

OCTOBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

Superintendent: D. Hansen 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

OCTOBER is a humbling month. We are humbled by the beauty that surrounds us, the colours of the leaves, the sunsets and sunrises, the harvest moon. God's artwork is so very inspiring. We give thanks during this time for all that we have and have been blessed with over the years. We continue to pray for all of those in need of our prayers, for those who are hungry, or thirst, or have no home or job. We pray for all the sick and suffering and all those in need of our prayers.

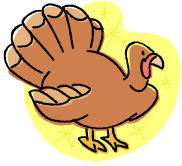
A THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Father in Heaven, Creator of all and source of all goodness and love, please look kindly upon us and receive our heartfelt gratitude in this time of giving thanks. Thank you for all the graces and blessings. You have bestowed upon us, spiritual and temporal: our faith and religious heritage. Our food and shelter, our health, the loves we have for one another, our family and friends.

Dear Father, in Your infinite generosity, please grant us continued graces and blessing throughout the coming year. This we ask in the Name of Jesus, Your Son and our Brother. Amen.



THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE



St. Clare of Assisi's annual Thanksgiving food drive will be taking place **until October 7th**. Students are asked to participate by bringing in non-perishable food items such as canned goods, packaged foods, rice, cereal, baby food etc. All contributions will be going to the Stoney Creek Food Bank. Our faith community will extend our love by helping to make a difference in the lives of others. Thank you for your participation!

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

For the safety of our children, we ask that you follow the school protocol for visitors to the school. **ALL VISITORS must report to the office first.** Thank you for your continued cooperation. Lunches must be dropped off at the office.

We are having some vandalism at the school. Please keep an eye for dumping of garbage and ruining our display at the front of the school and the fence on the yard. Vandalism is a criminal act. If you notice anything, report it.

UNIFORMS

McCarthy is our Supplier. Please support our school supplier. Cargo pants and jersey shorts are NOT part of the uniform and are not permitted at school. Tights are not part of the school uniform. Socks or leotards should be navy blue or white. All tops should have a school crest or logo. Crests are on sale at the main office for \$2.00. Please refer to page 6 in the student agenda. No labels are permitted on pants, shorts, or sweaters other than our school Logo or Crest.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

Congratulations to our acclaimed School Council members:

Chair: Mrs. Germana- Miller; Vice-Chair Mrs. DeBellis ; Treasure: Mrs. Medic; Secretary: Mrs. Guagliano; Councillors: Mrs. Iannuzzi, Mrs. Sorgini, Mrs. Cipriani, Mrs. Gibilaro, Mrs. Hrvatin, and Mrs. Sulug. Mrs. Noce is our teacher representative, Mrs. Staresina, our Parish Representative and Mrs. D'Acscenzo, Assistant to the Principal.

Our Parent Council has met and all positions were acclaimed. Thank you to all parents who come to our meetings and give the gift of voice. Our next meeting will take place on **Monday, October 20th at 6:30** in our school library. The Council is working on donations for our Major FundRaiser the Hallowe'en Move-a-thon. If you have items to donate, please drop them off at the main office. We are also in need of volunteers for the big event.

EQAO RESULTS

The following data represents the percentage of students at or above the provincial standard (Levels 3 & 4) for the May 2014 Primary & Junior Division Assessments. Individual Assessments will be sent home on **October 1st**.

At or above the Provincial Standard, Level 3 or 4, 2013-2014 School Year

SUBJECT GRADE 3	SCHOOL RESULTS	BOARD RESULTS	PROVINCIAL RESULTS
READING	70%	69%	68%
WRITING	86%	80%	77%
MATHEMATICS	79%	68%	67%

SUBJECT GRADE 6	SCHOOL RESULTS	BOARD RESULTS	PROVINCIAL RESULTS
READING	82%	77%	77%
WRITING	91%	81%	76%
MATHEMATICS	59%	56%	56%

ST. CLARE SPORTS NEWS



The fall Cross Country meet will be held at Marydale Park on **Friday, October 10th**. Dress for the race and bring lots to drink and a lunch. Many of our teams are underway, Football and Basketball. We thank all those who are taking the time to coach and be with our students.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MOVE-A-THON



This event will be hosted by our Catholic School Council and will take place on **Friday, Oct. 31st**. The event is a Halloween themed "**Move-a-thon**". Details of the event will be coming home shortly - please look for it in the coming week. All funds from this event will go directly to some specific projects that are designed to support student learning and extracurricular activities at St. Clare. Thank you for your anticipated support.

Thank you to for all dedication to the school and getting the committee up and running. All parents who have helped organise, seek donations and help the Move-a-thon deserve a big THANK YOU from all of us! Your time and commitment to the school is so very much appreciated.

MINOR FUNDRAISERS:

1. GREENTECK PRINT CARTRIDGE RECYCLING:

We are still collecting all used computer printer ink cartridges. The Greentech Company collects these from schools and **pays up to \$5.00 for each cartridge, to be used to support classroom learning**. Please let your relatives, neighbours, friends and even your workplace know to give these to you to send in to school. Please do not send boxes. Our collection box is located in the Main Office.

2. THEME DAYS and FOOD DRIVES:

Student Council will coordinate a number of theme days and request **voluntary** donations of a Loonie or Toonie or canned goods to participate. These funds, in their entirety are sent to the charity identified by the Student Council and approved by our School Board.

JERSEY DAY

Thank you for your support. We brought in many canned food goods to kick off our Food Drive.

INTERIM REPORT CARDS

To help keep you informed, we will send home an Interim Progress Report for Grades 1 - 8. This report will identify how the student is doing in relation to the Learning Skills as well as academic subjects. **Interim Progress Reports** will be sent home on **Wed., Nov. 12th**. **Interviews** will be arranged for **Thurs., Nov. 13th** in the **evening**.

This should be a useful time for the parent and child to review the learning skills and academic progress and to collaboratively set goals for continued development of these areas. The first term report card will be sent home **Feb. 10, 2015**.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Congratulations to our newly elected **Student Council members**:

President— Jackson H.

Secretary - Megan S.

Vice-President—Aliya S.

Gr. 7 Social Convenor - Aliya R.

Treasurer— Robbie G.

Gr. 8 Social Convenor - Jacob F.

Secretary — Megan S.

We are looking forward to a year of much planning and collaboration around the school experience of our students.

BOOMERANG LUNCHES



Thank you for supporting our environmental efforts by having snacks/lunches packed in reusable containers. We ask for your support again by having the containers labelled with your child's name. We'd love to return the containers to the proper home!

LABELS ON CLOTHES

Our coat areas and lost & found box have unclaimed uniform pieces. Please have outerwear labelled with your child's name to ensure they can be returned.

ALLERGIES

We are asking your cooperation in continuing to keep St. Clare School safe for all our children. We have a number of students who suffer from life-threatening food allergies to nuts, peanuts, and nut products. The classmates of these students have taken home letters asking you to please not send your child with a snack or lunch that contains any nuts or nut products. Should these students come into contact with any of the above mentioned food - or the residue left when someone else has been in contact with the food - the student can go into anaphylactic shock - a potentially life threatening situation. Since the time to prevent shock from occurring is only minutes, we want to do everything within our power to avoid this situation. I'm sure we can count on your support for the specified measures. We want all of our children to be safe and healthy, and these measures will help ensure this. Hence, we are trying to have a PEANUT /NUT SENSITIVE school.

Please read labels carefully. Products that are nut free in Canada are **not** necessarily nut free if manufactured in the U.S. or Europe. A reminder as we approach the Halloween season of treats, please choose Halloween treats with care and please be extra vigilant with school snacks.

COMMUNITY ADVERTISEMENTS

From time to time the school does provide the opportunity to various groups from the community to advertise their events or programs through the school newsletter or through independently produced flyers. Regardless of the information item, academic, athletic or social, at no time should parents feel any obligation to participate.

PILGRIMAGE

On **Sunday, October 19th**, students of the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board will be participating in a Pilgrimage which will raise money to support projects in Uganda, Haiti, Dominican Republic & African Famine Relief.

The pilgrimage will serve to create awareness around world hunger, need for health care, shelter, and proper education. As Catholics we are called to promote Christ's presence and love for the poor. We hope to have many intermediates participating in the pilgrimage. We ask that permission forms be returned by the posted deadline. We continue to encourage as many participants as well as parents and staff to participate in this " Walk with Christ-Justice for the Poor."

PARENT CONFERENCE

The 22nd Annual Parent Conference is scheduled to take place on **Saturday, November 1, 2014** from **7:45 a.m.—2:30 p.m.** The day will begin with Mass celebrated by Bishop Miehm. The event will take place at the **new Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School**. Registration details are available on the Board's Website: www.hwcdsb.ca or by calling 905-525-2930 x 2205.

PARKING & TRAFFIC FLOW

The safety of **all** the children is our main concern. Please respect the posted signage. Cars can only park in visibly marked parking spaces in the lot or on the street. ***Kiss & Go*** drop off in front of the school is for ***mornings only***. In the evening there is ***no*** parking, stopping or idling in the area between staff parking and the sidewalk directly in front of the school. **The gate at the east parking lot will be locked each day at 3:15 pm.**

Traffic flow enters the driveway at the east end of the school and leaves by driving ***slowly*** in front of the school and exiting at the west driveway. If a babysitter or other caregiver is picking up your child, please inform them of the expectations.

Please be considerate and follow the procedures for everyone's safety, not just your convenience.

POLICE CHECKS

A new procedure has made it more convenient for parents to get a police check. The form and letter must still be picked up in the school office, filled out and submitted to the police station. If you have two pieces of identification when you drop off the letter and form, your police check will be mailed to you (saving you another trip to the police station). Cost of the police check continues to be a onetime fee of \$25.00 **Yearly declarations which will be sent home in June must still be signed to keep police check valid.**

HELPFUL WEBLINKS

Homework Help provides free on line math tutoring for students Gr. 7 to 10. <http://homeworkhelp.ilc.org> Students will register at school to gain access to the real-time, one-on-one tutoring with an Ontario Certified Teacher, 5 nights a week. E-Math is a Nelson tool for all students in grade 3 to 6. Check it out.

PIZZA & MILK ORDERS

Organizing payments and delivery of these items to classrooms on a regular basis takes time and effort but it is happily done by staff and volunteers to benefit the students. Both pizza and milk orders will begin after Thanksgiving on **Tues., Oct. 14th.**



COMMUNITY SPEECH & LANGUAGE SERVICES

Early Words will now accept speech & language referrals for children in JK until December 31st. If you have concerns about your child's speech & language development (articulation, receptive & expressive language, reluctant to speak, etc.), please call 905-381-2828.

Picture Day is Coming!

Mark your Calendar for our School Picture Day on **"Friday, October 17, 2014"**

Picture Day Order forms will be sent home with all students. Please review the information form and send it back with your child on Picture Day. All students will be photographed for school service products. Proofs will be sent home for you to preview before you buy. Watch for exciting online order opportunities when you receive your proofs! Be ready to bring your smiles on picture day! For Tips on preparing for photo day visit lifetouch.ca Questions call Lifetouch at [1-866-457-8212](tel:1-866-457-8212) or email: guestservices@lifetouch.ca

CANADA HELMET INITIATIVE



The Canada Helmet Initiative (CHI) Hamilton Helmet Campaign enables elementary students, staff and families to purchase quality multi-sport, bicycle, hockey and ski-/snowboard helmets at affordable prices. Helmets will be delivered to the school by mid-March. Order forms will be sent home the first week of November.

BOOK FAIR

Our annual Book Fair will be held from **Tues., Nov. 11th to Mon., Nov. 17th**. This is a great way to promote reading and also some fundraising for our library. If you would like to volunteer at the Book Fair, please let the office know.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation for our Grade 7 students will be on **Saturday, November 15th at 1:30 pm** at St. Francis Xavier Parish. May the Holy Spirit guide our Confirmandi. We ask for all of our families to pray for our Confirmandi and their families. **We are in need of baked goods to be brought in on Friday, November 14th to our school or the morning of November 15th to the Parish Center.**

2014 COMMUNITY FLU CLINICS

Flue clinics will be offered across the city by both Public Health Services and other providers. If you require information about the flu, visit www.hamilton.ca/flu or call [905-546-2489](tel:905-546-2489).