



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Thursday, June 28th, 2018

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians:

The Niagara Catholic District School Board continues to be aware of the important value that St. Elizabeth Catholic Elementary School has in serving the Catholic community of Wainfleet and its surrounding communities. This letter is an update to our March 1st, 2018 letter to all families of St. Elizabeth Catholic Elementary School from Superintendents Baldasaro and Farrell regarding the application to the Ministry of Education for a joint application for seed funding with the District School Board of Niagara.

As shared at the public consultation meeting held on February 15th, 2018, staff provided those in attendance with historical and future enrolment projections, an opportunity for input and feedback on the school and a potential application for a joint-use elementary school in Wainfleet. The engagement of the St. Elizabeth Catholic community is part of the Board's Long Term Accommodation Plan 2016-2021 which is in compliance with the Ministry of Education's Pupil Accommodations Review Guidelines and the Board's Policy on Pupil Accommodation Reviews.

Through your input and feedback, the Board approved an application to the Ministry of Education for joint-use school seed funding at the February 27th, 2018 Board Meeting. On April 24th, 2018 we received confirmation from the Ministry of Education that our joint-use seed funding application had been approved.

Staff has engaged an economic consulting firm which provides demographic analysis and projections which will continue to inform our planning and engagement process. As our team finalizes the information provided from our consultant and the input and feedback received on February 15th, 2018, our plan is to invite all families of the St. Elizabeth Catholic community to an information meeting in the fall of this year. This meeting will provide an opportunity to continue the dialogue and engagement of the St. Elizabeth Catholic Elementary School community to be included as part of a report to the Board for its consideration of the option of pursuing a joint-use school in Wainfleet.

We continue to monitor enrolment and the demographic information of the Region of Niagara which continues to be affected by birth-rates, migration and the economy, all of which directly impacts school enrolment. Changes in enrolment at St. Elizabeth Catholic Elementary School have directly impacted the organization of classes for 2018-2019, which may require future adjustments to comply with Ministry of Education class size aggregates.

As we work through the joint-use school process, we will continue to engage and inform the St. Elizabeth Catholic Elementary School community. We ask for your continued assistance to invite English Catholic students to enroll in St. Elizabeth Catholic Elementary School for September 2018.

Thank you for your continued support of Catholic education in the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Have a safe and enjoyable summer and we look forward to the 2018-2019 school year and our continued journey in Catholic education.

Sincerely

John Crocco
Director of Education

Yolanda Baldasaro
Superintendent of Education

Ted Farrell
Superintendent of Education