

## OCTOBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

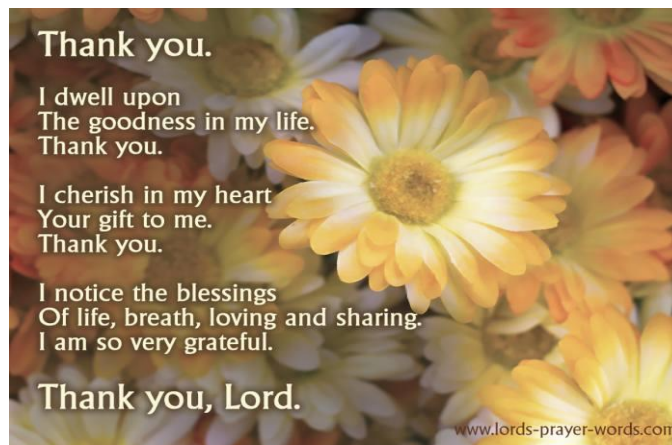
Director: Mr. D. Hansen Superintendent: I. Fortino Trustees: M. Nardini & P. DiFrancesco Pastor: Fr. Mariusz Durbajlo  
Principal: C. Martino Principal Assistant: A. Gris Secretary: D. Simpson



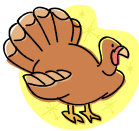
### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

OCTOBER is a humbling month. We are humbled by the beauty that surrounds us, the colours of the leaves, the sunsets and sunrises, the harvest moon. Sometimes we have to force ourselves to stop and take a look around us and appreciate all the God winks we have around us. We have been blessed with such a wonderful, free country. We have the gift of Catholic Education. Our theme this year is "We Walk with Christ." We give thanks during this time for all that we have and have been blessed with over the years. We continue to pray for all of those in need of our prayers, for those who are hungry, or thirst, or have no home or job. We pray for all the sick and suffering and all those in need of our prayers. Give thanks and reach out to others!

### A THANKSGIVING PRAYER



### THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE



St. Clare of Assisi's annual Thanksgiving food drive will be taking place **until October 7th**. Students are asked to participate by bringing in non-perishable food items such as canned goods, packaged foods, rice, cereal, baby food etc. All contributions will be going to the Stoney Creek Food Bank. Our faith community will extend our love by helping to make a difference in the lives of others. Thank you for your participation!

### VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

For the safety of our children, we ask that you follow the school protocol for visitors to the school. **ALL VISITORS must report to the office first**. Thank you for your continued cooperation. Lunches must be dropped off at the table outside of the main office. We are taking all precautions to keep students safe at all times. During recess or lunch you may experience a delay in getting into the school or having the phones answered.

If we are having a lockdown or fire evacuation drill, you will not be let into the school and your call will not be answered at this time. We will return the call as soon as possible.

## ALLERGIES

We are asking your cooperation in continuing to keep St. Clare School safe for all our children. We have a number of students who suffer from life-threatening food allergies to nuts, peanuts, and nut products. The classmates of these students have taken home letters asking you to please not send your child with a snack or lunch that contains any nuts or nut products. Should these students come into contact with any of the above mentioned food - or the residue left when someone else has been in contact with the food - the student can go into anaphylactic shock - a potentially life-threatening situation. Since the time to prevent shock from occurring is only minutes, we want to do everything within our power to avoid this situation. We want all of our children to be safe and healthy, and these measures will help ensure this. We try to maintain a **PEANUT /NUT AWARE school FOR ALL STUDENT SAFETY**. Please read labels carefully. Products that are nut free in Canada are **not** necessarily nut free if manufactured in the U.S. or Europe. A reminder as we approach the Halloween season of treats, please choose Halloween treats with care and please be extra vigilant with school snacks. If you do want to send a treat or loot bag, avoid food products and put in pencils, erasers or supplies that can be used by the students. **For a list of snacks please visit [www.anaphylaxis.canada.ca](http://www.anaphylaxis.canada.ca)**

The MedicAlert® Foundation Canada is a charitable organization which is the leading provider of emergency medical information services linked to customized medical bracelets and necklaces. We are pleased to be able to offer MedicAlert memberships to students (from age 4 to their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday) through the NO CHILD WITHOUT program.

## STUDENT SUCCESS

As the school year progresses, you are reminded that school begins at 8:40 and we hope to be finished Opening Prayers and announcements by 8:50. Arriving after the bell has a negative effect on student learning and the ability to learn the routines in the classroom. The effects of being late can set a student off for the rest of the day. When your child is absent please make sure that a sibling or a classmate can deliver the homework to your child. Arrangements can be made with the teacher in order to keep the child up to date with their work.

If there are any issues that arise in the classroom, communicate with the classroom teacher. This is critical to student success. Read and sign the agenda daily. If there are any questions or concerns, make an appointment to meet with the classroom teacher as soon as possible. Respect protocol, teacher should be first.

## UNIFORMS

McCarthy is our Supplier. Please support our school supplier. Cargo pants and jersey shorts are NOT part of the uniform and are not permitted at school. Tights are not part of the school uniform. Socks or leotards should be navy blue or white. All tops should have a school crest or logo. Crests are on sale at the main office for \$3.00. Please refer to page 6 in the student agenda. No labels are permitted on pants, shorts, or sweaters other than our school Logo or Crest.

## CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

Our Fall Open House was a big success. We thank all the families who came out and met the teachers and toured the classrooms. Thank you to Mr. Aztis for the Food Trucks! Everyone enjoyed the variety of food, and the ice cream truck. Thank you to Mrs. DiFrancesco and her team of popcorn makers.

Thank you to all parents who come to our meetings and give the gift of voice. Our new CSC names will be posted after the election on Monday October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our next meeting will take place on **Monday, November 7th at 6:00pm** in our school library. The Council is working on donations for our Major Fund Raiser the Halloween Move-a-thon. If you have items to donate, please drop them off at the main office. We are also in need of volunteers for the big event. Volunteers are needed to help bring different opportunities for our students, Volunteers must respect that schools are a **safe zone and confidentiality** must be respected at all times. We are aiming to equip all classrooms with Technology, purchase more iPads for the school, team jerseys and physical education equipment.

## YEARBOOKS

Thank you to Mrs. Cvitak, Mrs. Pitura-Salerno and the yearbook team for the incredible book of Memories. The yearbook was offered last May and June for \$30.00. We sold over 100 yearbooks. This year we hope to offer the same opportunity to all students.

## CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MOVE-A-THON



This Halloween themed "move-a-thon" event will be hosted by our Catholic School Council and will take place on **Monday, Oct. 31st**. Details of the event will be coming home soon - please look for it in the coming week. All funds from this event will go directly to support the development of technology in our school. Thank you for your anticipated support.

Thank you to for all dedication to the school and getting the committee up and running. All parents who have helped organise, seek donations and help the Move-a-thon deserve a big THANK YOU from all of us! Your time and commitment to the school is so very much appreciated.

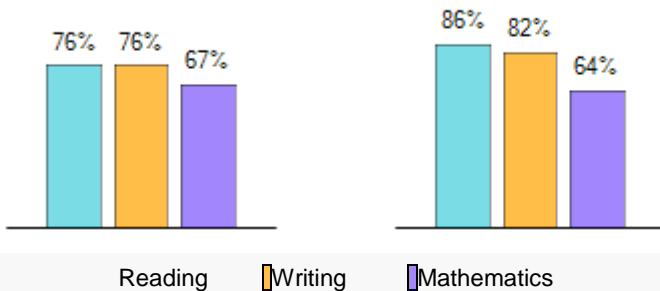
## EQAO RESULTS

Results from the EQAO testing for grade 3 and 6 completed last May and June have been released. We are very proud of our students and Catholic Schools.

Students at or Above the Provincial Standard (Levels 3 and 4)

### Grade 3

### Grade 6



Student reports will be going home this week. Look for the results in a sealed envelope in your child's agenda.

## ST. CLARE SPORTS NEWS



Being part of a team is a privilege not a right. Teams are very important to build sportsmanship, skill, perseverance and a feeling of commitment to an organized group. All students on a team are reminded to show proper attitude, encourage one another and keep up with the proper attitude and work ethic in all school activities. We are very blessed to provide many opportunities for our students. At this time, we have both junior and senior girls and boys' football, girls' basketball and cross country all under way!

The fall Cross Country meet will be held at Marydale Park on **Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>**. Dress for the race and bring lots to drink and a lunch. We thank all those who are taking the time to coach and be with our students.

Sports permission forms and sports commitment forms are due in order to be part of the team.

## DRESS DOWN DAYS

A list for dress down days has been sent home and is posted on our website. We are hoping that parents will aim to use the CASH-On Line system. This will benefit the time that is spent on counting money, completing forms and deposit slips, Students who pay the \$20.00 on line will be permitted to pick a dress down day of their own choice. Students are still permitted to pay monthly with a toonie. The toonie will be collected by the classroom teacher and sent to the office.

We are having a wear a Purple Top on October 19th for Child Abuse Awareness Day.

## INTERIM REPORT CARDS

To help keep you informed, we will send home an Interim Progress Report for Grades 1 - 8. This report will identify how the student is doing in relation to the Learning Skills as well as academic subjects. **Interim Progress Reports** will be sent home on **Wed., Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>**. **Interviews** will be arranged in November. More information will be announced.

This should be a useful time for the parent and child to review the learning skills and academic progress and to collaboratively set goals for continued development of these areas. The first term report card will be sent home in **February 2017**.

## STUDENT COUNCIL

Congratulations to our newly elected **Student Council members**: President - Ava M., 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President -Madelynn G., 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Alex F., Secretary Ania V-L., Treasurer, Ryan K., Events Coordinators- Lucy D., Isabelle I., Alex P. The Catholic Student Council had their commissioning ceremony at the Awards Assembly this past month. The CSC will be selling candy apples for Hallowe'en. The apples are to be eaten at home, not at school.

We are looking forward to a year of much planning and collaboration around the school experience of our students.

## BOOMERANG LUNCHES - EVERY WEDNESDAY



Thank you for supporting our environmental efforts by having snacks/lunches packed in reusable containers. We ask for your support again by having the containers labelled with your child's name. We'd love to return the containers to the proper home! **Every Wednesday** is Boomerang Lunch Day. **This Wednesday is INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY, SO STUDENTS MAY WEAR A YELLOW TOP AND UNIFORM BOTTOMS.** Every other month, the last Wednesday of the month will be wear a yellow top if you walk to school.

## LABELS ON CLOTHES

Our coat areas and lost & found box have unclaimed uniform pieces. Please have outerwear labelled with your child's name to ensure they can be returned.

## COMMUNITY ADVERTISEMENTS

From time to time the school does provide the opportunity to various groups from the community to advertise their events or programs through the school newsletter or through independently produced flyers. Regardless of the information item, academic, athletic or social, at no time should parents feel any obligation to participate.

## PILGRIMAGE

On **Sunday, October 16th**, students of the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board will be participating in a Pilgrimage which will raise money to support projects in Uganda, Haiti, Dominican Republic & African Famine Relief.

The pilgrimage will serve to create awareness around world hunger, need for health care, shelter, and proper education. As Catholics we are called to promote Christ's presence and love for the poor. We hope to have many intermediates participating in the pilgrimage. We ask that permission forms be returned by the posted deadline. We continue to encourage as many participants as well as parents and staff to participate in this "Walk with Christ-Justice for the Poor."

### **PARENT CONFERENCE**

The 24th Annual Parent Conference is scheduled to take place on **Saturday, November 5, 2016** from **7:45 a.m.—2:30 p.m.** The day will begin with Mass celebrated by Bishop Crosby. The event will take place at **Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School**, 1824 Rymal Rd. E. Registration details are available on the Board's Website: [www.hwcdsb.ca](http://www.hwcdsb.ca) or by calling 905-525-2930 x 2205.

### **PARKING & TRAFFIC FLOW**

The safety of **all** the children is our main concern. Please respect the posted signage. Cars can only park in visibly marked parking spaces in the lot or on the street. ***Kiss & Go*** drop off in front of the school is for ***mornings only***. In the evening there is ***no*** parking, stopping or idling in the area between staff parking and the sidewalk directly in front of the school. **The gate at the east parking lot will be locked each day at 3:15 pm. We have a lot more cars this year, please respect student safety and walk if you can!**

Traffic flow enters the driveway at the east end of the school and leaves by driving ***slowly*** in front of the school and exiting at the west driveway. If a babysitter or other caregiver is picking up your child, please inform them of the expectations. Please be considerate and follow the procedures for everyone's safety, not just your convenience.

### **POLICE CHECKS**

A new procedure has made it more convenient for parents to get a police check. The form and letter must still be picked up in the school office, filled out and submitted to the police station. If you have two pieces of identification when you drop off the letter and form, your police check will be mailed to you (saving you another trip to the police station). Cost of the police check continues to be a onetime fee of \$25.00 **Yearly declarations which will be sent home in June must still be signed to keep police check valid.**

### **HELPFUL WEBLINKS**

Homework Help provides free on line math tutoring for students Gr. 7 to 10. <http://homeworkhelp.ilc.org> Students will register at school to gain access to the real-time, one-on-one tutoring with an Ontario Certified Teacher, 5 nights a week. E-Math is a Nelson tool for all students in grade 3 to 6. Check it out.

### **PIZZA MONDAY'S**

Pizza Monday will begin **Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>**. Please return the order form to school and remember that paying on-line is our preferred method of payment.



### **COMMUNITY SPEECH & LANGUAGE SERVICES**

Early Words will now accept speech & language referrals for children in JK until December 31st. If you have concerns about your child's speech & language development (articulation, receptive & expressive language, reluctant to speak, etc.), please call 905-381-2828.

## **PICTURE DAY IS COMING!**

### **Mark your Calendar for our School Picture Day on "Friday, October 14, 2016"**

Picture Day Order forms will be sent home with all students. Please review the information form and send it back with your child on Picture Day. All students will be photographed for school service products. Proofs will be sent home for you to preview before you buy. Watch for exciting online order opportunities when you receive your proofs! Be ready to bring your smiles on picture day!

For Tips on preparing for photo day visit [lifetouch.ca](http://lifetouch.ca) Questions call Lifetouch at [1-866-457-8212](tel:1-866-457-8212) or email: [guestservices@lifetouch.ca](mailto:guestservices@lifetouch.ca)

## **BOOK FAIR**

Our annual Book Fair will be held in November. This is a great way to promote reading and also some fundraising for our Learning Commons. If you would like to volunteer at the Book Fair, please let the office know. The book fair will take place in the Chapel.

## **CONFIRMATION**

Confirmation for our Grade 7 students will be on **Saturday, November 19th at 10:00 am** at St. Francis Xavier Parish. May the Holy Spirit guide our Confirmandi. We ask for all of our families to pray for our Confirmandi and their families. We also ask that you keep in your prayers, Bishop Crosby who will be celebrating the Sacrament. **We are in need of baked goods to be brought in on Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup> to our school or the morning of November 19<sup>th</sup> to the Parish Center.**

## **PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH FROM THE DIOCESE**

### **Parenting Tip 92**

Parents can help their children develop emotional and mental well-being by assisting them to develop strategies and skills for coping with stress. Parents can do so by allowing their children to experience a little stress, so they will learn to cope with bigger stresses. Teach them how to handle stress: breathe deeply, talk in a self-calming way, discuss their feelings with friends and family, actively work at problem solving, talk to God and listen in their heart for his response. With their parents help, children can learn the skills needed to ensure resiliency in the inevitable ups and downs of life.

(From: Teresa Hartnett, Family Ministry Office, 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)

## **MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH**

### **Marriage Tip 72**

New love spurs us on to spend as much time as possible with each other. Once we marry we can get so caught up in the demands of work, home and family that we can lose the sense of connection that pulled us toward each other at the start. Preparing and eating dinner together, sharing a walk, enjoying a good movie, attending Mass, or reading a book together are all great examples of ways to create a stronger couple connection. Building this connection is an important way to form a strong and lasting relationship. Spend time together and see where it takes you!

(From: Teresa Hartnett, Family Ministry Office, 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)

## **CCAS Foster/ Adoption Parent Information Night**

The Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton is presenting a Foster Parent Information Night. If you have ever considered building your family through fostering, this is a great opportunity to learn about the process with the CCAS and have your questions answered.

Where: Immaculate Conception, 470 Kitty Murray Lane, Ancaster

When: 7:00pm on Tuesday, November 8, 2016

For more information and to register please call (Fostering) Julie at (905) 525-2012 ext. 3280 or (Adoption) Jocelyn (905) 525-2012 ext. 3125

Visit our website to find out more [www.hamiltonccas.on.ca](http://www.hamiltonccas.on.ca)