

## **MEDIA RELEASE:** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## *ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN WELLNESS CONFERENCES*

Giving students a voice in promoting mental health and wellbeing in their schools is the theme of two Student Wellness Conferences, scheduled for this month.

"Our students have an important role to play in helping to make our schools places of wellness," says Deb Crawford, Superintendent of Education for the St. Clair Catholic District School Board. "We want to hear from them as we develop ways in which to promote wellness and healthy living in our schools."

Two Wellness Conferences – one for secondary students and another for elementary students – will be held this month. Both events will feature former St. Christopher Catholic Secondary School graduate Dan Edwards, who suffered a spinal cord injury, which left him paralyzed. Edwards is a motivational speaker, whose profound message for students is that the world is filled with opportunities to help make a difference in the lives of other people.

In addition, a representative from *UNITY Charity* will participate in the days' events. *UNITY Charity* engages and empowers youth to be role models and leaders in their communities. The organization works with young people to implement school and community programs, which help them to positively express their feelings and develop skills for success, leading to safer schools and healthier communities.

"Throughout the day, our students will provide thoughts on wellbeing and then create an action plan for their schools," says Christine Preece, Mental Health Lead for St. Clair Catholic and organizer of the day's events. "We are excited to hear what they have to say!"

The St. Clair Catholic Student Wellness Conferences will be held:

- Secondary Students Thursday, October 13, Sacred Heart Church Hall, John Street, Port Lambton from 9:00 a.m. until 1:15 p.m.
- Elementary Students Thursday, October 27, Sacred Heart Church Hall, John Street, Port Lambton from 9:45 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

Members of the media are welcome.