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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

ST. THOMAS "WILDCATS" - NOVEMBER - 2016

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Those who went before us, fought and died for us because
They believed that by their sacrifices, they could leave us a peaceful world.
To observe Remembrance Day is to dedicate ourselves to the cause of peace. Peace within ourselves.
Peace with one another. Peace among all people.
Let there be peace on earth,
And let it begin with me .



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

God of Peace, grant all your people a vision of peace.
May each of us use our gifts to promote peace. May
all those who live in fear, feel comfort in the support
that we offer in our prayer.
God of Love, we pray that all violence in the world will
end. We pray for a sense of calm in a time of great
uncertainty.
We pray that the world be given the gifts of peace
and reconciliation.
May love help us overcome all our fears so we can
work together toward peace. Amen

November is the month of remembering. We
remember all the saints to whom we pray and ask for
guidance, support and help along the way. We
remember the souls of the faithfully departed who
have passed away. We pray that they guide and watch
over us. We pray for those who have and who
continue to fight for freedom and for peace.

Friday, November 11th is Remembrance Day, the day
we remember all men and women who have died to
protect our democratic freedom and the freedom of

others. Please feel free to join us on Tuesday,
November 11th at 11:30am for a Liturgy in our school
gym as we join together as a school community to
remember and honour Canada's Veterans and
Peacekeepers for their service and sacrifice. We will
also commemorate the day with a moment of silence
at the eleventh hour.

Also, November is the special month when we
remember all those who we love and who have died,
but whose spirits remain in our hearts. On **All Saints
Day**, November 1 and **All Souls Day**, November 2nd,
we pray for all our deceased family members and
friends who have joined our Lord.

GROOVE-A-THON

A sincere thank you to the St. Thomas the Apostle
Catholic School Council, Mrs. Shannon, the Grade
Eight Students, Mr. Stechey, Mrs. Bardati (and
family) and the entire St. Thomas the Apostle CES
community for your generous contributions of time,
goods and donations to our annual Groove-a-thon on
Monday, October 31, 2016. The countless hours of

dedication to bring this event to life each year is always a celebration of your efforts to ensure that we create wonderful opportunities for our students to enhance their learning.

Funds raised will go toward the creation of the STTA Outdoor Prayer Garden/Classroom. It was a spooktacular day at St. Thomas the Apostle.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Please come out and join us at our upcoming Catholic School Council meeting on Monday, November 7, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Learning Commons.

GRADE 8 EXCURSION TO MONTREAL: PARENT INFORMATION MEETING

Parents of students in Grade 8 are invited to attend an information session about the excursion. Representatives from Keating, the tour company will be on hand to provide information and answer questions. Monday, November 21, 6:30pm in the Learning Commons.

PROGRESS REPORTS/PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEW

Progress Reports (Grades 1-8) will be sent home on Tuesday, November 15th, 2016. There will be a strong emphasis on Learning Skills and Work Habits as these are critical factors to ensure future academic success:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bxz6hJm4QDDrTFIM1Q0NzFveU0/view?usp=sharing>

Source: Growing Success, Ministry of Education, 2010:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/growsuccess.pdf>

Each of the Learning Skills/Work Habits is evaluated and reported on the following scale:

E=Excellent; G=Good; S=Satisfactory; N=Needs Improvement.

Teachers will inform parents of the progress students are making towards achievement of the curriculum expectations and in each subject area. Student Progress is to be evaluated according to the following scale:

- I. **Progressing Very Well:** (student academic performance consistently at Level 3 and 4);
- II. **Progressing Well:** (student academic performance at Level 2 or inconsistently at Level 3); and

III. **Progressing With Difficulty:** (student academic performance at Level 1 and below).

Parent-Teacher Conferences (Grades 1-8) will be held Thursday evening, November 17th. Exact times for each conference will be coordinated by staff. If this is not a convenient time, please contact your child's teacher to make other arrangements. Please remember to return the response page of the Progress Report. Envelopes must also be returned to the school.

Early communication between classroom teachers and parents supports the learning of your child. Please note that at any time, parents can arrange to meet with the teacher to discuss the progress of your child. Regular communication is strongly encouraged to ensure that you remain informed of progress and next steps in learning on a regular basis.

Here are some ideas to consider as you work through the information shared on the progress report cards.

STUDENTS: What is something that you did well? What did you have difficulty with? What was hard for you? How do you feel about your effort so far? What do you need to do to improve your work or your effort? How can your teacher or your parents (or someone else at home or school) help you? Next steps: goals for the remainder of this term?

THE POWER OF YET

The operative word is YET. If you are struggling with something and you feel that you can't do something well, end the sentence with the word YET. This is a powerful word because it implies that anything is possible if we put forth an effort and encouragement and support are provided. Remember to use the word YET whenever you are stumbling with anything in life.

PARENTS: What have you noticed about your child's work and effort so far this term? What do you see as being a real strength for your child? In which areas do you see your child doing well? Where have you seen your child struggling or having difficulty so far this term? What will we do to help him/her work

toward YET? What are the next steps in learning?

KINDERGARTEN PARENT OBSERVATION VISITS

Parents of all children in Kindergarten will be receiving an invitation to visit the classroom during the month of November to observe 'a day in the life'. Parents will be able to spend some time observing their little ones in the act of exploring, hypothesizing, constructing, thinking and learning in a play-based environment. A letter requesting convenient times and dates will be forthcoming from each K classroom. We look forward to seeing you.

CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to the Cross Country Team who competed at Marydale Park last month. Thank you to Coach Stechey and Coach Horzelenberg who helped to prepare this team for its success. Thank you also to all parents who were able to assist in the supervision of our team on the day of the event. Indeed, your voluntary efforts help to create these opportunities for our students. Congratulations to the team, many of whom achieved top placements and personal bests!



THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Many thanks to staff, students and parents for their generous donations for the Thanksgiving food drive items for the Good Shepherd Centre in Hamilton. Congratulations to the Grade 8s and Mrs. Shannon for coordinating.

HOMEWORK

Just a very important reminder, that homework routines are essential to a student's success in school. Please establish homework as a priority in your home. This can be accomplished by ensuring your child has an area, free of distraction and noise, to do his/ her work.

Ensure that your child is following through on agenda items, and please remember to initial or sign the agenda nightly and check the LMS site. In this way, you will be kept informed of assignments and school events. Many thanks for your partnership.

CODING AND ROBOTICS CLUB

In alignment with the school's commitment to embracing 21st Century Learning, the Coding Club and the Robotics Club are up and running. Exciting things are underway.

TUTORING AND HOMEWORK CLUB

St. Thomas has an after school homework and tutoring club. Students in Grade 7 and 8 meet every Monday and Wednesday from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Tutoring and guidance is provided by Mrs. Shannon. Funding for this program is limited only to our intermediate students. This wonderful opportunity is made available through a grant provided by the Ministry of Education.

A similar club for students in Grades 3-6 is available. Educational Assistants provide care and support as students complete homework assignments from 3:30-4:15 Monday to Thursday. All students in Grade 3-6 are welcome to attend.

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.

PILGRIMAGE - JUSTICE FOR THE POOR

On Sunday, October 16, approximately 4000 students, teachers, parents, Principals and Board personnel from our elementary and secondary Catholic schools walked an 8-kilometer course through Hamilton to raise money for poverty. The walk was called, "Walk with Christ: Justice for the Poor". The money raised will be used to help build schools and homes in the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Uganda and in support of Development and Peace. We are very proud of the Grade 7 and 8 students from St. Thomas who gave up their Sunday to join this pilgrimage. Congratulations and thank you for making a difference. These students showed true Catholic leadership and answered the call to address social justice issues. Thanks also to the many members of staff who also represented our school community on this walk.

WINTER WEATHER

Now that colder weather is approaching, please have children prepared for outdoor recesses. It will become necessary for hats, mittens and even winter coats to be pulled out of storage and worn to school. Mother Nature seems to bless STTA playground with even colder weather than the rest of Hamilton ☺ We strongly encourage labeling of all clothing items to avoid loss of articles. When weather becomes snowy, boots are essential and students must come prepared with indoor shoes.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

PLEASE NOTE - when schools are closed or buses cancelled due to extreme weather conditions, details will be announced by the following Hamilton and area radio stations and CHCH TV station: 900 900CHML/ Y108 FM/95.3FM/Oldies 1150 (CKOC)/K-Lite 102.9 FM/ 820 CHAM/KX 94.7FM. Announcements will be made by 7:00 a.m. Check the school board website (www.hwcdsb.ca) the school buzzboard (<https://stth.hwcdsb.ca/>) Twitter (<https://twitter.com/HWCDSB>); (<https://twitter.com/stthces>)

Our school buzzboard will announce any late breaking news and the email blastout system will also be used.

GRADE 7 VISIT TO ST. MARY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

On Wednesday, November 2, 2016, our Grade 7 students will be visiting St. Mary Catholic High School. They will be met by students from all 6 feeder elementary schools including Guardian Angels and Our Lady of Mount Carmel. The students will be immersed into the life of a typical day in high school. They will also tour the facility, meet teachers and administrators, listen to a great speaker, make new friends, enjoy pizza and watch a staff vs. students dodgeball game!

UNITED WAY RED & WHITE DAY NOVEMBER 8/ 2016

The board is having a system-wide civvies day on Tuesday, November 8th, 2016 as a fundraiser in support of the United Way. Students and staff are encouraged to wear Red and White attire instead of their school uniform. Each participating student is asked to bring a donation of \$2.00. All money raised will go to the United Way Campaign.

United Way is an integral part of our country and plays an important role in meeting the needs of essential social support programs. With your help, we can continue to do our part as a school community.

They are hoping for 100% participation. Our school will be included in this theme day. Please come to school showing your support and dressed in red and white for this worthy cause.

PARENT CONFERENCE

Saturday, November 5, 2016, Bishop Ryan CSS.
<https://www.hwcdsb.ca/181647--24th-Annual-Parent-Conference-Weaving-the-Catholic-Partnership>

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

Friday, November 4, 2016 is a Professional Development Day. While students remain at home or in the care of a provider, staff will be in the school collaboratively exploring effective mathematics instruction and revisiting the School Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (SIPSA)

LIFETOUCH RETAKES

Bring your smile for a retake if needed on November, 1, 2016

VISUAL ARTS MASTERS: GALLERY WALK

The Visual Arts Masters Club will be offering a Gallery Walk on Thursday, November 3 in the STTA Art Gallery (Room 201) from 4:30-5:00. All are welcome. <https://stth.hwcdsb.ca/183626--STTA-Visual-Arts-Masters--Gallery-Walk>

MAD SCIENCE

Students have been enjoying the world of science and experimentation each Wednesday after dismissal. Ask your little scientist how things have been going if he/she participates in this opportunity.

PETER PAN: NOVEMBER 30

Students will be visiting St. Mary CSS to view the Drama Department's production of Peter Pan. Information will be forthcoming from your child's classroom teacher.

ST. MARY CSS PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT

Parents of students in Grade 8 are invited to attend a very interactive information session at St. Mary CSS on Tuesday, November 22, 2016.

SPORTS EQUIPMENT DRIVE

Thank you to all families and community partners that sent in used sports equipment for our sports drive. Donations will be headed for Wasauksing First Nation (Parry Sound). We will also be serving three other First Nation communities, Shawanaga FN, Henvey Inlet FN and Magnetawan FN from the Parry Sound area. Wasauksing, Shawanaga and Magnetawan are policed by Anishinabek Police Service (APS) and they will be working in partnership with OPP for this great event.

<https://stth.hwcdsb.ca/183731--STTA-and-Last-Call-for-the-Sports-Drive>

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Once again our students will be designing their own Christmas cards. Parents will have the opportunity to purchase their child's cards. An order form will be coming home soon.

PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH

Prayer and the education of children in the faith are seen as specific responsibilities of Christian parents, as well as grandparents. Our world is fast paced and we sometimes forget that our children need a place that will act as a cocoon, making them feel safe, loved and protected. We need to create purposeful moments when we gather as a family and share our values through conversations and family activities and where we share our faith through prayer and perhaps reading and discussing a passage from the Bible. Families build the foundation on which our children stand in the world - educating our children in their faith is a proven way to make that foundation solid enough to withstand anything.

(From: Teresa Hartnett, Family Ministry Office, 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)

ATTENTION INTERMEDIATE MATH STUDENTS!

Need help with your math homework? Free online math help is just one click away at Homework Help. Homework Help offers grade 7 to 10 students live one-on-one tutoring with Ontario certified teachers, from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Sunday to Thursday, as well as, unlimited access to a wide collection of math tutorials, seminars and presentations. Simply log in to Homework Help at <http://homeworkhelp.ilc.org> using the Username and Password you created at school and start getting help today!

CHRISTMAS ANGELS

This year, STTA will once again be involved in Christmas Angels, a charitable program during the Christmas season that focuses on the true meaning of Christmas - Jesus Christ - God's greatest gift. In essence, each classroom will be partnered anonymously with families from another school somewhere in the Hamilton community. The families in question are currently experiencing great financial hardship. Each STTA classroom will be provided with specifics about the family (number of children, ages, etc.). Together, we can ensure smiling faces for more children in our city this coming December 25. Thank you sincerely for your partnership in this endeavour.

MONKEYNASTICS

The fee-based program Monkeynastics has started. Little ones experience physical literacy each Friday after dismissal from 3:35-4:05pm.

<http://monkeynastix.ca/>

ROOTS OF EMPATHY

Roots of Empathy is a research-based program that promises to enhance the personal, social and emotional development of all students involved, especially in the domain of empathy. A trained facilitator implements the program with the parent(s) of a newborn baby. The baby will accompany each visit and students will engage in conversation and observation, learning about emotions and character traits along the way. This year, we are thrilled that Mrs. Shannon's Grade 8 class will be participating. So too will Mrs. Haynes'/Mrs. Kenyon's class and Mr. MacDonald's/Mrs. Maslowski's class.

<http://www.rootsofempathy.org/>

Roots of Empathy's mission: Building caring, peaceful and civil societies.

GRADE 4/8 TEACHING MASS

The Grade 4 and 8 students will be experiencing a 'TEACHING Mass' on November 18, 2016 at 10:00am. Father Lobsinger will lead the mass and infuse actual teaching during each ceremonial procedure. All parents and caregivers welcome.

HEALTH ACTION TEAM

The STTA Health Action Team (STTA HAT), led by Mrs. Caiella, Mrs. Haynes, the school's assigned Public Health Nurse, Julie Scheerer and supported by the McMaster University Third Year Nursing students, continues to explore the ways we can work toward nurturing a positive climate and wellness at St. Thomas the Apostle CES. Many volunteer HAT members from each classroom, grades 4-8 support the many initiatives. These student volunteers are called HAT Ambassadors.

FLAG FOOTBALL

Congratulations to the STTA Flag Football Team that continues to dominate the field in skill and sportsmanship. Playoffs begin on November 1, 2016. Thanks to Coach MacDonald for his time.

FEAST DAY MASS

Our school's Feast Day mass will take place on Friday, November 25 at 9:30 in the gymnasium which will be transformed into a sacred space. All are welcome.

SAVE THE DATE

Mark the date December 15, 6:30 pm on your calendars for St. Thomas the Apostle CES' annual Christmas Concert.

LMS

Remember to visit your child's classroom LMS site for news, dates and information. This password-protected virtual space awaits your visit. We genuinely thank all teachers and early childhood educators who spend countless hours updating in order to ensure ongoing communication between home and school.

<https://hwcdsb.elearningontario.ca/>

STAYING CONNECTED

Have you clicked 'subscribe' in the "Follow Us" section on the STTA Website? If you do, you will receive nightly emails with new posts to the buzzboard and calendar.

<https://stth.hwcdsb.ca/>

You can also remain connected through the school's new exploration of Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/stthces>

FINAL THOUGHTS

In honour of October's theme of 'thanks' and 'gratitude' and November's theme of 'remembrance', the following clip is offered as a reminder of all the things with which we are blessed.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nj2ofrX7jAk>

