



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Elise Daragon named Principal of the Year**

*St. Bernard/St. Jules administrator honoured by CPCO*

(Windsor, Ontario, Monday, February 22, 2016) – An educator with 35 years experience, and always known to make student success her top priority, has been named Principal of the Year for the western region of the Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO).

Elise Daragon, who is currently the principal at both St. Bernard and St. Jules Catholic Elementary Schools in Windsor, will accept the award with her family on April 22 in Toronto at CPCO's gala dinner.

"She is a mentor for many and always willing to support others," said Kelly Anne Power, president of the Windsor-Essex Principal Vice-Principal Association (WEPVPA). "She is an outstanding leader in her school and her community."

Daragon began her career as an occasional teacher with the former Windsor Separate School Board in 1979. She became full-time in 1982 and has taught at all levels from Grades 1-8 throughout her extensive career. Prior to becoming a principal, she worked as a literacy/numeracy curriculum consultant. She has been a principal for eight years, with terms at St. Jules, St. John Vianney, Our Lady of Lourdes, and St. Bernard Catholic Elementary Schools.

A member of the steering committee for the Board's principal and vice-principal mentoring program, she has also been involved in early reading, early math, junior literacy, and junior numeracy committees, while promoting student nutrition and active living. As a member of the Parish of St. Paul, she has been involved in various ministries for the past 25 years.

Besides being an outstanding leader and mentor, Daragon received numerous nominations from her colleagues because of her indisputable commitment to student success, Power said.

"Her mornings consistently begin with walkabouts through the school to let her students know that each one of them is important to her," Power said. "One of her practices is to add a personalized comment to each and every report card."

Daragon has been married for 33 years and is the mother of four children – three of whom have followed her



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footsteps into education.

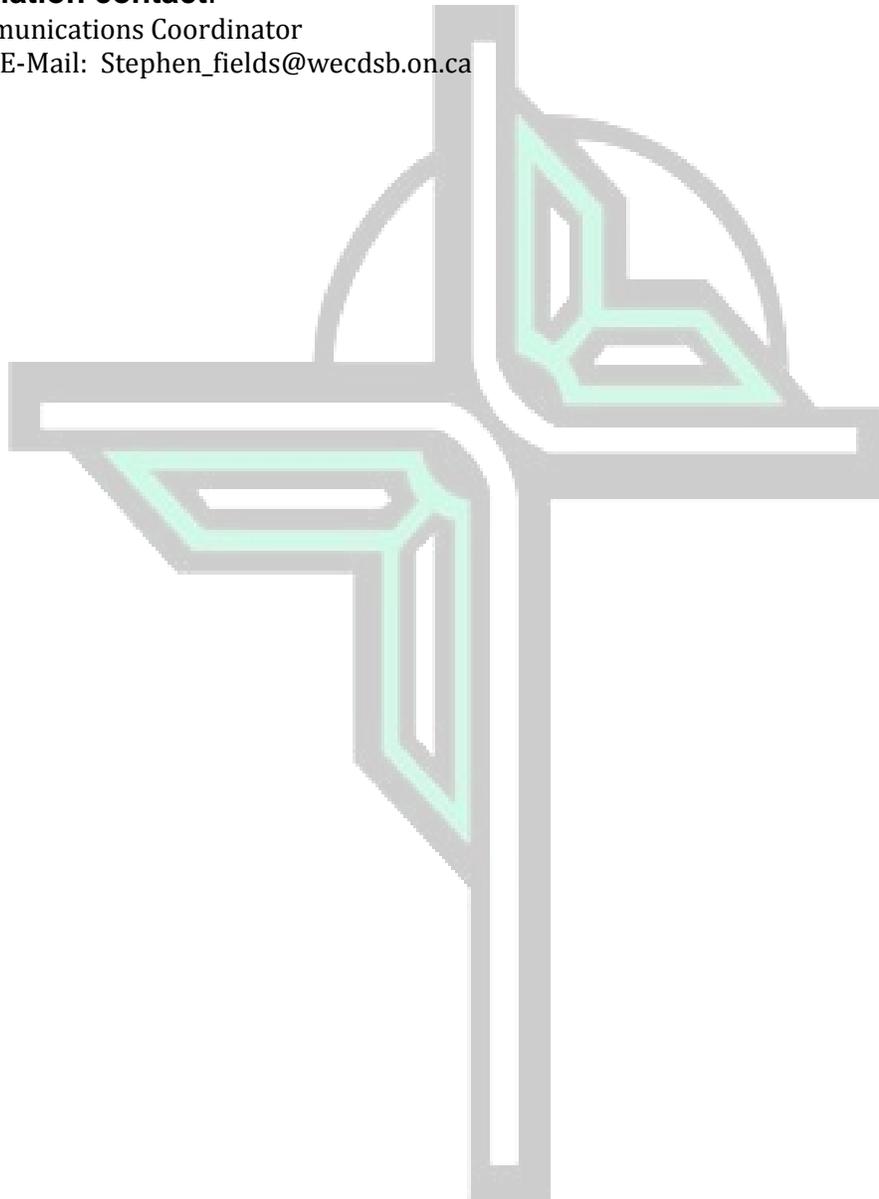
Director of Education Paul Picard joined Power in congratulating Daragon.

“Elise has always been one of our most dynamic leaders and is totally deserving of this honour,” he said. “She has always improved student achievement where ever she has been and has always been embraced by the communities of the schools she has led.”

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