



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: C. HORZELENBERG

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

ST. THOMAS "WILDCATS" FEBRUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The month of February promises to be a very busy one at St. Thomas the Apostle CES. As always, the school continues to meet the unique learning needs and interests of all students while providing experiences and opportunities in the classroom and co-curricular life.

February marks the end of Term One for staff and students. This is an ideal time for students to pause and reflect on past effort and determination as a 'mid year check-in'. While looking back, students can celebrate successes and consider ways to build upon them....going from good to great and then excellent to extraordinary.

Some reflective questions for students to ponder when looking back on the past term:

"Have I put forth my full effort when attempting to learn or do new things?"

"Have I reached out for help when I was confused or found something difficult to do?"

"When the learning became difficult, did I stick to it or did I quit?"

The last question speaks to *resilience*. The development of resilience in all students is more important than ever, especially when we consider this ever changing world around us. Resilience is the ability to adapt and respond to adversity, challenge and stress in a healthy, productive way. It is for this reason that much attention is given to the concept of self-regulation at our school, aligning well with the school board's focus on mental health and wellness for all.

ST. THOMAS BASKETBALL TEAMS

Congratulations to the Junior and Senior Boys' Basketball Teams who continue to demonstrate great drive, skill and sportsmanship on the court. Thanks to Elise and Kyle, student coaches for supporting the Senior Team. Thanks to Miss Moulden, Mrs. Horzelenberg, Mrs. Duffy, Miss Romeo, Miss Dalla Riva, Mrs. Richardson, Miss Giannasi for coaching. Thanks to Mr. Stechey for refereeing.

ST. THOMAS VOLLEYBALL TEAMS

Congratulations to the Junior and Senior Girls' Volleyball Teams for their great play as well. Thanks to Mrs. Detina-coaching & Mr. Stechey-refereeing.

PROVINCIAL FAMILY DAY

Monday, February 19, 2018

On October 11, 2007, the Government of Ontario announced the creation of a province-wide statutory holiday known as Family Day. This day will occur each year on the third Monday in February for the purpose of emphasizing and celebrating the importance of families taking time together. As a result, Family Day this year will be Monday, February 19, 2018. Accordingly, school will be closed. Enjoy the time!

MARCH BREAK

The March break will begin on Monday, March 12, 2018. School will resume on Monday, March 19, 2018.

McMASTER UNIVERSITY THIRD YEAR NURSING STUDENT PLACEMENTS

We have been blessed once again with the opportunity to work with nursing students from McMaster University. Their work will continue to

focus on nurturing positive climate and wellness.

The nursing students plan on looking at the importance of achieving and maintaining mental wellness. <https://stth.hwcdsb.ca/249264--STTH-and-a-New-Mac-Nursing-Team>

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FREE THROW

Congratulations to Cole, Emmanuel, Olivia, Esteban, Monica, Tyler, Lorena, Thomas, Kristina, Tito and Christian who represented the school as finalists in the KOC Council Free Throw finals on Saturday, January 27, 2018. Congratulations to Esteban and Tito who will be moving on to the District finals on February 3, 2018.

LEARNING COMMONS

Sigmund Brouwer's presentation as part of Literacy Week was a stellar success. Thanks Mrs. Byrne for arranging. Proceeds from the Book Fair earlier this year funded this event.

FAMILY LITERACY WEEK EVENTS

On January 24, 2018, we held our annual Snuggle Up and Read event. Once again it was a huge success! We thank all parents, grandparents and all family members who took time out of their day to come to our school and spend time with their children, reading and playing games.

<https://stth.hwcdsb.ca/249762--STTH-and-Snuggle-Up-and-Read-Day>

SCHOOL LOCKDOWN

On a rare occasion, there may be a lockdown of our school. A lockdown is defined by the Hamilton-Wentworth Police as "the restriction of movement during the time of a potentially serious violent incident that could endanger the lives of students and staff."

We are required to practice this lockdown a minimum of two times each year. We held a Lockdown Drill in first term. Students and staff followed procedures with precision, ensuring the security and safety for all. We will be practising a second drill in the second term. These drills ensure safety and security for all.

VALENTINE'S DAY

Students are encouraged to dress in red, white and pink on **Tuesday, February 13, 2018**. This is a dress down day for the staff and students. Fun

activities will be planned by student council on that day.... details to follow in the coming days.... including the annual Cake Raffle. Please note that this date was selected since February 14 falls on Ash Wednesday this year and much of that day will be spent at the church and in solemn prayer as the first day of Lent. February 13, 2018 is also Shrove Tuesday. We have combined Valentine's Day with Shrove Tuesday

GROUNDHOG DAY

February 2, 2018 is Groundhog Day.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

The next school council meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 5, 2018 at 7:00pm in the Learning Commons. All are welcome to attend!

LEGION OF MARY

Representatives of the Legion of Mary have been visiting Grade 2 and 7 students, teaching them about the Rosary and leading in prayer.

THANKS SISTER MARGARET

Thanks again Sister Margaret from Notre Dame Convent. Sister Margaret visits the school every Tuesday and Thursday morning to read with students from Kindergarten to Grade 3.

VISION SCREENINGS

Statistics suggest that one out of seven children are sitting in classrooms with significant and undiagnosed vision problems. With this in mind, the school is happy to partner with the EYE-MAC Initiative.

Through the leadership of Dr. Sabrin from McMaster University, colleagues will visit the school once a week and provide vision screening tests. Letters will be coming home shortly. If you don't want your child to receive the screening, please return the form indicating this. Together, we can ensure healthy vision for all children, ages 4-14.

INDOOR SHOES

It is imperative that children have "indoor shoes" to wear indoors during the winter months. Wet floors, fire alarms and general safety concerns necessitate this request. Slippers are not to be worn during school time.

WELCOME BACK MRS. FALLIS

Welcome back Mrs. Fallis who is returning to the Grade 7 classroom from her maternity leave. Miss Monaco will be teaching Grade 2/3.

WINTER WEAR YELLOW WALK DAY

Staff and students are invited to wear yellow clothes on February 7, 2018 (Dress down for those without yellow). All of HWCDSB is celebrating this day which promotes active transportation (walking, cycling, rolling) to and from school. For those who drive, consider dropping children off down Skinner Rd and walk the rest of the way.

HAMILTON BULL DOGS GAME

Grade 4-8 students will be attending a Hamilton Bull Dogs game on February 8, 2018. Payment is available via School Cash Online. Thanks for your support.

REPORT CARDS GO HOME

Report cards for students (K-Grade 8) will be released to students and parents on February 13, 2018. Students will be encouraged to celebrate and build upon current successes while also responding to areas in need of improvement. Learning Skills and Work Habits remain a focus as always since these are lifelong traits that have an impact on all future endeavours. As always, STTH thanks all parents for the collaboration in charting the journey ahead for their children into the second term.

JANUARY AWARD ASSEMBLY

Please join us for our January award assembly on Monday, February 5, 2018. This assembly will also include a presentation by the Health Action Team that speaks about the five ways to mental well-being.

CHOCOLATE FUNDRAISER

This year, STTH will once again embark on a chocolate fundraiser. This endeavour is completely optional. Chocolates will NOT be sent home for sale unless permission forms have been signed. Prizes will be available for sales. Funds raised will be used toward such things as supporting STTH families in distress, books, technology and additional educational resources for classrooms. Thanks for your support.

FIRST RECONCILIATION

We celebrate as the Grade Two students receive the sacrament of First Reconciliation during the evening

of February 20, 2018 at St. Thomas the Apostle Church. All are invited. Thanks to Mrs. Detina and Miss Monaco for preparing the students. Thanks mostly to all parents, the children's first and foremost teachers, for ensuring that home is filled with prayer and grounded in our Catholic faith.

STTH VISUAL ARTS MASTERS

Thanks to Mrs. Legace-Gagnier and Miss Romeo for their time and talents each Thursday evening from 3:30-5:00 when students gather with them in the STTH Gallery for an exploration of the fine arts and the classical masters.

STTH CODING CLUB

Thanks to Mrs. Richardson and Mrs. Horzelenberg for teaching students about programming/robotics. Thanks also to visiting expert Mrs. Succi and guest expert Mr. Asselin (husband of Mrs. Asselin).

VIRTUAL SUPPORTS

Everyone is reminded to continue visiting the LMS (Learning Management System) 'My Class' to see their child's virtual classroom. You will find a plethora of information about what's happening along with resources and links to great supports in the home. A huge note of appreciation is extended to our Teachers and ECEs who spend countless hours updating the sites and loading many posts as communication of learning and items of information. <https://hwcdsb.elearningontario.ca/>

QUOTES FOR THE MONTH

(in honour of Valentine's Day)

What does love mean? A group of professionals posed this question to a group of 4-8 year olds. The answers they got were broader and deeper than anyone could have imagined. Some are as follows:

'When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth.' - Billy, age 4

'Love is what makes you smile when you are tired.' - Terri, age 4

'If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend you don't like.' Nikka, age 5

'Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen.' - Bobby, age 5

Learning Skills and Work Habits	Sample Behaviours
Responsibility	<p>The student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fulfils responsibilities and commitments within the learning environment; • completes and submits class work, homework, and assignments according to agreed-upon timelines; • takes responsibility for and manages own behaviour.
Organization	<p>The student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • devises and follows a plan and process for completing work and tasks; • establishes priorities and manages time to complete tasks and achieve goals; • identifies, gathers, evaluates, and uses information, technology, and resources to complete tasks.
Independent Work	<p>The student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • independently monitors, assesses, and revises plans to complete tasks and meet goals; • uses class time appropriately to complete tasks; • follows instructions with minimal supervision.
Collaboration	<p>The student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accepts various roles and an equitable share of work in a group; • responds positively to the ideas, opinions, values, and traditions of others; • builds healthy peer-to-peer relationships through personal and media-assisted interactions; • works with others to resolve conflicts and build consensus to achieve group goals; • shares information, resources, and expertise and promotes critical thinking to solve problems and make decisions.
Initiative	<p>The student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • looks for and acts on new ideas and opportunities for learning; • demonstrates the capacity for innovation and a willingness to take risks; • demonstrates curiosity and interest in learning; • approaches new tasks with a positive attitude; • recognizes and advocates appropriately for the rights of self and others.
Self-regulation	<p>The student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sets own individual goals and monitors progress towards achieving them; • seeks clarification or assistance when needed; • assesses and reflects critically on own strengths, needs, and interests; • identifies learning opportunities, choices, and strategies to meet personal needs and achieve goals; • perseveres and makes an effort when responding to challenges.