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

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PRINCIPAL INTERN: A. CAIELLA

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

MAY - 2016 NEWSLETTER "WILDCATS"

*"Let the little children come to me,
and do not stop them;
for it is to such as these
that the kingdom of God belongs."
Mark 10.14*

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Catholic Education Week - May 2-6, 2016

The theme for Catholic Education Week 2016 is Opening the Doors of Mercy. Each year, the Catholic community of Ontario engages in a week-long celebration of the unique identity and distinctive contributions of Catholic education during Catholic Education Week. This year's celebration will be held for the week of May 2-6, 2016.

The theme for this year's Catholic Education Week is 'Catholic Education: Opening Doors of Mercy.' The overall scriptural theme is taken from Matthew's Gospel, "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy" (Matthew 5:7). We are hopeful that as the body of Christ, we, too, feel our hearts burning within us as we explore the paths of joy during this week.

The five sub-themes for Catholic Education: Opening the Doors of Mercy are

- Monday Day 1: Mercy that Welcomes
- Tuesday Day 2: Mercy that Loves
- Wednesday Day 3: Mercy that Forgives
- Thursday Day 4: Mercy that Lives the Gospel
- Friday Day 5: Mercy that Rejoices

Catholic Education Week is an ideal opportunity for all of us to celebrate the many accomplishments of Catholic education - and to deepen the relationship with our Catholic educational partners. Please take time to share in our week long celebration of Catholic Education by discussing the question with your child.

What do you value most about a Catholic Education?

A pamphlet outlining the many activities taking place that week was posted on the buzzboard:
<https://stth.hwcdsb.ca/161580--Catholic-Education-Week-at-STTA--Open-the-Doors-of-Mercy>

We thank Mrs. Fleet and Mrs. Horzelenberg, co-chairs of the STTA Catholic Education Week Committee for coordinating and organizing many of the activities taking place that week.

An excellent website to use as a resource for your home discussions is the Ontario Catholic School Trustee's Association site which can be accessed at: <http://www.ocsta.on.ca/>

Wishing you an enjoyable and informative Catholic Education week journey.

Mr. D. Younger, Principal

MONTH OF MAY: ROSARY

Wishing each of our Mothers a very Happy Mother's Day! **MAY** is the month of Mary, our model of faith and charity. During this month, we will pray each day a decade of the rosary. Whether at school or at home, we can show our love for Mary and for Jesus. You can assist by saying the rosary with your child at home. In doing this, you are supporting even further what the school is attempting to do as we nurture the Faith in our community together.

SAYING THE ROSARY:

1. Make the sign of the Cross and say the Apostle's Creed.
2. Say the Our Father.
3. Say 3 Hail Marys.
4. Say the Glory Be to the Father.
5. Announce the First Mystery, and then say the Our Father.
6. Say 10 Hail Marys while meditating the Mystery.
7. Say the Glory Be to the Father.
8. Announce the Second Mystery, and then say the Our Father. Repeat 6 and 7 and continue with Third, Fourth and Fifth Mysteries in the same manner.

The Mysteries of the Rosary

Joyful Mysteries - 1

1. The Annunciation
2. The Visitation
3. The Nativity
4. The Presentation
5. The Finding in the Temple

Sorrowful Mysteries - 2

1. The Agony in the Garden
2. The Scourging at the Pillar
3. The Crowning with Thorns
4. The Carrying of the Cross
5. The Crucifixion

Glorious Mysteries - 3

1. The Resurrection
2. The Ascension
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit
4. The Assumption
5. The Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Luminous Mysteries - 4

1. The Baptism of the Lord
2. The Wedding at Cana
3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God
4. The Transfiguration
5. The Institution of the Eucharist

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The grade 2 students celebrated their First Holy Communion on Sunday, April 24, 2016 at St. Thomas Church. The students were examples of prayerfulness and reverence and we are proud of them. We congratulate all of the grade 2 students on

their First Holy Communion! We kindly ask that you keep these children in your prayers.

<https://stth.hwcdsb.ca/161532--Congratulations-to-the-STTA-Grade-Two-Students>

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 compliment the programs of St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic 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.

SAFETY

Safety remains paramount at STTA. As such, it is with great excitement that we announcement the many new additions to ensure a safe and secure environment. Two new Crossing Guards have been hired by the City of Hamilton, one at Burke and Humphries and one in front of the school. School Zone signs have been installed as have appropriate Speed Limit signs. Trucks have also been asked to stop movement along Burke and Skinner from 8:50-9:20am and 3:15-3:45pm each day.

<https://stth.hwcdsb.ca/161033--STTA-Welcomes-Crossing-Guard-Miss-Kath>

GRANDPARENTS' DAY

On Tuesday, May 3, 2016, all grandparents are invited to attend our annual Grandparent Day activities from 2:00pm to 3:00pm. They are invited to visit with their grandchildren in classrooms and then the learning commons for refreshments.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL OF OUR MOTHERS AND GRANDMOTHERS - MAY 8, 2016

For those who comfort with a mother's hand,
We thank you!

To those who encourage with a mother's praise,
We thank you!

To those who love with a mother's care,
We thank you!

To those who love with a mother's heart,
We honour you.



DIRECTOR'S AWARDS

On Tuesday, April 26, 2016, our school's Director's Award recipients received their award at the Catholic Education Centre. Mr. Hansen, Director of Education, made the presentations. Congratulations to all!

<https://stth.hwcdsb.ca/161711--STTA-Directors-Award-Presentations>

SPRING CROSS COUNTRY - 2016

Our Spring Cross Country will take place on Thursday, May 12, 2016.

Permission forms will go out shortly. Please return these as soon as possible. Students are encouraged to dress for the weather on the day of the meet. Best of luck to our Cross Country Wildcats!



MAY CROWNING

On Thursday, May 5, 2016 at 9:30am, Father Lobsinger will be celebrating Mass at St. Thomas School Gym, in honour of Mary, the Virgin Mother. The grade 2 students will lead the mass. Flowers are most welcome for this special day.

TRIP TO QUEBEC

On Tuesday, May 24 through Friday, May 27, 2016, our Grade 8 students will be visiting Quebec City. This promises to be a wonderful excursion.

Students will explore the Old World grace of Québec

City as they explore famous sights such as Place Royale, Notre-Dame-des Victoires Church, Batterie Royale, Quartier Petit Champlain, Plains of Abraham and the Basilica of Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré.

In addition to this, students will test their bowling skills at Frontenac's high-tech, fun-filled, bowling centre and they will dress up to enjoy an evening dinner dance at the Manoir Montmorency overlooking Montmorency Falls.

The trip promises to be a highlight of their graduating year.

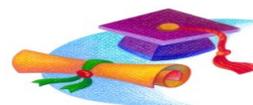
A culmination of the trip will be realized through a French Café on June 9 to be coordinated by Mme Cholette and assisted by all Grade Eight students whose French language skills will enhance the event.

There will be a Parent Meeting on Monday, May 9, 2016 @ 6:30pm in the Learning Commons. It is extremely important that at least one parent attend along with their child(ren) if possible.

GRADE 8 GRADUATION

Our Grade 8 class is brimming with excitement for their upcoming graduation. The graduation mass for students will be at 10:00am on Thursday, June 23 at St. Thomas church. The ceremony, dinner and dance will be held at St. Thomas School on Thursday, June 23 at 5:30pm. Invitations will be sent home in May.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADE 8's!!



REQUIRED INFO. - TRANSPORTATION DEPT'

1) Change of Address: Any students eligible for transportation who will be moving over the summer are expected to provide this information to the Transportation Dept.

2) Babysitter Address: Any students eligible for transportation, who will be transported to and from a babysitter's address, are expected to provide their babysitter's name, address and phone number. If you are **not** eligible for a bus from your home, then you must apply for Empty Seat Status in writing to the Transportation Department, which will be evaluated upon availability of space.

3) Junior & Senior Kindergarten students must be accompanied to and from a bus stop by an adult. If someone other than a parent will be escorting your child off the bus, a letter stating their name(s) must be sent to the Transportation Department with your approval. Also, Junior and Senior Kindergarten students **MUST** wear their ID tags. This is to ensure their safety and to prevent wrongful drop offs (especially when there is a substitute driver).

Please keep in mind that bus pick/up, drop/off will be arranged through the computer system. Therefore, it is very important to notify the school of any new changes so we can make the change at this end before Transportation extracts the information.

GRADE PLACEMENT FOR 2016/2017

Each year there are some concerns about grade placement. Some of the concerns arise out of placement in a combined class. Combined classes are unavoidable in small schools. The size of classes and averages of students per division are determined by the Board and Ministry; grades, at times, must be combined to maintain these levels. Every effort is made, working within Board requirements for class size, to organize the students in single grade classes.

The class lists for 2015-2016 will be made by the teachers who will consider the following factors:

- the academic ability/needs of the student
 - the need to separate students to promote a positive learning environment
-
- the need to maintain positive social relationships (not always possible to keep large groups of friends together when there are several classes for placement)
 - the number of boys and girls

EQAO PRIMARY AND JUNIOR ASSESSMENT

Students in grades 3 and 6 continue to prepare for the upcoming assessments. The assessments dates will be communicated to the students and parents who are directly involved but the assessment window is between May 30 and June 7. Parents are asked to ensure that students are present at school during the testing days since the students' activities cannot be

disrupted during the assessment. Some students may be apprehensive about the assessment process. Please be sensitive to your child's needs during this time and discuss the process with them in order to reduce the stress....they have been prepared appropriately and have experienced these assessment conditions as part of their everyday school experience since September. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call your child's teacher.

STTA TALENT SHOW

St. Thomas students are once again getting ready for our annual talent show. Auditions have already taken place and practices are happening daily. The show will take place on May 19, 2016. A Dress Rehearsal will take place during the day for the student body and an evening performance will occur for parents and families. A letter of information will be sent home soon with all participants outlining performance dates and times. On with the show!

PROTECTION FROM THE SUN

For the past several years, the number of skin cancer cases has increased at an alarming rate. In fact, up to 80% of skin damage takes place before the age of 18. The sun damage caused to the skin during childhood is cumulative and irreversible. Furthermore, one child out of 7 is likely to develop SKIN CANCER during his/her life. It is crucial to protect your children by using sun protection. Also, please encourage them to wear a hat.

PARENTING AND FAMILY LITERACY CENTRE

In celebration of Catholic Education Week the Parenting and Family Literacy Centre will be hosting a Family tea party on Tuesday, May 3. We would like to extend an invitation to grandparents, parents and caregivers, caring for children 0-3 to stop by and join us for some fun activities, a special snack and a cup of tea to help us celebrate Catholic Education Week.

Remember you can drop in anytime, our program runs from 9:10am to 1:10pm on schools days, we offer lots of activities, we provide a healthy snack then we all

have fun getting active in the gym as well as singing songs and telling stories. Stop in and check us out, we know you and your child will have lots of fun playing

and learning together. Hope to see you soon, Ms. Patty.

2016/2017 HWCDSB ELEMENTARY CALENDAR AVAILABLE

<https://stth.hwcdsb.ca/161144--School-Year-Calendar-2016-2017-Approved-and-Released>

THE JOY OF OUTDOOR LEARNING

<https://stth.hwcdsb.ca/160973--Kinderdrone-at-STTA>

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION, GRADE 7 STUDENTS

Congratulations to our Grade 7 students who received the sacrament of Confirmation on April 3, 2016.

<https://stth.hwcdsb.ca/159975--Confirmation-for-STTA-Grade-Seven-Students>

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our next meeting is May 2, 2016 in the Learning Commons at 7:00pm. All parents are welcome.

TRAUMA AND LEARNING: RESILIENCE

Please view an excellent talk about learning, trauma and resilience as given by Dr. Jean Clinton, Child Psychologist and Hamilton's own:

<http://learnteachlead.ca/videos/jean-clinton-learning-trauma-and-resilience/>

MILK ONLY MONDAYS

As part of their strategic plan, the Health Action Team will be selling white and chocolate milk for \$1.00 every Monday so that anyone who isn't currently in the milk program can participate. The team is promoting Milk Only Mondays (and water) with the hope that no juice boxes will be brought to school. Thank you in advance for your support. Read more about the many benefits of milk:

<https://www.milk.org/corporate/view.aspx?content=Consumers/HealthAndNutrition>

STTA TRIVIA NIGHT SUCCESS

<https://stth.hwcdsb.ca/161837--STTA-Trivia-Night-Celebrates-Great-Success>

HEART AND STROKE FOUNDATION'S "JUMP ROPE FOR HEART" INITIATIVE

Thanks in advance to all families who will be participating in acquiring pledges as part of the Jump Rope for Heart initiative to raise funds for the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

The students at STTA will be participating in Jump Rope for Heart on Friday, May 20th. On this day students will be encouraged to wear comfortable attire that would be appropriate for physical education classes. Students will be skipping, hula hooping and participating in circuit run activities that vary by grade level to raise money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Pledge envelopes have been sent home. Thank you in advance for making this a successful event. Our school goal is \$4000 and we know with everyone's support we can do it!! This will be St. Thomas the Apostle school's tenth time participating in this event, let's make it a great one!

<https://stth.hwcdsb.ca/161799--STTA-and-Jump-Rope-for-Heart>

STTA COMMUNITY GARDEN

The grade 2 students in Mrs. Fleet's and Mrs. Horzelenberg's classes have planted seeds in hopes of producing seedlings that can be transplanted into our St. Thomas Community Garden. The seeds have sprouted and the students are anxiously looking forward to planting the garden this month. The vegetables grown in the garden are donated throughout the summer to the Flamborough Food Bank.

CAREER DAY

On Wednesday, May 4, 2016, students in grade 4-8 will be participating in Career Day. The students will have an opportunity to listen to presenters speak about their jobs and an opportunity to ask questions. Thank you to our volunteers:

Mr. Filax - author

Mrs. Craig- real estate agent

Mrs. Szlag -boutique owner

Mr. Kay -senior manager of business development (Hamilton Tiger Cats)

Mr. Foster - director of Hamilton Diocese Catholic cemeteries

Mr. Fleet - VP commercial lending

Dr. Fleet - medical doctor

STTA LEARNING ACROSS THE WORLD

On April 19, grade 3/4 travelled to Tipperary, Ireland via Skype. The students participated in a mystery Skype, a game where the students ask each other questions to determine the other class' location.

NYA WEH AND STTA

On April 28th, the grade 3/4 class took part in a smudging ceremony. Staff and students from Cathedral High School's NYA WEH program visited the school to explain the sacred symbolism of each component while also engaging the students in the ceremony.

The smudging ceremony is a purification ceremony. Any one of the four sacred medicines can be used. Sometimes all of the sacred medicines are used. The most common one is mshkwadewashk, otherwise known as sage in English.

Mrs. Anderson's grade 5 class will have this same opportunity on May 10th.

<https://stth.hwcdsb.ca/161798--Smudging-Ceremony-at-STTA>

VIRTUAL EDUCATIONAL EXCURSIONS

On May 5th, grade 3/4 will participate in a virtual field trip to the Canadian Canoe Museum in Peterborough (via Skype). The students will learn about the importance of the canoe to aboriginals in early societies and a general tour of their museum.

JR BOYS VOLLEYBALL TEAM

Congratulations to the Junior Boys Volleyball team for a fantastic season. Despite being novices to the sport, each member dedicated themselves like a true champion. Great work Jonas, Christian, Nathan, Shayan, Joshua, Thomas, Ethan, Evan, Dominic, and Alex. Thanks to Mr. Stechey for his refereeing and support. Thanks to coach Reeves for the countless hours she dedicated to the boys. Go Wildcats!

STTA AND TOMATOSPHERE

The Grade 7s had a busy day in April planting tomato seeds for Tomatosphere, an organisation associated with Let's Talk Science Canada. Students have BEEN diligently analyzing and recording results of the growth of the tomatoes and at the beginning of May, we should be reporting back that many of the seeds

germinated and are now thriving seedlings sporting leaves. Thanks to all the Grade 7s for making sure our plants had water, just the right amount of sun, and their tender care. The efforts of the students and Mrs. Reeves will support international science research and future decisions that will impact the planet and mankind. Quite profound!!!

STTA HEALTH ACTION TEAM (HAT)

After a successful water campaign which focused on the benefits of drinking water, the Health Action Team is pleased to announce the winners of the Hydration Station Poster Competition.

Congratulations Mason G. (Intermediate), Evan T. (Junior) and Evangeline S. (Primary). Their posters will be plaqued and hung throughout St Thomas. We thank all of the teachers and students for their participation in this competition. We are blessed to have so many aspiring and talented artists here.

<https://stth.hwcdsb.ca/161800--Hydration-Station-Poster-Contest-Winners-at-STTA>

STTA AND THE SCIENCE CHALLENGE

For the last three months, Our Science Challenge Teams have been busily preparing for the Let's Talk Science Challenge competition which takes place on Tuesday, May 3rd at McMaster University. They have been studying, quizzing each other and have built rockets, robotic hands, flood prevention systems and more. Good luck to Alex, Krish, Kiera, Vivian, Shayne, Chris, Aidan, Sebastian, Amelia, Cheyenne, Jersey, Leandra, Krystina, Ilyjah, and Nicholas! Special thanks to Mrs. Reeves for bringing this unique opportunity to our school and for providing this learning experience to our students.

STTA PITA

By popular demand, Pita Pit lunch will be returning on Tuesday, June 7th. All orders and payment must be done through **cash online** by Thursday, June 2. What a delicious and healthy lunch for only \$4.00!

DRESS LOUD DAY

Our school is proud to be part of Dress Loud Day 2016. Please donate a toonie or more to support students with hearing loss and help raise awareness that deaf children can talk.

On Friday, May 6, staff and students are being asked to wear their wackiest, loudest and wildest shirts, socks, hats, etc. in support of children with a hearing loss.

All donations can be made through **cash online** or through change brought into the school. Let's try to make a considerable donation to the VOICE organization. Thank you in advance for your support and contributions.

APRIL AWARD WINNERS

<https://stth.hwcdsb.ca/161797--April-Award-Winners-at-STTA>

STTA AND AN AERIAL VIEW

Please take a moment and enjoy an aerial view of this wonderful school as our kindergarten children learn and play outdoors. The video footage, captured by the board's Chief Media Officer, Don Henderson, is an inspiring reminder of St. Thomas the Apostle CES as a special and unique place to learn, grow and thrive.

<https://stth.hwcdsb.ca/160973--Kinderdrone-at-STTA>

SENIOR BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Congratulations to our Senior boys for their outstanding sportsmanship and for representing the school so well. Thanks to Coach Fallis and Coach Romeo.

There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.

-Edith Wharton

