

# MAY 2019 COUGAR HIGHLIGHTS

**“BE THE FACE OF JESUS, SEE THE FACE OF JESUS”**

*“Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy.” (1 Peter 1:8)*

**Catholic Education Week May 5<sup>th</sup> to May 10<sup>th</sup>**

This year’s Catholic Education Week theme is *“Living as Joyful Disciples.”*

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2019 are as follows:

**Monday: Rooted in Prayer / Enracinés dans la prière**

**Tuesday: Living in Community / Vivre au coeur de la communauté**

**Wednesday: Doing Justice and Creating Hope / Semer la justice et inspirer l’espérance**

**Thursday: Journeying Together in Faith / Cheminer ensemble dans la foi**

**Friday: Sharing the Good News / Partager la bonne nouvelle**

The 2019 theme was inspired by three sources: *Renewing the Promise*, The Pastoral Letter on Catholic Education from the Bishops of Ontario; *Gaudete et exultate*, the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis on the Call to Holiness; and *Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment*, the October 2018 Synod of Bishops. Mindful of the Synod on Youth, the theme and sub-themes are very much directed to the young people in our schools, especially in their growth in holiness and their formation as disciples of Christ through the discernment of their vocational pathways. In the section of *Renewing the Promise* entitled, “A Community that Forms Joyful Disciples,” we read, “*Our Catholic schools help to form joyful disciples as hearts and minds are opened to the transforming love of God and to the flame of faith in action. On a daily basis, Catholic schools demonstrate the joy of believing and witness the Good News to the communities that they serve.*”

**Loving God,**

**We thank you for our Catholic school community where we can journey in faith together. Help us to accompany each other in our learning as we grow, living as joyful disciples of Jesus and bringing good news to the world.**

**May your love speak to our hearts, helping us to bring hope to others and a commitment to justice in all we do.**

**We make this prayer through Jesus, our Lord and teacher.**

**Amen.**

*We have many activities taking place throughout Catholic Education Week:*

**Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>**, Mass at St. Francis Xavier St. Michael the Archangel 4:00 pm

**Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>**, Mass at Cathedral High School for the grade 7’s and Student Council Members, simultaneous Liturgy in the gym at 10:15 Director’s Award Presentations at the HWCDSB at 1:00 pm

**Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>** - Family/Grandparent Day - 9:00 am until 10:45 cookies for sale for \$1.00 Dress Loud for Voice- Hearing Impaired donations being accepted and students are to Dress Loud! Grade 6 trip to Tim Horton Field to meet and play with the Hamilton Tiger Cats

**Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>**, – Scripture Reading at Bishop Ryan High School

**Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>**, – *Cross Country Meet - No students are permitted to leave with another family, only their own parents. Come dressed for the weather! Bring a lunch and lots of water. Hydration is huge. Thank you to Mr. Pizzuti and Mrs. DiFrancesco for coaching and working with the students daily. Thank you to Mr. And Mrs. DiFrancesco for donating 25 t-shirts as cross-country prizes! Your generosity is very much appreciated.*

**Friday May 10<sup>th</sup>**, – *Jump Rope for Heart Thank you for sponsoring this event! All money raised goes to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Hamilton.*

**May 12<sup>th</sup>** *Happy Mother's Day to all ladies! All women are a blessing in our lives. Thank you for being such terrific role models and for nurturing and caring for so many.*

**Search for the Stars!** St. Clare of Assisi has talent! **Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 pm** in our school gym. Students will see the performance during the day. Parents and guests welcome in the evening, please stay for the entire show. Bring a canned good for admittance. Students only permitted with an adult.

Wes Moga, Youth Minister will be at the school on **May 16<sup>th</sup>** to talk about **Bible Camp**. This is a fantastic way to become more involved in our faith and have your child develop a deeper spiritual connection to our faith. Consider sending your child to Bible Camp or being a leader at Camp.

**Anaphylaxis** is a serious allergic reaction that can be life threatening; it requires avoidance strategies and immediate response in the event of an emergency. Students are not to bring peanut butter, Nutella, nuts, treats with nuts to school. Students are not to share snacks. This is for safety!

**Parking** continues to be an issue. The area by the primary yard, is not for parking. No parent or grandparent is permitted to leave the car unattended in the front of the school. This is a huge safety concern. At dismissal, your child must be on the sidewalk, parent/grandparent pulls up and student enters car, seatbelt on and car leaves. All students must enter the car from the passenger side only. If your child is not on the sidewalk, slowly drive away and circle back until he/she is outside and ready to enter the car. SLOW down in the parking lot and driveway area!

**Behaviour** - Students know the rules and the expectations. We follow the Commandments. We aim to live up to our school motto, "Be the face of Jesus, See the face of Jesus", on a daily basis. All students are reminded to keep their hands and feet to themselves. Respect, self-control, manners are expected daily.

**Yard** – The first recess at 8:25 to 8:40 is walk and talk only. No equipment, and no running on the yard. Parents, grandparents, should be dropping off their child and leaving the playground area as soon as possible. This is for student safety.

**Catholic School Council** – Meeting on **Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm**. The CSC is also asked to meet on **Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>** at Cardinal Newman High School. This meeting is with the Superintendent, the Trustees and the CSC's for all feeder schools to Cardinal Newman. The meeting will begin at 6:30p.m. The Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board and the Board of Trustees are currently in the process of renewing the Board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP). The MYSP provides important strategic direction to both the trustees and staff of the Board in determining areas of importance to support students and staff, and the necessary actions required to address these areas. The plan also guides budget decisions and is the basis for all other operational plans. A strategic consultation plan has been developed to gather important feedback from the Board's various stakeholders, including Catholic School Councils (CSC). The CSC Consultation for the Cardinal Newman Catholic Secondary School Family of Schools will be held on **Wednesday, May 15, 2019** from **6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.** at Cardinal Newman Catholic Secondary School, 127 Gray Road, Stoney Creek, Ontario. If you are a member of the CSC and will attend the meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup>, let Mrs. Germana Miller or Mrs. Martino know before May 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm** we will host our Welcome to Kindergarten Parent and Child Information Night. This is for families new to JK or SK at St. Clare both English and French Immersion.

Organization for September 2019 – Planning for the next school year is always done with the best interest of the students in mind. Data-math levels, reading levels, writing, understanding the student, friendships, learning environments are all considered. If you have a request. It must be sent to Mrs. Martino in writing **by Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup>**.

Communication is key. If you have a concern, contact the teacher. Discuss the issue and work together to resolve things.

**EQAO** is a Ministry Standardized Test for Grade 3 and 6. It will be written during the last two weeks of May. It is very important that all grade 3 and 6 students are present and on time for school during this time. Parent support and information is available at [www.equao.com](http://www.equao.com)

**“Punctuality** is the first step towards success!” Being on time is so important. Students should be arriving at school on time to walk in with their peers. Attendance and punctuality are life skills and must be taught from an early age. If your child is absent, call the number and report the absence. If you come to school to pick up your child before the regular dismissal times, come to the office and sign the child out. Parents are not permitted to walk down the hallways. This is a safety concern.

**Emergency** - We will continue to prepare for emergency situations at school. Lockdown – in case there is an internal threat. In this event students hide in areas of the school and remain quiet. No cellphones are used. If we are in a lockdown, the school doors will not open for anyone at the door.

**Hold and Secure** - the threat is on the outside. Students and staff are permitted to move around the school, staying away from all windows and doors. Again, the doors will not be open for anyone on the outside.

**Fire** – the alarm sounds and we immediately evacuate the school. Students leave in single file and remain quiet. The staff takes attendance and ensures all are out safely.

**Bomb Threat** - over the PA students and staff will hear, “There has been a bomb threat, we must evacuate the building.” All students and staff will leave. If the threat is real, we will walk to Our Lady of Peace. This is our evacuation site.

If there is a real threat, the HWCDSB will communicate to the parents.

Practice emergency situations at home and talk to your children about the importance of being safe and knowing what to do.

**“At the end of the day, the goals are simple: Safety and security.”**

## *A Mothers' Day Prayer*

*I thank you, Creator of us all, for my mother.*

*I thank you that she gave me life and nurtured me all those years. She gave me my faith, helping me to know you and to know Jesus and his ways. She taught me how to love and how to sacrifice for others. She taught me that it was okay to cry and that I should always tell the truth.*

*Bless her with the graces she needs and which you want to give her today. Help her to feel precious in your eyes today and to know that I love her.*

*Give her strength and courage, compassion and peace. Bless her this day with your love.*



**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION – Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 pm** at St. Francis Xavier Church. Class and individual photos will be taken before the Mass. More information will be sent home in the near future.

**May Crowning – Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>** This is a beautiful Mass for dedicated to Mary, our Mother. The grade 7 and 2 class lead the Mass as they have received the Sacraments of Confirmation, Reconciliation and First Holy Communion this year. We are very proud of their commitment to their spiritual journey.

Special thanks to all staff who have worked hard preparing for the Sacraments, being present for the students and helping them grow daily on their Spiritual Journey.

A big Thank you for Father Mariusz, Father Francesco and Wes for their continued support and the prayers from the parishioners of St. Francis Xavier Parish. We are so blessed to be in Canada and to have Catholic Schools and celebrate our Catholic faith together in a faith filled environment. Continue to bring your children to Mass, to opportunities the Knights of Columbus offer, the wonderful activities and youth groups that Wes leads. Our children are our future. If we do not teach and guide them in the right direction, where will it leave us?