

JANUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER

Superintendent: I. Fortino Trustees: M. Nardini & P. DiFrancesco Pastor: Rev Mariusz Durbajlo
Principal: C. Martino Principal Assistant: A. Gris Secretary: D. Simpson Assoc. Pastor: Rev Mike Downey

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

*When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem saying,
"Where is the new-born king of the Jews? We saw His star and its rising and have come to do Him homage."*

January is here! Welcome back and we hope everyone had a blessed and very wonderful Christmas with family and friends. Thank you for your generosity, your cards and well wishes during the month of December. We were very touched by the warmth of the Advent season with the support for our Advent Craft Night, the tree of warmth, the food drive and all the Hamper donations. Our visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus was fantastic! Thank you to all the volunteers! This really captures the true meaning of the season and we are truly blessed to have so many generous spirits fill our school community. The staff wishes everyone a very healthy, holy and Happy New Year! The New Year is a blessing from God to each of us. Celebrate your blessings and aim to make this year a very special year.

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Lord, You make all things new
You bring hope alive in our hearts
And cause our Spirits to be born again.

Thank you for this New Year
For all the potential it holds.
Come and kindle in us
A mighty flame
So that in our time, many will see the wonders of God
And live forever to praise Your glorious name.

Amen

IMPORTANT WEATHER ALERT

"O the weather...", We do live in Canada and we do have to expect the cold and the snow during the winter months. Ensure your child comes to school dressed for the elements. Students must come with boots for outside and runners/shoes for inside. Snow pants are a must if students go on the snow hills or make snow angels. **SNOWBALLS are a safety concern and will not be tolerated.** **Students who throw snowballs will be suspended.** The snow is beautiful and there are many other things to do with the snow!

REPORT CARDS



First term will be ending very soon and report cards will be sent home on **February 17th**. Accept each challenge and put forth your very best effort. All students are encouraged to review their strengths and weaknesses with their parents and set goals to achieve academic success. Times are changing and we are living in a very competitive world. Students must learn the value of oral communication, setting goals and striving for personal success. Next steps and priorities must be set as a priority in order to achieve success.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

This year 8 Christmas Hampers were prepared by our school community to assist families in need within our school and our school community. Thank you for your compassion and giving nature. Thank you for your generous support for this endeavour. The amount of canned goods and gifts were overwhelming. All hampers were very well received and the families are so very appreciative of your support and prayers for their well-being. Thank you to the students and staff for their contribution to the Christmas Hampers. Thank you to the families that chose gifts from our tree. These gifts were used for the hampers. We truly appreciate the efforts of the Catholic School Council and parent volunteers for gathering additional donations from the business community and helping to assemble and deliver the hampers.

The Catholic School Council also dedicated a portion of their yearly Charitable Donation Funds to the purchase of gift cards for items for the hampers. We would also like to extend our gratitude to those families who donated gift cards.

A very special thank you to Mrs. Germana-Miller and Mrs. Matesa for all the shopping, organization and making sure all hampers were complete.

CHRISTMAS TREE OF WARMTH

Thank you to the families that donated hats, mitts, & scarves for our Tree of Warmth. Once again, your generosity filled the tree and overflowed into boxes. The articles will be donated to our Equal Opportunity Schools, so that children will have a new hat and mittens for the very cold days.

POSTER CONTEST

Congratulations to Daniela G. and Cecilia R. for their excellent creative work on the poster for the Knights of Columbus Substance, Abuse Awareness Poster Contest. Both girls won for the local event and now their posters are at the District Level.

The Knights will be hosting a Free Throw Basketball Competition on January 23rd at St. Francis Xavier School Gym. The registration for ages 9, 10 and 11 begins promptly at noon. For ages 12 to 14, registration begins at 1:00 pm. Thank you to Mr. Garside and Mr. Castellana for all their efforts in getting our youth involved!

SPORTS NEWS

We are beginning a new CYO season. This term the junior and senior boys will be playing basketball. The junior and senior girls will be playing volleyball. On Thursday night, we will host the girls' volleyball. **Students are not permitted as spectators unless they are with a parent.** We do not have room for extra spectators, due to fire regulations and safety. Parents, grandparents and siblings are permitted. Thank you for your co-operation!

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

We will meet on **Monday January 25th at 6:00 pm** in our school library. All parents are welcome to join us. The Catholic School Council will begin the World's Finest Chocolate Bar Drive in February. If you are interested in supporting this venture, please fill in the form and check off how many boxes and which type of chocolate you would like to receive. We hope to raise enough money to purchase two iPad sets for the school. At present, we have 10 iPads to service all classes. A new iPad set is approximately \$4000.00. Fundraising helps us to purchase new items for student use and betterment. With our fundraising money we were able to purchase two more whiteboards and all the technology to go along with it. We are still hoping to equip our FDK rooms with technology in the near future. All of these items are costly and require maintenance which is not covered by the board.

FAMILY LITERACY DAY



Family Literacy Day is a national initiative that promotes the importance of reading and learning together as a family. Every year, families across Canada are encouraged to take the time to celebrate the special day. In Hamilton, Family Literacy Day has evolved into a weeklong celebration called "Hamilton Families Read Week".

As a school, we will be participating in a "Snuggle Up & Read" event on **Friday February 5th, 2016**. This day will also be our 'Pyjama Day' and **students are invited to wear appropriate pj's, slippers, house coats for the day.**

We look forward to some VIP readers on February 5th!

P.A. DAY

Friday, January 29th has been designated as a Professional Activity Day. There will be no school for students that day. Staff will be involved in activities throughout the day.

SYSTEM SCIENCE FAIR

Our students from grade 4 to grade 8 are who are interested and have begun a Science Fair Project are invited to join the Science Fair Club. The HWCDSB System Science Fair will be held on **Saturday February 28th** at Bishop Ryan High School. Students who are interested in the club and have a project will be chosen to go to the System Science Fair. Only a few students are able to attend this event. More information will be posted on this event.

PITA PIT AND CIVIES DAY FOR JANUARY

We will have PITA lunch on **Thursday, January 28th**. **Families who pay online for the January and February PITA lunch by the given due date; will be entitled to a free dress down from February until June.** The ballots for a free dress down will be given in February.

The civies day on January 28th is for Mac Sick Kids. If you have not paid on line, send in a toonie to support this cause, if your child would like to dress down.

INDOOR FOOTWEAR



In order to keep classrooms free of outside melted snow, mud and dirt and to provide footwear for outside in case the fire alarm rings, we request that the students bring a pair of "indoor" shoes that they will keep at school and wear during the school day. Shoes must be worn as a safety precaution.

In accordance with fire regulations, it is required that there is an "immediate and complete" evacuation of the entire building. There is no time to stop and put on boots or coats. If you have established the above footwear practice with your child, we can avoid an unpleasant experience for them (outside in stocking feet) in the case of an emergency.

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL PARKING CONCERNS

As we progress through this winter season, we can expect that parking spots will be lost to piles of snow. Please drive carefully through the parking lot and driveway. Please remember to exit the parking lot/driveway through the west exit. The Kiss & Ride is intended for students who can leave the car and go into the playground on their own. If you are intending on walking your children to the playground, please park your car in a designated spot, not in the drive way. There is **no** pick up in the driveway at the end of the day. This holds up the school bus.

The handicapped parking in the west lot is intended for parents that have the official signage in their vehicle. Please do not park in these designated spots or park your vehicle in such a way that the entrance to the spots is blocked.

PLAYGROUND REMINDERS

The playground for all students is walk and talk only in the am. If you have smaller children and are bringing them on the yard, please discuss the no running rule and no equipment. This is for student and adult safety. Students are supervised first thing in the morning, so if you wish to drop off and leave, all students are supervised.

The bell rings at 8:35. At this time, all students should be lined up for entry with their class. The front door should not be used.

The turf area is locked at the end of each day. This again is for student safety. We have no supervision at this time. At dismissal all students are reminded to leave the school yard and head straight home.

We do not have free entry. All doors are locked during the day. This is for student safety. Students must wear clips to enter the building given by the lunch supervisors or the staff. Once students are dismissed they should not be re-entering the building. The cleaning staff begins washing floors and it becomes an area of concern if students are returning for forgotten homework.

ANAPHYLAXIS

Please remember that all products that are not nut safe can be life threatening to some of our students. Your cooperation in carefully selecting nut safe snacks for your child to bring to school is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued support.

No peanut butter or Nutella are permitted at school. Students are reminded that they are not to share snacks at school.

Allergen Reminder

St. Clare of Assisi is a place where all children feel safe and have a sense of belonging. To ensure the safety and wellbeing 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), and*
- *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 and staff at this school who are allergic to the following foods and items: Peanuts, eggs, and 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, and*
- *Please do NOT bring any homemade food products into the school; with permission, non-food items are permitted for various celebrations and special events and activities.*

"No Child Without" Medic Alert Program

The Canadian Medic Alert® Foundation has developed a program to protect children living with chronic medical conditions, allergies or special needs. This program is called NO CHILD WITHOUT. It was developed to ensure children from JK up to their 14th birthday receive Medic Alert protection at no cost to the parent, school or board. The program is funded by corporate and local business sponsorships across Canada.

If you are a parent of a child with chronic medical conditions, allergies or special needs please contact Medic Alert. The NO CHILD WITHOUT brochure explains the voluntary program. The form is sent directly to Medic Alert. There are no costs. All correspondence occurs directly between Medic Alert and the parent/guardian. The school and Board will receive monthly updates listing all medications, allergies and medical conditions of the participants, but no student names are printed.

Should you have any questions, contact Medic Alert directly at www.medicalert.ca/nochildwithout.

HEAD LICE NEWS

Head lice are often present in school communities. Please help us prevent the likelihood of having head lice present in our school by checking your child's scalp once a week as you may catch it early and prevent the spread to other children via proper treatment.

For more information regarding Head-Lice, please visit the Hamilton Public Health Website.

Alternatively you can e-mail: askCITY@hamilton.ca or Call: 905-546-CITY (2489)

MORNING SUPERVISION

Some children are arriving at school before supervision begins in the mornings, which is a concern for the safety of the children at St. Clare of Assisi School. Please **do not** send or drop off your children **BEFORE 8:20am**. **Supervision does not begin until 8:20**. Adhere to these times for your child's safety. All staff and supervisors are now wearing the yellow/orange safety vests so they are visible on the yard.

SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM

If your child is to be absent from school or will be late arriving, we ask that you please call the school. We would like to thank all parents who take the time to call as this helps our Safe Arrival Program function effectively. If you **do not** call, we will: 1. call home or cell phones 2. call parents at work, 3. call the emergency number and if successful contact is **not** made, the **Police** will be contacted. Please make sure we have up-to-date information in the office. Our telephone system allows you to leave a message directly with no chance of a busy signal. These messages are a high priority and they are retrieved on a regular basis.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

A reminder that when schools are closed or buses cancelled due to extreme weather conditions, details will be announced before 7:00 a.m. through the following Hamilton and area media outlets:
900 CHML / Country 95.3 FM / Y-108 FM / 1150 CKOC / K-Lite 102.9 FM / 820 CHAM / WAVE 94.7 FM / CH Morning Live
or www.hwcdsb.ca

Parents/guardians should take notice of the following guidelines:

In the event of impending severe weather conditions, parents should consider the safety of their children in deciding whether or not to send them to school; Parents should stay tuned to the Hamilton and area radio stations and our website for weather reports and School Board announcements; Parents, who in spite of bus cancellations, drive their children to school, should ensure that their children can get into the school and will be required to make the necessary arrangements for the safe return home of their children at the end of the day or in the event of an early closure. Buses that do not run in the morning will not run for the rest of the day.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2016

If you already have children in our school and will be registering a JK or SK student, *please fill out the form at the end of this newsletter* and return it to the office. We will send you a registration form which you can complete at home and bring in with the appropriate documents ASAP. This will help speed up the registration process. Children already registered at St. Clare in **JK** need **not** register for the SK program. For JK Children: They must be 4 years of age on or before December 31, 2016.
For SK Children: They must be 5 years of age on or before December 31, 2016.

NOTICE FOR JK/SK REGISTRATION

YES, I have a child who will be entering JK in September 2016 or a **new SK** (*not having attended JK this year*). For JK, my child will be 4 years old by December 31, 2016 and for SK, they will be 5 years old by December 31, 2016. They have been baptized in a Roman Catholic Church. Please send home the necessary registration forms with:

Sibling's Name: _____ Teacher: _____

Name of Child to register for JK _____ Date of Birth: _____