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LOR 2H7
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"A proud feeder school to St. Mary Catholic Secondary School"

SUPERINTENDENT: M. HUCAL
PRINCIPAL: D. YOUNGER
PRINCIPAL INTERN: A. CAIELLA

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

APRIL - 2016 NEWSLETTER "WILDCATS"

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

"This is my Son, the Beloved; with Him, listen to Him!" Mark 9:7

The liturgical season of Lent provided us with an opportunity to deny our-selves by praying, fasting and giving alms. Throughout the forty days, we were called to renew our relationship with Jesus by carrying our crosses along with Him. Our work during Lent led us to Easter, when we celebrated the joy of Christ' Resurrection and the new life that we received in Baptism. Easter filled us with hope for a better tomorrow and a chance to renew ourselves. This prayer is offered to support our continued journey during this year of mercy. Together, we are Merchants of Hope for all those with whom we work, learn and live.

Heavenly father, I am your humble servant,
I come before you today in need of hope.
There are times when I feel helpless,
There are times when I feel weak.

I pray for hope.
I need hope for a better future.
I need hope for a better life.
I need hope for love and kindness.

I need your light, Lord, in every way.
I pray to be filled with your light from
head to toe, to bask in your glory.

To know that all is right in the world,
as you have planned,
and as you want it to be.

Help me to walk in your light, and live
my life in faith and glory.

Most important, help me to be
a Merchant of Hope for others
each and every day.

In your name I pray,
Amen.

hope

REGISTRATIONS FOR 2016-2017

Registration for the 2016-2017 school year is now open at St. Thomas the Apostle CES. If you know of anyone who is eligible to register, please have them contact Mrs. Rath.

Children starting Junior Kindergarten in September should be registered as soon as possible. If you know of any child who is planning to come to kindergarten, please advise them to register at the school immediately.

ARE YOU MOVING?

We ask any family who will be moving out of the area; please notify the office **in writing as soon as possible**. We are in the process of projecting student enrolment for September 2016 and this information will assist us in being more accurate with our projections.

SIGN-IN PROCEDURES

For the safety of our students, all visitors/ parents must report to the office. Access to classrooms is only granted through the office. Please do not go to the classrooms without checking in at the office. Mrs. Rath will be happy to call your child/children down to see you for any of your concerns.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School Before-and-After School Program is a school-based Catholic childcare program designed to support and complement the programs of St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Elementary School. We provide care for children attending school all day from ages 4 to 12 years of age. The program operates before and after school. If you have any questions please feel free to call (905)525-2268 Ext. 2628.

THE PARENTING AND FAMILY LITERACY CENTRE

Attention all parents, grandparents and caregivers of children 0-6. The Parenting and Family Literacy Centre runs a free program in the school Monday through Friday on days the school is open. Drop in anytime. Our program runs from 9:10 am to 1:10 pm daily. We offer many activities, we provide a healthy snack and we all have fun getting active in the gym and we all have fun singing songs and telling stories. Stop in and check us out. We know you and your child will have much fun playing and learning together.

Hope to see you soon! Ms. Patty (PFLC Facilitator)

LEARNING COMMON NEWS

The St. Thomas Learning Commons Library is excited to announce the purchase of nearly all of author Sigmund Brouwer's books.

There are books for everyone. For the primary and junior students, the Justine McKeen and Timberwolf series are a great way to get that reading practice in. We have also purchased the Orca Sports and Orca Currents series which will appeal to junior and intermediate students. Some of the stories Sigmund used in his presentation come from these books.

For our older junior and intermediate students we have purchased the Merlin's Immortals series. There are also many other exciting titles available for all to read.

Keep a look out for a special Sigmund Brouwer display in the library.

<https://stth.hwcdsb.ca/159513--Exciting-Additions-to-the-STTA-Learning-Commons-Library-Collection>

Thanks to Mrs. Byrne, STTA Teacher Librarian, for arranging.

INQUIRY-BASED NON-FICTION WRITING

Mrs. Horzelenberg's Grade 2 class will be collaborating with Mrs. Byrne, our Teacher-Librarian this month.

Students will be exploring the elements of Report writing through the use of different resources in the library. Sessions will conclude with an inquiry-based non-fiction topic of choice where students will create a report using technology for the final project.

Finally, these will be presented to an authentic audience.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Through the leadership of Mrs. Sergi, Educational Assistant, all classrooms at STTA participated in a Stations of the Cross initiative. Each class was assigned a specific station. Students were invited to artistically represent their station. Classrooms selected one for submission. All fourteen selected stations were presented to the student body during the Prayer Liturgy in the gymnasium on Holy

Thursday. The selections will now be plaqued and displayed in the school's chapel. It is hoped that Father Lobsinger will be able to visit for an official blessing. Thanks Mrs. Sergi. The following link highlights each station, the respective artist and the grade/classroom.

<https://stth.hwcdsb.ca/159523--Good-Friday-and-the-STTA-Stations-of-the-Cross>

3 on 3 HOCKEY

Congratulations to both our Senior and Junior students who participated in the school board's 3 on 3 Dayrl Mahler Hockey Tourneyment at the Mohawk Quad Pad. Thanks to Coach Shannon who accompanied the players and Coach Kenyon who was there in spirit.

<https://stth.hwcdsb.ca/158890--STTA-Scores-at-Daryll-Mahler-3-on-3>

STTA CHOCOLATE FUNDRAISER

The STTA Chocolate Fundraiser has come to an end with a resounding cheer of success. Thanks to the participation of many students and families, a profit of approximately \$6200.00 was realized. As per the original plan that was shared, initial purchases have already been made and the students anxiously await the shipments.

The first major purchase was many games and learning activities for each classroom during indoor recess, gathering carpets for Primary Classrooms and four new bulletin boards for the Junior/Intermediate classrooms in the upstairs hallway. Once the shipments arrive, the items will be shared and distributed at an assembly.

Additional purchases will be made as per the originally shared plan.

Once again, thanks to every student, parent, guardian and family for participating

QUIDDITCH

The 2016 STTA Quidditch Cup is well underway. Great sportsmanship and team play have been observed by all of the houses. The cup will conclude during the first few weeks of April with the semi-final pitches and the Grand Golden Snitch Championship. It's been a magically good time for all. Standings moving into semi-final pitches:
Slytherin (1st) vs Hufflepuff (4th)
Griffindor (3rd) vs Ravenclaw (2nd)

CONFIRMATION RETREAT DAY

We wish the STTA Grade Seven Students well as they participate in their Confirmation Retreat Day at the St. Thomas Church and adjoining hall on Friday, April 1, 2016. The day's activities promise to support the students in preparing for this most solemn of sacraments.

GRADE THREE SOCIAL STUDIES

Judy Partridge will be speaking with Mrs. Caiella's class along with Mrs. Byrne to discuss suburban sprawl and the change in the Waterdown community on April 7, 2016. This is part of the Grade 3 Social Studies curriculum: People and Environments - Living and Working in Ontario.

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/sshg18curr2013.pdf>

FDK to RBG

All the best to our Full Day Kindergarten students who will be visiting the Royal Botanical Gardens on April 8, 2016 to learn about lifecycles, reptiles and other creatures!

STTA EASTER FOOD DRIVE

The grade 7s organized and ran this year's Easter Food Drive which was a huge success! Thanks to the entire STTA school community for their generosity at this most significant time in our Catholic year. Indeed, many families will benefit greatly from your kindness. Congratulations to the grade 7s who organized, created and hung up posters, made announcements and did daily round-ups of food collection during the month of March as part of their efforts to earn their diversity necklaces. You are truly merchants of hope!

JUNIOR BOYS' VOLLEYBALL TEAM

Although we did not start off our season in a blaze of victorious glory, the Jr. Boys Volleyball team, who ended their first game with a winning set, has what it takes to be a champion team and the whole STTA community is wishing them much success for the remainder of the season! Go Wildcats!
Submitted by Coach Reeves....thanks Coach!

STTA in OUTERSPACE

Mrs. Reeves and the grade 7s are helping the Canadian Space Agency, NASA, SpaceX and all future missions to Mars by participating in the Tomatosphere project beginning in April. This project is currently supported by an international

consortium led by Let's Talk Science (in Canada) and First the Seed Foundtion (in the US). In a blind study with one package of tomato seeds which has travelled to space and one that has not, students will be planting and growing tomatoes and reporting their findings to Tomatosphere. The research the grade 7s are conducting will help scientists determine the best way to grow food and sustain life on Mars. Our grade 7s are demonstrating how they will be our leaders of tomorrow.

WATER WORKS ECO COMPETITION

The grade 7s will also be participating in a city wide Water Works Eco Competition run by the Public Works Department for the City of Hamilton. It is a competition which ties in neatly to the Grade 7 Science Curriculum. It is also a time sensitive competition: students will be given a lesson on April 5th, be given a case study by the City on April 6th and complete a report by the 15th. The winning school will win a trophy and all participating schools will earn points towards their Ontario Eco Schools Certification. Go Wildcat Scientists!

VIDEO CONFERENCING

Mrs. Reeves' grade 7/8 Literacy class had a fun time interviewing Canadian author, Sigmund Brouwer, recently via a zoom video conference. The hilarious author answered many tough questions from our budding writers about his process which includes much research and the challenges that he has had to face while writing. It was a great morning which ended too soon, but Sigmund kindly provided the class with the recorded private youtube video chat.

<https://stth.hwcdsb.ca/159311--STTA-and-Video-Conferencing-with-Canadian-Author>

GRADE 7 CONFIRMATION

Confirmation will take place on Sunday, April 3rd, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. by Bishop Crosby.

Congratulations to our Confirmandi as we join in prayer to continue to support and welcome you as young adult members of our Parish Community.

Thanks to Mrs. Shannon and Mrs. Reeves for their work in supporting the spiritual growth of the students.

SACRAMENT OF FIRST COMMUNION

The Grade 2 Students will be having their First Communion Retreat Day at the church on Friday,

April 22, 2016. The Grade 2 students will be receiving the Sacrament of the Eucharist on Saturday, April 24th, 2016. We ask that you pray for these students as they prepare to receive their First Holy Communion. Thanks to Mrs. Fleet and Mrs. Horzelenberg for their work in supporting the spiritual growth of the students.

PRIMARY AND JUNIOR EQAO TESTING

Similar to previous years, our Grade 3 and 6 students will participate in the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) Primary and Junior Division Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics during May 30 - June 6, 2016.

These EQAO assessments will continue to be administered to all students in Grades 3 and 6. Students will be required to complete three test booklets: one mathematics, one reading and one writing booklet. The types of questions in the booklets will be familiar to your child as they are based on the kinds of work your child has been doing throughout the year. The total amount of time that the students will spend on the testing will be six hours which is generally spread over the course of five days. Sample questions can be viewed on the EQAO website at www.eqao.com. We ask that you make every effort to avoid holidays during these days and to try to make sure your child is on time for school and in attendance each day during the assessment.

In advance, we appreciate your efforts in scheduling appointments around this block of time. The EQAO assessment results help us to continue to improve upon the quality of Catholic education offered to your children.

Additional specific information regarding the assessments will be sent home to our Grade 3 and 6 parents in the month of May.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

Please join us at our next meeting being held on Monday, April 4, 2016 in the school Learning Commons at 7:00 p.m. As always, we thank the many volunteer hours of the parents on the council and those who attend the monthly meetings.

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

The student council has planned for Outrageous Outfit Day on April 8, 2016. Staff and students are

invited to wear their most outrageous clothes and hairstyles that day. Loose change is kindly requested to participate. Proceeds will be directed toward the Grade 8 Entrepreneurial Adventure and the school Trivia Night. Thanks to all for participating.

ST. MARY DRUMLINE

The St. Mary Catholic Secondary School Drumline will be visiting St. Thomas the Apostle CES on April 22, 2016 for a presentation. It should be a rousing good time for staff and students in the audience.

<https://www.hwcdsb.ca/43784--St.-Mary%E2%80%99s-Drumline-creates-music-and-community>

STTA TRIVIA NIGHT

The grade 8 class has undertaken an entrepreneurial project in the form of a Trivia Night which will be held on April 28th at the school. Mrs. Shannon's class has been distributed into five departments: Financing, Research (trivia questions), Marketing, Daycare Services, and Food Services.

Families will be able to enter a team and compete against other families in a fun-filled game of trivia.

As part of this exciting 'business learning initiative', donations of new and unused items of some worth will be raffled off as door prizes throughout the night. For example, the team has received a stainless steel barbecue set, golf bag, golf balls and a Toronto Maple Leafs Under Armour hoodie.

The team is NOT asking for anyone to go out and purchase any items for a door prize but to find any unused items around the house that might make a good door prize.

The Grade 8 Entrepreneurial Adventure Team, under the leadership of Mrs. Shannon and a business partner from the community, thanks everyone for considering this request. Not only will you be motivating and inspiring the wonderful learning opportunity that the Entrepreneurial Adventure has provided the grade 8 class, but you will be supporting the Ronald McDonald House Charity where all profits from the evening will be donated.

Information about registering your family and friends will be shared in the coming weeks.

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART

The kick-off assembly for Jump Rope For Heart will be April 27, 2016. Proceeds from this fun-filled event will be directed to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Thanks in advance for participating.

DIRECTOR'S AWARDS

Various students from each school across the system will be presented with a Director's Award in particular categories, celebrating excellence in all areas of school life. The students from St. Thomas the Apostle CES will receive their awards at a special presentation at the HWCDSB Board Office on April 27, 2016 from 2:30-3:30pm. Parents and families of these selected students are welcome to attend the ceremony. If your child will be receiving an award, you will be notified in the coming weeks.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

April 29, 2016 has been designated as a Professional Development Day. Staff will be involved with various activities that relate to instructional practice and curriculum.

POSTER CONTEST

After completing a Water Only Wednesday campaign in support of National Nutritional Month (March), the Health Action Team is running a Hydration Station Poster Competition with the help of the City of Hamilton's Water Department in April. All students in each division (Primary, Junior, and Intermediate) will create a colorful poster illustrating how drinking water is part of a healthy lifestyle. One winning student's poster will be placed on a plaque and hung above the Hydration Station outside of the Gym. The two other winning posters will also be displayed in the school close to their divisions. Good luck to all of the student participants! Thanks Mrs. Caiella, Mrs. Reeves, Nurse Julie and the entire HAT Team.

ON THE LOOKOUT

The school is on the lookout for a used ping pong table. If one is available for sale, please contact the office.

"When doubts filled my mind, Your comfort gave me renewed hope and cheer."

-Psalm 94:19