



June 27, 2021

Dear WCDSB Community,

We hope that this communication finds you well. After two successive springs in which we could not end our school year as we might wish due to the pandemic, it has been a very joyous May and June in our school communities. We have had the ability to mark some of our significant milestones in a manner that is more typical, and certainly that allows for a more celebratory atmosphere. We have been so thrilled to see the return of sacraments being celebrated in our school-parish communities, we were pleased to see Catholic education week activities, we have seen spring athletic competitions and artistic undertakings and of course, perhaps most significant of all - the return of in-person graduations.

While we have certainly learned over the course of this pandemic to never say “never”, we remain very hopeful of a traditional beginning to the new school year. And while none of us can be faulted for desiring that reality, I do want to take a moment to celebrate all that we accomplished over the course of this school year, despite the challenges of the time. Our pastoral plan grounded us in the theme “*Sent to Build*” referencing our desire to build the kingdom of God with everyone in our community that we “*called to belong*” and who we *gathered* through the eucharist *to become*. Our theme was reflected in the bridge, which was an apt symbol reflecting the power of Christ’s love for all, and also for the tremendous work done under the auspices of equity. We are proud of our gains and remain open to the further work to be done. We are thrilled to have the results of our staff census and our first student census to help guide us in this regard and WCDSB stands poised to develop a new strategic plan in the fall.

Thank you for entrusting your children to Waterloo Catholic. We are proud of the strong school communities we have nurtured and all that we accomplish in those schools each and every day. This will likely be my last letter as Director of Education. I have announced my intent to retire and a new Director will be named in mid to late August. We know that person will lead a vibrant and evolving system, with leadership that is strong and committed.

We wish everyone a safe summer, that provides an opportunity to rest and refresh. May God continue to bless your journey and may we be worthy of our mission statement, nurturing those students entrusted to us to transform God’s world.

Sincerely,

Loretta Notten
Director of Education

