



170 Skinner Rd.
Waterdown, Ontario
LOR 2H7
(905) 523-2328

“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

JUNE - 2016 NEWSLETTER "WILDCATS"

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It is very hard to believe that we have almost completed the school year graced with new opportunities, new relationships and new experiences. While the month of June brings with it the promise of beautiful weather, there is still much learning to be done and many wonderful activities planned for the days ahead.

The entire staff of St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School would like to express its gratitude to the families of this wonderful community. Parents, we thank you for the tremendous support you have given to staff and students in their educational programs. We especially thank those parents who have represented all parents through their membership on the Catholic School Council. Your commitment to our school community and to ensuring that at all times we provide the best of what is available is most appreciated.

Thanks are extended to the other countless number of volunteers who tirelessly offer their time to work directly or indirectly to the benefit of all of our students through the many volunteer opportunities this year. Your assistance helps to make our community the beautiful community that it is!

On behalf of the school, appreciation is extended to Father Lobsinger, Father Whitfield, Seminarian Ross, Kendall Sheppard and the St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Team for their active involvement in our school and

faith formation. We have enjoyed a wonderful partnership with our parish and treasure its commitment to the great gift we have in Catholic Education. This partnership will continue to be strengthened in the years ahead.

Personal appreciation is extended to the staff members of the school who have worked tirelessly throughout the year to meet the needs of all students entrusted to their care. As a Catholic learning community, staff members have actively and enthusiastically taken advantage of professional learning opportunities both within and outside of our school to provide exciting and enriching programming for all of our students. We also thank the many staff members who go above and beyond to ensure that there are break time and after school activities, sports, academic teams and clubs for our students. Your individual and collective contributions to creating a culture of high expectation, high academic achievement, excellence in teaching and learning and a well-rounded extra-curricular program make St. Thomas the Apostle School a place of incredible learning and opportunity for our students. Thank you!

Finally, sincere appreciation is extended to the students for trying to work to the best of their ability throughout the school year. I am confident that they will continue to work to discover the wonderful plan that God has waiting for them. God bless.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

Genuine appreciation is extended to the Catholic School Council for always advocating in the best interest of our students and for their continued support of school based initiatives. Thank you to Mr. Doma, Mrs. Stys, Dr. Lobo, Mrs. Hammond, Father Whitfield, Mrs. Bardati, Mr. Alvarez-de-Lugo and Mrs. Caiella. If you are interested in serving as a Catholic School Council next year, please fill out a nomination form which will be sent home during the first week of school. Bring your energy always! We are always looking for parents who are energetic and willing to coordinate student-focused experiences in partnership with parents, administration and school staff. Our present Catholic School Council will continue to serve our school community until the new members are elected in the fall. The last meeting of the year will be on June 6 at 7:00pm in the Learning Commons. All parents are welcome.

DIRECTOR'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING DEDICATION TO STUDENTS AND STAFF

Each year, our Director of Education, Mr. David Hansen, takes time to challenge staff to find the greatness within themselves and others in an attempt to have it recognized at a formal staff awards ceremony. This year, it is with great excitement that we share with you the news that Mrs. Horzelenberg is our Director's Awards winner for Staff for Outstanding Dedication to Students and Staff. I know you join me in congratulating Mrs. Horzelenberg with her award. On June 2, 2016, Mrs. Horzelenberg will be receiving her award from our Director of Education at a special ceremony. Congratulations!

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School Before-and- After School Program is 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 4-12 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.

EQAO TESTING

Congratulations to our Grade 3 and Grade 6 students and their teachers, Mrs. Caiella, Mrs. Richardson and Mrs. Fallis for all of their work in preparation for and during the week of EQAO testing. Our students are currently writing the assessment from May 30-June 7, 2016. We look forward to the results in the fall.

GRADE 8 GRADUATION 2016

St. Thomas would like to send out a warm hearted congratulations and best wishes to our grade 8 students who will be celebrating their graduation on Thursday, June 23rd, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. Invitations were sent home so please be sure to return your response card and payment through School Cash Online.

In addition to the ceremony, dinner and dance, the graduates will be attending breakfast at Angel's Diner (8:00 a.m.) followed by a 10:00 a.m. graduation Mass at St. Thomas Church on the same day. It promises to be a busy and memorable time of celebration!

ST. THOMAS SCHOOL COMMUNITY GARDEN- "SOW SEEDS OF JUSTICE"

Under the leadership of Mrs. Fleet and her grade 2 students and the generous support of Adam Novak of Novak Landscaping, the STTA Community Garden is once again flourishing. The food grown in the garden will be donated to our local food bank. This social justice initiative is an effort to help end hunger in our local community. As well, it is our hope that the garden highlights the importance of supporting our local small farmers. According to Development and Peace, almost one billion people still suffer from hunger on our planet. That 1 in 9 people are hungry on a daily basis is a tragedy. We must unite with all people of the world to address the injustice and indignity of world hunger. Thanks to all for their contributions.

REPORT CARD RESPONSE FORM

Report cards will be issued to the students on Tuesday, June 27. Please sign and return the Report Card Response Form and return it to the school the following day. This form is a legal document which must be attached to the copy of the report and included in your child's Ontario School Record file. Please note this is an opportunity for you and your child to comment on goals, student achievement and home support.

SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL 8th ANNUAL PENCIL CASE PROJECT

At the end of the school year, please join us in support of the right to learn by donating your used school supplies.

Items to be collected:

- used pencil cases and contents
- back packs and sports bags
- rulers, erasers, sharpeners, math sets
- crayons, pencils, pens, markers, pencil crayons
- lunch boxes, water bottles
- notebooks, blank paper, duo-tangs

During the last week of school, items will be collected.

Thank you once again for your support.

ARE YOU LEAVING OUR SCHOOL ?

If you are moving during the summer months and are not attending St. Thomas the Apostle CES in September, please let Mrs. Rath know as soon as possible. It is very helpful for us to have this information as we plan for new classes in the fall. Thank you for your continued cooperation on this very important piece of our September planning.

PLAY DAY

The students of St. Thomas the Apostle CES will participate in Play Day activities on a date still to be determined. Remember that students will need to protect their skin from too much sun exposure. Please remind your

children to wear a hat and sun block.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS

Please note that there are two Professional Development Days in June: June 10 and June 24. Students will not be in school those days; however, staff will be participating in various activities to support professional learning.

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

The last day of school for students will be on Friday, June 30. The Board has informed all schools that there will be an early dismissal. As such, students will be dismissed at 12:30 p.m. on this day following a traditional Canada Day Ceremony in front of the school by the flag pole.

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

If you would like to become a part of our team of volunteers for the up and coming school year, please contact the school at (905-523-2328) for all the necessary paperwork. Please note that Criminal Reference Checks are required as are the Declaration forms, for those who completed a Criminal Reference form this school year.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

PEANUT/NUT ALLERGIES: We have several students with severe allergies to peanuts and nut products. It is greatly appreciated for the safety of these students that parents continue to refrain from sending lunches and snacks that contain nut products. Your continued cooperation is greatly appreciated throughout the year.

Don't forget to pick up any medication that is kept on file in the main office on the last day of your child's attendance at school this year.

If your child has any medical conditions/life threatening allergies, a new medical form must be completed for September and returned with the medication at that time. The school is not able to store medications over the summer.

LEARNING COMMONS NEWS

Parents, we ask that you continue to check closets, trunks, under beds, etc., for any school books that may be hiding and return them to us as soon as possible. The more we receive back, the less we have to replace. By working together to locate missing school books we are able to responsibly minimize costs to the school. If a book belonging to the school has been damaged or lost, please contact your child's teacher so its whereabouts can be determined.

A notice will be sent out to those who have any outstanding materials. All books are to be returned by June 17. If the book is not returned, your child will be asked to pay for any lost or damaged items. This will enable us to replace any lost materials. Please return any books found over the summer. Thank you for all your support in helping our STTA Learning Commons to be a great place to learn!

CHALLENGE CLUB FOR GIRLS / CONQUEST CLUB FOR BOYS

St. Thomas Parish has started a new ministry for families and children—Challenge for Girls and Conquest for Boys.

We have groups for children SK to Gr.3 and Gr.4 to Gr. 8.

This is a fully supported curriculum that involves learning, physical activity, community outreach, parent & child learning and prayer. The program will follow children as they grow and mature from elementary school age to high school years, becoming more ambitious in outreach and deeper in faith formation.

The first phase of the program (SK to Gr.3) has a mother and daughter (Challenge) / father & son (Conquest) format where parent and child build a relationship around the learning of the catholic faith and the activity of the group. Older girls (Gr.4 to Gr.8) form a Challenge Club under adult leadership. The boys do the same in the Conquest program. The uppermost grade levels see youth leaders

trained under adult supervision.

This is a program that engages the whole family and succeeds when parents understand the benefits of growing their child's faith as they deepen their own.

Information Meeting & Sign Up

Sunday, September 11 & 18, 2016

10:15 a.m. (between masses)

St. Thomas the Apostle Church

715 Centre Road, Waterdown)

www.stthomaswaterdown.com

Questions? Call the parish at 905 689-4857 and ask to speak with either the program coordinator or the pastoral supervisor, Fr. Scott Whitfield; and visit these websites for more information:

<http://www.conquestyouthministry.com>

www.challengeyouthministry.com

INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES PROGRAM

July 4-29, 2016

Current educational research indicates that learning or maintaining a second or third language has a positive effect on all aspects of a child's educational development.

The summer International Languages Program is designed for elementary school age children who will be attending Full Day Kindergarten to Grade 8 in the 2016-2017 school year.

This program provides the opportunity for children to speak, listen, write and read an international language and at the same time learn about the culture and heritage associated with the language. During the month of July, St. Charles Adult and Continuing Education offers free language classes in many of the elementary schools of the Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board.

These take place from Monday to Friday for 2 ½ hours per day beginning at 9:00 a.m. or 9:30 a.m. No prior knowledge of the language is necessary. This is a continuous-entry program; students can register any time

during the month of July.

To see which schools are offering this program, the time and the languages being taught, please refer to the International Languages Program flyer at www.st.charles.ca

CYO TRACK AND FIELD MEET

Good luck to the STTA Track and Field Team as they participate in the annual event at Mohawk Sports Park on June 7, 2016. Go Wildcats go!

FRENCH CAFÉ

Thanks to Mme Cholette and the Grade Eight students for providing a rich cultural experience on June 8, 2016. The gymnasium will be transformed into a Paris boulevard as students delight in croissants, face painting and more. Merci madame!

HURRAY FOR FDK

Parents and students who will be starting Full Day Kindergarten for the first time in September, 2016 are invited to this annual event during the evening of June 9 at 6:00-7:00pm. Children will acclimatize to the environment by actually visiting classrooms and interacting with materials. Parents will receive information about this exciting journey ahead. All families will depart with a canvas bag filled with complimentary materials to enjoy and supplement learning in the home.

FATHER'S DAY

Happy Father's Day to all fathers and guardians. Please know that you continue to have a profound influence on your child's growth and development into adulthood.

When I was a baby,
You would hold me in your arms.
I felt the love and tenderness,
Keeping me safe from harm.
I would look up into your eyes,
And all the love I would see.
How did I get so lucky,
You were the dad chosen for me.
There is something special

About a father's love.
Seems it was sent to me
From someplace up above.
Our love is everlasting,
I just wanted you to know.
That you're my special hero
And I wanted to tell you so.
By: Christina Kerschen

ORDINATION OF SEMINARIAN ROSS

Congratulations to Seminarian Ross who will become a Deacon on June 10 at St. Thomas the Apostle Church at 7:00pm. Presided over by the Bishop, this sacred ceremony is open to all parishioners to share in this joyous occasion.

GRADE SEVENS TO CAMP BREBEUF

Well wishes are extended to Mrs. Reeves and the Grade Sevens who will be venturing to Camp Brebeuf from June 13-15. A parent information session has been scheduled on June 6 at 6:00 in the Learning Commons.

CLASSROOM ORGANIZATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2016

Teachers are currently creating classroom organizations for the 2016/2017 school year. Careful consideration will be given to the academic, social and emotional needs of each child throughout this process. Please know that conscientious thought is given to this endeavour and collaborative deliberation occurs in planning for a successful year of learning ahead for all students.

WATERDOWN LIBRARY

Where else can you go to access countless hours of FREE enjoyment and transport yourself to imaginative places of learning and leisure? Waterdown Library of course! Please consider the many programs offered this summer and visit often to benefit from the riches that the branch has to offer.
<http://www.hpl.ca/branches/waterdown-branch>