

FEBRUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER

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Principal: C. Martino Principal Assistant: A. Gris Secretary: D. Simpson Assoc. Pastor: Rev Mike Downey

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

February is here! We wait for the groundhog to show his shadow. We wait for the end of the cold weather. We wait for our report cards and tips on how to set goals and strive for the best.

The Virtue of this month is love. Love is a human essential. We show our love to God daily, to our family and friends. We aim to follow the two greatest commandments in all we do. This means we endeavor to develop in ourselves the habit of thinking, speaking and acting with an attitude of care and positivity to all people we meet and in all circumstances. We search for ways to be helpful to God, to our families, to our friends in our school, in our social activities and extra -curricular events. We continue to be the Face of Christ to all we meet.



I said a Valentine prayer for you
and asked the Lord above
to fill your heart and bless your soul
With the precious gift of love.
I prayed for love from family
And from every cherished friend
Then I asked the Lord to give you
His love that knows no end.



SNOW/INCLEMENT WEATHER

A reminder that the SNOW STAYS ON THE GROUND OR STUDENTS WILL BE SUSPENDED. Students are permitted to build or make angels, or create sculptures if they have boots, mitts and snow pants. All boots are to be lined up neatly in the hallway and indoor shoes are a must for safety! It is cold and we do live in Canada, so please dress properly for the winter weather. Stay tuned to the board website, or the Board supported media for inclement weather days or bus cancellations.

NEW PD DAY

Mark your calendars, **February 26th**, is a new PD day, added on by the Ministry of Education. The school will be closed to all students. Staff will be engaged in workshops. *Pita day will be on February 25th* instead of February 26th.

SHROVE TUESDAY AND ASH WEDNESDAY MASS

SHROVE TUESDAY is **February 9th**. All students will receive pancakes for lunch. Thank you to all our great volunteers!

Ash Wednesday takes place on **Wednesday February 10th**. Grade 3 to Grade 8 will be attending Mass at St. Francis Xavier Parish. Mass is at noon until 1:00 pm. All parents, guardians, grandparents are welcome to join the Mass. This is a week day Mass with the Congregation, so parishioners will be in attendance. More information will be coming home.

REPORT CARDS

Report Cards will be sent home on **Tues. Feb. 17th**. All students from SK - Gr. 8 will receive a report on that day. If you wish to have an interview with your child's teacher before or after that time, please call the school and contact the teacher who will schedule an interview for you at a mutually agreed upon time.

For Gr. 1—8, the stapled, 4 page original is yours to keep for your records. On the single, double sided page, we ask that your child complete the bottom of page 3 and that you complete the bottom of page 4. Please **do not cut off** the bottom portion. Please return the whole single sheet in the envelope provided to the child's teacher for our records. **SK reports** have remained in the original 3 page format. Please sign and return page 3.

This is a very important time to reflect on your goals, strengths and weaknesses. Second Term has already begun and it is very important to strive to give your very best to maintain achievements or to improve in certain areas. Tasks that are sent home are part of the teacher's evaluation. Participation, communication, input in class activities etc are all very important for the end result. Encourage the completion of daily homework or review of work taught, routines, the use of the agenda and daily reading. All students should read every night. Students should be responsible for their homework. This is part of the learning skills and work habits. We must teach our children to be accountable and to accept consequences if things are not done or are not at school. Parents check the agenda to see if work is completed and sign off on the completed items.

ANAPHYLAXIS ALERT

As we approach another "chocolate season", we would like to remind you to continue to ensure that Valentine chocolates and candy that contain nuts or nut products are not brought to school. Thank you for your continued support. It is very crucial that all staff, students and parents follow the important and necessary protocols for allergies. No peanut butter or treats with nuts are allowed at school.



VALENTINE'S DAY - FRI., FEB. 12TH

Valentine's Day will be a Red / White / Pink casual day. The grade 8 students will be selling **Kernel's popcorn for \$2.00** at recesses from **Feb. 11th - 12th** or until we run out. The money raised will be used to help offset graduation costs. We will be having a cake raffle. All items must be store bought with the ingredients listed and to be consumed at home. Items such as a basket with peanut free treats, pencils, erasers etc will be appreciated. If you would like to donate, we will accept items on **Thursday February 11th** and sell tickets for the raffle on **Friday February 12th**, 1 for 25 cents or 5 for \$1.00. Winners will take their prize home. **HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!**

PITA LUNCH ON FEBRUARY 25TH

Order forms will be sent home shortly and need to be returned to school no later than Mon., Feb. 22nd. **Students who have paid on line for January and February Pita lunch are permitted to pick a dress down day until the end of June. Permission slips will be given out to the students.**

WORLD'S FINEST FUND RAISER



This year our Catholic School Council used the money from the Move-A-thon to purchase one SMART board for the grade 6 classroom, books for the book room and supported things such as the Sacraments, Scholastic Book Fair, nutrition etc. We would still like to purchase more books, support school trips, Play Day. We are almost at our SMART goal. The only classrooms still in need of technology are the FDK classrooms and the PPT classroom. We are also in need of at least one more set of IPAD's for the school. These are very expensive purchases, each at approximately \$4000.00. We will be selling chocolates, peanut and nut free, from **February 25th until March 25th**. Your support is very much appreciated. Each student that sells a case of the chocolates will receive a 1 LB solid Easter Bunny. We will have an early bird draw. There will be a prize for top seller and a prize for top selling family. The classes, that have 70% of students who sell a full case will receive a free dress down day. Other prizes: movie passes, chocolate gift basket, gift certificates and more.

SCIENCE FAIR

This year we had a science fair club for students interested in participating in the science fair. The System Science Fair will be held on **Saturday February 27th** at Bishop Ryan High School.

PICK UP & DROP OFF OF STUDENTS

All parents and guardians are requested to follow the safety guidelines for drop off and pick up of students. **The kiss and drop off area** at the east side of the school is **not intended for parking at any time**. This area **MUST** remain clear for school buses and emergency vehicles and to allow for the smooth flow of traffic for parents/guardians to leave the designated parking areas. The two designated handicapped parking spots must remain available to those with official signage in their vehicles. All too frequently other parents are parking in these spots or blocking the access to these spots. Please be considerate to others.

Be aware that the City of Hamilton, not just the HWCDSB, has a **No Idling Policy**. Vehicles should not be idling while on school property. The reality is, there are not enough designated parking spots for all the parents to pick up and drop off their children.

Thank you to the parents/guardians that respect the guidelines that have been established. Your support is greatly appreciated. It is very disappointing that there are other parents/guardians that continue to need to be supervised to ensure the safety of all.

STUDENT ENTRY

Students are requested to use their designated door from the playground when entering the school in the morning regardless of the weather. This is to re-enforce the fact that the front entrance of the school is not a drop off area. This area **must stay free** of cars at all times. **The front door is only for students who have arrived late at school and need to sign in at the office.**

Students entering the front door prior to the entry bell will be re-directed to the playground door. Please remember that there is **NO** supervision in the yard **until 8:20 am**.

FAMILY DAY

Monday, February 15th is Family Day. There will be no school.



STONEY CREEK FOODBANK



We will be collecting non-perishable goods for the Stoney Creek Food Bank for Easter. In order to ensure that the recipients receive the food prior to Easter, we will collect the food during the month of February, with delivery to the food bank **prior to the March Break**. Most needed items include: canned ham, large containers of juice (especially apple & orange), large cans of soup & stew, canned potatoes & large cans of beans. Thank you for your anticipated support.

ECO TEAM: WASTE WIZARDS NEWS!!

The Waste Wizards have some exciting news to share. We are starting up Boomerang Lunch every Wednesday for the remainder of the school year. That means that **every Wednesday** please provide your child with re-useable items in their lunch bag that can be brought back home. Providing your child with a wasteless lunch helps reduce the amount of garbage at St. Clare and creates a better environment for our students.

NATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL, WEAR YELLOW DAY!



On **Wednesday February 3rd**, it is **WALK TO SCHOOL DAY AND WEAR YELLOW**, tops only, uniform bottoms. It is important to recognize the problems with emissions. Walking is a healthy choice!

ECO TEAM - BATTERIES

St. Clare School is participating in the "Orange Drop" battery recycling program to help keep hazardous waste out of our landfills by responsibly recycling used rechargeable and single use batteries. Used batteries can be brought to the school and dropped off into one of our battery recycling pails. The Waste Wizards thank you for your continued support in making our world a greener, better place for us to grow up in.

TIP OF THE MONTH FOR HEALTHY SCHOOL LUNCH

Children need plenty of nutritious snacks to keep them going during the school day. However, children often choose less nutritious snacks that are higher in calories, fat or sugar. Try to plan snacks that include at least two of the food groups from Canada's Food Guide.

For more ideas check out: www.eatrightontario.ca

