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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

MAY - 2017 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 1-5, 2017

The theme for Catholic Education Week 2017 is Walking Forward Together. 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 1-5, 2017.

The five sub-themes for Catholic Education:
Mon- Walking Forward Together with God
Tues- Walking Forward Together with Our Families
Wed- Walking Forward Together with Others
Thurs- Walking Forward Together with Creation
Fri- Walking Forward Together in Hope

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/228616--STTA-and-Catholic-Education-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.

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.

Our Grade 2 and 7 classrooms have benefitted from frequent visits by representatives from the Legion of Mary who engage students in Rosary appreciation.

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

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, the school recently participated in an annual Fire Inspector visit. Fire Marshall Mary-Lou visited and toured the school, providing important information to enhance what is already a safe and secure environment. She also presented to students:

<https://stth.hwcdsb.ca/226281--STTA-and-Fire-Safety->

Important to note: schools are obligated to conduct three fire emergency evacuation drills per term, one lockdown drill once per year and one bomb threat evacuation drill once per year.

GRANDPARENTS' DAY

On Friday, May 5, 2017, all grandparents are invited to attend our annual Grandparents' Day from 9:10-10:40am. Grandparents are invited to visit with their grandchildren in classrooms and then participate in an online KAHOOT thanks to William. Parking is available in the playground to the east of the school.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL OF OUR MOTHERS AND GRANDMOTHERS -MAY 14, 2017

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 Wednesday, April 26, 2017, 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/226766--STTA-and-the-Annual-Directors-Awards>

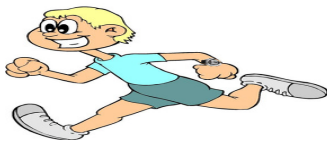
SPRING CROSS COUNTRY - 2017

Our Spring Cross Country will take place on May 10, 2017.

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!

Most exciting news: thanks to the Catholic School Council and fundraising initiatives, new jerseys have been purchased for all runners.

These jerseys will be available for other off-site events as well.



MAY CROWNING

On Tuesday, May 2, 2017 at 9:30am, we will celebrate Mass and the May Crowning in the gym. Flowers are most welcome for this special day.

TRIP TO MONTREAL

On Wednesday, May 24 through Friday, May 26, 2017, our Grade 8 students will be visiting Montreal. This promises to be a wonderful excursion.

Students will explore the Old World grace and French culture of Montreal.

There will be a final Parent Meeting on Monday, May 8, 2017 @ 6:30pm in the Learning Commons. It is extremely important that at least one parent attend along with their child(ren) if possible.

FRENCH CAFE

Thanks again to Mme Cholette who, along with help from the Grade 8s will be transforming the gym into Paris, France on Thursday, May 4, 2017. Those students who were unable to order via Cash Online will be provided with complimentary items so as not to feel excluded.

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 2017/2018

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 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 2017/2018 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 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.

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

Please remember to visit the STTA Parenting and Family Literacy Centre with little ones. The centre is open daily from 9:10am - 1:00pm to parents, grandparents and caregivers along with the children. Thanks to Miss Patty who facilitates.

CONGRATULATIONS MRS. CAIELLA

<https://stth.hwcdsb.ca/228682--STTA-and-the-Directors-Award-for-Outstanding-Dedication-to-Student-and-Staff>

2017/2018 HWCD SB ELEMENTARY CALENDAR AVAILABLE

<https://www.hwcdsb.ca/board/calendars/?fileID=275788>

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our next meeting is May 1, 2017 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/>

STTA TRIVIA NIGHT

The second annual STTA Trivia Night is Thursday, May 4, 2017. Please consider participating and submitting a team for this fun-filled community event. Thanks Mrs. Shannon.

<https://stth.hwcdsb.ca/228395--STTA-Trivia-Night-register-your-team-now->

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 19. 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.

This will be St. Thomas the Apostle school's eleventh time participating in this event, let's make it a great one!

<https://stth.hwcdsb.ca/228290--STTA-and-Jump-Rope-for-Heart-Kickoff>

CAREER DAY

On Wednesday, May 3, 2017, 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:

Director of Marketing	Mr. Andrew Merritt - (IR Energy)
Software Engineer/3D Printing/Computer Science	Mr. Jamie Howson
Economist	Mr. Andy Baziliauskas
Video Game Developer	Mr. McRae
Mechanic/Automotive Technician	Mr. Richard Pender
Financial Planner/Mortgage Specialist	Mr. Vince Palermo and Ms. Jennifer Grindatto (RBC)
Automotive Service Technician	Mr. Jamie Gunby

VIRTUAL EDUCATIONAL EXCURSIONS

You may be hearing about off-site educational excursions from your children whereby they describe heading to India, Iceland, Africa and Antarctica. They are telling you the truth ☺ Thanks to SKYPE in the Classroom, many of our students have been benefiting from these global learning encounters. The classroom no longer has four walls.

JR and SR BOYS VOLLEYBALL TEAMS

Congratulations to the Junior Boys Volleyball team for moving on in the finals at time of print. Congratulations to the Senior Boys who, despite great play, have been eliminated. Both teams represented the school tremendously. Thanks especially to Mr. Stechey and Mr. MacDonald.

BIKE TO SCHOOL WEEK

May 29 begins Bike to School Week.

STTA VISUAL MASTERS

We continue to benefit from artists in our midst. Thanks Mrs. Legace-Gagnier and Miss Romeo
<https://stth.hwcdsb.ca/228384--STTA-and-Visual-Arts-Masters>

APRIL AWARD WINNERS

<https://stth.hwcdsb.ca/228526--April-Award-Winners>



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

-Edith Wharton