

DECEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

Superintendent: I. Fortino

Trustees: M. Nardini & P. DiFrancesco

Pastor: Fr. Mariusz Durbajlo

Principal: C. Martino

Principal Assistant: A. Gris

Secretary: D. Simpson

Assoc. Pastor: Rev Mike Downey

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Advent Prayer

Loving God, send Your Spirit of peace upon us as we wait and listen. We long to hear Your voice, we yearn for Your grace. Like Mary, give us hearts of patient expectation, give us hearts full of faith and wonder, give us hearts made glad with joy and hope. Teach us to listen for Your voice, In the wisdom of the elderly and cry of the newborn, in the poor and the outcast, In the students in our care and their families, in our colleagues and in our families.

May this Advent season be a time of patience and peace. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, our hope and our home.

Student Prayer

**Jesus, you are light even in the darkest places.
Help us to trust in you when we are lost or lonely.
Shine hope into our hearts we pray.
Amen.**



I would like to thank all families who were able to meet with their child/ren's teacher at our initial Parent/Teacher conference session. Early communication between classroom teachers and parents assists in supporting the learning of your child/ren. Please note that at any time, parents can arrange to meet with the teacher to discuss the progress of their children. I highly encourage regular communication to ensure that you remain informed of progress on a regular basis. Kindly note, that when the first term report card arrives home on **February 17th, 2015**, you may also arrange to meet with your child/ren's teacher to continue the discussion in the best interest of your child.

Advent is such a special time for all of us. It is the time to prepare our hearts and our minds, to cleanse and to renew our faith and our commitment to God. Take time to pray as a family and light the Advent Candle each week as a family.

The staff and students of St. Clare School will enter into the spirit of Advent by preparing to help those in the community who require our assistance. As a school community we have many special activities planned for the season of Advent; we know that small acts of kindness can have a big impact and can help to make a difference in the lives of others. These special activities also help to remind us of the true meaning of Christmas. Check the Parish bulletin for all Advent & Christmas Schedules.

We hope that you can participate in some of the activities listed:

Christmas Tree of Warmth (November 30th - December 11th)

Students are asked to provide new mittens, hats and scarves to be provided to schools in need within our school board.



Christmas Hampers (November 30th - December 4th)

In our continuing effort to reach out into our community during these difficult times, St. Clare School will be sponsoring a Christmas hamper drive. Classes, with the assistance of all members of our community, will prepare hampers for families from Elementary Schools in our school board and St. Francis Xavier Parish. The \$5.00 collected from each student will be spent purchasing toys and clothes for the families in need. Please send all monetary donations to the school by **Friday December 4th** or you may also pay online which is our preferred method of payment.

Thank you in advance for your generous support of our Christmas hamper drive. Our committed and generous Catholic School Council and with all our families and staff will be supporting 8 families this year for Christmas. Your generosity and kindness will go a long way to help others. May God Bless you!

The following items are needed to complete these hampers:

Cereal, juice, brown beans, peas, vegetables, chicken noodle or tomato soup, mixed vegetables, peas, corn, canned spaghetti, pasta sauce, pasta, tuna, salmon, cake mix, Jello, canned peaches, pears or pineapple, tea, cookies, candies, Kraft dinner, Christmas cake, etc. YOUR SUPPORT IN THIS ENDEAVOUR IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Pope Francis is calling us to be a light to all people. The Holy Year of Mercy is scheduled for **Dec. 8, 2015, to Nov. 20, 2016.** He asks that we open our hearts and our minds and become merciful people. We pray for Pope Francis and all his good works. May God continue to bless Our Holy Father with health, his passion, goodness and faith. Pope Francis is an inspiration to all of us. He fills our hearts with hope.

Weekly Advent Prayer Service

Our students will be involved in a weekly Advent Service which will be held in the gym starting on **Monday November 30th at 10:00am** Please check the school calendar for other dates.

School Advent Mass

Our school Advent Mass will take place at St. Clare of Assisi School at **9:30 am on Tuesday, December 15th**, at the Church. All members of our community are welcome to join us in appropriately recognizing the reason for this wonderful season for the Advent ceremonies and the mass. During this Mass we will light the Candle for Advent.

ADVENT CRAFT NIGHT

On **Wednesday December 9th**, our Faith team will lead our families in the creating gingerbread homes. Thank you to all families who have registered. The gingerbread orders needed to be pre-ordered, so attendance is closed. Special thanks to Mrs. Staresina and Mme Noce.



Students and staff will be participating in activities to promote the season. **Students and staff are asked to wear or design an ugly or tacky Christmas Sweater! (no uniform).** Student Council will pick a winner from FDK, the primary division, junior division and intermediate. **The winning Ugly Christmas Sweater, homemade, will win a \$10.00 gift card.** Holidays are a time to be with family and friends, a time to rejoice and give thanks for our many blessings. Warmest wishes of peace and joy go out to you and your family as you celebrate the arrival of the Christ child. May God also grant you peace and happiness in the New Year!

EQAO

The results from the Ministry have just been released. All students will receive their individual report on Reading, Writing and Mathematics. Individual Reports will be coming home on Monday for all students who were in grade 3 or 6 last school year, 2014-2015. The results that have been released are only for the schools and the board. The province has no data, as not all schools wrote due to work stoppage at the time. The students presently in grade 3 and 6 will be writing in the spring of 2016, late May and early June. The staff has carefully looked over our DATA. Our school improvement plan will focus on mathematics.

READING GRADE 3 SCHOOL		READING GRADE 3 BOARD		READING GRADE 6 SCHOOL		READING GRADE 6 BOARD	
LEVEL 1	0	3		0		1	
LEVEL 2	25	21		10		16	
LEVEL 3	60	59		76		69	
LEVEL 4	15	15		15		13	
WRITING GRADE 3 SCHOOL		WRITING GRADE 3 SCHOOL		WRITING GRADE 6 SCHOOL		WRITING GRADE 6 BOARD	
LEVEL 1	0	1		0		2	
LEVEL 2	15	15		12		28	
LEVEL 3	75	65		63		56	
LEVEL 4	10	18		24		12	
MATHEMATICS GRADE 3 SCHOOL		MATHEMATICS GRADE 3 BOARD		MATHEMATICS GRADE 6 SCHOOL		MATHEMATICS GRADE 6 BOARD	
LEVEL 1	5	2		5		13	
LEVEL 2	44	28		35		33	
LEVEL 3	49	56		40		40	
LEVEL 4	2	12		20		12	

SPORTS NEWS!

We had a great season of sports!! Congratulations to the Junior Girls Basketball team who lost in the quarter finals! Thanks to their awesome coaches Mr. Gubekjian and Mr. Ruggiero, teacher support, Mr. Mota. The Senior Girls Basketball team lost in a very tough game to St. Bernadette. The girls were determined and played so well. They held St. Bernedette off and gave a great fight. All the girls should be very proud of making it so far and the great spirit and attitude they demonstrated. Special thanks to Mr. Ruggiero and Mr. Machado. The Junior Boys flag football team had a wonderful season. Special thanks to Mr. Mielko and Mr. Mota. The Senior Boys Flag football team lost in a heartbreaking championship game under the excellent direction of Mr. Kivell. The Junior Girls Flag Football team had a great season under the tremendous leadership of Miss. Scozzari! The Senior Girls Football team, also had an awesome season under the coaching skills of Mr. Pizzuti, Mr. Bracco and Mr. Sawyer. Intramural soccer has begun for our primary division. Special thanks to Mr. Pizzuti! A very big thank you to Mr. Pizzuti, and Mr. Mota for supporting all of our football teams.

CLUB NEWS!!

We have been very busy trying our best to offer many opportunities for our students to keep busy during the lunch hour and to have more opportunities for student voice:

Tuesday: HAT, Healthy Action Team under the direction of Nurse Gail, Mrs. Lancia, Miss Ciotti and Miss Scozzari

Wednesday: Caribou Math under the direction of Mrs. Lancia

Thursday: ROBOTICS 101, under the leadership of Mr. Scheer with the assistance of Mrs. Lancia and Mrs. DiLivio

In January we will be starting the Science Fair Club for any students interested in representing our school at the System Science Fair and a Junior Math Club.

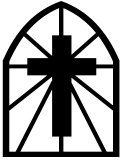


ECO NEWS

Our ECO team will have boomerang lunches every Thursday!! Aim to keep our environment clean, take home all garbage and use reusable containers. **Friday December 4th** will be Turn Down the Temperature Day at school! It will be a little colder in each of the classrooms, so students are permitted to wear a comfortable, warm sweater and uniform pants.

Pope Francis is calling us to be Stewards of this earth and to reduce our footprint! Reduce, Reuse and Recycle!!

PARISH NEWS



Christmas time is upon us and everyone at the parish wishes you all a blessed and Holy Christmas season. Our Schedule of Advent Confession times, and Christmas and New Year's Mass times, is available to everyone on the school website. Please visit the parish website for more daily information regarding happenings within the parish and surrounding community. www.saintfxstoneycreek.com

CONFIRMATION

It is with great pride that we congratulate our Confirmation Class of 2015. The Sacrament of Confirmation was celebrated on Nov. 13th with Bishop Emeritus Anthony Tonnos presiding along with Father Mariusz. We would like to thank the teachers for their dedication and witness to the Catholic faith. Many thanks to the school and parish team for preparing the students for this sacrament. It was a beautiful celebration that marks a new journey in their young Catholic lives. Thank you also to the parents/grandparents for providing the baked goods for the celebration after the Mass. Special thanks to Mrs. Matesa and the ladies of the CWL for setting up and cleaning up after the ceremony. The Grade 7 students would like to thank the Catholic School Council for the beautiful pins they received at their Confirmation. The pins will serve as a reminder of the special gifts that they received. Special thanks to Father Mariusz, Father Mike, Wes Moga, Mrs. Gris and Mr. Pizzuti.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

A special thank you to the St. Clare Community for their outstanding support of the Book Fair. We raised over \$1,092. Which we will continue to use to provide the students of St. Clare with new and exciting resources in the library. Special thanks to our volunteers, the parent council, and all who supported the fair. The money raised will be used to purchase new books for our book room.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS



Please note the following dates: **Friday, December 18th** Last Day of Classes (Regular Dismissal Time)
Monday, December 22nd to January 2nd, 2016 Christmas Break
Monday, January 4th, 2016 Return to school - regular hours

SNOWBALLS AND COLDWEATHER



We will be reminding all students that snowball throwing is **NOT ACCEPTABLE**, as it can lead to injury, especially facial or eye injuries. **Any student who throws a snowball / snow will be suspended from school.** Please discuss safety concerns with your children. We also ask your cooperation in reviewing with your child(ren) the need to be respectful of each other outside on the playground. This includes **not** destroying any snow forts that may be built by other students during recess times in the future (weather permitting). During the cold weather, please ensure that your child wears warmer clothing - hats, gloves, scarves, etc.

All students must have an indoor pair of shoes. The shoes are an important part of the safety for your children. This is to ensure the safety of the students, as floors become slippery when wet. Students should not be in stocking feet as this too poses a safety hazard. Students must also be prepared for an emergency, if the fire alarm goes off, we cannot stop to put on boots. During the cold season, we may shorten the outside recess period due to weather conditions/temperature. However, whenever feasible, we like to give students the opportunity to run freely and play in the open space. We do live in CANADA, so everyone must bundle up and be prepared!

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY



For the safety of your child/ren dealing with a possible school closing situation, it is necessary that the school has an up-to-date emergency phone number. You are also encouraged to listen to the local radio station to get up-to-date weather and school closure/bus cancellation information.

PAY FOR STUDENT ITEMS ONLINE

Parents now have the convenience of paying for school trips, spirit wear, pizza and other items **online!** After registering for *School Cash Online*, you will receive emails notifying you of school trips, events, activities and other items available for purchase online.

How to Register: Visit <http://hwcdsb.schoolcashionline.com> Click "Get Started Today" and enter your information. A confirmation email will be sent to your email. View the email and follow the steps to log into School Cash Online. Find your child / Add additional child. Start viewing items. Any questions or concerns, please contact parenthelp@schoolcashionline.com or 1-866-961-1803. More information will be sent home very soon.

PIZZA

The pizza term is ending on January 11th. Second term starts **Monday, January 18th** and order forms will be sent home the last week of December and forms and payment will be **due by January 8th**. Please register at <http://hwcdsb.schoolcashionline.com> to pay online when you receive your order form.

SCHOOL SAFETY

With the winter weather arriving, so does more traffic in our parking lot. Give yourself ample time to pick up or drop off your child/ren. Please obey signage around the school. With your cooperation we can keep our busy entry and dismissal times even safer for our children. The school bus has priority parking and entrance, please clear the lane ways for the school bus.



TIP OF THE MONTH FOR HEALTHY SCHOOL LUNCHES

December Tip of the Month for Healthy School Lunches Get the kids involved! Kids who help plan and prepare their lunch are more likely to eat it. Work with your children to come up with a weekly lunch plan. Look at the four food groups in Canada's Food Guide and ask your children to name a few items from each food group that they would like to take to school. Aim to have three of the four food groups included in each lunch. Check out: www.eatrightontario.ca

UNITED WAY

In support of United Way, we held a Red, & White Civies Day on Fri., Nov. 27th. Staff and students generously donated \$400.00 to this worthy cause.

MOVE-A-THON

The St. Clare community would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous contributions to this year's very successful Move-a-thon fundraiser. Their support is greatly appreciated!

ANAPHYLAXIS

St. Clare is a place where all children feel safe and have a sense of belonging. To ensure the safety and well-being of all children, please note below important information from Anaphylaxis Canada:

- Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that is rapid in onset and may cause death;
- Signs and symptoms of a severe allergic reaction can occur within minutes of exposure to an allergen (a substance capable of causing an allergic reaction)

- Very small amounts of certain foods can cause severe reactions when eaten. This may happen if a person at risk touches an allergenic substance and then subsequently touches the mouth. Even a very small amount 'hidden' in a food or transferred to a serving utensil has the potential to cause a severe allergic reaction. Direct ingestion of an allergy-causing food poses the greatest risk for people with food allergies.

Cooperation from parent and guardians in adhering to the guidelines below is most appreciated:

- There are students at this school who are allergic to the following foods and items: peanuts / nuts.
- Parents will be advised of allergens specific to a classroom; please avoid bringing these allergens into the designated classroom.
- Reinforce hand washing practices: wash hands before and after eating.
- Remind children not to share or trade food, food utensils, or food containers.
- Please do NOT bring any home-made food products into the school; with permission, non-food items are permitted for various celebrations and special events and activities.

Thank you for your help in keeping all our children safe.

SCIENCE CLUB



This year we will be having a Science Fair Club. This will be a club that meets during lunch hour and/or after school to work on a project for the HWCDSB System Science Fair. The HWCDSB Science Fair will be held on **Saturday, February 27, 2016**. Students interested in joining must commit to meeting, showing the progression of their work, taking suggestions from the teachers and applying them to their completed project. Students chosen will move forward to the System Science Fair and present their project. Students may work with a partner or may work alone on the project.

Please discuss the importance of the Science Fair with your son/daughter and fill in the bottom half of the letter that has been sent home if he/she is interested in participating in the Science Fair this year.

ADVENT MESSAGE

The days are surely coming, says the Lord,

"When I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of David."

(Jeremiah 33:14-16)

The Holy Season of Advent began on Sunday, November 29th. It is a very special time of the year to prepare ourselves spiritually for the celebration of Jesus Christ's birthday at Christmas. Our school will be praying for all families and how God will bless children and parents everywhere so that we will enter into the true spirit of Christmas.

Peace and Joy to all through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.



MOVE-A-THON SPONSORS

The St. Clare community would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous contributions to this year's very successful Move-a-thon fundraiser. Their support is greatly appreciated!

Active Body Clinic
Burlington Arts Museum - Ty Howie
Cavalier Hair
City of Hamilton Tourism & Culture Division - Lee Dantzer
Eduardo Importing
Evolve Chiropractic Wellness Studio
Desantis Crane 3 Service
Dr. Christine A Fioravanti
The Hair Resort
The Hamilton Bulldogs
Nardini's
Oracle Hair
The Oxford Learning Centre
Mary Pearson
RBC @ Lake Ave - Paul Keizer
Right Taxes
Salute Restaurant
Splitsville
Starbucks - Kim Davy
St. Francis Xavier Parish - Wes Moga
Scotiabank - Flavia Mancuso
Stoney Creek Soccer Club
T.K. WoodMar Insurance - Tony Mariani
Toronto Zoo - Ann Harris
Velvet Nails