 270 students across both St. Clair Catholic and Lambton Kent district school boards. With support from Enactus Lambton College, students raised more than \$7,600 in support of their projects. Finalists competed in front of a panel of community judges for the chance to earn cash prizes, generously provided by Bluewater Power.





Sarnia Police Share Online Safety Tools with St. Anne Students

Grade 6 to 8 students at St. Anne Catholic School in Sarnia recently learned about internet safety through an engaging presentation from the Sarnia Police Service. Constables McLean and Sparling talked to the students about protecting personal information, the permanence of social media posts and responding to cyberbullying. The presentation sparked meaningful conversations about digital citizenship. The officers made the message relatable to students and reinforced the school's focus on helping students make safe, smart choices online.



St. Teresa of Calcutta Students and LTVCA Plant 36 Trees on School Grounds

Students, staff and volunteers at St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School partnered with the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority to plant 36 trees on the school grounds. Junior and intermediate students took part in the planting process, learning about the environmental benefits of trees while helping to create a lasting legacy of shade, beauty and sustainability for their community.



St. Anne Students Mark International Women's Day with Lambton College

Students at St. Anne Catholic School in Sarnia celebrated International Women's Day with a focus on women's history, leadership and future career possibilities. In partnership with Lambton College, students in Grades 6 through 8 explored the contributions of women in athletics, technology and culture through interactive stations led by college students.

The event helped to foster an appreciation for the impact of women past, present, and future, and gave students the opportunity to learn from role models and engage in meaningful discussions about empowerment and achievement.



St. Patrick's Students Welcome Newcomers with Home Ice Skating Event

St. Patrick's Catholic High School hosted its annual Home Ice event at Progressive Auto Sales Arena, where more than 20 newcomer students laced up skates—many for the first time—alongside the girls' hockey team. Organized by teacher and coach Lincoln Simpson, with support from Settlement Worker in Schools Mackenzie Nolan and the YMCA, the event provided equipment and guidance to ensure a safe and welcoming experience. Beyond learning a Canadian pastime, students practiced English, built friendships and strengthened their sense of belonging in the school community.





Remembrance Day Inspires Students Through History, Art and Community Connections

St. Clair Catholic students observed Remembrance Day by honouring veterans through assemblies, creative projects and community ceremonies.

At Christ the King Catholic School, a Remembrance Day assembly led by Mme Clancy's class included prayers, poems and songs reflecting on peace, courage and gratitude. At St. Angela Merici Catholic School, students partnered with the Buxton National Historic Site and Museum to learn about the contributions of Black Canadian veterans. They also created handmade poppies, which were displayed in a commemorative exhibit.

Grade 7 and 8 students at St. Anne Catholic School in Sarnia explored the website Remembering Sarnia's War Fallen and created posters highlighting local soldiers' stories. The learning was enhanced by classroom visits from the Remembering Sarnia's War Fallen Committee, who shared their research and the Sarnia War Remembrance Sign Project, which places commemorative signs at the former homes of fallen soldiers.

Good Shepherd Catholic School in Thamesville participated in a solemn Remembrance Day service at the Thamesville Cenotaph, organized by Thamesville Branch 367 of the Royal Canadian Legion and local emergency services. Students participated in the wreath-laying ceremony, demonstrating respect and gratitude for the sacrifices of veterans and active service members.

Together, these activities connect students to history, community and heritage, and demonstrate how Remembrance Day inspires reflection, learning and meaningful action.



St. Philip Celebrates First Place Win at Agricultural Fair in Petrolia

Students at St. Philip Catholic School in Petrolia showcased their artistic talents at the Petrolia and Enniskillen Agricultural Fair in September, earning a first-place ribbon for their Wish Upon a Fair art display, which captured the creative spirit of the school community. To celebrate their achievement, the school held a special 150th green and white Petrolia Proud Day, marking the town's milestone anniversary. The school's participation in the local event highlights the connection between the school and the community.



New Parish Partnership Builds Community Connections in Thamesville

In November, Good Shepherd Catholic School in Thamesville partnered with the South-Kent Family of Parishes to launch a new Youth Sports and Games Night. Open to students in Grades 7 to 12, the free program runs every other Tuesday evening from November through May, offering a mix of sports in the gymnasium, snacks, board games and bible studies. The initiative provides a safe and welcoming space for young people to build friendships, grow in faith and stay active, while strengthening connections between parish, school and community.





Multicultural Fair Brings Culture, Community and Leadership to Life at St. Patrick's

The scent of spices and the rhythm of live music filled the library at St. Patrick's Catholic High School in June, as the Business Leadership and Management students welcomed more than 700 guests to their Multicultural Fair. What began as a class discussion quickly became a vibrant community event, which celebrated culture, challenged stereotypes and invited connection across generations and backgrounds.

The event featured 21 cultural booths - eight created by St. Pat's students and 13 hosted by community partners and Lambton College volunteers - along with a lineup of live performances. Guests were treated to Indian fusion, traditional Mexican dances, a moving Peruvian dance by St. Patrick's students and an Indigenous cultural performance.

More than 300 elementary students from St. Anne and Gregory A. Hogan Catholic schools were welcomed by student leaders. The event created a space where culture was celebrated, stereotypes were challenged and everyone—regardless of background—felt proud, seen and included.



Holy Family Bingo Night Delivers Chocolate and Cherished Moments

Families of all ages filled the gym at Holy Family Catholic School in May for a high-energy night of Bingo—and chocolate! From grandparents and parents to current students and alumni, the gym was alive with laughter and friendly competition, as generations came together to enjoy a sweet night out.

With more than six varieties of chocolate bars up for grabs, the stakes were deliciously high. Adding to the festive spirit, Parent Council members served up pizza and snacks, while mingling with guests and joining in the games. The event offered a simple yet meaningful opportunity for families, staff and parish friends to share in the fun together.





Catholic Secondary School Open Houses Draw Record Crowds

Ursuline College Chatham welcomed nearly 900 guests to its Grade 8 Open House in January, which was the school's largest turnout ever. Families explored UCC's wide range of programs, toured modern facilities and connected with staff and student leaders.

From dynamic classroom demonstrations to specialized program showcases, the evening highlighted the many academic and extracurricular opportunities available at UCC. The strong attendance reflects the excitement and confidence families have in joining the Lancer community.



Meet the Camp Staff Event Fosters Sense of Community at St. Michael Ridgetown

In September, St. Michael Catholic School in Ridgetown hosted a successful camp-themed event. Meet the Camp Staff brought together 270 students and their families for a range of fun activities, including a photobooth, classroom visits to meet teachers, a campfire cookout with free hot dogs and popcorn provided by the Knights of Columbus and games led by the Kenesserie Camp team. Families also met the school's Wellness Team. The event helped to foster a strong sense of school community, which set a positive tone for the school year.



In February, St. Patrick's Catholic High School welcomed hundreds of Grade 7 and 8 students and their families from across Sarnia-Lambton for its annual Open House. Families toured classrooms, met staff and students and learned about programs such as OYAP, SHSM, Indigenous Education and travel-for-credit initiatives. Students also connected with sports coaches, explored extracurricular activities and met the cast and crew from the school's production of Mamma Mia!

Adding to the excitement, the Senior Boys basketball team competed in a high-stakes LKSSAA final game. With the gym buzzing from both the game and Open House visitors, St. Pat's secured a thrilling 71-68 victory, giving future students a taste of school spirit and camaraderie that define the St. Patrick's Irish community.





Catholic Citizenship

*Inspiring ethical,
responsible stewardship*





St. Clair Catholic Community Unites for Terry Fox Run

In a powerful display of community spirit and compassion, St. Clair Catholic schools participated in the annual Terry Fox Run to raise funds and awareness for cancer research. At St. Anne Catholic School, the 28th annual run brought together students, families and staff, contributing to a remarkable fundraising history of more than \$190,000 for the Terry Fox Foundation. The school's effort is especially meaningful with the inspiration of student cancer survivor Leah March, who shares the same type of cancer Terry Fox had.



Monsignor Uyen Catholic School participated in the annual event, with students learning about Terry Fox's inspirational journey before their run. The school surpassed its fundraising goal of \$2,100, raising more than \$2,600 for the foundation. These events highlight the commitment of St. Clair Catholic schools to community service and their unwavering support for the fight against cancer.



Sacred Heart's "Socktober" Drive Collects Over 900 Pairs of Socks

Students and staff at Sacred Heart in Sarnia celebrated another impactful "Socktober" event, collecting more than 900 pairs of new socks in their 6th annual drive. These donations supported St. Vincent De Paul's mission to provide comfort and warmth to those in need. The drive, led by Mrs. Shortt's Grade 7/8 class, was a testament to the students' generous spirit and commitment to helping others. The event teaches students the importance of giving back to their community, and the success of the drive underscores the commitment of the school to making a difference.

Students Celebrate Bus Driver Appreciation Day

In October, St. Clair Catholic students celebrated Bus Driver Appreciation Day with heartfelt gestures of thanks. At St. Joseph Catholic School in Corunna and Sacred Heart Catholic School in Sarnia, students created handmade cards and presented them to their bus drivers, along with small treats. Acts of kindness and appreciation like these across the district highlight the deep gratitude of students, staff and families for bus drivers and for their dedication to ensuring students' safety.



UCC Lancers Rally for Families in Need

In November, the Ursuline College Lancers came together in support of Ronald McDonald House - Southwestern Ontario, inspired by student athlete Luke Chickowski, who was recently diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. The Physical Education department launched a "Luke Strong" t-shirt campaign in orange, the colour that symbolizes Leukemia awareness. The campaign quickly spread throughout the school and community. Through the generosity of students, staff and families, the initiative raised \$5,000 to help support families facing medical challenges. The effort reflects the compassion, unity and spirit of Catholic citizenship that defines the UCC community.





St. Anne Blenheim Installs Social Justice Food Pantry to Support Community Needs

St. Anne Catholic School in Blenheim unveiled its Social Justice Food Pantry, a dynamic initiative that was a result of the collaborative spirit of students, staff and local community members. The pantry, which was officially launched in late October, provides essential non-perishable food items to those in need. Led by Mrs. Friesen and the school's Social Justice Group, the project taught students how to take meaningful action in serving others. The Blenheim Youth Centre generously provided space on its property to house the pantry, which will be supported by regular food drives in the community.



St. Patrick's Irish Miracle Brings Community Together for Local Families

St. Patrick's Catholic High School hosted its annual Irish Miracle in December, bringing together hundreds of students, staff and volunteers to support the community. Despite snowy conditions, participants collected 4,500 bags of non-perishable food and hygiene items, along with more than \$1,133 in monetary donations, all of which was delivered to the St. Vincent de Paul Society's food bank. Volunteers enjoyed a free pancake breakfast courtesy of the Knights of Columbus, a longstanding tradition.

Irish Miracle remains a cornerstone of community engagement and Catholic citizenship, demonstrating service, collaboration and compassion among students and the broader Sarnia-Lambton community.





Record-Breaking Year for UCC's Lancers Scare Hunger

UCC's annual Lancers Scare Hunger campaign achieved a record-breaking collection of canned and non-perishable food items for Chatham Outreach for Hunger. Organized by the school's CARES Club, the food drive covered 61 routes in Chatham, with additional support from volunteers in Blenheim and Ridgeway.

Lancers Scare Hunger is a proud UCC tradition that showcases the heart and spirit of the school community and connects with the broader community to provide much-needed support for local families. A special 'thank-you' is extended to Handy Brothers, for their partnership in transporting the donations to Outreach for Hunger.



(L-R) Student volunteers Victoria Matteis and Nora Lucier; Lisa Harnarine, UCC Principal



St. Clair Catholic Raises \$20,000 for Women's Shelter Christmas Fundraiser

The 4th Annual Women's Shelter Christmas Fundraiser set a new record for St. Clair Catholic, raising \$20,000 to support local women and children. Spearheaded by Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association (OECTA) St. Clair Secondary and Elementary Units, the system-wide initiative saw staff and volunteers partner with local women's shelters to fulfill gift wishes for families.

The campaign's success reflects the dedication and generosity of the St. Clair Catholic community, including contributions from the Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO), the Association of Professional Students Services Personnel (APSSP) and individual volunteers. Funds and donations were collected and distributed, helping families in need enjoy a brighter holiday season.



St. Elizabeth Students Support Local Seniors Through Sewing Club

Students in the Sewing Club at St. Elizabeth Catholic School in Wallaceburg crafted 50 gift bags for the Elder Tree initiative, supporting local seniors during the holiday season. Led by teacher Clare Quinlan, students dedicated their recess time over one month to handcraft the bags, which were delivered to the Black Goose Restaurant in Wallaceburg.

This initiative allowed students to apply their skills while making a meaningful contribution to the community, demonstrating generosity and care for local seniors.



Restaurateur Mark Childs accepts donations from St. Elizabeth students.



St. Anne Blenheim Raises More Than \$18,000 in Kingdom Project

For the third year in a row, Grade 8 students at St. Anne Catholic School in Blenheim have proven that small acts of kindness rooted in purpose and love can create an extraordinary ripple effect in their community.

As part of the Kingdom Assignment project, 45 students were each entrusted with \$25 and a mission: to use their gifts, time and creativity to multiply the money and give back beyond the walls of their school. The initiative, rooted in the Parable of the Talents and launched each year on Ash Wednesday, invites students to reflect on how they can serve others during the 40 days of Lent.

From organizing community events to creating and selling handmade goods, students embraced the assignment with heart and determination. In total, they raised and donated \$18,478 to local causes and charities, alongside countless acts of kindness.



Record-Breaking Support for 5th Annual Dress Down for Wheels Campaign

Staff across the St. Clair Catholic District School Board came together once again during Catholic Education Week for the 5th Annual Dress Down for Wheels campaign—raising a record-breaking \$10,000, to purchase 43 bikes, complete with helmets, locks and other safety accessories for students in need.

Organized by Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association (OECTA) representatives, this annual initiative invites staff across the board to “dress down” in exchange for a donation. Thanks to the generous contributions from educators, support staff, administrators, custodians, office staff and central team members – along with additional support from local unions and associations – the campaign achieved its highest tally ever.

Dress Down for Wheels is a beautiful expression of the Board’s Catholic identity, as we come together in community to support our students. The success of the campaign is a testament to the compassion and generosity of St. Clair Catholic’s staff, helping to lift up students, one bike at a time.



Holiday Cheer at St. Matthew – A Festive Community Feast

A heartwarming lunch at St. Matthew Catholic School in December celebrated community and the Christmas season. More than 800 grilled cheese sandwiches and a delicious soup were prepared and served; and festive treats were shared with students and staff. The event was made possible thanks to the tireless efforts of many parent volunteers, with generous support from Giant Tiger and John’s Restaurant.

The celebration began with a prayer led by priests from the Sarnia Bluewater Roman Catholic Family of Parishes. A surprise visit from Santa Claus added to the excitement!

St. Anne Sarnia Students Create Domino Effect of Giving

Students at St. Anne Catholic School in Sarnia collected 212 boxes of cereal for the Inn of the Good Shepherd through the annual Cereal Dom-INN-Os challenge. The boxes were arranged in a spiral domino course that toppled to the excitement of the entire school community, in a powerful lesson in generosity. The initiative supported families in need, while sparking school-wide conversations about kindness, empathy and community service.





Milestones

*Celebrations and
Accomplishments*





A New Chapter Begins as St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School Opens

The new St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School in Chatham officially opened its doors in September for its inaugural school year. The day was filled with excitement, as hundreds of students, along with their families, were welcomed by teachers, staff and student leaders. The successful opening laid a strong foundation for a vibrant and successful school year ahead.



Members of the Board of Trustees also had an opportunity to tour the new school. During their visit, trustees witnessed the first-rate facility that resulted from years of planning. The school community also welcomed parents and families to an inaugural open house. It was a long-awaited opportunity for the community to see the new school, in an event that highlighted the strong home to school connection.



Jacquelyn McGlynn Named Outstanding Teacher in 2024 CBC Music Challenge

St. Clair Catholic's Jacquelyn McGlynn was named Outstanding Teacher for the CBC's 2024 Music Class Challenge. Mrs. McGlynn's students have participated in the annual challenge for more than a decade and have received honours in many categories over the years, including Canada's Top Ten, the National Passion Playlist, a CBC mini-documentary and, most recently, students were recognized in a National Spotlight Concert, performing in an Indigenous language.

In a letter to Mrs. McGlynn announcing her selection for the honour, Kai Black, Executive Producer at CBC Music wrote: "...the staff at CBC Music think you are an awesome music teacher. You have done an outstanding job coaching your musicians in learning Canadian music. We work with many teachers across the country, and few bring the energy and passion to their job that you do. Thanks for making this a musical country!"

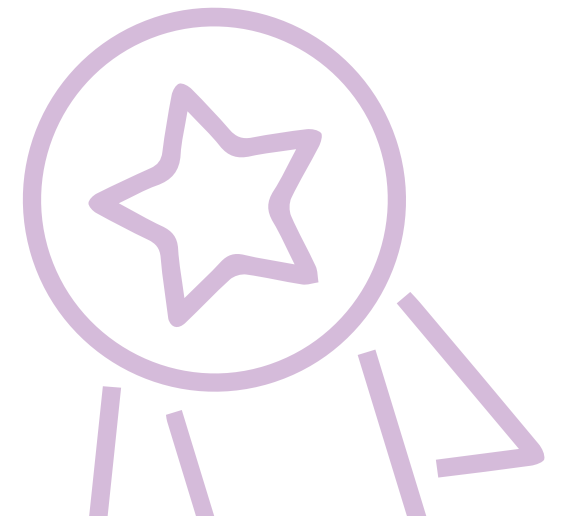
Congratulations Jackie ... we are so proud of you!



(L-R) David Argenti, Vice Chair of the Board; Scott Johnson, Director of Education; and John Van Heck, Chair of the Board.

John Van Heck and David Argenti Continue Board Leadership in 2025

At the Board's Initial Board meeting in December, John Van Heck was acclaimed Chair of the St. Clair Catholic District School Board, continuing in a role he has held since 2016. David Argenti was acclaimed Vice Chair for a third consecutive term. Their acclamations reflect trustees' confidence in their guidance and commitment to Catholic education. Both leaders expressed gratitude for the trust of their colleagues and emphasized their dedication to fostering academic, spiritual and personal growth for all students. Chair and Vice Chair terms conclude each year in December.





Opening and Blessing Celebrated at St. Clair Catholic's Newest School Communities



St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School

Gregory A. Hogan Catholic School

In October, St. Clair Catholic proudly celebrated the opening and blessing of its two newest schools: St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School in Chatham and Gregory A. Hogan Catholic School in Sarnia. These momentous ceremonies, led by Bishop Ronald Fabbro, marked a significant milestone for the Board, as it continues to grow and provide state-of-the-art facilities for its students.

Students, staff, community partners, local leaders and dignitaries, including Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey and Chatham-Kent - Leamington MPP Trevor Jones, gathered in each school's gymnasium for a special Mass. Choirs from the schools filled the space with beautiful sacred music, while students read from scripture and offered prayers of intention. Bishop Fabbro blessed the schools in Masses that celebrated faith and community.

The opening and blessing ceremonies highlight the growth and vision of St. Clair Catholic and affirm its commitment to providing exceptional learning environments, rooted in faith and community.

Gregory A. Hogan Catholic School, opened in March 2024, after relocating from its former site on Hogan Drive in Sarnia. The new St. Teresa of Calcutta opened in September 2024, combining the former school communities of Georges P. Vanier and St. Ursula and the former St. Joseph Chatham, which closed in June 2019.





Director of Education Scott Johnson Announces Retirement after 33 Years of Service to Catholic Education

After a distinguished career spanning 33 years, Director of Education Scott Johnson announced his intention to retire at the end of March.

“I am so grateful to have worked with dedicated Catholic educators and support staff who care so deeply for our students. I have witnessed love, compassion, professionalism and inclusivity in every one of our schools,” said Mr. Johnson.

In thanking Mr. Johnson for his many contributions to St. Clair Catholic, Chair of the Board John Van Heck noted that his leadership has been a true blessing to our Catholic school community. “His unwavering commitment to faith, education, and the well-being of our students has left an indelible mark on all of us. We wish him all the best as he enters this new chapter of life, and we are grateful for the legacy he leaves behind.



Lancers Make Their Mark at OFSAA



Ursuline College Chatham celebrated an outstanding year in athletics, with both the Senior Boys Basketball and Senior Girls Volleyball teams earning spots at the AAA OFSAA Championships.

The Senior Boys Basketball team finished with a 34-8 overall record, capped by a third straight LKSSAA Championship and an undefeated 10-0 league run. With only one returning player from the 2023 silver-medal squad, the team built a strong identity through competitive play in eight tournaments across Ontario before advancing to Kingston to face the province’s best. The Senior Girls Volleyball team earned their OFSAA berth with a hard-fought SWOSSAA final victory over Windsor Holy Names. Their season featured an impressive 43-3-2 match record, highlighted by multiple tournament wins and dominant championship play. They closed their season competing at OFSAA in Burlington.

The entire Lancer community celebrated these successes, which reflect the talent, commitment and perseverance of UCC’s athletes and coaches.



UCC Student Georgia Pitblado Awarded Canada’s Largest Undergraduate Scholarship



In June, Student Trustee Georgia Pitblado was selected to receive the \$120,000 Schulich Leader Scholarship to study Engineering at Western University.

A graduate of Ursuline College Chatham, Georgia entered the Engineering program in September 2024. She was selected to be put forward for the Schulich Leader Scholarship by the school’s nomination committee, for her outstanding academic and extra-curricular achievements. Georgia is UCC’s second Schulich Leader Scholarship recipient.

We are proud of Georgia and all she has accomplished. From her excellence in the classroom to her leadership as a student trustee last year, she represents the very best of Catholic education. Georgia’s success is an inspiration to students across St. Clair Catholic, and we can’t wait to see what she does next!



UCC Students Take Original Play to Provincial Showcase



Ursuline College Chatham’s original student-led production *Wisteria* advanced to the National Theatre School Festival Provincial Showcase for the first time since 2002. Selected as one of two “Outstanding Productions” at the Southern Ontario Regional Festival, *Wisteria* highlighted the creativity and leadership of students who wrote, directed, choreographed, scored and managed all aspects of the show. The production also earned multiple awards for playwriting, directing, stage management and acting, marking a milestone achievement for UCC’s theatre program.

John Van Heck Named Regional Director for OCSTA



Trustee John Van Heck has been acclaimed Regional Director for the Ontario Catholic School Trustees’ Association (OCSTA), representing St. Clair Catholic and neighbouring boards. His appointment continues a legacy of dedicated Catholic education advocacy, following the longstanding service of Trustee Linda Ward. Mr. Van Heck’s leadership strengthens the provincial voice for publicly funded Catholic education.

Pathways Celebrates 50 Years with Joyful Performance

Pathways Sarnia marked its 50th anniversary on April 11 with *Celebrate*, a vibrant show staged at the Imperial Theatre. Clients aged eight to 21, including several St. Clair Catholic students and staff, showcased their talents through movement, music and expressive arts. The show highlighted creativity and inclusion. A special school matinee allowed students from across the board to join in the celebration, making the milestone a shared community experience.





Holy Family Rocket League Esports Teams Dominate Provincial Championship

Holy Family Catholic School's Rocket League esports teams dominated the Ontario Provincial Rocket League Esports Fall Championship. The school's Grade 8 Team Parrot took first place in the Middle School division, securing a spot at the National Scholastic Championship. They were joined by Team N!NJA, which finished in third place. In total, three of the four Holy Family teams finished in the top five out of 41 teams from across 15 school boards. The teams competed in the finals from the school's esports lab. Thanks to teacher and esports coach Dan Rolo for helping to inspire his students to victory.



St. Patrick's Girls Curling Team Competes at OFSAA

Members of the St. Patrick's girls curling team represented their school and community at the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA) championship at the Sarnia Golf and Curling Club in March. While the team finished with a 1-3 record, their dedication and performance on home ice was remarkable. Coaches praised the athletes for their commitment, perseverance and pride in representing St. Patrick's and the Sarnia community, setting a high standard for future teams.

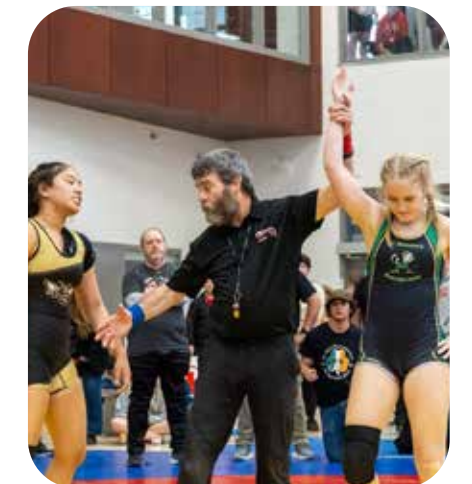


UCC and St. Patrick's Wrestlers Excel at SWOSSAA and OFSAA

St. Clair Catholic wrestlers delivered strong performances at the SWOSSAA Wrestling Championships in February at Lambton College. St. Patrick's earned second place overall and captured the boys' division title.

Thirteen UCC athletes qualified for SWOSSAA after strong showings at LKSSAA, with five advancing to the OFSAA Wrestling Championships in Kitchener in March.

St. Patrick's placed 28th in the boys' division, 51st in the girls' division and 23rd overall at OFSAA. The season highlighted the skill, perseverance and teamwork of both Catholic secondary school wrestling programs.





Jen Morrow Appointed Superintendent of Education



Jen Morrow was appointed Superintendent of Education, effective April 1, 2025. Ms. Morrow brings more than 20 years of experience in Catholic education, including roles as System Principal of Special Education, elementary school principal, vice principal and System Program Resource Consultant.

Her work has focused on supporting students' academic, social and well-being needs, including leading programs such as Project Search, which assists students with special education needs in transitioning to competitive employment.

Ms. Morrow holds a Master of Education degree, a Supervisory Officer's Certificate and specialist qualifications in Special Education and Religious Education.

Passing the Torch - Remembering Pope Francis and Celebrating Pope Leo XIV

St. Clair Catholic observed the passing of Pope Francis on Easter Monday, honoring his life of humble service, compassion and leadership. Flags at all schools and offices were lowered to half-mast, as students engaged in reflection and prayer to remember his legacy. His papacy inspired communities to live out faith through service, justice and hope, values that continue to guide Catholic education.



In May, the historic election of the Church's first U.S.-born pope was celebrated in Vatican City and around the world. Pope Leo XIV, formerly Robert Cardinal Prevost, was proclaimed the leader of the Catholic Church. It was a momentous and deeply personal occasion for Catholics across the globe, including the students, staff and families of St. Clair Catholic. The election of a new pope brings a sense of joy, renewal and connection to the wider Church, marking an important milestone in the faith journey of our Catholic communities.



Marie Clark Honoured as Champion of Inclusion

In April, Marie Clark, a Grade 5/6 teacher at St. Angela Merici Catholic School in Chatham, was recognized as a Champion of Inclusion at the Coaching to Inclusion conference. This provincial award highlights her dedication to ensuring that every student feels valued, supported and included.

Coaching to Inclusion celebrates educators across southwestern Ontario who model and advance inclusive practices. Marie's work exemplified these values, making a meaningful impact on students, staff and the broader school community. She was formally recognized at the conference alongside other champions of inclusion from the region.

St. Clair Catholic Welcomes Father Chris Pietraszko as Board Chaplain

In May, St. Clair Catholic welcomed Father Chris Pietraszko to the role of Board Chaplain. Since joining the Kent-Lambton Roman Catholic Family of Parishes in July 2023, Father Chris has embraced his pastoral placement with joy. His involvement in our Faith Day, school pep rallies and system celebrations brings energy and enthusiasm to every event.

Father Chris supports the spirit of Catholic education in meaningful ways, celebrating the unique gifts each person brings to our community. He comes from a family of educators and understands how important our Catholic schools are in the lives of young people. We are truly blessed to welcome Father Chris in this new role. His deep faith, his pastoral wisdom and his love for our students will continue to enrich our schools in powerful ways.

The Board also wishes to thank Father John Jasica for his years of faithful service as Board Chaplain. His steady guidance and generous spirit have been a gift to our community.



(L-R) Lisa Demers, Director of Education; Father Chris Pietraszko, Board Chaplain; and John Van Heck, Chair of the Board.



A Fond Farewell to Georges P. Vanier and St. Ursula Catholic Schools

In June, Georges P. Vanier and St. Ursula Catholic schools celebrated their final end-of-school-year play days before closing their doors for the last time.

Each school hosted a celebratory Mass to give thanks for the many years of learning, growth and faith-formation their schools and communities provided. Following Mass, the schools came alive with activity as parents and community members joined the celebrations. Hallways and classrooms were filled with memorabilia and historical displays, inviting attendees to journey through the schools' rich histories. Old yearbooks, photographs, trophies and awards provided a poignant reminder of each school's enduring legacy.

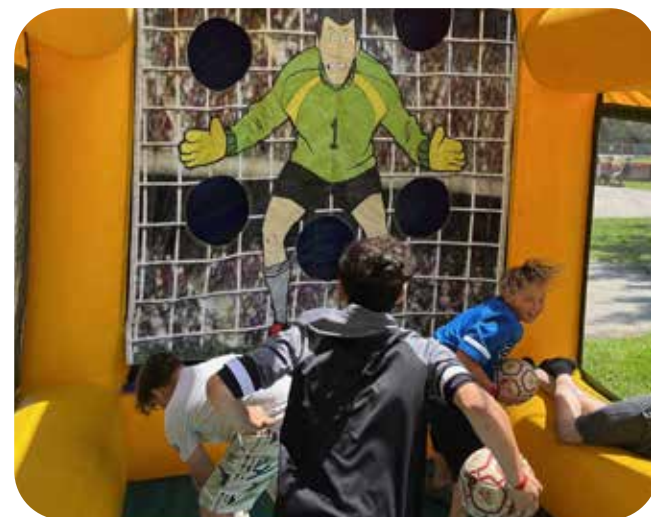
In September, the communities came together as St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School, marking the beginning of a new chapter filled with hope and promise.



Georges P. Vanier Celebration



St. Ursula Celebration



Sacred Heart Says Goodbye with an Open House and School Closing Celebration

It was a homecoming to remember at Sacred Heart Catholic School in Sarnia, as more than 500 former students, staff and families gathered at the school's location on LeCaron Avenue for the Open House & School Closing Celebration. The halls were flooded with visitors eager to revisit their classrooms and reconnect with old friends. Yearbooks, photos and jerseys from decades past lined the walls, creating a powerful walk down memory lane that brought back laughter, hugs and even a few happy tears.

The gym came alive with the energy of celebration. Photo booths, memorabilia and displays offered guests a chance to reflect, take pictures and relive treasured memories. One former student made the trip from Vancouver to attend, while other alumni from the 1950s marveled at how much the school had grown since their time at Sacred Heart.

The community committed to carrying its pride, love and the unwavering spirit of the 49ers into its next chapter, as it relocated to the new school on Hogan Drive.





Investing in Catholic Education

*Responsible, Ethical & Wise
Use of Taxpayer Dollars*





St. Clair Catholic Approves Balanced \$154.8 Million Budget for 2025-2026

The Board of Trustees has approved a balanced \$154.8 million budget for the 2025-2026 school year, reflecting St. Clair Catholic’s continued commitment to thoughtful stewardship of public funds and strategic investment in the priorities that matter most: student well-being, academic achievement and Catholic faith formation.

The financial plan emphasizes long-term planning and measurable impact, including new staff positions to enhance mental health and wellness, increased support in mathematics and additional resources for faith formation across the system. The budget balances current priorities with future opportunities, and features strategic investments in academics, well-being and faith, to ensure a strong, sustainable future for the entire system.

Key highlights of the 2025-2026 budget include:

- The addition of 6.0 FTE new staff positions focused on wellness and student support
- Strengthened resources for math achievement and professional development
- Increased support for Catholic identity and spiritual development
- Ongoing maintenance and renewal of school facilities
- Proactive planning based on enrollment trends and community needs

Aligned with the Board’s multi-year strategic plan, the budget prioritizes academic excellence, well-being, equity and Catholic citizenship. St. Clair Catholic remains committed to transparency and sustainability, directing resources where they matter most—in classrooms and student success.



Board Presents 2024-2028 Long-Term Capital Plan

An update on St. Clair Catholic’s Long-Term Capital Plan, including planning for future Board capital initiatives, was presented to the Board of Trustees in September.

St. Clair Catholic’s Long-Term Capital Plan provides information regarding the Board’s future capital needs and accommodation strategies, serving as a framework for decision-making. The report outlines specific data related to enrollment trends, facility conditions and strategies for future student accommodation. Community partners are invited to submit relevant information in the creation of the plan and to attend the Board meeting, to learn the details of the plan as it is presented.

The Long-Term Capital Plan outlines key activities that will take place during the 2024-2025 school year, subject to funding approvals and Pupil Accommodation Review decisions by the Board of Trustees. These include completing major renovations, planning for future new schools and additions, and when necessary, addressing enrollment pressures.

Highlights for the 2024-2025 Budget Year:

SARNIA

- Complete Renovation and Gymnasium Addition of the new Sacred Heart Sarnia (Hogan Drive)
- Review portable accommodation needs for planning area

LAMBTON COUNTY

- Submit land priorities funding application for St. John Fisher
- Submit business case and capital funding application for addition at St. John Fisher
- Review portable accommodation needs for planning area

LAMBTON COUNTY – ST. PATRICK’S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

- Investigate potential solutions to address accommodation pressures at St. Patrick’s Catholic High School

WALLACEBURG

- Complete the renovation of Sacred Heart, Port Lambton
- Remove portable from Sacred Heart, Port Lambton
- Review portable accommodation needs for planning area

CHATHAM

- Open St. Teresa of Calcutta
- Review portable accommodation needs for planning area

KENT COUNTY

- Submit business case and capital funding application for classroom addition at St. Anne, Blenheim
- Review portable accommodation needs for planning area

KENT COUNTY – URSULINE COLLEGE, CHATHAM

- Submit business case and capital funding application for Ursuline College Replacement School
- Submit land priorities application for Ursuline College Replacement School
- Purchase land for Ursuline College Replacement School



\$6.7 Million Upgrade Approved for New Sacred Heart Sarnia

In April 2024, the Board received Ministry of Education Approval to Proceed (ATP) with the gym expansion and interior renovations at the former Gregory A. Hogan site. The property on Hogan Drive, is the new home of the Sacred Heart Sarnia Catholic School community, as of September 2025.

The ATP permits the Board to use Proceeds of Disposition, Accumulated Surplus and School Renewal Allocation funding to complete the work.

The approved scope of funding included:

- Removal of the existing gymnasium and stage area and replace with a new 3,634 sq. ft. gym and stage area;
- Retrofit 4,886 sq. ft. of interior space.

The contract was awarded to Wellington Builders of Forest.



An additional \$2.59 million in capital project funding was approved by the Board for gym renovations at St. Patrick’s Catholic High School and asphalt and yard improvements at Sacred Heart, Sarnia, for completion during the 2024-2025 school year.

Sacred Heart Port Lambton Celebrates Completion of Major School Renovation

The Sacred Heart Catholic School community in Port Lambton celebrated the completion of Phase 2 of an extensive renovation project, a significant milestone in the school’s ongoing growth and modernization. The project included both interior and exterior upgrades.

Improvements include a redesigned front entrance with a new vestibule, a fully renovated main office and a transformed gymnasium, featuring a drop-down stage, new flooring and upgraded basketball nets. The library, staff room and three additional classrooms have received new windows, flooring, millwork and a fresh coat of paint. The renovation included the introduction of a new universal washroom along with upgrades to the existing accessible washroom.

Exterior renovations included brickwork, additional insulation to the front and rear of the school, roof repairs and sealing and painting around the gymnasium. The back play area was expanded and resurfaced, providing students with more space for outdoor activities.

The project was funded through the Board’s renewal capital funding allocation, with a total of \$4,570,000 to support this phase of the school’s growth and modernization.



50/50 Raffles Support St. Clair District Catholic Education Foundation

The St. Clair District Catholic Education Foundation hosted three 50/50 raffles during the 2024-2025 school year, generating a combined jackpot total of \$43,475. Half of the proceeds were awarded to the raffle winners, while the remaining funds were directed toward strengthening Catholic education across the district.

Proceeds from the raffles went to supporting two key initiatives: the development of a state-of-the-art track and field facility at St. Patrick's Catholic High School in Sarnia and assistance for local Catholic elementary schools in their ongoing fundraising efforts towards enhancing student learning experiences.

The final raffle of the school year introduced an exciting new feature which allowed participants to choose a specific school or all St. Clair Catholic schools to receive a portion of proceeds from their ticket purchases. This new option resulted in greater engagement across the system, increasing ticket sales and the size of the jackpot.

Since the Foundation launched the 50/50 draws in March 2022, the jackpot total has reached \$194,000, with half of the proceeds - \$97,000 - being paid out in prizes and the remainder, less fees and advertising, going to support school fundraising initiatives.



Board Completes Sale of Former Sacred Heart Sarnia Property

In August, the Board of Trustees approved the sale of the former Sacred Heart Catholic School on Lecaron Avenue in Sarnia for \$2.2 million.

The building and property were declared surplus in 2024 and the disposition process was initiated, in compliance with Ontario Regulation 374/23 - Acquisition and Disposition of Real Property. Buckingham Realty in Windsor was engaged to list the property in August 2025, with two open houses being held. Gold Leaf Properties Inc., which specializes in providing high-end, luxury senior living throughout southwestern Ontario submitted the highest bid.

The sale completes a two-stage series of moves involving the Sacred Heart and Gregory A. Hogan Catholic school communities. The Sacred Heart building on Lecaron closed in June 2025; and in September, the school community relocated to the newly refurbished facility on Hogan Drive. It was the former site of Gregory A. Hogan, which closed in March 2024, when staff and students relocated to their new school on The Rapids Parkway.

Christmas in Muskoka Funds Continue to Enhance Student Learning and Play

Though the much-loved Christmas in Muskoka event has concluded, its impact continues to benefit students across Chatham-Kent. Over nine years, the initiative raised \$800,000, to support more than 3,500 Grade 7 students in leadership experiences at Muskoka Woods camp. Remaining funds have been invested in meaningful school projects, including playground upgrades at Holy Family, Monsignor Uyen, St. Angela Merici and St. Anne Blenheim, as well as new collaborative and eLearning spaces at UCC. These enhancements provide students with enriched opportunities for learning, creativity and physical activity, reflecting the enduring generosity and community spirit that characterized the Christmas in Muskoka tradition.



OF SCHOOLS...

24

22

Elementary

2

Secondary



St. Clair Catholic
District School Board

By the Numbers

1724
Employees

578
Classroom
Teachers

37
Principals
& Vice
Principals

(AS OF MARCH 2025)

OF STUDENTS...

9248

6505
Elementary

2743
Secondary



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Director of Education



Amy Park
Associate Director - Corporate Services & Treasurer



Michelle Sawa
Superintendent of Education



Jennifer Morrow
Superintendent of Education



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2023-2025



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Appointed
May 2025



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Student Trustee



Layla Hashim
Student Trustee



St. Clair Catholic
District School Board

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