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PRINCIPAL: D. YOUNGER  
PRINCIPAL INTERN: A. CAIELLA

TRUSTEE: C. CORNALE  
PASTOR: VERY REV. W.L. FATHER. LOBSINGER, EV, PP  
SECRETARY: M. RATH

## ST. THOMAS "WILDCATS" - NOVEMBER - 2015

### REMEMBRANCE DAY

Those who went before us, fought and died for us because  
They believed that by their sacrifices, they could leave us a peaceful world.  
To observe Remembrance Day is to dedicate ourselves to the cause of peace. Peace within ourselves.  
Peace with one another. Peace among all people.  
Let there be peace on earth,  
And let it begin with me .



### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

God of Peace, grant all your people a vision of peace.  
May each of us use our gifts to promote peace. May  
all those who live in fear, feel comfort in the support  
that we offer in our prayer.  
God of Love, we pray that all violence in the world will  
end. We pray for a sense of calm in a time of great  
uncertainty.  
We pray that the world be given the gifts of peace  
and reconciliation.  
May love help us overcome all our fears so we can  
work together toward peace. Amen

November is the month of remembering. We  
remember all the saints, our heroes to whom we pray  
and ask for guidance, support and help along the way.  
We remember the souls of the faithfully departed  
who have passed way. We pray that they guide and  
watch over us. We pray for those who have and who  
continue to fight for freedom and for peace.

Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> is Remembrance Day, the  
day we remember all men and women who have died to  
protect our democratic freedom and the freedom of

others. Please feel free to join us on Tuesday,  
November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am for a Liturgy in our school  
gym as we join together as a school community "to  
remember". On November 10, all students will gather  
in the gymnasium at 2:00pm for a screening of  
'Rainbow War' as lead-in to Remembrance Day. The  
film speaks to each of us about tolerance and  
diversity in our world:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z8KwGMncog>

Also, November is the special month when we  
remember all those who we love and who have died,  
but whose spirits remain in our hearts. **On All Saints  
Day**, November 1 and **All Souls Day**, November 2nd,  
we pray for all our deceased family members and  
friends who have joined our Lord.

### GROOVE-A-THON

A sincere thank you to the St. Thomas the Apostle  
Catholic School Council and the St. Thomas the  
Apostle school community for your contributions in  
making the annual Groove-a-thon on Friday, October  
30, 2015 another success.. The countless hours of

dedication to bring this event to life each year is always a celebration of your efforts to ensure that we create wonderful opportunities for our students to enhance their learning.

A tremendous day of grooving was experienced by staff, students and volunteers. The Groove-A-Thon event was a huge success and we raised, at time of this writing, approximately \$3,200. Visit our buzzboard to read more and to watch a video montage of the entire day:

<http://stth.hwcdsb.ca/149072--Halloween-at-St.-Thomas-the-Apostle-CES>

Funds raised will go toward purchasing healthy active outdoor recess equipment for each class and school gardens beautification projects. It was a spooktacular day at St. Thomas the Apostle.

### **SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING**

Please come out and join us at our upcoming Catholic School Council meeting on Monday, November 2, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Learning Commons. Special guests will be Mr. Morris Hucal, Superintendent and Mrs. Carolyn Cornale, Trustee. They will both bring greetings on behalf of the board.

### **PROGRESS REPORTS/PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEW**

Progress Reports (Grades 1-8) will be sent home on Tuesday, November 17th, 2015. There will be a strong emphasis on Learning Skills and Work Habits as these are critical factors to ensure future academic success:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bxz6hJm4QDDrTFIIM1Q0NzFveU0/view?usp=sharing>

Source: Growing Success, Ministry of Education, 2010:

<https://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/growSuccess.pdf>

Parent-Teacher Conferences (Grades 1-8) will be held Thursday evening, November 19<sup>th</sup>. Exact times for each conference will be coordinated by staff. If this is not a convenient time, please contact your child's teacher to make other arrangements. Please remember to return the response page of the

Progress Report. Envelopes must also be returned to the school.

Early communication between classroom teachers and parents supports 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 your child. Regular communication is strongly encouraged to ensure that you remain informed of progress and next steps in learning on a regular basis.

Here are some ideas to consider as you work through the information shared on the progress report cards.

**STUDENTS:** What is something that you did well? What did you have difficulty with? What was hard for you? How do you feel about your effort so far? What do you need to do to improve your work or your effort? How can your teacher or your parents (or someone else at home or school) help you? Next steps: goals for the remainder of this term?

## **THE POWER OF YET**

The operative word is YET. If you are struggling with something and you feel that you can't do something well, end the sentence with the word YET. This is a powerful word because it implies that anything is possible if we put forth an effort and encouragement and support are provided. Remember to use the word YET whenever you are stumbling with anything in life.

**PARENTS:** What have you noticed about your child's work and effort so far this term? What do you see as being a real strength for your child? In which areas do you see your child doing well? Where have you seen your child struggling or having difficulty so far this term? What will we do to help him/her work toward YET? What are the next steps in learning?

### **FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN PARENT OBSERVATION VISITS**

Parents of all children in Full Day Kindergarten will be receiving an invitation to visit the classroom during the month of November or December to observe 'a day in the life'. Parents will be able to spend some

time observing their little ones in the act of exploring, hypothesizing, constructing, thinking and learning in a play-based environment. A letter requesting convenient times and dates will be forthcoming from each FDK classroom. We look forward to seeing you.

### **CROSS COUNTRY**

Congratulations to the Cross Country Team who competed at Marydale Park on Wednesday, October 14, 2015. The students of St. Thomas the Apostle CES were in fine manner demonstrating great fair play skills. Thanks to Mr. Stechey and Mrs. Horzelenberg who helped to prepare this team for its success.

<http://stth.hwcdsb.ca/137674--Cross-Country-at-St.-Thomas-the-Apostle-CES>

Congratulations to the team members, many of whom achieved top placements and personal bests!



### **THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE**

Many thanks to staff, students and parents for their generous donations for the Thanksgiving food drive items for the Good Shepherd Centre in Hamilton. Congratulations to the staff on their win over the students in the traditional staff-student basketball game with special guest player, Mr. Ciapanna.

<http://stth.hwcdsb.ca/137382--Students-vs-Staff-Basketball-Game>

### **HOMEWORK**

Just a very important reminder, that homework routines are essential to a student's success in school. Please establish homework as a priority in your home. This can be accomplished by ensuring your child has an area, free of distraction and noise, to do his/ her work. Many thanks for your partnership.

### **CODING AND ROBOTICS CLUB**

In alignment with the school's commitment to embracing 21st Century Learning, the Coding Club and the Robotics Club are up and running. Exciting things are underway. This includes the Bring Your Own Device initiative in the Intermediate Division.

### **TUTORING AND HOMEWORK CLUB**

St. Thomas has, for the sixth year in a row, established an after school homework and tutoring club. Students in Grade 7 and 8 meet every Monday and Wednesday from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Tutoring and guidance is provided by Mrs. Shannon. Funding for this program is limited only to our intermediate students. This wonderful opportunity is made available through a grant provided by the Ministry of Education.

Coming soon will be a similar club for students in Grades 3-6. Educational Assistants will provide care and support as students complete homework assignments from 3:30-4:15 Monday to Thursday. More information including permission forms will be forthcoming as this parallel program is planned.

### **PILGRIMAGE - JUSTICE FOR THE POOR**

On Sunday, October 18, 2015, approximately 3800 students, teachers, parents, Principals and Board personnel from our elementary and secondary Catholic schools walked an 8-kilometer course through Hamilton to raise money for poverty. The walk was called, "Walk with Christ: Justice for the Poor". The money raised will be used to help build schools and homes in the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Uganda and in support of Development and Peace.

We are very proud of our outstanding grade 7 and 8 students from St. Thomas who gave up their Sunday to join this pilgrimage. Congratulations and thank you for making a difference.

<http://stth.hwcdsb.ca/137807--St.-Thomas-the-Apostle-CES-and-Pilgrimage-2015>

These students showed true Catholic leadership and answered the call to address social justice issues. Thanks also to the many members of staff who also represented our school community on this walk.

### **WINTER WEATHER**

Now that colder weather is approaching, please have children prepared for outdoor recesses. It will become necessary for hats, mittens and even winter coats to be pulled out of storage and worn to school. Mother Nature seems to bless STTA playground with even colder weather than the rest of Hamilton ☺ We strongly encourage labeling of all clothing items to avoid loss of articles. When weather becomes snowy,

boots are essential and students must come prepared with indoor shoes.

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

**PLEASE NOTE** - when schools are closed or buses cancelled due to extreme weather conditions, details will be announced by the following Hamilton and area radio stations and CHCH TV station: 900 900CHML/ Y108 FM/95.3FM/Oldies 1150 (CKOC)/K-Lite 102.9 FM/ 820 CHAM/KX 94.7FM and CHCH TV.

Morning Live (Channel 11). Announcements will be made by 7:00 a.m.

The school board website ([www.hwcdsb.ca](http://www.hwcdsb.ca));  
Twitter (<https://twitter.com/HWCDSB>); Facebook  
([www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com));

The Hamilton Spectator ([www.thespec.com](http://www.thespec.com)) and CBC Hamilton ([www.cbc.ca/hamilton](http://www.cbc.ca/hamilton)) will have the latest news on Snow Day announcements and how they might impact our school.

Our school buzzboard will announce any late breaking news and the email blastout system will also be used.

### **GRADE 7 VISIT TO ST. MARY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

On Wednesday, November 4, 2015, our Grade 7 students will be visiting St. Mary Catholic High School. They will be met by students from all 6 feeder elementary schools including Guardian Angels and Mount Carmel. The students will be immersed into the life of a typical day in high school. They will also tour the facility, meet teachers and administrators, listen to a great speaker, and make new friends.

### **UNITED WAY RED & WHITE DAY NOVEMBER 3, 2015**

The board is having a system-wide civvies day on Tuesday, November 3, 2015 as a fundraiser in support of the United Way. Students and staff are encouraged to wear Red and White attire instead of their school uniform. Each participating student and staff member is asked to bring a donation of \$2.00. All money raised will go to the United Way Campaign.

United Way is an integral part of our country and plays an important role in meeting the needs of

essential social support programs. With your help, we can continue to do our part as a school community.

They are hoping for 100% participation. Our school will be included in this theme day. Please come to school showing your support and dressed in red and white for this worthy cause.

### **SPORTS EQUIPMENT DRIVE**

Thank you to all families that sent in used sports equipment for our sports drive. We received a variety of things and representatives from the O.P.P. will be picking up our contributions. The equipment will be taken to a First Nations in the north. A big thank you goes to Mrs. Richardson's Grade 3/4 class that took the lead promoting the drive with posters, announcements, and daily visits to the classroom to pick up the donations.

### **STTA EYEWITNESS NEWS**

The student council executive has been involved in news broadcast each Monday and Friday morning. The live 'STTA Eyewitness News' broadcast has been well received and the entire team performs like seasoned professionals. Plans are underway for the team to visit CHCH to observe behind the scenes to enhance their own production.

<http://stth.hwcdsb.ca/137754--St.-Thomas-the-Apostle-CES-Media-Team!>

### **CHRISTMAS CARDS**

Once again our students will be designing their own Christmas cards. Parents will have the opportunity to purchase their child's cards. An order form will be coming home soon.



### **CHRISTMAS ANGELS**

This year, STTA will be involved in Christmas Angels, a charitable program during the Christmas season that focuses on the true meaning of Christmas - Jesus Christ - God's greatest gift.

In essence, each classroom will be partnered anonymously with families from another school somewhere in the Hamilton community. The families in question are currently experiencing great financial

hardship. Each STTA classroom will be provided with specifics about the family (number of children, ages, etc.).

Together, we can ensure smiling faces for more children in our city this coming December 25. Thank you sincerely for your partnership in this endeavour.

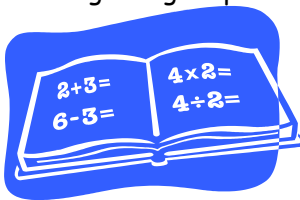
### **TIP OF THE MONTH**

Prayer and the education of children in the faith are seen as specific responsibilities of Christian parents, as well as grandparents. We need to create purposeful moments when we gather as a family and share our values through conversations and family activities and where we share our faith through prayer and perhaps reading and discussing a passage from the Bible. Families build the foundation on which our children stand in the world - educating our children in their faith is a proven way to make that foundation solid enough to withstand anything.

(From: Teresa Hartnett, Family Ministry Office, 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)

### **ATTENTION INTERMEDIATE MATH STUDENTS!**

Need help with your math homework? Free online math help is just one click away at Homework Help. Homework Help offers grade 7 to 10 students live one-on-one tutoring with Ontario certified teachers, from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Sunday to Thursday, as well as, unlimited access to a wide collection of math tutorials, seminars and presentations. Simply log in to Homework Help at <http://homeworkhelp.ilc.org> using the Username and Password you created at school and start getting help today!



### **MAD SCIENCE**

Mad Science is currently underway. Students meet with 'scientists' on Wednesday evenings after dismissal for fun-filled experiments and exploration.

### **MONKEYNASTICS**

The fee-based program Monkeynastics will be starting on Friday, November 6 for those families which have registered. If still interested, please contact the office.

<http://monkeynastix.ca/>

### **ROOTS OF EMPATHY**

Roots of Empathy is a research-based program that promises to enhance the personal, social and emotional development of all students involved, especially in the domain of empathy. A trained facilitator will visit the classroom regularly with the parent(s) of a newborn baby. The baby will accompany each visit and students will engage in conversation and observation, learning about emotions and character traits along the way. This year, we are thrilled that Mrs. Fallis' Grade 5/6 class will be participating. The visits will start soon with Mrs. Sanchez, the trained facilitator and our 'adopted family'.

<http://www.rootsofempathy.org/>

Roots of Empathy's mission: Building caring, peaceful and civil societies.

### **GRADE 4/8 TEACHING MASS**

The Grade 4 and 8 students will be experiencing a 'TEACHING Mass' on November 4, 2015 at 10:00am. Father Lobsinger will lead the mass and infuse actual teaching during each ceremonial procedure. All parents and caregivers welcome.

### **PARENTS OF GRADE 8 STUDENTS**

Parents of Grade 8 students are invited to St. Mary CSS on November 19, 2015 at 7:00 for an information session.

### **FATHER LOBSINGER VISIT**

Father Lobsinger will be visiting classrooms on Monday, November 2, 2015. Thanks to Seminarian Ross and Deacon Whitfield who visited classrooms through the month of October. Their pearls of wisdom were greatly appreciated.

### **QUEBEC TRIP FOR GRADE 8 STUDENTS**

A meeting for parents of students participating in the Grade 8 graduation trip to Quebec will be at 6:00m on November 2, 2015 in the Learning Commons.

Answers to questions along with pertinent information will be provided by the tour company Keating Tours.

### **HEALTH ACTION TEAM**

The STTA Health Action Team (STTA HAT) will commence this Tuesday, November 3 with its inaugural meeting at 10:40 in the learning commons. Led by the school's assigned Public Health Nurse, Julie Scheerer and supported by the McMaster University Third Year Nursing students, the team will explore the ways we can work toward nurturing a positive climate and wellness at St. Thomas the Apostle CES. The team will be supported by Mrs. Reeves, Gr. 7/8 Teacher and many volunteer HAT members from each classroom, grades 4-8. These student volunteers are called HAT Ambassadors.

<http://stth.hwcdsb.ca/136305--Health-Action-Teams>

### **HWCD SB PARENT CONFERENCE**

A friendly reminder of the annual Parent Conference on Saturday, November 7, 2015 at Bishop Ryan CSS.

7:45am-8:30am Registration, breakfast, exhibits

<http://www.hwcdsb.ca/137884--Parent-Conference-2015---Weaving-the-Catholic-Partnership>

### **ATHLETICS**

Congratulations to our Intermediate Flag Football Team. They played an exciting season.

<http://stth.hwcdsb.ca/138468--Football-Alive-and-Well-at-STTA>

Senior Girls Basketball Team: upcoming tournament on Wednesday, November 4, 2015. Go Wildcats Go!

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY: NOVEMBER 20, 2015**

Friday, November 20, 2015 is a Professional Development Day for staff. Students will not be in school that day as staff members participate in professional learning grounded in Catholic faith.

### **FEAST DAY MASS**

Our school's Feast Day mass will take place on Thursday, November 27, 2015 at 9:30 in the gymnasium which will be transformed into a sacred space. All are welcome.

### **SAVE THE DATE**

Mark the date December 10, 6:30 pm on your calendars for St. Thomas the Apostle CES' annual Christmas Concert.

### **THANKS FOR THE FLOWERS**

A special thanks is extended to the families who have been donating flower arrangements to beautify our front foyer's statue area. Those interested in also participating, please contact Mrs. Rath.

### **PICTURE RETAKE DAY**

November 9, 2015 is Picture Retake Day. Smile ☺

### **MONTHLY AWARD WINNERS**

Congratulations to our October Award Winners.

<http://stth.hwcdsb.ca/148935--STTA-October-Awards-Ceremony>

November's themes:

Peace

Lead Learn Love leave a Legacy

Begin With the End in Mind

The 'Virtue Voucher' program will continue. As your child about this program.

### **LMS**

Remember to visit your child's classroom LMS site for news, dates and information. This password-protected virtual space awaits your visit ☺

<https://hwcdsb.elearningontario.ca/>

### **FINAL THOUGHTS**

In honour of October's theme of 'thanks' and 'gratitude', the following clip is offered. God bless.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nj2ofrX7jAk>