

Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board

MEDIA RELEASE



1325 California Ave, Windsor, Ontario N9B 3Y6 ph: (519) 253-2481 fax: (519) 253-0620

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 19, 2015

French Immersion gets green light

Final approval granted for St. Joseph and former St. Gregory site

(Windsor, Ontario, January 19, 2015) – C'est officiel: French Immersion programs are going ahead at two new sites this fall.

At a special meeting tonight, Trustees of the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board approved a recommendation to establish French Immersion programs in September of 2015 at St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School in River Canard, and at the former St. Gregory Catholic Elementary School site in Tecumseh.

At its last regular meeting of 2014, the Board approved expansion of the programs in principle, but at tonight's meeting, it confirmed the plans would proceed by approving a comprehensive report which detailed the estimated costs of adding French Immersion at the two schools, the estimated revenue it would generate, as well as details about the boundaries for both schools.

"This is very exciting news for both of these communities," said Board Chair Barbara Holland. "Now that we've approved this plan, parents who want French Immersion will be able to enroll their children in both of these schools when kindergarten registration begins on Feb. 9."

The recommendation calls for phased-in, single track French Immersion at the former St. Gregory site, with dual track French Immersion at St. Joseph, meaning those parents who wish for their children to remain in their English programs there can still do so.

Both schools will offer French Immersion for junior and senior kindergarten and Grade 1, with new grades being added each subsequent year. If there is sufficient interest, Grade 2 may also be available this fall.

"We're confident that the programs at these schools are going to grow very rapidly based on the expressions of interest we've had from both communities," said Director of Education Paul Picard.

The approval brings to six the number of WECDSB elementary schools in which French Immersion will be offered. It currently has four elementary sites in operation – St. Mary in Maidstone, Queen of Peace in Leamington, St. Anne in Windsor's Walkerville district, and Christ the King in South Windsor – with two of them rapidly nearing capacity.

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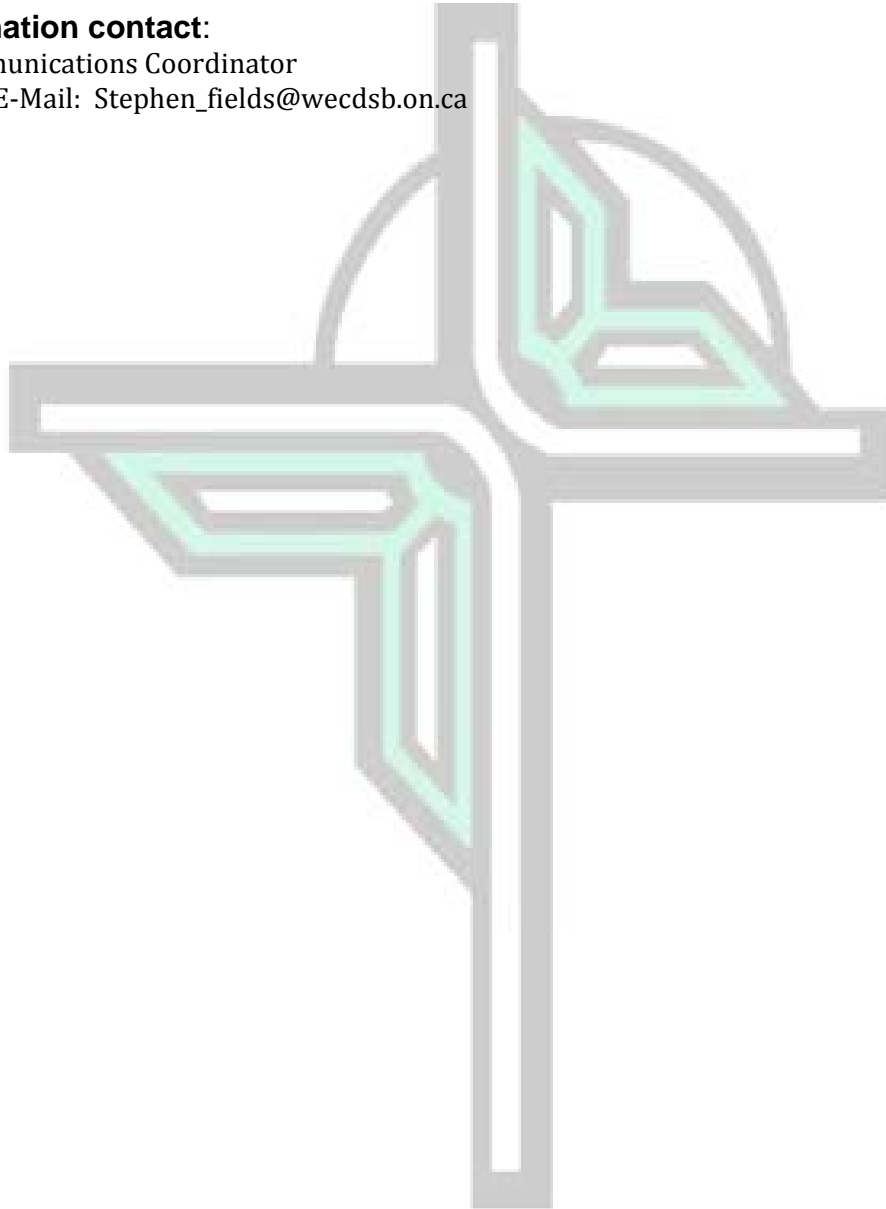
Information nights to provide more details about the programs will be held on **Jan. 21 at 6 p.m.** at the Tecumseh Library, 13675 St. Gregory's Road, and on **Jan. 22 at 6 p.m.** at St. Joseph Catholic Elementary school, 9381 Townline Road, River Canard.

Kindergarten registration runs from Feb. 9-20, with open houses at all elementary schools scheduled for 5-7 pm on Feb.11. Parents interested in registering their children at St. Joseph should call the school at **519-734-1219**. Those interested in registering at the former St. Gregory site should call **Elisa Houston at 519-253-2481 ext. 1114**.

For further information contact:

Stephen Fields, Communications Coordinator

Cell: 226-347-0113, E-Mail: Stephen_fields@wecdsb.on.ca



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