

NOVEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

Superintendent: I. Fortino
Principal: C. Martino

Trustees: M. Nardini & P. DiFrancesco
Principal Assistant: A. Gris

Pastor: Fr. Mariusz Durbajlo
Secretary: D. Simpson

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

God of Peace, grant all your people a vision of peace. May each of us use our gifts to promote peace. May all those who live in fear, feel comfort in the support that we offer in prayer.

God of Love, we pray that all violence in the world will end. We pray for a sense of calm in a time of great uncertainty.

We pray that the world be given the gifts of peace and reconciliation.

May love help us overcome all our fears so we can work together toward peace. Amen

November is the month of remembering. We remember all the saints, our heroes who we pray to and ask for guidance, support and help along the way. We remember the souls of the faithfully departed, those who have passed away. We pray that they guide and watch over us. We pray for those who have and who continue to fight for freedom and for peace.



FRIDAY, November 11th is Remembrance Day, the day we remember all men and women who have died to protect our democratic freedom and the freedom of others. Please feel free to join us on **FRIDAY, November 11th at 10:25 am** for a Liturgy in our school gym as we join together as a school community to remember and honour Canada's Veterans and Peacekeepers for their service and sacrifice. We will walk to the corner of Dewitt and Hwy 8 with banners of peace at approximately 10:45 and remain there until 11:05, weather permitting. On Thursday November 10th, the grade 6 to 8 will have a presentation with *John Connors*, RCAMC/CFMS.RCMS RETIRED.

Thank you to the students and families for their generous support to our Thanksgiving Food Drive. The quantity of items donated to the Stoney Creek Food Bank was very much appreciated. The November Dress down will be for the United Way. If you did not pay on line, please send in a toonie with your son/daughter.



MR. MIELKO

We keep in our prayers, one of our own, Mr. Mielko and his wife and precious son and all their extended family and friends. This has been a very emotional and sad time for our staff, students and school community. We know and trust that he is safely in God's loving hands. I thank you for the tremendous outpouring of love, prayers, kindness and support. We will keep praying for Mr. Mielko. We are honouring Mr. Mielko throughout the year so that his memory lives on through each one of us. We will begin with a student of the month award presented to students bearing his name and honouring students who exemplify certain character traits. Mr. Mielko was always so kind and patient, caring and giving. The award is named the TRUE GRIT MR. MIELKO SPIRIT AWARD. Mr. Mielko will always live on in our thoughts, hearts and prayers. In the spring we will plant a tree in the front of the school so that it can grow and bloom year after year. Our school community was privileged to know him and have his as a colleague, a teacher, coach and friend to many.

PARISH CONNECTION CONFIRMATION

On Thursday, October 27th, the Grade 7 students attended Camp Brebeuf for their Confirmation Retreat. The students had the opportunity to try some high level challenges on the climbing wall and high ropes. They learned more about their faith through "shine" activities. The day concluded with a Liturgy in the rustic wooden chapel. Thank you to Mrs. Gris and Mr. Pizzuti and Wes for preparing the students for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The next retreat will be held on Monday November 7th at St. Francis Parish Center. Students will be walking to the Church. They must be in full uniform and must bring a peanut free lunch and snacks.

On **Saturday November 19th at 10:00 am**, the grade 7 students will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Pray for our students. We welcome Bishop Crosby on this very special occasion. We are looking for donations of cookies for the celebration in the Church hall after the Sacrament. Please keep in mind all cookies and donations should be peanut/tree nut free. If they are not, clearly mark the item. If you have a container you wish to receive back, label it with your name, child's name and grade. Thank you! The CWL will provide coffee, tea and juice.

Parish Evangelization Committee has been formed at **St. Francis Xavier Parish** to explore and develop strategies to spread the Good News in our Parish, build our parish community and strive to bring non-practising Catholics back to the Church. If you are interested in knowing more, and possibly serving on this Committee, its inaugural formation meeting will be held in the Small Meeting Room of the Parish Centre on **Wed., Nov. 23rd**.

St. Francis Xavier Fall Fair Fun - Saturday November 5th

Food, games, crafts, vendors and so much wait for you there, so don't miss out on some early Christmas shopping ideas.

See flyer or parish bulletin for more details.

We are collecting plastic bags for St. Francis Xavier Parish, please drop them off at the office.

As a feeder school we are supporting a new program that the Parish has purchased. The program is called FORMED.ORG FORMED is a website that offers video's, books, information etc about our Catholic Faith. It is a wonderful site to explore and delve into your faith a little deeper.

Step 1. Go to <http://formed.org/> Step 2. Look for the Register link on the bottom right. Step 3. Register

Step 4. Fill in the Parish Code of **4B3RPK** (This is case sensitive) and then follow the prompts.

Explore the site and discover the wonderful materials that can help your families faith grow.

NEW ALTAR SERVERS

If your son/daughter is in Grade 4,5,6,7 or 8 please encourage them to volunteer as an Altar Server at St. Francis Xavier Church. Registration forms for training are available in our school office. Thank You.

WEAR RED & WHITE DAY FOR THE UNITED WAY

We will have RED AND WHITE DAY, for the United Way on **Friday November 25th**. We ask all students who wear red and white to donate a toonie for the United Way, unless you have paid online!

PROGRESS REPORTS/PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Progress Reports will be sent home on **Tuesday, Nov. 15th**. Interviews will be held **Thursday Nov. 17th in the evening**. (information about times to follow). If this is not a convenient time, please contact your child's teacher to make other arrangements. Please remember to return the response page of the Progress Report at the interview or send it in with your son/daughter as soon as possible. Envelopes must also be returned to the school.

Staff CHANGES

Welcome Mr. Calcagni as our grade 3 and 4 teacher full time at St. Clare of Assisi. We also welcome Mr. J. Fleet who will be here in the afternoon to teach Physical Education, Health and Science to our Grade 2, 2/3 and 3/4 classes.



BOOK FAIR

Our annual Book Fair will be held on **Wednesday, Nov. 16th**. Interviews will be held **Thursday Nov. 17th in the evening**. **FINAL DAY**, Friday November 18th closing at noon! If you can volunteer please contact Mr. Mota at motaj@fc.hwcdsb.ca. The Library now has 24/7 access. Go to <https://library.hwcdsb.ca> for access.

PARKING CONCERNS

Parking is still a concern. Parents are asked to park in the side lots or on the street. The front area is for quick drop off and not stopping or leaving the vehicle. If you need to get out of your car, you **MUST** park your car in a designated parking spot or on the road. **This is a major safety concern**. The front area is a bus lane! Student safety is paramount and all parents need to respect this rule. This rule applies for all types of weather. Rain or snow will not harm the children. Blocking an area that is not designated for parking could harm a child or an adult. **SAFETY** first!

BOOTIFUL DAY

A sincere thank you to St. Clare Catholic School Council & the parent/grandparent volunteers who assisted with the Move-a-thon on October 31ST. Thank you to all who donated prizes. We had so many wonderful prizes for the students and are very much appreciated. Grand prize winner was: Alessia Z, mini iPad prize. Congratulations to Mrs. Roy Crooker, Mr. Calgani, Mr. Machado's and Mrs. Danusia class for winning the class pizza lunch. The grand total of the money raised from the Move-a-thon is approximately \$9,000.00 The CSC and the school will discuss the areas that need to be enhanced in order to spend this year's fund raising money. Thanks again to all for making it such a "Bootiful Day!"

A very special 'THANK YOU' to Mrs. Germana-Miller, Mrs. DeBellis, Mrs. Gibilaro, all CSC members and the team of helpers for the excellent organization, dedication and foresight in moving forward with the Move-a-Thon.

Mrs. Scozzari, Mrs. Gris and the Student Council had a wonderful pumpkin decorating contest! Check out the pictures on our school website. Winners from the Pumpkin contest: Mr. Machado and Mrs. Danusia FDK class, Mrs. Malcolmson's grade 6 class and Mrs. Scozzari's grade 8 class.

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

We are pleased to announce St. Clare of Assisi's successful achievement with our recent Move-A-thon.

This success was accomplished for many reasons. Thank you to our students and families for your generosity and support of this fundraiser. We would like to express our appreciation to Mrs. Martino, teachers and staff for your guidance and assistance in organizing this event. Your commitment to our school is evident in all that you do! Lastly, to our parent volunteers, thank you for your collaborative effort put forth. It is your remarkable dedication that will allow us to continue to grow and achieve continued success. St. Clare of Assisi Catholic School Council - Congratulations a very successful and job well done!

Next Catholic School Council Meeting will be held on **Monday, November 7th** at 6:00 pm in the library.

PILGRIMAGE

Congratulations to Mrs. Gris, Mrs. Scozzari and the 21 students who attended this year's Pilgrimage, as well as Mrs. Martino. It was a beautiful day! We began with Mass at Cathedral High School and celebrated the Mass with Bishop Crosby. After Mass, all students embarked on a walk for Justice to St. Anthony Daniel School. We are very proud of the students who took an active part and spent their Sunday with us and completed the 8 km journey. Your faith is an inspiration!



TIP OF THE MONTH FOR HEALTHY SCHOOL LUNCHES

Children experience food using taste, touch and sight. Keep them interested with lunches that include a variety of shapes, colours and textures.

* Switch up the veggies and fruit. Give your kids something different to experience with each bite. Group foods according to: Type (citrus, tropical.); color (green, red, orange, yellow, purple); shape (balls, strips, chunks, whole); or texture (soft, juicy, crunchy) * Kids love to dip. Use cottage cheese, hummus, yogurt, or guacamole as healthy dips.

For more ideas check out: www.eatrightontario.ca

SNACKS

ALL snacks coming to school must be peanut/tree nut safe. Please be sure to check the Halloween candy! THIS IS FOR STUDENT SAFETY. Students are reminded not to share snacks on regular school days.

COLD WEATHER ALERT

November brings with it the advent of cooler weather. Students must be prepared for the upcoming weather changes by coming to school with suitable coats, boots, hats, gloves etc. It is important that parents realize that we go outside three times a day for recesses and in order to enjoy this time, students must be protected from the elements with proper winter attire. We appreciate your assistance with this matter. **SNOWBALL THROWING IS NOT ACCEPTABLE AT ANY TIME ON ANY PART OF THE SCHOOLS PROPERTY.**

INCLEMENT WEATHER SCHOOL CLOSURE

When schools are closed or buses cancelled, due to extreme weather conditions, details will be announced by radio (900 CHML / Y108FM/Oldies 1150(CKOC)/K-Lite 102.9 FM/820 CHAM/WAVE 94.7 FM and T.V. (CHTV Morning Live—Channel 11). This information is also posted on our website and the board website. If buses are cancelled in the am, they will be cancelled **ALL** day.

PICTURE RE-TAKE DAY

Picture re-take is **Tuesday, November 22nd** for any student that was absent or needs their picture re-taken. Some classes will have their class picture taken on re-take day, Mr. Calcagni's class, Mrs. Malcolmson.

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. Any students arriving late for school must pick up a late slip at the office. **Parents are asked to say goodbye in the foyer and not walk students to class. This is for student safety and privacy.**

ADVENT LITURGY & FAMILY FUN CRAFT NIGHT

The committee is inviting all St. Clare of Assisi families to participate in a short Advent Liturgy followed by a family fun craft night in the school in December. More information will be coming home soon. **"Jesus is the reason for the season"**.



HOMEWORK HELP/ E MATH+/PRODIGY

Our Gr. 3, 4, 5 and 6 students are now registered for emath+ online. Emath+ is an online tool to support learning math at home. Emath+ has resources to help parents understand math with extra support and practice for your child and online access to Nelson Math textbooks. We hope this is a useful tool to help your child improve math understanding.

PRODIGY MATH

All students in Grade 1 - 8 will receive a student login to use math prodigy. Math Prodigy is fun online math games with over 300 math skills which are critical for math success at school.

The Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, and the Independent Learning Centre (ILC) is pleased to continue to offer all Grades 7 and 8 Mathematics Students **FREE** online Mathematics homework assistance. Designed to enhance students' learning skills and contribute to academic success in Mathematics, Homework Help offers all registered users access to free real-time one-on-one Mathematics tutoring with an Ontario Certified Teacher from **5:30 to 9:30 p.m., Sunday through Thursday**, and unlimited access to a variety of other learning supports. Homework Help can be readily accessed via the link provided at <http://ontario.ca/homeworkhelp>, or directly at <http://homeworkhelp.ilc.org>

Many teachers are using the LMS or classroom DoJo. Students and parents are encouraged to log on and check out class projects, homework etc. Assignments and daily school work must be completed

GRADE 8 PARENT NIGHT @ CARDINAL NEWMAN

An information night has been planned at Cardinal Newman Catholic Secondary School to provide parents with information on what they need to know and need to do to prepare their children for high school. Secondary staff will also provide parents with important information on programs and pathway choices and answer frequently asked questions about high school. The date for the Parent night is **Thursday November 28th at 7:00 pm**. **Tours may be provided at 6:30, information session begins at 7:00 p.m.**

FLU CLINICS



The City of Hamilton, Public Health Services is offering Community Flu Clinics during the month of November. For more information call 905-CITY (2489) or visit www.hamilton.ca/flu

TEAM NEWS



JUNIOR GIRLS FLAG FOOTBALL

The girls played each game with such heart and dedication. Unfortunately our season ended after a tough game with Immaculate Heart of Mary team. It was an absolute joy to coach the girls and we wish we could have gone further together. Great effort girls! Team members: Lucy D. Assistant Coach, Eva D., Alissa G., Alessia P., Olivia G., Sophia H., Sierra K., Sophie R., Victoria P., Jillian M., Genevieve G., Larissa R., and Gabriela M. Special thanks to Miss Scozzari, Mr. Ruggiero and Lucy D. for working with the girls throughout the season!!

JUNIOR BOYS FLAG FOOTBALL

The Junior Boys football team has had a tremendous season so far. Their teamwork and dedication to sportsmanship has been exemplary for their fellow classmates. The boys play their first playoff game this Saturday, November 5th against a very determined Immaculate Heart of Mary football team. Good luck to all those involved! **GO COUGARS:** James K., Erik Z, Mario B., Julian M., Thomas S., Brayden L., Nicholas S., Nicholas Ha., Nicholas H., Anthony D., Marcus C., Joseph C., Morgan R., and Stone F.

SENIOR BOYS FLAG FOOTBALL

Congratulations to the Sr Boys Football team on a great regular season. The boys have been very dedicated and working hard at practice. The team won the Cardinal Newman Feeder School Tournament. We look forward to a great playoff season

Mr. Mota and Mr. Pizzuti

Team Members; Ryan P., Mark S., Dante C., Jacob G., Michael H., Colin L., Matthew M., Francesco S., Elijah R., Alex F., Alex V., and Evan C.

CROSS COUNTRY NEWS

We had an excellent day at Marydale Park. Many thanks to all staff who prepared the students for their runs especially Mr. Pizzuti and Mrs. Lancia. Thank you to the many parents who came out to volunteer or support their children. Our top runners: Ethan C, grade 7, second, Larissa R., grade 6, fifth place, Sofia H., grade 6, 7th place, Sofia M., grade 4, 9th place, Mikalyi, grade 4, 10th place, Nicholas H., grade 4, 4th place, Lily F. grade 3, 4th place, Abby H., grade 2, 4th place, Marcus S, grade 3, 2nd place, Vincent D., grade 3, 3rd place, Mark S., grade 8 1st place. Congratulations to all our runners. We are so very proud of all students who ran the Cross Country Event. Keep running, so you are ready for the Spring event!

SENIOR GIRLS BASKETBALL

Congratulations to the senior girls basketball team on the undefeated season so far. The girls have been very committed and are working hard at practice. They have come a long way and the coaches are very proud. Special thanks to Mr. Medic as head coach and Miss DiLivio, coach for all their leadership, skill development and dedication to the team. Team Members: Vanessa U., Laren R., Sophie B., Amanda C., Ava M., Daniela M., Carina M., Madelynn G., Lucy D., Christina P., and Daniela G.

October has been a very difficult month for many reasons, especially the passing of Mr. Mielko. We ask for your patience and understanding as we forge together to get things up and running. Robotics, Caribou, ECO team, HAT team will all begin soon.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS HAS COME TO AN END

Please be reminded that clocks go back on **Sunday, November 6th at 2:00 a.m.** In the interest of home safety, this is also a good opportunity to change the batteries in such things as smoke detectors, alarms, carbon monoxide testers, etc.