

October 2018

To whom it may concern:

We are writing on behalf of the students, staff and Trustees of Waterloo Region's Catholic schools in recognition of the strong and ongoing partnership our school has enjoyed with WE – and to offer our sincere thanks and appreciation for all WE has done for our students over many, many years.

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board has been a strong supporter of WE since the earliest days of the organization, *Free The Children*. But our relationship became even more firmly rooted in 2011, when Waterloo Region became just the 4th community to host a WE Day. Since then, the relationship between WCDSB and WE has grown even stronger, with a significant number of staff and students involved in WE and Me to We projects locally, provincially, nationally and internationally.

WE helps our school system achieve its vision of being “Heart of the Community”, offering “Success for Each” and creating “A Place for All”. This, in turn, helps ensure our students meet the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations. The board is particularly impressed by the resources provided by WE to support not just the standard Ontario school curriculum, but also the school curriculum provided through a Catholic lens under the guidance of our Bishops. The curriculum and the PD provided to educators to support the curriculum each contain very high added value and, as such, provide benefits to our students well beyond the classroom. The learning materials that have been provided to our schools are free of charge, as are the yearly “Impact Reports” we receive, that help us reflect to our students and the broader community the transformation happening in our schools. It is also notable that the “WE” branding is limited and primarily viewed by teachers, and in all cases remains largely symbolic of the altruistic, relational philosophy behind the learning and the work.

We have all seen this up close, and very personally – both within our schools and via our own experiences working with WE internationally. Our secondary schools are now embarking in Service Learning for Credit programs which include the opportunity to be immersed in a global community and witness first hand the impact of their work and the WE Village model. Words cannot convey the impact for students when they are able to gain a deep appreciation for what it means to be a truly empowered and connected global citizen.

It is therefore without hesitation that we offer WCDSB's continued full support for WE and its change-making efforts here in Canada and around the world.



As newly canonized St. Oscar Romero so eloquently said:

“We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities. We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own”.

This is the work of Waterloo Region’s Catholic schools, the work of Catholic education in Ontario, and the work of WE.

And for that, we thank you.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

Loretta Notten
Director of Education

Dan Witt
Principal, International Education

Lisa Mackay
Vice-Principal, Monsignor Doyle CSS

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