

## JANUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER

Superintendent: J. Bajus

Trustees: M. Nardini & P. DiFrancesco

Pastor: Rev Martin Vallely

Principal: C. Martino

Principal Assistant: A. D'Ascenzo

Secretary: D. Simpson

Assoc. Pastor: Rev Mike Downey

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

January is here! Welcome back and we hope everyone had a blessed and very wonderful Christmas with family and friends. Thank you for your generosity, your cards and well wishes during the month of December. 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.

First term will be ending soon and report cards will be sent home in February. Accept each challenge and put forth your very best effort.

Congratulations to Mrs. Bajus, our Superintendent of Education. Mrs. Bajus is retiring on January 31<sup>st</sup>. We wish her the very best as she embarks on her new journey. May God bless her with happy memories, health and success.

"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. 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.** The snow is beautiful and there are many other things to do with the snow!

### A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Dear God,

We pray for your blessing upon each of us. May we each approach this beginning as a new start. Help us to form friendships with those who enable us to discover the greatness that we possess. Friendships that enable each and everyone of us to shine. Help us to develop our faith so that we possess great courage and confidence and are able to develop the gifts with which we have been blessed. Help us to be compassionate and loving people so that the world may know the love and healing power of our Lord and God. May this year be one of great peace and happiness for us and our families. Amen. (P. & F. Tassi)



### CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

This year 8 Christmas Hampers were prepared by the classes from JK to Gr. 8 to assist families in need within our school board & community. Four Christmas hampers were prepared by families in our school and given to other families in need. 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 parents who purchased the gifts for the hampers from the class donations. 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.

### CHRISTMAS TREE OF WARMTH

Thank you to the families that donated hats, mitts, & scarves for our Tree of Warmth. Once again, your generosity filled the tree and overflowed into boxes. The articles will be donated to St. Agnes Catholic Elementary School.

### GRADE 8 CHRISTMAS SALE

Thank you to all families who generously donated to the Christmas Craft Sale. It was a huge success. Congratulations to the winners of the prize raffles: IPod 5 - Marcus C.; Ipod Nano - Angelie H.

### POSTER CONTEST

Congratulations to Christina P. and Cecilia R. from our Junior Division who were the two winners of the Knights of Columbus poster contest on Drug and Substance Abuse. Their posters now move up to another level of competition. Congratulations and good luck!!

### YOGA

On December 16<sup>th</sup>, all students participated in a YOGA gym class. Our instructor will be back in January for lunch time YOGA Club. Students interested in participating will pay \$20.00 for 8 sessions of YOGA at lunch time. Forms have been sent home for students in grade 4 to 8.

### JEPAG - SPEAKER AT CARDINAL NEWMAN HIGH SCHOOL

Cardinal Newman Catholic Secondary School Council cordially invites parents, teachers, administration and guardians to an evening with Michael Reist on **Wednesday January 15, 2014 at 7:00pm**. Michael Reist is a scholar, retired teacher and author of *What Every Parent Should Know about School*. This will be a very informative evening for all. Please plan to attend.

### CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

We will meet on **Monday January 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm** in our school library. All parents are welcome to join us.

### JK/SK INFORMATION

There will be an information meeting for JK/SK parents on **Thursday January 30th at 6:00 pm** in the library. We welcome Mrs. R. Wegiel as our speaker on the new FDELK program.

### FAMILY LITERACY DAY



Family Literacy Day is a national initiative that promotes the importance of reading & 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 27th**. This day will also be our 'Pyjama Day' and students are invited to wear appropriate pj's, slippers, house coats for the day.

## P.A. DAY

Friday, January 24<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.

In accordance with fire regulations, it is required that there be 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.

## ANAPHYLAXIS

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

## HEAD LICE NEWS

Head lice are often present in school communities. Please help us prevent the likelihood of having head lice present in our school by checking your child's scalp once a week as you may catch it early and prevent the spread to other children via proper treatment.

For more information regarding Head-Lice, please visit the Hamilton Public Health Website.

Alternatively you can e-mail: [askCITY@hamilton.ca](mailto:askCITY@hamilton.ca) or Call: 905-546-CITY (2489)

## MORNING SUPERVISION

Some children are arriving at school before supervision begins in the mornings, which is a concern for the safety of the children at St. Clare of Assisi School. Please **do not** send or drop off your children **BEFORE 8:20am** because scheduled supervision times do not begin until that time on each of our playground areas. Please adhere to these times for your child's safety.

**SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM**

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:

1. call home or cell phones 2. call parents at work, 3. call the emergency number and if successful contact is **not** made, the **Police** will be contacted. Please make sure we have up-to-date information in the office. Our telephone system allows you to leave a message directly with no chance of a busy signal. These messages are a high priority and they are retrieved on a regular basis.

**KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2014**

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. We will send you a registration form which you can complete at home and bring in with the appropriate documents asap. This will help speed up the registration process. 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, 2014. For SK Children: They must be 5 years of age on or before December 31, 2014.

**NOTICE FOR JK/SK REGISTRATION**

YES, I have a child who will be entering JK in September 2014 or a **new SK** (*not having attended JK this year*). For JK, my child will be 4 years old by December 31, 2014 and for SK, they will be 5 years old by December 31, 2014. They have been baptized in a Roman Catholic Church. Please send home the necessary registration forms with:

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

Name of Child to register for JK \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_