

MAY 2016 NEWSLETTER

Superintendent: I. Fortino

Trustees: M. Nardini & P. DiFrancesco

Pastor: Mariusz Durbajlo

Principal: C. Martino

Principal Assistant: A. Gris

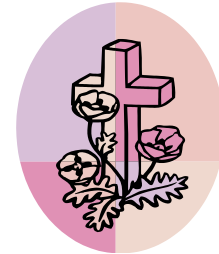
Secretary: D. Simpson

Assoc. Pastor: Rev Mike Downey

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

May is here! We pray for the warmth of spring, the blooming of flowers and the beauty of our surroundings to shine through.

**Holy Mary, help those in need,
give strength to the weak,
comfort the sorrowful,
pray for God's people, assist the clergy,
intercede for religious.
May all who seek your help
experience your unfailing protection?
Amen.**



CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK THEME: "Opening Doors of Mercy"

Pope Francis calls on each one of us to open our hearts, to reflect and to be merciful. "Going through the Holy Door is the sign of our faith in the Lord Jesus, who didn't come to judge us, but to save us," the Pontiff said. The overall scriptural theme is taken from the Gospel of Matthew (Matthew 5: 7), "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy."

There are five sub-themes, one for each day of Catholic Education Week and they are aimed at helping staff and students to reflect on the different places where mercy can be given and can be found:

- Day 1: Mercy that Welcomes
- Day 2: Mercy that Loves
- Day 3: Mercy that Forgives
- Day 4: Mercy that Lives the Gospel
- Day 5: Mercy that Rejoices

Congratulations to Cecilia R. Cecilia will be recognized at the opening Mass for Catholic Education Week at Cathedral High School on Monday May 2nd at 10:00 am. We are very proud of Cecilia and her accomplishment. Check out her poster on the board or school website. The grade 7 class and the Student Council will be attending the Mass.

Throughout Catholic Education Week, we will be collecting non-perishable food items.

Tuesday May 3rd: Director's Award Presentation at 10:30 am at the HWCDSB office. All award winners are to be at the Board office by 9:45 am. Bring a camera!

Wednesday May 4th: Scripture Reading at Bishop Ryan High School at 7 pm. Thank you to Mrs. Staresina and Miss Tomasevic for preparing the students. Our school will be represented by: Alex F and Katrina K in grade 7, Amanda G. and Sierra H, in grade 8.

Thursday May 5th: Throughout all of May and June, the classes will be offering their prayers to the Diocesan Seminarians. We have become part of a Spiritual Bouquet with the SERRA Club of Hamilton. Please keep all the seminarians in your prayers.

FAMILY DAY - Grand Parents or family members are invited to come to our school and visit **Thursday May 5th**. Thank you to our CSC for organizing this wonderful event. We will be having a casual day with the theme 'Dress Loud' to support VOICE which is a board recognized charity that helps deaf & hard of hearing children learn to listen and speak so that they are fully integrated and contributing members of the community. Students are invited to dress 'wild and wacky' and bring a loonie or toonie for a donation unless they have previously paid online. Family members can also dress loud for voice!

FAITH FAIR DISPLAY - On May 5th between 5:00 and 6:00 pm, the school will be open for families to come and view the faith displays each class has made this year.

Friday May 6th: Mass on the Grass - 10:00 am Join us for this beautiful tribute to Mary, Our Mother. The grade 7 Confirmandi and the grade 2 students will be recognized for their wonderful accomplishments on the Sacramental Journey. We congratulate all the grade 2's and 7's and we ask that you continue to pray for them. Please send in flowers to honour Mary.

Sunday May 8th is Mother's Day. **HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!** May God bless and protect all mothers.

JUNIOR MATH CHALLENGE

On Saturday April 30th, the Junior Math team competed in the Junior Math Challenge at Bishop Ryan High School. Congratulations to: Christina P., Evan C., Anthony D., Alissa G., Marko P., and Eric Z. Thank you to Mrs. Scozzari for working and training the team!

CHESS TEAM

On Tuesday April 25th, the HWCDSD held the system Chess Tournament. We had many students who were very interested and gave up their lunch to play chess! Thank you to all members of the chess team, Jacob S., Johnny V., Nicholas H., Gianluca M., Phillip T., Evan J., Ryan P. and Dalton V. Special thanks to Mr. Mielko for working with the students. Congratulations to Jacob S, finishing 2nd, Evan J., and Ryan P. for finishing in 3rd place.

ECHO BEACH

Congratulations to Daniel Y and all the students from our system who put on the play Echo Beach. The Déjà Vu Theatre did an excellent job! Daniel has undeniable talent and we are so proud of him for pursuing his passion!

NEWS FROM ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

The Church is in need of many interior improvements. The St. Francis Xavier Parish Finance Council will be holding a "Church Renovation Fundraiser" raffle draw. Please support this very worthwhile cause. The Council is asking for support by selling tickets and purchasing tickets. Please contact the Parish office for tickets. The prizes are 1st \$1000.00, 2nd, \$500.00, and 5 \$100.00 prizes. Tickets are 1 for \$2.00 and 3 for \$5.00 or a book of 10 for \$15.00. The draw date is June 15, 2016.

FRENCH CAFÉ

On **Thursday, May 19th** something big- and we mean très, très grand will be happening at our school. Come to the French Café where you'll be juiced, dined and entertained. Students will be able to have their pictures taken by "La Tour Eiffel", partake in delicious food and purchase tickets for raffle prizes. Any prize donations would be greatly appreciated. Merci!

HAT TEAM WELLNESS DAY

On **Tuesday May 10th**, the HAT team with the great assistance of Nurse Gail, Mrs. Scozzari, Miss Ciotti, Mrs. Lancia and Mrs. Sulug, will be hosting our very own Wellness Day. The wellness activities will begin at 10:00 am. The students will circulate to different stations to learn how to keep themselves in a healthy mental and physical state. We are very excited to promote this day. We welcome all the wonderful volunteers who will be supporting our students in the variety of wellness activities.

UNIFORM

We are mandated to wear school uniforms. Our school supplier is **McCarthy**. **Gym shorts and track pants are not permitted at school**. Pants with different logos are not allowed. The uniform is a symbol of who we are and how we come together in faith. The prices at McCarthy will be going up during the spring 5% and another 5% in the fall.

NON-UNIFORM DAYS



A reminder that these days are spirit or fun civies days and students must come dressed appropriately. No tank tops or spaghetti straps are permitted. Language written on t-shirts etc. must be acceptable to our faith. Running shoes are always best to prevent accidents.

PARKING

The front laneway is a fire lane and a bus lane. No parking is permitted. The kiss and ride area is a no stopping zone. Adhere to the flow of traffic. Do not park in the entrance or exit of the school parking lot; this is also a NO PARKING ZONE. Be respectful of the neighbours and their driveways and lawns.

DIRECTOR'S AWARDS

Congratulations to all of our Director's Awards Winners. They will receive their award on **May 3rd at 10:30 am** at the Board Office. All students are to be in full and proper uniform. All students are asked to be at the Board office by 9:45 am.

 Catholic School Mission/Vision	David T.	
Academic Excellence Award	Olivia C.	
Excellent Effort in the Pursuit of Learning Award	Carina M.	
Stewardship of Creation: Environmental Award	Aliya R.	
Religion & Family Life	Amanda G.	
Language	Michelle M.	
Science/Technology	Marcus C.	
Mathematics	Lucas H.	
Social Studies /History/Geography	Michael H.	
Arts	Cecilia R.	
French as a Second Language	Serena R.	
Health & Physical Education	Mark S.	

CONGRATULATIONS

Our Grade 2 students received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on Sunday, April 10th at St. Francis Xavier Church. Thank you to Mrs. Colamartini, Mrs. Pagliari, Mr. Machado, Mrs. Piva, Miss Federiconi, Mr. Piant, Father Mariusz, Father Mike and Wes and all parents. We are so blessed to have a wonderful relationship with the Church, our parish, the school and the parents. Take your children to Church weekly to continue to receive the graces of God. Thank you to all staff members who came to be with the children and witness in this beautiful Sacrament.

EASTER FOOD DRIVE

Thank you to all the families who supported the Easter Food Drive for the Stoney Creek Food Bank. They were very grateful for our donation.

SHARE LENT

During Lent, Mrs. Staresina and the grade 3 class collected \$107.25. for Share Lent. After Easter they presented Father Mariusz with the cheque as their contribution towards helping those who are less fortunate. Congratulations grade 3 students!! The school has decided to match the amount for Share Lent to bring our grand total to \$ 214.50.

BICYCLE SAFETY

Please take a few minutes to review the following safety rules with your children:

- Bike helmets are mandatory. For their safety, students must wear a properly fitted helmet.
- Ensure that the bike is in good operating order.
- Wear light and reflective clothing if you must ride at night.
- Always ride in single file.
- Obey all traffic signs & signals.
- Learn hand signals.
- Ride as near the right hand curb as possible, in the same direction as traffic
- Keep hands on the handlebars, unless signalling, and keep both feet on the pedals.
- Walk your bike onto school property.
- Lock up your bike when it is unattended.
- The use of skateboards and inline skates (roller blades) are strictly prohibited on school property.



ANAPHYLAXIS ALERT

We would like to remind you to continue to ensure that any chocolate treats that contain nuts or nut products are not brought to school. Thank you for your continuing support. Parents are reminded of the HWCDSB policy and the safety of all students daily!

POLICE CHECKS & END OF YEAR TRIPS

It is a board requirement that all volunteers either in school or on school trips must have a police check. Please see Mrs. Simpson for the forms. It takes approximately 1 month to get the police check. If you are hoping to volunteer for a year end trip, allow enough time before the trip to get your clearance. Parents who have not submitted a police check will not be permitted on the trip. The Catholic School Council is generously taking \$10.00 off of each student for end of the year trips.

EQAO

Parents of our Grade 3 and 6 students, please note that the provincial assessment will take place from **May 25th, to June 4th** for Grade 3 and Grade 6 students. These assessments allow your child to demonstrate his or her skills and knowledge of reading, writing and math. These results will also be used to review teaching approaches and to improve learning. Please avoid making appointments for your children during this time. It is important that students eat a healthy breakfast and are present during these days.

SCHOOL YEAR 2016-2017

If you know you are moving, please let the office know. If you have any children of school age for this September, register as soon as possible. Class set up is a very involved and detailed process. As educators we look at the whole child and weigh each decision very carefully. We must take into account many factors: academic, social, resource involvement etc. As professionals, we work as a team and strive to make the best decision possible. Students are at school to learn and to be in the best environment possible. If you have a concern, please send this in writing to Mrs. Martino before May 25th. I cannot guarantee any placements.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

The Catholic School Council has been actively working to support our school in a variety of ways, nutrition, fundraising, volunteering and so much more. All parents are welcome to come out and help us. This past month we hosted Sara Westbrook, a motivational speaker on building Resilience in children. She was very inspirational. The Council raised just over \$6,775.48 in World's Finest Chocolate Sales. This money was used to purchase 10 iPad's for the school and the storage bin. Thank you for all your hard work and support of the school and students. The next meeting will take place on **May 30th at 6:00 pm.**

Winners during World's Finest Fund Raiser: Early bird draw - \$50 Cineplex Gift Card - Philip T; 5lbs. Chocolate Bar - Valentina R.; \$15 Indigo Gift Card - Jillian M. \$75 Walmart Gift Card to Top Selling Families - Reed R; Brayden, Riley, Jacob L.; Stone, Lily, Skye F.; Athena, Nicholas, Francesco. Chocolate Basket - Avery G., \$50 Cineplex Gift Card - Salena P., \$50 Sports Chek Gift Card - Philip P., 5 lbs. Chocolate Bar - Mateo M., 5 lbs. Chocolate Bar - Alexander P., \$15 Indigo Gift Card - Filip R.

MASS ON THE GRASS

We honour Mary our Mother during this beautiful Month. On **Friday, May 6th at 10:00 am** we will celebrate our Mass on the Grass and honour Mary with the May crowning. To all staff and students who are involved in this incredible celebration of Mass, the Sacraments, Mary and God our Father, we thank you! Please join us. Students are reminded to bring flowers this week to honour Mary.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC?

Adults who have never been baptized and adults who would like to complete their Christian Initiation are invited to contact our parish priest. Preparation sessions for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) will begin in the fall. Those who are prepared will be baptized or will complete their Christian Initiation at the Easter Vigil. Those who have been baptized in another Christian tradition and who wish to enter into the full communion of the Catholic Church will be received individually, according to the preparation that may be needed. Children in grade 3 or higher who have never been baptized or, having been baptized elsewhere, now wish to become Catholics, should also begin a period of instruction and preparation. Please contact the parish office at 905-662-8593 for more information or e-mail: saintfx@cogeco.net

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

Women play such an important role in the life of a child. For all of our mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, aunts, and family friends, we pray that God continues to bless and protect you, keeping each of you strong and healthy to provide the nurturing love you give so freely to all those in your care.

What Is a Mother?

A mother is someone to shelter and guide us,
to love us, whatever we do,
with a warm understanding and infinite patience,
and wonderful gentleness, too.

How often a mother means swift reassurance
in soothing our small, childish fears,
how tenderly mothers watch over their children
and treasure them all through the years!

The heart of a mother is full of forgiveness
for any mistake, big or small,
and generous always in helping her family
whose needs she has placed above all.

A mother can utter a word of compassion
and make all our cares fall away;
she can brighten a home with the sound of her laughter
and make life delightful and gay.

A mother possesses incredible wisdom
And wonderful insight and skill -
In each human heart is that one special corner
which only a mother can fill!

- Katherine Nelson Davis

