

## FEBRUARY 2017 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

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 and/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.

### SAFETY FIRST

We are consistently reminding students of the hands off policy. All students are to keep their hands and feet to themselves. Unfortunately, at times, play can cause a serious injury. Please remind your son/daughter of the importance of not touching others at any time. We aim to live up to our school Motto, **"TO BE THE FACE OF JESUS AND TO SEE THE FACE OF JESUS IN EVERYONE WE MEET."** If we do this, we will learn the value of respecting ourselves and others at all times. Toys are not permitted at school. Toys lead to a variety of problems. We hope children learn the value of play with others rather than things at recess.

### Cellphones and Technology

Students who have cellphones cannot use these devices at school during recess, lunch etc. They are only permitted to use technology under the direction and supervision of a teacher. This is written in the bring your own device policy.

### SHROVE TUESDAY AND ASH WEDNESDAY MASS

SHROVE TUESDAY is **February 28th**. All students will receive pancakes for lunch. Thank you to all our great volunteers!

Ash Wednesday takes place on **Wednesday March 1st**. Grade 2 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.

## BULLDOG HOCKEY EVENT AND LITERACY DAY

On Wednesday February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the students from grade 4 to 8 will be attending Literacy Day with the Hamilton Bulldogs. The cost is \$15.00 per student. Unfortunately, this is not a peanut free facility. Students with allergies are asked to bring their own snacks. Remember Cash On Line is the best way to pay for all trips! The FDK to grade 4 students will have a visit in March from Little Ray's Reptile Store. This will be in our school gym and no cost to the students.

## REPORT CARDS

Report Cards will be sent home on **Wed.Feb.15th**. 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 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. Students are encouraged to have open dialogue with the classroom teachers. Parents check the agenda to see if work is completed and sign off on the completed items. If you have any concerns, questions or positive feedback, make an appointment to meet with your son/daughters teacher.

## 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 - TUES., FEB. 14TH

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. 13<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>** 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 **Monday February 13<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday February 14<sup>th</sup>**. Raffle tickets will be sold on **Monday February 13 and on February 14<sup>th</sup>**, 1 for 25 cents or 5 for \$1.00. Winners will take their prize home. **HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!**

## PITA LUNCH ON FEBRUARY 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>TH</sup> and March 8th

Order forms have been sent home and need to be returned to school no later than Wednesday Feb. 1st. **Students who have paid on line for February and March Pita lunch are permitted to pick a dress down day until the end of June. Permission slips will be given out to the students. Cash on line is the best way to pay!**

## WORLD'S FINEST FUND RAISER



We will be selling chocolates, peanut and nut free, from **February 25<sup>th</sup> until March 25<sup>th</sup>**. 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 75% 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 25<sup>th</sup>** at Bishop Ryan High School. Unfortunately, our school did not participate this year, however, feel free to drop in and see the awesome work students in our board have done and are willing to share with you.

## 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 reinforce 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. Students must sign in at the office.** If you are taking a child out of school, the student must be signed out at the main 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 20<sup>th</sup>** 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. 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 support.

### ECO TEAM: CONSERVING COUGARS 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 1st**, 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!

### PINK T-SHIRT DAY WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 22ND

Kindness is one size fits all! Lets band together and put an end to Put downs, bullying and plain and simple being mean or nasty to others. **"A WARM SMILE IS THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE OF KINDNESS."**William Arthur Ward

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FREE THROW!

On Saturday January 21<sup>st</sup>, the Knights of Columbus held the Annual Basketball Free Throw Competition. Congratulations to: Alessia P., 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Reanna R., 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Gennaro R., 1<sup>st</sup> Place. We are very proud of all students who attended and for representing our school. The Knights of Columbus are very committed to helping connect the Parish and the schools. All students should aim to be involved in the activities that are offered.



### TIP OF THE MONTH FOR HEALTHY SCHOOL LUNCH

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](http://www.eatrightontario.ca)

### PARENTING TIPS FROM THE HAMILTON DIOCESE

#### Parenting Tip 95

Spending quality time together will pay great dividends to all involved, especially our children. Time together allows for positive interaction, the ability to learn about each other and the chance to build strong bonds and memories. A great starting point is a shared family meal, but reading together, playing a board game, or working on a puzzle together are but a few of the many ways we can build connections. The result will be higher self-esteem for children, a greater cohesiveness in the family unit and the desire for more time as a family. Try it, you won't regret it!

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

### **Marriage Tip 75**

The gift of self we promised during our wedding vows is essential to put into action during moments of struggle. When a spouse's actions cause anger, sadness or disappointment, we must try to look past the action or words and see the person we love. Instead of responding negatively in the moment, try to understand what has caused this situation and propose a resolution that will work for both of you and for your relationship. In our most vulnerable moments we have a chance to show our greatest love by responding as we should, as opposed to how we feel.

### **RESTORATIVE PRACTICE**

On Monday, January 16, nineteen of our Junior and Intermediate students were trained in Restorative Practices. Restorative Practices is a program based on respect, responsibility, relationship-building and relationship-repairing. It focuses on mediation and agreement rather than punishment. It aims to create a safe environment where children feel part of a community and learning can flourish.

Our newly trained students will be part of the St. Clare Calm Keepers, and will be circulating on the playground during recesses to aid the Primary and Junior students in mediating differences and finding respectful ways to solve disagreements. We are extremely proud of the commitment these students have made to our school and look forward to the leadership skills that they will share. Thank you to Mrs. J. Zuppa from the Nicholas Mancini Center and to Mrs. Lancia and Mrs. Gris for facilitating the student training.

