



Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board

MEDIA RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

French Immersion expands to Lakeshore

Dual track program to be offered at Belle River elementary school

(Windsor, Ontario, January 13, 2016) – Parents in the Lakeshore area who wish to enroll their children in French Immersion programs have another option available now that the WECDSB will provide education in both of Canada’s official languages at St. John the Baptist Catholic Elementary School in Belle River.

Dual-track French Immersion at the school will be offered beginning this fall. Students enrolled in English instruction will continue in their regular classes at the school, while French Immersion will be offered for students in JK – Grade 1. The program will be offered for Grade 2 students if there is enough interest to warrant further expansion.

“There is a tremendous amount of demand for French Immersion in this area of the county, and I’m especially pleased that we are now able to offer it to our students in a Catholic school setting,” said Trustee Lisa Soulliere, who represents the Belle River area.

The new program brings to seven the number of schools throughout the WECDSB that offer French Immersion. The most recent additions were at St. André French Immersion Catholic Elementary School in Tecumseh, which opened last fall with single track French Immersion for students in JK – Grade 2; and at St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School in River Canard, which also launched a dual track French Immersion program last September.

“We are currently running top-quality programs at other schools and based on our success there, we are well-positioned to expand French Immersion at this new location,” said Board Chair Barbara Holland.

Director of Education Paul Picard expects the program will expand rapidly.

“The historical roots of the French community run very deep in that area of the county and we have an important role to play by offering French instruction and promoting bilingualism there,” he said.

An information night for interested parents will be held at the school on Jan. 27 at 7 p.m.

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