



**170 Skinner Rd.
Waterdown, Ontario
L8B 1C7
(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**

SEPTEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL PRAYER

Lord,

**We give you thanks for filling our minds with knowledge and our hearts with love.
With your guidance, we seek to follow the footsteps of Jesus.**

**We promise to lead, learn, love, and forgive as Jesus did.
We will share our unique gifts and talents as we work to serve others.**

**When we are in doubt, let the spirit of St. Thomas the Apostle give us strength and courage.
We humbly ask you to comfort and protect us as we grow and learn together.**

We ask this through Christ Our Lord.

Amen.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It is with great excitement that my tenure as Principal of St. Thomas the Apostle CES continues for the 2016/2017 year. I am blessed to work together with students, staff, parents, families and partners in building upon the school's great successes of the previous year.

Working from a theory that is grounded in the belief that all students are curious, competent and capable of tremendous accomplishment given the appropriate levels of support and encouragement, I remain committed to the concept of achieving excellence for all.

It is my hope that a culture of collaboration continues to flourish so that all our efforts are rooted in a coordinated approach and shared vision such that the uniqueness of each student is celebrated and learning opportunities are tailored to meet diverse needs.

The prophet Micah calls Christ's children to act justly, love mercifully and walk humbly with God. It is in this spirit that our staff will continue striving to help all students realize the fullness of humanity of which our Lord is the model. Anchored in partnership, St. Thomas the Apostle CES will remain dedicated to nurturing the spiritual, social, emotional, physical and cognitive development of all students.

On behalf of the entire staff, a warm 'welcome back' is extended to students returning from summer vacation and to those newly registered. The coming year promises to be filled with inquiry, exploration, opportunity and discovery where learning is forged in a perpetual state of 'wonder' and each new day is encountered in an atmosphere of 'inquisitive joy'. Together, we will 'lead, learn, love and leave a legacy'. Together, with the support of the parish, we will work to help our students reach their full potential by providing a safe, caring and inclusive environment. It is our goal to develop life-long learners that are disciplined and committed to high standards.

We remain blessed this coming year to have Mrs. Caiella return as our Principal Intern. In addition to teaching Grade Two, Mrs. Caiella will provide leadership and support for staff, students, families and community partners throughout the year.

This newsletter is one of a number of ongoing communication efforts that will provide everyone with the opportunity to know what is happening at our school. The September newsletter will be the only hardcopy edition sent home. All subsequent newsletters will be available on our school website. Please consider subscribing on our web page in the Follow Us section with an up-to-date and accurate email address to receive communication updates directly. Our website buzzboard will be populated regularly. In addition, our online calendar will be updated when items that impact the entire school community or large portions of the school community are planned. Please visit your child's password-protected LMS site for ongoing information about his/her classroom. At STTA, we remain committed to ongoing communication to ensure a strong and vibrant home-school-parish partnership. <http://stth.hwcdsb.ca/>

As in any school community, nothing we achieve can be done alone! Please consider getting involved in school life! We need your assistance as volunteers and Catholic School Council members. If you are interested in serving as a school volunteer, please complete the accompanying form and a volunteer letter will be prepared for you to secure a vulnerable sector screening check from the Hamilton Police.

Returning students will be excited to know that some new items will be on site thanks to some surplus monies from last year's school-generated funds:

- two 'Friendship Benches' to be installed in the playground to support socialization
- a bank of 10 ipads, keyboard cases and charging station
- additional lego for the Robotics Team
- two Fitbits for the Health Action Team, one of which will be used as a prize for an upcoming competition promoting physical health and well-being
- new icemaker in the office for 'bumps and bruises' throughout the day

Still to come: a large shade tree in the FDK Yard and another bank of 10 ipads.

Special thanks again to the Catholic School Council for approving surplus fundraising monies for the purchase of Student Planners for children from Grade 1-8. As such, these items are completely free of charge for the student body. And speaking of CSC, thanks to Mr. Doma for securing a \$1000.00 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant. These funds will support this year's first annual Breakfast With Santa and the Social Networking Safety Presentations by Paul Davis in the Fall.

Full Day Kindergarten: We welcome back our Senior Kindergarten students and warmly welcome our new Junior Kindergarten friends. A reminder to all parents that children who take the bus to school will be escorted directly to the FDK fenced area. Students who come by foot or car will enter the area through the gate by the parking lot. A reminder that parents are not permitted in the fenced area to ensure a safe and secure environment for all.

Grade 1-8: Students who come to school by bus will walk directly to the playground as per standard practice to greet their friends and staff for some morning socializing. Students who come by foot, bike or car will walk along the pathway at the front of the school or the pathway behind the FDK yard to enter the playground. Adults are not permitted in the playground to ensure a safe/secure environment for all.

A gentle reminder that students who come by car should not be allowed to exit the vehicles on Skinner Road. This poses a safety risk. Please use the parking lot's 'Kiss and Ride' lane. Students can then walk along either pathway to gain entry to the playground.

Students who return home by car will exit from the side doors and make their way to the 'Kiss and Ride' lanes at the end of the day where they will meet an adult. Please do not block the thoroughfare with your car. If the Kiss and Ride Lane is full, please either park in a parking space OR loop around so that we ensure a continuous flow of traffic. Please drive slowly and remain patient.

Bus students will continue to wait in their designated bus lines until escorted to the appropriate buses as they arrive. Expected behaviour while traveling by bus and the consequences for contravention of the safety rules will be fully reviewed. Bus Patrol and Bus Buddies will be identified as well.

Students who walk or bike home will again have the benefit of a Crossing Guard in front of the school. Sadly, we are saying goodbye to Mrs. Gianvito and thank her for her time and efforts in keeping everyone safe. Her replacement has yet to be announced at the time of this printing.

As was previously mentioned, communication is vital in supporting the teaching and learning process. We are committed to developing and maintaining strong community relationships. If you have a concern about your child, please do not hesitate to call the school and let us know. Early and ongoing information sharing can help to clarify and often alleviate concerns quickly. Begin by contacting your child's teacher. In doing so, a time can be scheduled for you to speak with the teacher, either by telephone, or at a meeting. Please do not discuss your concerns with the teacher while s/he is supervising, receiving, or dismissing students; your concerns about your child deserve to be discussed in a more private setting. If not resolved in a reasonable and timely manner, please do not hesitate to contact me for assistance.

Mark your calendars as we have two opportunities to come together as a Catholic school community this month! First, please join us for our Opening School Mass on Thursday, September 15th at 10:00am at St. Thomas the Apostle Church. St. Thomas the Apostle CES is very fortunate and blessed to have the support of our Parish and we look forward to working with the Very Reverend Father Wayne Lobsinger, Father Whitfield, Deacon Ross and Pastoral Assistant Kendall Shepherd again this year. On Wednesday, September 21st, 5:00-6:30 pm, we will also have the opportunity to come together at our annual Meet the Staff Open House BBQ . We hope to see all of you there!

Wishing you a very successful 2016/2017 new year! <https://vimeo.com/181403388>
Mr. D. Younger

SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM

Please help us to ensure the safety of your child; call the school (905- 523-2328) to report all absences and late arrivals. If we do not receive notification and your child is not at school, our staff will call home / workplace / emergency contact numbers to determine your child's location. Please ensure that all of your contact information registered at the school remains current at all times.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR PICKUP/DROP OFF

With your cooperation we need to work as a community to alleviate the challenges that are presented as a result of calls and visits to the office at inopportune times to make last minute arrangements to pick up your children from school. The office is a very busy place at the end of the school day and with this in mind, it is important that your child's exit routine be firmly resolved well before that time of the day. The transition of students from school to home begins at a point in the afternoon where we are challenged to disrupt the momentum of movement through announcements or pages into classrooms. In order to ensure a seamless process, you are kindly asked to send a note with your child to the attention of the classroom teacher and the teacher will work to make sure your child is ready for pickup at a time that is suitable for your arrival. With the hub of activity that takes place at this transition time at the end of the school day we ask that you kindly avoid the office at that time to help us ensure a continued safe and orderly exit for all of our walkers, bus students and students being picked up at the kiss and drop.

SCHOOL SECURITY

Student safety is paramount at St. Thomas the Apostle CES. Please note the following informational items regarding school security.....

1. All entry doors to the school will be locked during the school day to ensure student and staff safety.
2. The intercom system must be used to gain entry into the school. You will be asked to state the nature of your visit, and depending on the nature of the visit, you will be given access to the school and should immediately report to the main office. **All visitors to the school are now asked to enter the building through the front doors rather than the side. This is a safety protocol put in place to ensure that visitors are greeted and formally identified.**
3. Please note the time. If you arrive after the bell has rung to begin the school day, O'Canada / Morning Prayers / Announcements are in progress between 9:10am and 9:20am daily. This system requires your patience and cooperation in order to ensure the ultimate safety of your child. Thank-you for helping to keep our community safe!
4. School Phones: during the nutritional breaks (10:40-11:20, 1:20-2:00), all incoming phone calls may go directly to the message machine. Please know that all messages will be checked regularly and addressed in a timely fashion.

BIRTHDAY PRAYER

Loving God, You created all the people of the world and you know each of us by name. We thank you for ...(****)... who celebrate (s) his/her/their birthday today.

Bless (them) with Your love and friendship that (they) may grow in wisdom, knowledge and grace. May (they) love (their) family always and be ever-faithful to (their) friends.

Grant this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

Our Catholic School Council is established for the purposes of developing, encouraging, and promoting activities which will enhance the quality of school programs and improve levels of student achievement. The Catholic School Council provides insight to the Principal, and where appropriate to the School Board, on issues outlined by the Ministry of Education and Training. You are invited to please consider a candidacy for the position of Parent Representative. In accordance with Ministry Regulations 612/613, the following timelines will be followed regarding Council elections:

Monday, September 12th, 2016:

We invite you to consider nominating yourself or another parent candidate and submit the attached nomination form to the office. Should we receive less than 8 nominations and candidates fulfill the requirements outlined in the regulations, they will be acclaimed and informed of the first meeting date.

The Nomination Form is the final page of this newsletter.

Friday, September 16th, 2016:

If an election is necessary, names of candidates and a one page information page will be posted in the front entrance way of the school and on our school website.

Wednesday, September 21st, 2016:

Elections will take place during the 'Meet the Staff BBQ' if needed. Each family is entitled to one vote.

Monday, September 26th, 2016:

The names of the Catholic School Council members will be announced via posting on the front doors of the school, on the website and in the October newsletter.

Monday, September 26th, 2016:

This will be the inaugural 2016/2017 Catholic School Council Meeting. Please support the council by attending the regular meetings. Meeting dates will be posted in the monthly newsletters and on the website. The meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Learning Commons. All parents are welcome as observers if you are not an elected or appointed member of council.

STUDENT VERIFICATION FORMS

As we do annually, a package of forms will be sent home this week for both office and classroom use. Please carefully read the instructions pertaining to the family forms and the individual student forms, ensuring that they are properly completed and signed. All forms are due back to the school on or before Friday, September 23, 2016.

SCHOOL DAY BREAKDOWN

9:10 Entry Bell / Morning Prayer and Announcements (students are considered to be late if they do not enter the school with their class) (Friday Announcements via online a/v feed: STTA Eyewitness News)

9:20 Classroom Instruction Begins (90 minute instructional Block)

10:40 First Nutritional Break #1 Begins. (40 minutes)

- First 20 minutes FDK - Gr. 3 - Enjoy snack for 20 minutes indoor; Gr. 4 - Gr. 8 - Outdoor physical activity

11:00 Nutritional Break continues.

- Second half of first Nutritional Break. FDK - Gr. 3 - Outdoor Physical Activity, Gr. 4 to Gr. 8 - Indoor snack

11:20 Instructional Day resumes (120 minute instructional block)

1:20 Nutritional Break #2 Begins. (40 minutes)

- First 20 minutes FDK - Gr. 3 - Enjoy snack for 20 minutes indoor; Gr. 4 - Gr. 8 - Outdoor physical activity

1:40 Nutritional Break continues JK - Gr. 3 - Outdoor Physical Activity, Gr. 4 to Gr. 8 - Indoor snack

- Second half of first Nutritional Break. JK - Gr. 3 - Outdoor Physical Activity, Gr. 4 to Gr. 8 - Indoor snack

2:00 Instructional Day resumes (90 minute instructional block)

3:30 Dismissal

Please note the following.....

1. Student supervision begins at 8:55am. For the safety of your child, we request that students DO NOT arrive on school grounds prior to 8:55am.
2. Please establish routines at home that will assist your child to arrive at school well before the entry bell. It is important for students to begin their day on time each and every day. This is also a time ideal for socializing, establishing new relationships and engaging in physical activity.
3. Students arriving late for school are asked to enter through the front main entrance and report to the Main Office first to obtain a late slip before going to class. Please use the side laneway to drop your child off as the front laneway is for bus use only. Please obey all posted signage. Students are considered late if they do not enter the building with their class at the east entrances in the case of students from Grade 1 to Grade 8 and the FDK entrance for students in the respective Kindergarten classes. Research strongly suggests that regular, daily attendance at school is directly linked to student achievement.

STUDENT AGENDAS

The agenda is an important organizational tool for both students and parents. Student agendas will be used daily in classrooms to assist our students in developing sound organizational skills and they are to be used throughout the school year. Agenda use will be monitored by classroom teacher on an ongoing basis. Student success begins with the nurture and development of personal responsibility and organization.

The agendas also include important school information such as: the Catholic values; historical information; study tips; and educational information to ensure a successful school year. Please take the time to walk through the agenda with your child and encourage them to use on a daily basis.

During the first few weeks of the school year, our staff will be helping the students develop the “planner” habit by teaching them how to enter assignments and completing regular follow-up activities. Classroom teachers will be monitoring the use of the agendas on a regular basis and we would ask you to do the same at home. Each student has different needs – some may need daily reinforcement while others may need less. We ask for your cooperation in signing your name on the corresponding date each time you check it over.

We believe that the use of the planner will effectively assist the students in doing their best during the school year. The agenda is an effective learning tool for students, a vital communication tool for parents, and a teaching tool for educators. It should never become a behaviour log of student conduct.

We trust that through the cooperative efforts of all concerned, we will be able to help our students achieve their full potential at St. Thomas the Apostle CES.

We thank last year’s Catholic School Council for using fundraising monies to cover the cost of agendas.

MILK PROGRAM and SPECIAL LUNCHES

St. Thomas the Apostle School will continue to provide special lunches for our students. Information on ordering both Pizza and Milk will be made available to you shortly in a separate communication from this newsletter. Please note that all food and beverages provided at St. Thomas the Apostle School are in full compliance with the Ministry of Education Food and Beverage Policy that went into effect on September 1, 2011. Under that same legislation, schools are granted ten days in which exemptions to the policy can be applied. Of single most importance is the fact that at all times, we are a NUT SAFE school which means that any food coming into the school through any means is NUT SAFE and free of ingredients that could be problematic for a child with a NUT ALLERGY.



MEET THE STAFF SCHOOL BBQ (Harvey’s)

The ‘Open House/Meet the Staff’ School BBQ will be held on Wednesday, September 21, 2016, 5:00-6:30 pm. Further details to follow.

24th ANNUAL HWCDSB PARENT CONFERENCE

“Weaving the Catholic Partnership”

Date: Saturday, November 5, 2016

Time: 7:45am-2:30pm

Location: Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School, 1824 Rymal Road East

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

As a new school year starts, we will be developing our own School Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (SIPSA) in alignment with the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (BIPSA) which we will be sharing with you later this fall. Our SIPSA includes the following pillars: Catholic Faith Community and Culture; Literacy & Numeracy; and Pathways. Our staff will review and adjust our goals from last year under each heading as well as develop an action plan and a method for monitoring. This School Improvement Plan for Student Achievement will be our roadmap for the 2016/2017 school year as we journey towards excellence.

FDK Playground

Please note that the creative playground in the Kindergarten yard is only for the use of our FDK children. If you should observe anyone after hours in these fenced-in areas of our school yard with their dogs, please take note of the description of the individual and the dog in question so that the matter can be corrected promptly. We want these areas to remain clean and sanitary for our youngest learners.

PARENTING AND FAMILY LITERACY CENTRE

St. Thomas the Apostle CES is fortunate to be one of only six Catholic schools across the system to have a Parenting and Family Literacy Centre (PFLC) on site.

<http://www.hwcdsb.ca/programsandservices/childcaredevelopment/?fileID=10055>

Parenting and Family Literacy Centres are school-based programs in which parents, grandparents and caregivers with their children, participate in a range of play-based learning activities that focus on the optimal development of the child and the early acquisition of literacy and numeracy skills.

Pre-registration is not required, snacks are provided for youngsters and visits are absolutely free of charge. Hours of operation are Monday-Friday, 9:10-1:10 daily. Our PFLC Supervisor is Miss Patty Beaudry and she looks forward to having you join the PFLC community.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

In collaboration with our third party provider Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic Child Care Centres Inc, St. Thomas the Apostle CES offers a fee-based Before and After School Program for students, ages 3.8 - 12. We are sadly saying goodbye to Miss Rachel Angelucci and thank her for her time with us. Please contact our new site Supervisor, Mrs. Zelenika, if interested. Please visit their website for more information, including hours of operation and fees.

<http://hwccccc.ca/>

TECHNOLOGY-ENABLED LEARNING AT STTA

Thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Richardson and Mrs. Horzelenberg who attended a summer technology institute, STTA has been announced as a Microsoft Showcase School for the coming year. There are many benefits to this prestigious title that include membership to a global online professional community, promotional materials, expert online support and access to new product trials and pilots.

Mrs. Richardson was also able to enter our school into a competition. We were fortunate to be selected as one of only a very few across Canada to welcome the Best Buy Geek Squad Academy for a day. Junior and intermediate students will participate in a series of interactive workshops on Monday, September 19, 2016 that include Digital Citizenship, 3D Printing, Digital Music and LEGO Robotics.

NO CELL PHONES PLEASE

To maintain a controlled learning environment and ensure academic integrity, parents are asked to send children to school without cell phones or other wireless telecommunication devices. If you need to contact your child during the school day, please do so by contacting the office.

Bring Your Own Device To School (BYOD) will begin in classrooms as the year progresses. Students will be invited to bring a device to school to complement learning. Devices will be available for students who do not wish to bring a personal device to school.

When the BYOD initiative commences, permission forms will be sent home that include all parameters and the consequences for students should the understood standards not be followed. More information will be forthcoming. In an age of technology there are many electronic devices that can contribute to the learning environment of students.

There are parents who, for safety reasons, wish to have their child carry a cell phone in their school bag on their way to and from school. Please note: Any devices that are brought onto school property and become visible to a staff member, other than during instructional time and for the purposes of learning as

per BYOD guidelines under teacher supervision, will be confiscated and locked in the school safe. An adult will then be responsible to pick up the device and return it home.

Parents are requested to communicate this expectation to their child.

Permission forms and information will be sent home with students in Grades 4-8 in the first week of school related to Bring Your Own Devices. Please review the policies and sign the form and return it to your child's teacher.

MEDICAL INFORMATION

Please note that medication cannot be dispensed by school staff. Students may require self-administration and can do so with:

- a) authorization by the parent or guardian, and
- b) appropriate forms signed by Physician
- b) properly labelled container.

Please contact Mrs. Lamparski, school Special Education Resource Teacher, through the school office for office forms that must be completed.

At all times we strive to ensure the safety and well-being of our students. We rely on parents to bring to our attention any issues relating to the health of their children by informing the office of any allergies, medical concerns, anaphylaxis, issues, etc.

This information is documented and shared with the staff to keep everyone informed. In addition, we maintain copies of pictures with accompanying emergency action plans for children with anaphylaxis, allergies, asthma, etc. both in the office area and respective classrooms.

For some of our children their allergies can be considered life threatening (nuts, tree nuts, etc.). The term anaphylaxis is used to identify those students. As a result our school does not permit any peanut and nut products to be brought to the school. Please read labels carefully and watch for the peanut/nut free symbol that now accompanies many baked goods. Only those goods can be shared with students to celebrate birthdays. We suggest considering an alternative treat to share such as a pencil, eraser, sticker, etc. Thank you for your cooperation in this regard.

Please note that there are many other allergens in the school as well, but they will be dealt with on an as needed basis. If your child is in a classroom where these allergies are important to be aware of, a separate letter will come home to you through your child's teacher containing some information about the sensitivity required and the reason why.

The following guidelines must be strictly adhered to by all of the students in the school:

- All foods must be eaten in the classroom – absolutely no food is to be eaten outside or on the bus.
- Snacks are not to be shared with other students.
- Utensils are not to be shared with other students.
- Hands are to be washed before leaving home after eating anything that may contain peanut products.

Traces of peanut butter or oil can get on the bus seats or playground equipment, desks, and personal belongings.

- Parents are asked to read labels carefully for the following products that may contain nut products: granola bars, crackers, chocolate bars and cookies, some cereals, store baked goods or snacks.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

As required we will be conducting our emergency evacuation procedures early in the new year to ensure that all students and staff are aware of the routes for evacuation. There is a minimum of 3 practices that must be recorded in the fall and 3 in the spring of each school year.

In addition, we will be conducting practices for “lock down procedures” in September as well to keep all staff and students informed as to our practices in the event of an intruder. The teachers will be addressing this aspect of school safety within their classrooms with dialogue that is age appropriate.

EXPECTATIONS OF THE ONTARIO CATHOLIC SCHOOL GRADUATE

Catholicism's Core Understanding of the Human Condition

Distinctive expectations for graduates of Catholic schools are determined and shaped by the vision and destiny of the human person emerging from our faith tradition. This Christian anthropology or world view, reveals the dignity and value of the person. Our tradition tells us God creatively and lovingly calls each of us into the wonder of life, sustaining us by the power of the Holy Spirit, throughout the human Journey, into life eternal. We acknowledge that the journey includes moments of brokenness and sin. We recognize in the person of Jesus, the risen Christ, the human face of God sharing our life in order to heal us of our brokenness and liberate us from sin.

This Christian vision of the human journey is best understood within the context of relationship. It is accomplished in community, in solidarity with brothers and sisters in the Church and beyond.

Throughout the school year we will recognize students in the various aspects of school life and honour them with a certificate and group picture which will be taken at the end of each month and posted to our school newsletter. Please find the chosen areas of focus for the year that will be recognized in our classrooms.

Month	Virtue Focus	School Mission	7 Habit Focus
September	Reverence	Lead, Learn, Love, Leave a Legacy	Paradigms/Values
October	Justice	Lead, Learn, Love, Leave a Legacy	Be Proactive
November	Peace	Lead, Learn, Love, Leave a Legacy	Begin With The End In Mind
December	Hospitality	Lead, Learn, Love, Leave a Legacy	Put First Things First
January	Community	Lead, Learn, Love, Leave a Legacy	Think Win- Win
February	Compassion	Lead, Learn, Love, Leave a Legacy	Seek First to Understand then to be Understood
March	Courage	Lead, Learn, Love, Leave a Legacy	Synergize
April	Joy	Lead, Learn, Love, Leave a Legacy	Sharpen the Saw
May	Respect	Lead, Learn, Love, Leave a Legacy	All 7 Habits
June	Integrity	Lead, Learn, Love, Leave a Legacy	All 7 Habits

DRESS CODE POLICY

St. Thomas the Apostle CES respects the uniform policy set out by the school board. The actual policy can be accessed via the following link: <http://www.hwcdsb.ca/board/policies/?fileID=478>

Please contact the school should you have any questions.

SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE

In accordance with the Child and Family Services Act, RSO 1990,s. 72 (5), it is the policy of the Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board to report suspected cases of child abuse. It is the role of the Children's Aid Society, to whom we report that, will investigate such a report. If your child is bruised or marked from an accident, you may wish to let the teacher know the circumstances. Should a report be made to the Children's Aid Society, please understand that we are complying with the law and a 'Duty to Report' and have the best interest of your child in mind.

TELLING TALES

Mark Sunday, September 18, 2016 on your calendars for the 8th annual Telling Tales Festival. Telling Tales is a free, outdoor festival and a year round commitment to promoting literacy and inspiring a love of reading. Located at Westfield Heritage Village in Rockton, Ontario, children and families can enjoy a day of stories, songs and fun with well-known musicians, artists and authors. Please see the following link for more information: <http://www.tellingtales.org/>

BIKES

As part of Physical Literacy, students are welcome to ride their bikes to school while weather permits. Students are expected to walk their bikes once on school property to the designated 'bike stands' at the west of the school for the safety of all. Bike locks are always highly recommended while helmets are mandatory.

SUMMER VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB

Thanks are extended to Mrs. Fleet who organized and facilitated an online book club for Primary Students throughout the summer. Children enjoyed hearing Mrs. Fleet read aloud each chapter of the book Superfudge and then entering thoughts and reflections to the OneNote Platform.

NO DOGS PLEASE

Please do not bring dogs onto school property. There are many students with allergies to animals as well as children who are afraid of dogs. We suggest your child meet you along the sidewalk on Skinner Road if you must bring your pet. Thank you for your cooperation and support. We want to ensure that all our students feel safe in every respect when they come to school.

LEARNING FOR ALL

All members of the St. Thomas the Apostle CES staff are committed to learning for all. All instructional encounters with students are grounded in Ontario curriculum expectations. For a detailed look at the Ontario Curriculum, please note the following link:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/> Additional information specifically related to parents can be found at: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/> As a Catholic system, all curriculum expectations are rooted in Gospel values and Catholic teachings as per the [Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations](#).

All educators remain committed to the concept of differentiation, ensuring multiple entry points to expectation demonstration through 'saying, doing and representing'. The assessment, evaluation and reporting of student achievement is guided by the provincial document [Growing Success](#).

STTA COMMUNITY GARDEN

A genuine note of appreciation is extended to the many families who tended the STTA Community Garden throughout the summer months. Mrs. Fleet and her family, who also tended, were able to harvest many fresh vegetables to take to the Flamborough Food Bank. The efforts of many supported our most vulnerable in the community.



St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Elementary School Volunteer Form 2016/2017

NAME: _____

Parent/Guardian of: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Please check the activity of activities you would like to help with this year:

- Volunteer Coordinator (contact volunteers for various events)
- Classroom Volunteer
- Class Trip Supervisor
- Emergency School Closure
- Reading volunteer
- Special Lunch Program (Pizza Wednesdays, Pancake Tuesday)

Special Events and Programs:

- Dance-a-Thon, Terry Fox Run, Christmas Wreath, Book Fair, etc
- Picture Day
- Book Fair
- Catholic School Council sub-committee member

I am available on the following days and times (please check those which are convenient):

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Mornings					
Afternoons					

Please return the form to the office. Thank you for your time!!

Please note: Vulnerable Sector Checks will be necessary

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Catholic School Council Nomination Form 2016/2017

Deadline for Application: Monday September 12, 2016 at 4:00 pm

_____ I wish to nominate myself to serve as a member of the Catholic School Council for 2016-2017.

Parent Name: _____ (please print)

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

_____ I wish to nominate the following individual to serve as a member of the Catholic School Council for 2016-2017. When nominating a parent please ensure that the individual has accepted the nomination prior to submitting this form.

Person to be Nominated: _____ (please print)

Nominator's Name: _____ (please print)

Nominator's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Candidate Information to be made available to parents for voting purposes if an election is required.

If required, elections will take place from 5:30 – 7:30 pm on Wednesday, September 21, 2016

(Meet the Staff BBQ).

(Please provide background information as to your suitability as a candidate for CSC)
