



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey

MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Catholic Education Centre
420 Creek Street
Wallaceburg, ON N8A 4C4
Telephone: (519) 627-6762
Facsimile: (519) 627-8230
Website: www.st-clair.net

Director of Education
Dan Parr
519-627-6762, ext. 241
E-mail: media@st-clair.net

Chair of the Board
Carol Bryden
519-627-8976

*For further information regarding
this release, please contact:*

**St. John Fisher Catholic
School**
Steve DeGurse, Principal
519-786-5201

**Supervisor –
Communications and
Community Relations**
Todd Lozon
519-627-6762 Ext. 243
E-mail:
todd.lozon@st-clair.net

STUDENT FORUM TO PROVIDE INPUT INTO DEVELOPMENT OF ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC'S ANNUAL ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

Students from across the district will gather at Holy Family Catholic School in Wallaceburg tomorrow to provide input into the development of the St. Clair Catholic District School Board's Annual Accessibility Plan.

The plan is reviewed annually, as required by the *Ontarians with Disabilities Act*. The purpose of the review is look for ways to improve opportunities for persons with disabilities. The act also provides for their involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers. Each school board in the province must prepare an Annual Accessibility Plan, in consultation with disabled persons.

As part of the review, the St. Clair Catholic District School Board will host a *Student Forum*, at which students will be invited to provide information on various aspects of accessibility within their school settings. They will be asked to provide recommendations, which will help to make the Board more accessible to all students.

The guest speaker at this year's Student Forum will be D.J. Cunningham, who is CEO of *LEARNstyle Ltd.*, a company which seeks to empower all types of learners and to improve the educational opportunities through the use of technology. Mr. Cunningham was diagnosed with a learning disability in Grade 4.

"D.J.'s personal story is powerful," says Steve DeGurse, Principal of St. John Fisher Catholic School in Forest and Chair of the Working Group for the Annual Accessibility Plan. "We look forward to having him share his journey and the story of his ultimate success with our students."

"This student consultation is an important step in the development of our annual plan," says Dan Parr, Director of Education. "We look forward to the valuable input our students will provide."

The Student Forum will be held from 10:00 a.m. until 12:45 p.m. on Thursday, March 12, 2015 at Holy Family Catholic School, 649 Murray Street, Wallaceburg. Members of the media are welcome.