

DECEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

Superintendent: S. Pizzuti Trustees: M. Nardini & P. DiFrancesco Pastor: Rev Martin Valley
Principal: C. Martino Principal Assistant: A. D'Ascenzo Secretary: D. Simpson Assoc. Pastor: Rev Mike Downey

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Advent Prayer

Loving God, send Your Spirit of peace upon us as we wait and listen. We long to hear Your voice, we yearn for Your grace. Like Mary, give us hearts of patient expectation, give us hearts full of faith and wonder, give us hearts made glad with joy and hope. Teach us to listen for Your voice, In the wisdom of the elderly and cry of the newborn, in the poor and the outcast, In the students in our care and their families, in our colleagues and in our families. May this Advent season be a time of patience and peace. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, our hope and our home. Amen



I would like to thank all families who were able to meet with their child/ren's teacher at our initial Parent/Teacher interview session. Early communication between classroom teachers & parents assists in supporting the learning of your child/ren. Please note that at any time, parents can arrange to meet with the teacher to discuss the progress of their children. I highly encourage regular communication to ensure that you remain informed of progress on a regular basis. Kindly note that when the first term report card arrives home on **February 10, 2015**, you may also arrange to meet with your child/ren's teacher to continue the discussion in the best interest of your child.

Advent is such a special time for all of us. It is the time to prepare our hearts and our minds, to cleanse and to renew our faith and our commitment to God. Take time to pray as a family and light the Advent Candle each week as a family. The staff and students of St. Clare School will enter into the spirit of Advent by preparing to help those in the community who require our assistance. As a school community we have many special activities planned for the season of Advent; we know that small acts of kindness can have a big impact and can help to make a difference in the lives of others. These special activities also help to remind us of the true meaning of Christmas. Check the Parish bulletin for all Advent & Christmas Schedules.

We hope that you can participate in some of the activities listed:

Christmas Tree of Warmth (November 24th - December 12th)

Students are asked to provide new mittens, hats and scarves to be provided to schools in need within our school board.



Christmas Hampers (November 24th - December 5th)

In our continuing effort to reach out into our community during these difficult times, St. Clare School will be sponsoring a Christmas hamper drive. Classes, with the assistance of all members of our community, will prepare hampers for families from Elementary Schools in our school board and St. Francis Xavier Parish. The \$5.00 collected from each student will be spent purchasing toys and clothes for the families in need. Please send all monetary donations to the school by **Friday December 5th**. Thank you in advance for your generous support of our Christmas hamper drive. The following items are needed to complete these hampers:

Cereal, juice, brown beans, peas, vegetables, chicken noodle or tomato soup, mixed vegetables, peas, corn, canned spaghetti, pasta sauce, pasta, tuna, salmon, cake mix, Jello, canned peaches, pears or pineapple, tea, cookies, candies, Kraft dinner, Christmas cake, etc. **YOUR SUPPORT IN THIS ENDEAVOUR IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!**

A special thank you to all our families who have generously supported their own family in need this Christmas, your support is very much appreciated. The gift baskets are due to the school on Monday December 8th. Your generosity and kindness will go along way to help others. May God Bless you!

Weekly Advent Prayer Service

Our students will be involved in a weekly Advent Service which will be held in the gym starting on **Tuesday, December 2nd** at **12:20 pm**. Please check the school calendar for other dates.

School Advent Mass

Our school Advent Mass will take place at St. Clare of Assisi School at **10:15 am** on **Tuesday, December 16th**, in our school gym. All members of our community are welcome to join us in appropriately recognizing the reason for this wonderful season for the Advent ceremonies and the mass. During this Mass we will light the Candle for Advent.

Grade 8 Fundraising - Christmas Sale



The grade 8 students will be hosting their graduation fundraising "Christmas Sale" on **Friday, December 5th** from **9:30 am** until approximately **2:00 pm**. There will be various activities that the children can participate in such as hockey targets, nail painting and face decorating. Popcorn and other small food items will be sold and there will also be a small Christmas gift table where students can purchase small gifts for that special someone on their list.

Prices for these gifts will range from \$1.00 - \$7.00.

Beginning on **December 1st**, the grade 8's will also be selling raffle tickets and candy grams at lunch. Candy grams will be \$.25 each or 5 for \$1.00. The Large Raffle will be for an IPAD Mini and tickets are \$1.00 each. There will also be several smaller raffle prizes and tickets for the Smaller Raffle and those tickets will be 3 for \$1.00. **Candy grams will be delivered to classes during the last week before the holidays.**

If anyone has small toys that can be donated as prizes or used books, please drop them off in Mrs. France's room.

Mrs. France would like to thank all of you for your continued support of this event over the years and for the donations that you have so generously contributed. We're sure that our grade 8 graduation will be a great success thanks to all of your efforts.

Joy Day — Fri., Dec. 5th



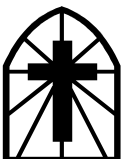
Students and staff will be participating in activities to promote the season. **Students are invited to wear red, green & white & a Christmas hat. (no uniform).** Holidays are a time to be with family and friends, a time to rejoice and give thanks for our many blessings. Warmest wishes of peace and joy go out to you and your family as you celebrate the arrival of the Christ child. May God also grant you peace and happiness in the New Year!

SPORTS NEWS!

Not once, not twice, but three time Championship in just one week! Congratulations to the Junior boys Football team in their game against St. Agnes on Nov. 24th. In spite of the wind and strange weather, the boys preserved and defeated St. Agnes for the title. The very same night, the Senior Girls won against Our Lady of Immaculate Conception at St, Matthews. On Saturday November 29th, the Senior Boys Football team defeated St. James. Congratulations to all our student athletes!

A big thank you to Mr. Mota and Mr. Mielko, Mr. Gubekjian and Mr. Pontillo for all their hard work and efforts.

PARISH NEWS



Christmas time is upon us and everyone at the parish wishes you all a blessed and Holy Christmas season. Our Schedule of Advent Confession times, and Christmas and New Year's Mass times, is available to everyone on the school website. Please visit the parish website for more daily information regarding happenings within the parish and surrounding community. www.saintfxstoneycreek.com

COFFEE SUNDAY ... with a little "extra"!



SFX Development and Peace Group invite YOU to come and enjoy a Fair Trade coffee or tea along with a baked good supporting our local farmers! A kind donation is all we ask for our local poor that are ministered to by our St. Vincent de Paul Society. You will have the opportunity to socialize and shop at our **Fair Trade Marketplace**, too! Get a head-start to your Christmas shopping AND make a difference by supporting small scale farmers, artisans and small business owners of the Global South.

WHERE: St. Francis Xavier Parish Centre

WHEN: Sunday, December 7th after MORNING masses (9:30 AM - 1:30 PM)

...in partnership with SFX Family Life and Social Activities Committee

Fair Trade Vendors:

Goji Berry Health Foods - Fair Trade...beeswax candles, coconut oil, tea, chocolate

Global H.E.A.R.T.S. - Fair Trade...children's items, Barefoot Books, high quality purses & jewellery

Casa Relief - Fair Trade...gift ideas from Nicaragua and Ecuador, including coffee

CONFIRMATION

It is with great pride that we congratulate our Confirmation Class of 2014. The Sacrament of Confirmation was celebrated on Nov. 15th with the Auxiliary Bishop of Hamilton, Daniel Miehm, presiding along with Father Martin. We would like to thank the teachers for their dedication and witness to the Catholic faith. Many thanks to the school and parish team for preparing the students for this sacrament. It was a beautiful celebration that marks a new journey in their young Catholic lives. Thank you to the Village Restaurant for the beautiful breakfast on Nov. 14th for the Confirmandi. Thank you also to the grade 6, 7 and 8 parents for providing the baked goods at the Confirmation Mass. Special thanks Mrs. Matesa, and her assistants, Marko, Mrs. Geramana Miller, and Mrs. DeBellis, alongside the Parents from St. Martin of tours who also helped out before and after the Sacrament in the Parish Center. The Grade 7 & 8 students would like to thank the Catholic School Council for the beautiful pins they received at their Confirmation. The pins will serve as a reminder of the special gifts that they received.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

A special thank you to the St. Clare Community for their outstanding support of the Book Fair. We raised over \$1,092. which we will continue to use to provide the students of St. Clare with new and exciting resources in the library. Special thanks to our volunteers, the parent council, and all who supported the fair. The money raised will be used to purchase new books for our book room.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS



Please note the following dates: **Friday, December 19th** Last Day of Classes (Regular Dismissal Time)

Monday, December 22nd to January 2nd, 2015 Christmas Break

Monday, January 5th, 2015 Return to school - regular hours.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Our School Christmas Concert will take place on **Thursday, December 11th** at **6:00 pm** in our school gym. Please limit numbers as our gym is not full size. All classes will have a part in the concert and the end song will be sung by all students. Admission to the concert is a canned good. Thank you to Mrs. DeMeideros for taking the lead and for all staff and students for participating and spreading the joy of the season.

SNOWBALLS AND COLDWEATHER



We will be reminding all students that snowball throwing is **NOT ACCEPTABLE**, as it can lead to injury, especially facial or eye injuries. **Any student who throws a snowball / snow will be suspended from school.** Please discuss safety concerns with your children. We also ask your cooperation in reviewing with your child(ren) the need to be respectful of each other outside on the playground. This includes **not** destroying any snow forts that may be built by other students during recess times in the future (weather permitting). During the cold weather, please ensure that your child wears warmer clothing - hats, gloves, scarves, etc.

Please send an indoor pair of shoes. The shoes are an important part of the safety for your children. This is to ensure the safety of the students, as floors become slippery when wet. Students should not be in stocking feet as this too poses a safety hazard. We will make every effort to ensure that children are properly protected before they go outside. During the cold season, we may shorten the outside recess period due to weather conditions/temperature. However, whenever feasible, we like to give students the opportunity to run freely and play in the open space.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY



For the safety of your child/ren dealing with a possible school closing situation, it is necessary that the school has an up-to-date emergency phone number. You are also encouraged to listen to the local radio station to get up-to-date weather and school closure/bus cancellation information.

PAY FOR STUDENT ITEMS ONLINE

Parents now have the convenience of paying for school trips, spirit wear, milk, pizza and other items **online!** After registering for **School Cash Online**, you will receive emails notifying you of school trips, events, activities and other items available for purchase online.

How to Register: Visit <http://hwcdsb.schoolcashionline.com> Click "Get Started Today" and enter your information. A confirmation email will be sent to your email. View the email and follow the steps to log into School Cash Online. Find your child / Add additional child. Start viewing items. Any questions or concerns, please contact parenthelp@schoolcashionline.com or 1-866-961-1803. More information will be sent home very soon.

MILK & PIZZA

The milk & pizza term is ending the first week of January. **For the ease of ordering and a cashless process, please register at <http://hwcdsb.schoolcashionline.com>.** Second term starts **Monday, January 12th**. At this time we will still send home the order forms and they are due no later than **Monday, December 8th**. **If you choose to order online, you need to do it by Monday, January 5th**. Thank you to all of the wonderful milk moms for their support each day.

SCHOOL SAFETY

With the winter weather arriving, so does more traffic in our parking lot. Give yourself ample time to pick up or drop off your child/ren. Please obey signage around the school. With your cooperation we can keep our busy entry and dismissal times even safer for our children. The school bus has priority parking and entrance, please clear the lane ways for the school bus.

TIP OF THE MONTH FOR HEALTHY SCHOOL LUNCHES

Your child's taste may change from one day to the next. Try new healthy foods regularly and don't be afraid to try them more than once. You may have to offer new foods many times before your children learn to like them!

Check out: www.eatrightontario.ca



UNITED WAY

In support of United Way, we held a Red, & White Civies Day on Tues., Nov. 18th. Staff and students generously donated \$ 357.60 to this worthy cause.

ANAPHYLAXIS

St. Clare 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)
- 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.

Cooperation from parent and guardians in adhering to the guidelines below is most appreciated:

- There are students at this school who are allergic to the following foods and items: peanuts / 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.
- Please do NOT bring any home-made food products into the school; with permission, non-food items are permitted for various celebrations and special events and activities.

Thank you for your help in keeping all our children safe.

SCIENCE CLUB



This year we will be having a Science Fair Club. This will be a club that meets during lunch hour and/or after school to work on a project for the HWCDSB System Science Fair. The HWCDSB Science Fair will be held on **Saturday, February 28, 2015**. Students interested in joining must commit to meeting, showing the progression of their work, taking suggestions from the teachers and applying them to their completed project. Students chosen will move forward to the System Science Fair and present their project. Students may work with a partner or may work alone on the project. Please discuss the importance of the Science Fair with your son/daughter and fill in the bottom half of the letter that has been sent home if he/she is interested in participating in the Science Fair this year. Our School Fair will be held on **Feb. 4th**.

ADVENT MESSAGE

*The days are surely coming, says the Lord,
"When I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of David."
(Jeremiah 33:14-16)*



The Holy Season of Advent began on Sunday, December 1st. It is a very special time of the year to prepare ourselves spiritually for the celebration of Jesus Christ's birthday at Christmas. Our school will be praying for all families and how God will bless children and parents everywhere so that we will enter into the true spirit of Christmas.

Peace and Joy to all through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.