

Superintendent: I. Fortino

Trustees: M. Nardini & P. DiFrancesco

Pastor: Rev Mariusz Durbajlo

Principal: C. Martino

Principal Assistant: J. Shamon

Secretary: D. Simpson

Assoc. Pastor: Rev Francesco Cucchi

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone had a blessed and a fantastic Christmas with family and friends. Thank you for your generosity, your cards and well wishes during the month of December. We were very touched by the warmth of the Advent season with the support for the tree of warmth, the food drive and all the Hamper donations. The Christmas Concert, was a great success. I thank all staff for working with the students to prepare something for all to enjoy. Our visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus was fantastic! Thank you to all the volunteers! This really captures the true meaning of the season and we are truly blessed to have so many generous spirits fill our school community. The staff wishes everyone a very healthy, holy and Happy New Year! The New Year is a blessing from God to each of us. Celebrate your blessings and aim to make this year a very special year.

### A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

*Dear God,  
May my life be of use to You this year.  
May my talents and intelligence  
help heal the world.  
May I remember how much I have  
by remembering how much I have to give.  
May I not be tempted by smaller things  
but serve my larger mission of forgiveness and love.  
Thus shall I be lifted, God,  
and know joy this coming year and beyond.  
Bless me and work through me  
to bless the entire world.  
Amen.*

### IMPORTANT WEATHER ALERT

"O the weather..." We do live in Canada and we do have to expect the cold and the snow during the winter months. Ensure your child comes to school dressed for the elements. Students must come with boots for outside and runners/shoes for inside. Indoor shoes are a must, if we have an emergency and we have to evacuate, there will be no time to put on boots. Inside shoes should be here daily so students are not calling home. Snow pants are a must if students go on the snow hills or make snow angels. **SNOWBALLS are a safety concern and will not be tolerated. Students who throw snowballs will be suspended. Remind your son/daughter about the importance of following this school rule.** The snow is beautiful and there are many other things to do with the snow!

### PUNCTUALITY

School begins at 8:40 am. Students are setting excellent habits if they learn the value of being on time. Aim to set the clock a little earlier and be punctual!

### REPORT CARDS



First term will be ending very soon and report cards will be sent home on **February 15<sup>th</sup>**. Accept each challenge and put forth your very best effort. All students are encouraged to review their strengths and weaknesses with their parents and set goals to achieve academic success. Times are changing and we are living in a very competitive world. Students must learn the value of oral communication, setting goals and striving for personal success. Next steps and priorities must be set as a priority in order to achieve success. January is an important month to set goals and new expectations. There is always time to improve work habits.

## CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

This year Christmas Hampers were prepared by our school community to assist families in need within our school community. We supported 10 families. Some of the staff took on two families through Catholic Children's Aid, as well as the needs in the community. Thank you for your compassion and giving nature. Thank you for your generous support for this endeavour. The amount of canned goods and gifts were overwhelming. All hampers were very well received and the families are so very appreciative of your support and prayers for their well-being. Thank you to the students and staff for their contribution to the Christmas Hampers. Thank you to the families that chose gifts from our tree. These gifts were used for the hampers. We truly appreciate the efforts of the Catholic School Council and parent volunteers for gathering additional donations from the business community and helping to assemble and deliver the hampers.

The Catholic School Council also dedicated a portion of their yearly Charitable Donation Funds to the purchase of gift cards for items for the hampers. We would also like to extend our gratitude to those families who donated gift cards.

A very special thank you to all the Council for all the shopping, organization and making sure all hampers were complete and organizing all the Christmas donations. "It takes a village to raise a child!"

## SPORTS NEWS

We are beginning a new *CYO* season. This term the junior and senior boys will be playing basketball. The junior and senior girls will be playing volleyball this term. All games are off site.

## RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Reconciliation will take place on **Thursday April 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.** and First Holy Communion on **Saturday May 12<sup>th</sup> AT 2:00 pm.** Pictures will begin at 12:30 pm. More information will be sent home.

## CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

We will meet on **Monday January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 pm** in our school library. All parents are welcome to join us. The Catholic School Council will begin the World's Finest Chocolate Bar Drive in February. If you are interested in supporting this venture, please fill in the form and check off how many boxes and which type of chocolate you would like to receive. Fundraising helps us to purchase new items for student use and betterment. Technology and physical education equipment is very expensive and the only way to purchase items for our students is from fundraising. All fund-raising money is used to benefit the students on a daily basis.

## FAMILY LITERACY DAY - January 29<sup>th</sup>



Family Literacy Day is a national initiative that promotes the importance of reading and learning together as a family. Every year, families across Canada are encouraged to take the time to celebrate the special day. In Hamilton, Family Literacy Day has evolved into a weeklong celebration called "Hamilton Families Read Week".

As a school, we will be participating in a "**Snuggle Up & Read**" event on Monday January 29<sup>th</sup>. This day will also be our '**Pyjama Day**' and students are invited to wear appropriate pj's, slippers, house coats for the day and of course their favourite book!

## P.A. DAY

**Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup>** has been designated as a Professional Activity Day. There will be no school for students that day. Staff will be involved in activities throughout the day.

## INDOOR FOOTWEAR



In order to keep classrooms free of outside melted snow, mud and dirt and to provide footwear for outside in case the fire alarm rings, we request that the students bring a pair of "indoor" shoes that they will keep at school and wear during the school day. Shoes must be worn as a safety precaution. Students should not be calling home to bring in footwear. This is an expectation and should be packed in the school bag or left in the classroom. In accordance with fire regulations, it is required that there is an "immediate and complete" evacuation of the entire building. There is no time to stop and put on boots or coats. If you have established the above footwear practice with your child, we can avoid an unpleasant experience for them (outside in stocking feet) in the case of an emergency.

## **BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL PARKING CONCERNS**

As we progress through this winter season, we can expect that parking spots will be lost to piles of snow. Please drive carefully through the parking lot and driveway. Please remember to exit the parking lot/driveway through the west exit. The Kiss & Ride is intended for students who can leave the car and go into the playground on their own. If you are intending on walking your children to the playground, please park your car in a designated spot, not in the drive way. There is **no** pick up in the driveway at the end of the day. This holds up the school bus. The handicapped parking in the west lot is intended for parents that have the official signage in their vehicle. Please do not park in these designated spots or park your vehicle in such a way that the entrance to the spots is blocked. **BLOCKING THE FRONT AREA IS A HUGE SAFETY CONCERN!**

## **PLAYGROUND REMINDERS**

The playground for all students is walk and talk only in the am. If you have smaller children and are bringing them on the yard, please discuss the no running rule and no equipment. This is for student and adult safety. Students are supervised first thing in the morning, so if you wish to drop off and leave, all students are supervised.

The bell rings at 8:38. At this time, all students should be lined up for entry with their class. The front door should not be used. The final bell rings at 8:40. At this time, all students should be in the classroom and ready for O'Canada and Prayers. Punctuality is an important trait for success. If students are late, they miss the morning routines, reminders etc.

The turf area is locked at the end of each day. This again is for student safety. We have no supervision at this time. At dismissal all students are reminded to leave the school yard and head straight home.

We do not have free entry. All doors are locked during the day. This is for student safety. Students must wear clips to enter the building given by the lunch supervisors or the staff. Once students are dismissed they should not be re-entering the building. The cleaning staff begins washing floors and it becomes an area of concern if students are returning for forgotten homework.

## **ANAPHYLAXIS**

Please remember that all products that are not nut safe can be life threatening to some of our students. Your co-operation in carefully selecting nut safe snacks for your child to bring to school is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued support.

No peanut butter or Nutella are permitted at school. Students are reminded that they are not to share snacks at school.

## **ALLERGEN REMINDER**

St. Clare of Assisi is a place where all children feel safe and have a sense of belonging. To ensure the safety and well-being of all children, please note below important information from Anaphylaxis Canada:

- Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that is rapid in onset and may cause death;
- Signs and symptoms of a severe allergic reaction can occur within minutes of exposure to an allergen (a substance capable of causing an allergic reaction), and
- Very small amounts of certain foods can cause severe reactions when eaten. This may happen if a person at risk touches an allergenic substance and then subsequently touches the mouth. Even a very small amount 'hidden' in a food or transferred to a serving utensil has the potential to cause a severe allergic reaction. Direct ingestion of an allergy-causing food poses the greatest risk for people with food allergies.

Co-operation from parent and guardians in adhering to the guidelines below is most appreciated:

- There are students and staff at this school who are allergic to the following foods and items: Peanuts, eggs, and nuts;
- Parents will be advised of allergens specific to a classroom; please avoid bringing these allergens into the designated classroom;
- Reinforce hand-washing practices: wash hands before and after eating;
- Remind children not to share or trade food, food utensils, or food containers, and
- Please do NOT bring any homemade food products into the school; with permission, non-food items are permitted for various celebrations and special events and activities.

### **"NO CHILD WITHOUT" MEDIC ALERT PROGRAM**

The Canadian Medic Alert® Foundation has developed a program to protect children living with chronic medical conditions, allergies or special needs. This program is called NO CHILD WITHOUT. It was developed to ensure children from JK up to their 14th birthday receive Medic Alert protection at no cost to the parent, school or board. The program is funded by corporate and local business sponsorships across Canada.

If you are a parent of a child with chronic medical conditions, allergies or special needs please contact Medic Alert. The NO CHILD WITHOUT brochure explains the voluntary program. The form is sent directly to Medic Alert. There are no costs. All correspondence occurs directly between Medic Alert and the parent/guardian. The school and Board will receive monthly updates listing all medications, allergies and medical conditions of the participants, but no student names are printed.

Should you have any questions, contact Medic Alert directly at [www.medicalert.ca/nochildwithout](http://www.medicalert.ca/nochildwithout).

### **SAFE ARRIVALPROGRAM**

If your child is to be absent from school or will be late arriving, we ask that you please call the school. We would like to thank all parents who take the time to call as this helps our Safe Arrival Program function effectively. If you **do not** call, we will call home or cell phones and call parents at work. Please make sure we have up-to-date information in the office. Our telephone system allows you to leave a message at any time directly with no chance of a busy signal. These messages are a high priority and they are retrieved on a regular basis.

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

A reminder that when schools are closed or buses cancelled due to extreme weather conditions, details will be announced before 7:00 a.m. through the following Hamilton and area media outlets:

900 CHML / Country 95.3 FM / Y-108 FM / 1150 CKOC / K-Lite 102.9 FM / 820 CHAM / WAVE 94.7 FM / CH Morning Live or [www.hwcdsb.ca](http://www.hwcdsb.ca)

#### **Parents/guardians should take notice of the following guidelines:**

In the event of impending severe weather conditions, parents should consider the safety of their children in deciding whether or not to send them to school; Parents should stay tuned to the Hamilton and area radio stations and our website for weather reports and School Board announcements; Parents, who in spite of bus cancellations, drive their children to school, should ensure that their children can get into the school and will be required to make the necessary arrangements for the safe return home of their children at the end of the day or in the event of an early closure. Buses that do not run in the morning will not run for the rest of the day.

### **NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS TO MAKE AS A FAMILY!**

**Get Unplugged-** Set a goal of spending at least one day a week without screen time and instead, enjoy the outdoors or have a board game marathon.

**Eat Well-** Even if your children are a healthy weight, seeing their parents keep healthy eating habits can positively shape their relationship with food.

**Exercise-** Make fitness fun and easy by doing family activities that get you moving, such as a snowman-building race or just going for a walk after dinner.

**Read-** Make this the year that you all become bookworms. Encourage kids to keep a reading chart or book diary.

**Do Chores-** Try keeping a chore jar with slips of paper for kids to pick which chore they'll do that week, such as taking out the trash or setting the table.

**Be Good to Others-** Keep in mind that kids learn how to be kind by watching others. Look for opportunities to do good deeds and say kind words to others. **Get More Sleep-** Use bedtime routines to help your child settle into a better sleep schedule. Check out: <https://www.familyeducation.com> for more information

**KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2018**

If you already have children in our school and will be registering a JK or SK student, *please fill out the form at the end of this newsletter* and return it to the office. Children already registered at St. Clare in **JK** need not register for the SK program. For JK Children: They must be 4 years of age on or before December 31, 2018.

For SK Children: They must be 5 years of age on or before December 31, 2018.

The HWCDSB is looking at an online registration form for this February. We will send out information as soon as possible.

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**NOTICE FOR JK/SK REGISTRATION**

YES, I have a child who will be entering JK in September 2018 or a **new SK** (*not having attended JK this year*).

For JK, my child will be 4 years old by December 31, 2018 and for SK, they will be 5 years old by December 31, 2018. They have been baptized in a Roman Catholic Church. Please send home the necessary forms with:

Sibling's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child to register for JK \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_