

MAY 2017 NEWSLETTER

Superintendent: I. Fortino

Trustees: M. Nardini & P. DiFrancesco

Pastor: Mariusz Durbajlo

Principal: C. Martino

Principal Assistant: A. Gris

Secretary: D. Simpson

Assoc. Pastor: Luc Samba

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

May is here! God has blessed us with a mild winter and hopefully we will be blessed with good weather and sunshine throughout the month of May! The Hail Mary is a well-loved and beautiful basic Catholic prayer. It's one of the essential prayers to Virgin Mary. It combines two lines from Scripture (Lk 1:28 and Lk 1:42) with a humble request for Mary to pray for us.

"Let us ask the Blessed Virgin to make us contemplatives, to teach us to recognize the constant calls from God at the door of our heart. Let us ask her now: Our Mother, you brought to earth Jesus, who reveals the love of our Father God. Help us to recognize him in the midst of the cares of each day. Stir up our mind and will so that we may listen to the voice of God, to the calls of grace."

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.



CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK THEME: "WALKING FORWARD TOGETHER"

This year's celebration is entitled, "**Catholic Education: Walking Forward Together**" and will be held during the week of **April 30 - May 5, 2017**. The overall scriptural theme is "**Do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God**" -Micah 6:8.

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:

Monday: Walking Forward Together with God

Tuesday: Walking Forward Together with Our Families

Wednesday: Walking Forward Together with Others

Thursday: Walking Forward Together with Creation

Friday: Walking Forward Together in Hope

Alex P and Kennedy R submitted art work for the Catholic Education Week Poster. Their drawings received honourable mention and we are very proud of their efforts.

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

Wednesday 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 3rd Grade 7 students to attend a trip to Tim Horton Field and learn about the game of football from the Hamilton Tiger Cats!

Wednesday May 3rd **Scripture Reading** at Bishop Ryan High School at 7 pm. Thank you to Mrs. Staresina for preparing the students. Our school will be represented by: Alex P., Gaby R., Sophia B. and Serena A. We are very proud of our four students for entering this competition and representing our school. This is a testament to our faith community!

Friday 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 4th**. 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!

Cookies will be sold at the Family day event for \$1.00.

Sunday May 14th is **Mother's Day** **HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!** May God bless and protect all mothers. Our FDK MOTHER'S DAY TEA will take place on Friday May 5th in the afternoon.

Monday May 15th **GUEST SPEAKER MR. PAUL DAVIS ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

Mr. Paul Davis will be at our school at 6:30 to speak to parents about the dangers of social media. All parents and guest are welcome to join us!! The students will hear Mr. Davis during the day. Mr. Davis is a guest speaker sponsored by our Catholic School Council.

Friday May 26th: **Mass on the Grass - 1:30 pm** 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.

HAT TEAM WELLNESS DAY

Nurse Katharine and the Healthy Action Hero's have been very busy this month! We began April with Zumba for all classes. Throughout April, the students have had daily fitness challenges. Early in May, we will announce the winners! Nurse Katharine, Mrs. Sulug, Mrs. Matecovic, Mrs. DeSantis, Mrs. Iovio, Mrs Fargo, co-op students, Luana A. and Jessica F., along with Mrs. Lancia and Mrs. Batt, worked so diligently to provide a delicious Freggie Tuesday. Thank you to all who brought in Fruit and/or vegetables. It was a great day. The entire school was warmed by the scents of the soup and the fruit. Through the Liturgy and the reading of "*Stone Soup*", we recognized the value of being a community and the importance of pulling together to make a difference!

ECO TEAM

The Conserving Cougars have once again been hard at work! Our Eco School Certification Application has been submitted. We are one step closer to trying to get Gold Certification this year. A big thank you to everyone for helping us get to where we are this year. St. Clare of Assisi planted an Ivory Silk Lilac tree in our outdoor prayer garden and classroom, to honour the life of Mr. Mielko. We had a beautiful Liturgy about the importance of preserving life. The Liturgy began in our gym and moved to our outdoor classroom. We prayed and watched as the tree was gently put into the earth. A very special thank you to Satellite Garden Centre for helping us get this tree by donating 50% of the price. We are very grateful! Our tree looks absolutely beautiful and we cannot wait for it to start blooming and create new life for our school community. What a special way to keep a piece of Mr. Mielko with us all.

We are very proud of our Cougars for really stepping up last month for our Litterless Lunch campaign. We have had such a great turnout from the school. Many students have been bringing in reusable containers, and water bottles instead of a lunch full of litter. We could not be any happier. This campaign will be continuing for the remainder of the year so keep up the great work Cougars!

From **May 29th** - **June 2nd**, we will be participating in the country wide Plastic Bag Grab Challenge. We will be collecting plastic bags during this week and all bags collected will be brought to a nearby Walmart. The winner of this challenge will receive \$5000 dollars or their school which would be a good opportunity for the school. Keep up the excellent work Cougars! We know you can do it! A very big thank you to Mr. Calcagni and the Conserving Cougar Team for all their hard work!!!

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 or muscle shirts 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	Andrew S.	
	Academic Excellence Award	Ania V. L.	
	Excellent Effort in the Pursuit of Learning Award	Jacob G.	
	Stewardship of Creation: Environmental Award	Sabrina P.	
	Religion & Family Life	Evan C	
	Language	Lucy D.	
	Science/Technology	Ryan P.	
	Mathematics	Paul P.	
	Social Studies /History/Geography	Ava M.	
	Arts	Emilia B.	
	French as a Second Language	Nicole F.	
	Health & Physical Education	Vanessa U.	

SHARE LENT

During Lent, Mrs. Staresina and the grade 2 class collected for Share Lent. After Easter they presented Father Mariusz with the cheque as their contribution towards helping those who are less fortunate. Congratulations grade 2 students!! The school has decided to match the amount for Share Lent to bring our grand total of \$213.40.

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.

All Volunteers must complete the AODA, Accessibility Standards for Customer Service training module. This is a Ministry Mandate. This can be accessed by going to the board site, access the HR Service Centre by using the web address: www.hrservicecentre.ca Fill out the form and follow the instructions to create your account. A print option will be available if you wish to keep a hard copy of your certificate or bring it into the main office of the school.

EQAO

Parents of our Grade 3 and 6 students, please note that the provincial assessment will take place from **May 23rd to June 5th** 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 2017-2018

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. Our next main event will take place on Monday May 15th with our guest speaker Paul Davis, on Social Media. The next meeting will take place on **Monday, May 29th at 6:00 pm.**

MASS ON THE GRASS

We honour Mary our Mother during this beautiful Month. On **Friday, May 26th at 1:30 pm** 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

