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“A proud feeder school to St. Mary Catholic Secondary School”

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

ST. THOMAS “WILDCATS” FEBRUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The month of February promises to be a very busy one at St. Thomas the Apostle CES. As always, the school continues to meet the unique learning needs and interests of all students while providing experiences and opportunities in the classroom and co-curricular life.

February 3, 2016 marks the end of Term One for staff and students. This is an ideal time for students to pause and reflect on past effort and determination as a 'mid year check-in'. While looking back, students can celebrate successes and consider ways to build upon them....going from good to great and then excellent to extraordinary.

Some reflective questions for students to ponder when looking back on the past term:

“Have I put forth my full effort when attempting to learn or do new things?”

“Have I reached out for help when I was confused or found something difficult to do?”

“When the learning became difficult, did I stick to it or did I quit?”

The last question speaks to *resilience*. The development of resilience in all students is more important than ever, especially when we consider this ever changing world around us. Resilience is the ability to adapt and respond to adversity, challenge and stress in a healthy, productive way. It is for this reason that much attention is given to the concept of self-regulation at our school, aligning well with the school board's focus on mental health and wellness for all.

ASH WEDNESDAY SCHOOL MASS

On Wednesday, February 10, 2016 @ 10:00am, Father Lobsinger will celebrate Mass at St. Thomas Parish. We will join the staff and students of Guardian Angels CES. Please join us.

ST. THOMAS BASKETBALL TEAMS

Congratulations to the Junior and Senior Boys' Basketball Teams who continue to demonstrate great drive, skill and sportsmanship on the court. Thanks to Mr. Porco, Mrs. Anderson, her son and nephew, and Mr. Heyd for dedicating time to coaching.

ST. THOMAS VOLLEYBALL TEAMS

Congratulations to the Junior and Senior Girls' Basketball Teams for their great play as well. Thanks to Miss Romeo, Mrs. Reeves and Mrs. Fallis for their time in coaching. Special thanks to Mr. Stechey for dedicating tremendous time and effort in officiating on both Monday and Tuesday evenings throughout both seasons.

PROVINCIAL FAMILY DAY

Monday, February 15th, 2016

On October 11, 2007, the Government of Ontario announced the creation of a province-wide statutory holiday known as Family Day. This day will occur each year on the third Monday in February for the purpose of emphasizing and celebrating the importance of families taking time together. As a result, Family Day this year will be Monday, February 15th 2016. Accordingly, school will be closed. Enjoy the time!

MARCH BREAK

The March break will begin on Monday, March 14, 2016. School will resume on Monday, March 21, 2016.

GRADE 7 DIVERSITY DAY

On Friday, February 12th, 2016, the Grade 7 class will participate in the annual Diversity Conference. Traditionally in the HWCDSB, Grade 7 students participate in this program during the month of February. Students will spend the school day engaged in a variety of whole and small group activities centered around the themes of "isms", tolerance, acceptance and the celebration of peoples' differences. A special lunch will be served to signify the importance of the day and the theme.

The day merges well with the students' preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation on April 3, 2016.

The day's ultimate aim is to make each student aware of his/her gifts and talents, aware of the uniqueness of others and embrace God's love for all of His children, who, although diverse in nature, are all coming together to embark on their journey as adult members of the Catholic Church.

Thank you Mrs. Reeves for leading.

WARPLANE HERITAGE MUSEUM

Mrs. Fallis' Grade 5/6 Class will be visiting the Warplane Heritage Museum on Monday, February 1, 2016 as part of their unit of study on Flight. Up, up and away....enjoy the day!

McMASTER UNIVERSITY THIRD YEAR NURSING STUDENT PLACEMENTS

We have been blessed once again with the opportunity to work with three nursing students from McMaster University. Their work will continue to focus on nurturing positive climate and wellness.

The nursing students plan on looking at the importance of daily physical activity in our lives.

Tentative Plan:

1. Research the benefits and then prepare educational presentations for each division
2. Survey students about current levels of daily physical activity as a baseline.
3. Create a visual gauge to monitor change or growth in DPA in the students' lives over the next many months
4. Lead classrooms in various examples of DPA that can be transferred to the home
5. Lead classrooms in a culminating activity in the

gym: Celebrating the Benefits of DPA in Our Lives!
6. Prepare a brochure to be sent home to support the transfer of DPA in students' family lives....a family that 'moves' together stays 'healthy' together.

Welcome Kristian (from Stoney Creek), Selina (from Pickering) and Hayley (from Caledonia) to STTA!

<http://stth.hwcdsb.ca/154469--STTA-Welcomes-a-New-Group-of-McMaster-University-Nursing-Students>

WELCOME MOHAWK COLLEGE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANT STUDENTS

STTA is blessed to be welcoming two students from Mohawk College's Educational Assistant Program. The students will be shadowing the school's EAs while learning how to support the diverse learning needs of all students.

<http://stth.hwcdsb.ca/154679--STTA-Welcomes-Mohawk-College-Educational-Assistant-Students>

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FREE THROW

Congratulations to the students who participated in the KOC Free Throw Challenge.
Congratulations to Audrey and Christian G. who will be moving on to the Regionals.

<http://stth.hwcdsb.ca/154859--KOC-District-Free-Throw-Competition-at-STTA>

LEARNING COMMONS

Message from Mrs. Byrne, Teacher Librarian:

Wow, it is hard to believe that term one is drawing to a close. Many great things have been happening in the Library Learning Commons this term. Intermediate students have completed some great inquiry projects in history and have learned how to use Easybib to complete their Works Cited. The grade five students completed some informative cartoons about bullying prevention using Bitstrips. The grade three students explored aboriginal artwork and were able to compare First Nations and Inuit art by responding using Linoit. Grade two students explored the traditions of different cultures and created beautiful presentations using Pic Collage. As we move forward towards term two there will be many more interesting and exciting inquiries to come.

Mrs. Byrne and Mrs. Horzelenberg are awaiting the arrival of The Forest of Reading books to begin a reading club for grades 4-8. Students will be invited to join us in the Library Learning Commons for lunch time reading fun.

On February 10, Canadian author Sigmund Brouwer will be visiting St. Thomas school to bring his Rock and Roll literacy show. Mr. Brouwer has written many books. The Library Learning Commons will have many copies of these books in the near future for students in all grades to explore.

FAMILY LITERACY WEEK EVENTS

On January 28, 2016, we held our annual Snuggle Up and Read event. Once again it was a huge success! We thank all parents, grandparents and all family members who took time out of their day to come to our school and spend time with their children, reading and playing games.

<http://stth.hwcdsb.ca/155236--Snuggle-Up-and-Read-Day-at-STTA>

SCHOOL LOCKDOWN

On a rare occasion, there may be a lockdown of our school. A lockdown is defined by the Hamilton-Wentworth Police as "the restriction of movement during the time of a potentially serious violent incident that could endanger the lives of students and staff."

We are required to practice this lockdown a minimum of two times each year. We held a Lockdown Drill near the end of January. Students and staff followed procedures with precision, ensuring the security and safety for all.

SCIENCE FAIR

St. Thomas the Apostle CES will be hosting the Science Fair on February 11, 2016. The gym will be filled with tables and science fair exhibits. Much instructional time has been spent teaching students about the scientific process and the communication of new learning to others. Students will share their findings during the fair while fielding questions from observers and judges. Congratulations to all.

VALENTINE'S DAY

Students are encouraged to dress in red, white and pink on Friday, February 12th. This is a dress down day for the staff and students. Fun activities will be planned by student council on that day....details to follow in the coming days.

GROUNDHOG DAY

February 2, 2016 is Groundhog Day. William, in Mrs. Horzelenberg's Grade Two classroom, has used a program on the internet which allows the user to generate quizzes and tests. William used the program (Kahoot) to compose 12 mystifying questions that pertain to Groundhog Day. He has added graphics and multiple choice options with points awarded to teams for fastest and most accurate responses.

Following the STTA Newscast on Monday, February 1, 2016, William will appear to each classroom via Adobe Connect and explain how the contest works. He will then 'share' the screen on each Smartboard in the school for students to read the questions. Each classroom will use a handheld device (ipad) that is logged into the game. The class will collaboratively decide an answer and then select in fast time on the device. All selections/speeds/points are visible.

William, the Quizmaster, will monitor from Headquarters (Mr. Younger's computer in the office) and engage participants throughout, including commentary. Ask your children that evening how the event unfolded!

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

The next school council meeting is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 1, 2016 at 7:00pm in the Learning Commons. All are welcome to attend!

BUS PROTOCOL

Parents of children who take the bus are kindly asked to remind their children about bus safety rules.

These rules are in place to ensure the safety of all. When unexpected behaviours occur on the bus, the attention of the bus driver is diverted, placing all passengers in jeopardy.

- always stay seated, back against seat
- keep all items, including feet, out of the aisles
- use an indoor voice at all times
- listen to the driver and the Bus Safety Patroller
- treat each other with respect

WINTER REMINDERS

Although we have enjoyed unseasonably warm weather throughout most of December and January, these are a few reminders for students:

Snowballs With the arrival of snow in these winter months, students are reminded of the "NO THROWING" rule. Snow is not to be thrown, kicked or lifted in the air at all as this is a safety concern. Please reinforce this at home with your children.

Indoor Shoes It is imperative that children have "indoor shoes" to wear indoors during the winter months. Wet floors, fire alarms and general safety concerns necessitate this request. Slippers are not to be worn during school time.

Winter Clothing Please ensure that children are dressed to go outside each day. Please ensure your child has snow pants, boots, mittens/gloves and a hat to wear when the temperature calls for it.

IMMUNIZATION REMINDER

If your child's immunization information is not complete, Public Health and Community Services will be sending you a letter requesting that you update your child's immunization information. Hamilton's Medical Officer will inform certain parents that their children will be officially suspended from school until various conditions are met.

Free Immunization clinics are provided by Public Health and Community Services for families which do not have a family doctor. Call 905.540.5250 for more information.

<https://www.hamilton.ca/public-health/clinics-services/vaccines-immunization-clinics>

ANY CHANGE IN FAMILY INFORMATION SINCE SEPTEMBER/2015

In an attempt to keep our records as accurate as possible, would you please notify the school immediately if there has been any change in the information we have on file regarding addresses, phone numbers, emergency contacts and/or custody arrangements. It is important to keep the school informed of these changes so that we can maintain contact in case of emergency.

FUNDRAISER KICKOFF

The 2016 STTA Fundraiser kickoff will occur on February 1, 2016. Staff and students will gather in the gym as a representative from World's Finest Chocolates speaks about the products and the entire initiative. The following items are on the wishlist to be purchased with the funds raised.

- Indoor Recess Equipment for all classrooms (Playing Cards, Chess/Checkers, Jigsaw Puzzles, Lego, Board Games, Dice, etc)
- RAZ Kids License (online Reading Program <https://www.raz-kids.com/>)
- Book Room Independent Reading Collection, all levels
- Gathering Carpets, Grades 1-4
- Guided Reading Collections
- Additional Lego for Robotics Team
- Mature Shade Tree: FDK Playground
- Outdoor Natural Prayer Garden
- FDK Play-based Learning Equipment
- Bulletin Boards, Second Floor Jr/Int Hallway
- Additional Technology Needs

The profit margin for World's Finest is exceptionally large: in essence, the school reaps 50% of the proceeds of all sales.

This initiative is completely voluntary and optional. Students will not be allowed to sell any products without the signed permission of a parent or guardian. Permission letters will be sent home to allow for student participation.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bxz6hJm4QDDrRVVkdVFUMVFSelU/view?usp=sharing>

PUBLIC HEALTH DENTAL SCREENING

Public Health Dental Screenings for all FDK - Grade 2 students will occur on February 3, 2016.

WINTER WEAR YELLOW DAY

Staff and students are invited to wear yellow clothes on February 3, 2016. All of HWCDSB is celebrating this day which promotes active transportation (walking, cycling, rolling, bus) to and from school.

MCMASTER UNIVERSITY VENTURE OUTREACH

McMaster University will be using the Science Room on February 3 and 4, 2016 to provide presentations to our Grade 4-8 students.

HWCD SB CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL BREAKFAST

The board will be hosting the annual breakfast for each school Principal and CSC Representative to celebrate the success of the council system. Thanks to Mrs. Hammond who will represent the STTA CSC.

WATERDOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY GRAND OPENING

Waterdown Public Library will be hosting its grand opening on Monday, February 8, 2016. We hope all students get an opportunity to visit often. The new building looks incredible on the daily drive by.

SHROVE TUESDAY

Thanks once again to the kind and generous time and efforts of the Catholic School Council, pancakes will be cooked and served to all students on Tuesday, February 9, 2016.

SEMINARIAN ROSS

Seminarian Ross will be visiting classrooms on February 11 and 12, 2016. The students look forward to his conversations and the opportunity to ask questions.

HAPPY 100TH DAY

On February 11, the Primary classes will be celebrating our 100th day by engaging in a variety of activities grounded in mathematics and the concept of 100.

REPORT CARDS GO HOME

Report cards for students (SK-Grade 8) will be released to students and parents on February 17, 2016. Students will be encouraged to celebrate and build upon current successes while also responding to areas in need of improvement. Learning Skills and Work Habits remain a focus as always since these are lifelong traits that have an impact on all future endeavours. As always, STTA thanks all parents for the collaboration in charting the journey ahead for their children into the second term.

STTA WEBSITE

Please continue checking the STTA Website for daily posts on the buzzboard and our calendar. We are currently involved in a pilot project with Mr. Don Henderson, our Media Development Officer regarding daily email notification blasts to subscribers. Those

who have subscribed to the notifications via the link on the website should be receiving daily notifications of new posts that day. The blasts occur about 5:00pm daily. There have been a few technical glitches that are being addressed. This explains why email blasts do not occur some days. Thanks for your patience. For those who are not yet subscribers, please consider subscribing.

COUNCILLOR PARTRIDGE MEETING

Please mark Monday, February 22, 2016 in your calendars. Judy Partridge will be hosting a community meeting in our Learning Commons for the 'Mountainview Heights Community' at 6:00pm. She will be talking about the rash of recent break-ins, the status of Agro Park development and up-to-date information about all new home construction projects.

SWIM TO SURVIVE

The Grade 3 students will be visiting the Flamborough YMCA Pool as part of the school board's initiative regarding water safety and ensuring all students know how to swim.

INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD EVENT

Under the coaching of Mrs. Lamparski, a team of students will be travelling to First Ontario Centre (formerly Copps Coliseum) on February 25, 2016 for a fun-filled day of track and field events. Go Wildcats go!

FEBRUARY AWARD ASSEMBLY

Please join us for our monthly award assembly on Monday, February 29, 2016. Please see our January winners:

<http://stth.hwcdsb.ca/155252--Awards-Ceremony-at-STTA>

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

February 26, 2016 has been designated as PD Day across the system. Staff will be participating in a variety of professional learning activities to support the achievement, growth and learning of all students. One major theme covered that day will be Mental Wellness. The school's Mental Health Team will facilitate. Students will have the day off.

STTA ROBOTICS TEAM SOARS

<http://stth.hwcdsb.ca/155346--STTA-Robotics-Team-at-the-Provincial-Championships>

MARAUDERS IN THE CLASSROOM

Members of the McMaster Marauders will visit with the Grade 3 and 4 students in the Learning Commons.

FIRST RECONCILIATION

We celebrate as the Grade Two students receive the sacrament of First Reconciliation during the evening of February 18, 2016 at St. Thomas the Apostle Church. All are invited. Thanks to Mrs. Horzelenberg and Mrs. Fleet for preparing the students. Thanks mostly to all parents, the children's first and foremost teachers, for ensuring that home is filled with prayer and grounded in our Catholic faith.

GRADE 8 ENTREPRENEURIAL ADVENTURE

The grade 8 class is embarking on a new challenge this school year with the Entrepreneurial Adventure Program. Students have partnered up with Andrew Westrik from Franklin Covey Education. The students (with guidance from Andrew) will create a business plan to host a trivia night event for our school community with all proceeds going to a charity of their choice. The plan will consider a business mission, marketing techniques, operations, risk analysis and financial considerations. We look forward to hosting you in the spring! Details to follow. Thanks to Mrs. Shannon for overseeing this exciting journey that will benefit all students in the years to come. Look out 'Sharks Tank' and 'Dragons Den' !

CAREER PATHWAYS

STTA is currently planning for another Career Event. Any parent willing to share their career with our Junior/Intermediate students, please call and let the school know. Career Day will be held during Catholic Education Week. More information to follow.

In the meantime, please consider attending one of the many information evenings hosted by the Flamborough Community's "What's Your Passion? What's Your Pathway?" initiative. Each evening, a specific career sector will be highlighted by individuals currently employed in that sector.

<http://stth.hwcdsb.ca/152931--What's-your-Path?-What%27s-Your-Passion?>

PARKING LOT AT END OF THE DAY

Special thanks to all parents who drive to the school at the end of the day and use the 'Kiss and Ride' area and the parking lot. Your cooperation in respecting the rules for entry/exit and pickup are greatly appreciated and benefit all those in the vicinity. Most importantly, your respect for others keeps everyone safe. A gentle reminder that we cannot leave our car unattended while blocking another car.

VIRTUAL SUPPORTS

Everyone is reminded to continue visiting the LMS (Learning Management System) to see their child's virtual classroom. You will find a plethora of information about what's happening along with resources and links to great supports in the home. A huge note of appreciation is extended to our Teachers and ECEs who spend countless hours updating the sites and loading many posts as communication of learning and items of information. <https://hwcdsb.elearningontario.ca/>

QUOTES FOR THE MONTH

(in honour of Valentine's Day)

What does love mean? A group of professionals posed this question to a group of 4-8 year olds. The answers they got were broader and deeper than anyone could have imagined. Some are as follows:

'When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth.' - Billy, age 4

'Love is what makes you smile when you are tired.' - Terri, age 4

'If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate.' Nikka, age 5

'Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen.' - Bobby, age 5

And the final one comes from a contest to find the most caring child. The winner was a four year old child whose next door neighbour was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed into his lap, and just sat there. When his Mother asked what he had said to the neighbour, the little boy said, 'Nothing, I just helped him cry'

Create a plan to
get your student
on the right path.

Kickoff Event:
Tues., Jan. 19, 2016
7:00 - 9:00 pm

Location:

St. Thomas Parish Hall
715 Centre Rd., Waterdown, ON

7:00 pm



Welcome & Opening Remarks
Nicole Martin's Career Path
to CHCH

7:15-8:15 pm

Susan McKechnie, from
Fresh Careers on Crafting
a Post Secondary Plan

8:15-9:00 pm

Q & A



Each week, parents and
students can hear professionals
speak about their careers in the
following industries.

Register at: www.eventbrite.com
Search: What's Your Path
City: Waterdown, ON

Date	Industry	Location/Time
Tues., Feb. 9	Architecture and Construction	Guy B. Brown Public School 55 Braeheid Avenue Waterdown 7:00-9:00 pm
Tues., Feb. 16	Arts, Audio/Video Technology and Communications	
Tues., Feb. 23	Business, Management and Administration	
Tues., March 1	Education and Training	
Tues., March 8	Finance	
Tues., March 22	Government and Public Administration	St. Thomas Elementary School 170 Skinner Rd. Waterdown 7:00-9:00 pm
Tues., March 29	Health Science	
Tues., April 5	Hospitality and Tourism	
Tues., April 12	Human Services	
Tues., April 19	Information Technology	
Tues., April 26	Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security	
Tues., May 3	Manufacturing	
Tues., May 10	Marketing, Sales and Service	
Tues., May 17	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics	
Tues., May 24	Transportation, Distribution and Logistics	
Tues., May 31	Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources	



fresh careers



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listen

laugh

inspire