

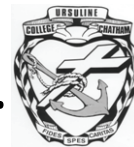


ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey

www.st-clair.net
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Ursuline College Chatham

Catholic Secondary School



December/January Newsletter

Director: Dan Parr
Principal: Ray Power

Superintendent: Scott Johnson Board Chair: J. Van Heck
Vice-Principals: Rick Baggio, Ed Freeburn, Mary Ann McCrae

December 2015 / January 2016

Joy to the Lord!

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The beloved Christmas song – Let it Snow – describes the weather outside being frightful. Well if you are one of the many who don't look forward to a cold winter, December has been kind to us to date.

With less than two weeks until Christmas break, the hectic pace of the holiday season can quickly distract us from the true meaning of Christmas. Christmas is about the expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of Christ's coming. It remains a joyful time of year to celebrate with family and friends.

As we enter December, I am surprised how quickly the year has passed. We have had a very successful semester with many memorable events and activities - outstanding school spirit at the many Red Feather events and our Terry Fox Community Walk, proud moments with our honour students at the Academic Assembly and great success with Me to We – We Scare Hunger community food drive. Our school teams have participated and competed at high levels and student council and leadership classes have motivated us all semester long. Additionally, our students are engaged in active learning and moving towards exams at the end of January. Our faith has been celebrated and fostered through school masses, guest speakers, retreats, reconciliation, and classroom visits by our local priests. We have so much to be proud of and grateful for. Every aspect of our success can be attributed to a dynamic staff, supportive families and outstanding students. I'm certain that you as parents and guardians couldn't be prouder of the academic and extracurricular success of your child. I know I remain incredibly proud to be associated with UCC.

So as we expectantly await Christmas, the break from school and the opportunity to reconnect in our homes, I ask you to enjoy the time as family. Celebrate the peace of Christ. January will be upon us in no time and so will exams. They will start on Thursday, January 28th through Wednesday, February 3rd. Our grade 8's will be invited to UCC on Wednesday, February 3rd and an invitation for their parents to return in the evening for our annual UCC Open House. We welcome all those who are interested in seeing what UCC has to offer.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Ray Power



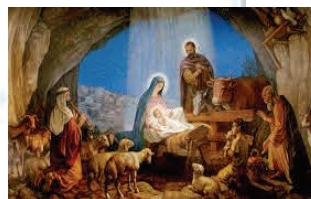
A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAPLAIN

Happy New Year.....I mean Happy New **Liturgical** Year, of course. The Catholic Church always begins a new liturgical year with the First Sunday of **Advent**, one month before the calendar New Year. Throughout our lives we experience many events, seasons, and celebrations simultaneously within our family and Church. Our lives can be so busy and exciting that often the significance of a specific day can be overshadowed or lost. Take for instance Advent and Christmas. I'm sure most of us can get caught up in the commercial festivities and find our days filled with stress. Advent is a time for us to slow down and prepare, not just for a big family dinner, but for the coming of Christ!

December is a month of preparation and work towards becoming our perfect self, or the best version of ourselves. Our school recently took a spiritual pause to reflect and ask for God's mercy and grace, in order to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our Advent Mass is a time for us to gather and realize that we cannot reach perfection without Christ.

In addition, the Jubilee Year of Mercy begins December 8th, 2015. Pope Francis encourages us to encounter the mercy of God through the sacraments, pilgrimages, and by the power of prayer this upcoming year. Our board and school will be journeying this next year by observing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. In striving to genuinely sense the wonder of God's mercy, please read the following reflection taken from Saint Thomas Aquinas. He says "Mercy is the greatest attribute of God, as it manifests His infinite perfection". Let us never forget that our loving God will always embrace and show mercy to anyone who acts in faith, hope, and charity.

Happy Holy-Days!
Thomas Dula



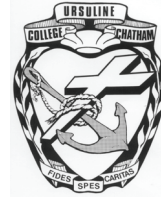
May you Rejoice in the
Blessing of
His Love this
Christmas and Always

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year
from the Staff of UCC



Ursuline College Chatham Catholic Secondary School

85 Grand Ave. W.
Chatham, Ontario



OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, February 3, 2016
7:00 p.m. U.C.C. Theatre
Tours will follow the presentation

Note: Anyone who requires accommodation (assistive devices, lifts, sign language interpreters, etc.) should report these needs to Ray Power at 519-351-2987 Ext. 4006 or ray.power@sccdsb.net.

The screenshot shows the myBlueprint education planner website. At the top left is the logo "myBlueprint education planner". To the right are navigation links: Home, Products, Support, About Us, Blog, and Contact. A "Free Trial" badge is in the top right corner. The main content area is split into two columns. The left column has two sections: "Existing User" with a lock icon, a text input for "Your E-Mail Address", a text input for "Your Password", a "LOGIN" button, and a link "Forgot your password?"; and "New User" with a star icon, a text input for "Enter Activation Key", and a "CREATE ACCOUNT" button with a question mark. The right column features the headline "myBlueprint is the easiest way to plan your education and career" and two buttons: "HOW IT WORKS" (orange) and "GETTING STARTED" (dark grey). Below this is a quote: "With this program students are engaged in the process of setting goals, recording their activities and planning their future. - Education Forum Review". The background of the right column is decorated with various educational icons like a laptop, speech bubble, checkmark, clock, book, lightbulb, and microscope.

FROM THE GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT



Grade 12 students are reminded of the following:

1. Students should complete their **forty hours of Community Service** prior to the start of Semester 2 in order to graduate next June. In order to be considered for early acceptance to university and college, students should have their community service hours completed.
2. Students are reminded that the due date for **university applications** is **January 15, 2016** and the due date for **college applications** is **February 1, 2016**. If you do not have your PIN to apply to university or your OEN to apply to college, please see the Guidance Secretary.
3. Students are strongly advised to apply to university or college before the Christmas Holidays as the application websites get very busy before the due dates and there is no customer support available during the Christmas Holidays.

Grade 9 students :

1. The guidance counsellors are currently meeting with all Grade Nine students. Grade Nine students who have missed their appointments should reschedule their appointments by seeing Ms. Hogle, the Guidance Secretary.

Remind App!!

Students may choose to receive messages on their personal device from the **Guidance Department** through the '**Remind**' app. This app allows counsellors to text or email students with information regarding upcoming presentations, college/university information, graduation, volunteer opportunities and much more!

With **Remind**, all personal information remains completely confidential and it is free to register. Students may sign-up by texting to 519-800-5670, then typing the message:

Grade 9: @ucc2019
Grade 10: @ucc2018
Grade 11: @ucc2017
Grade 12: @ucc2016



For more information www.remind.com



UCC Pedagape

Annual Community Outreach Dinner

The cafeteria was transformed into a community gathering space for over 170 people from our community on Wednesday, Dec. 9th.

Doors officially opened at 4:00 p.m. but some started to gather as early as 2:30 p.m.

We had over 40 of our students decorating, serving and demonstrating Christ-like love in ACTION! It was another year of witnessing the miracle of Christmas!

A big thank you to everyone who helped to support this amazing undertaking, the donations of food, money and time all make this night a huge success!!!

Special thanks to Mr. Mihoren, and the many UCC staff who helped.



Robotics Event

On **Saturday, November 7th**, the *C.K. Cyber Pack Robotics Team #5689*, consisting of students from UCC and other area schools, travelled to St. Clair College in Windsor to participate in the Southwest International Off-Season Event. The team competed with, and against 11 other teams.

The *C.K. Cyber Pack* was a force to be reckoned with both on and off the field, showing up with 25 students, making them the highest-represented team, other than the host team, the Sabre Bytes Robotics Team #772.

The *Cyber Pack* finished **2nd overall** in the **qualification rounds**, before losing in the semifinals, **finishing the day in 3rd place**.

Congratulations, C.K. Cyber Pack!

For more information about the C.K. Cyber Pack, check out their Facebook Page, their website, ckcyberpack.com, or contact CKCyberPack@gmail.com.



Reminder!!

**Semester 2
Begins
Friday, February 5, 2016**

The Hour of Code is coming.

Help introduce 100m students to computer science.
What 90% of schools don't teach.

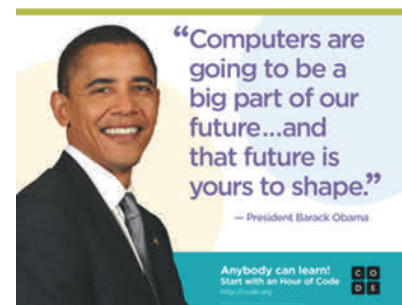


We live in a world surrounded by technology. And we know that whatever field our students choose to go into as adults, their ability to succeed will increasingly hinge on understanding how technology works. But only a tiny fraction of us are learning computer science, and less students are studying it than a decade ago.

That's why UCC, along with St. Agnes, Our Lady of Fatima and St. Joseph (Chatham), are joining in on the largest learning event in history: **The Hour of Code**, during *Computer Science Education Week (Dec. 7-13)*. **More than 100 million students worldwide have already tried an Hour of Code.**

During CS Education week, grade 11 students from UCC will be teaching elementary students in grade 3, 4 and 5, as well as grade 9 classes from UCC, the basics of coding. These UCC students are excited about spreading the word about 21st Century skills that ANYONE can learn!

To learn more about the Hour of Code,
visit <https://hourofcode.com/>
and find out more about the event that is making history!





Me to We 10th Annual We Scare Hunger



The Me to We social justice group at Ursuline College Chatham would like to thank all volunteers who participated in We Scare Hunger on Halloween evening. Despite a rainy night we managed to collect a total of 13,000 canned goods for Outreach for Hunger and other local food banks in Ridgetown, Blenheim and Thamesville.

Over 200 UCC students, along with students from St. Ursula, St. Joseph (Chatham) and St. Michael (Ridgetown) Catholic Elementary schools braved the weather to make this year a huge success. A big thank you to the volunteer parent drivers who helped to keep everyone safe.

UCC students also raised \$1,300 through a non-uniform day that was donated to the local food bank.

For the second year, Don Leonard at Victory Ford donated the use of his trucks and drivers to deliver the canned goods to the food bank.

We hope to see all past, present and future volunteers next year
as we celebrate the
11th year of this campaign at UCC.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 2015						
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Important Dates

December 10	Advent Mass Per. 2, Per. 3, Per. 4
December 11	Hot Dog Day
December 17	A Halifax Holiday - 7 pm UCC Theatre
December 18	Christmas Assembly
Dec. 19 -Jan. 3	Christmas Holidays

January 8-9	Elementary Girls Volleyball Tournament
January 14	Hot Dog Day
January 15	Elementary Jr. Volleyball Tournament
January 19	Non-Uniform Day
January 20-21	Gr. 9 EQAO Math Assessment
January 23	Senior Volleyball Tournament
January 26	Parent Advisory Council - 6 pm
Jan. 28 - Feb. 2	Exams
February 3	Gr. 8 Open House - 7 pm
February 4	PD Day - No Classes
February 5	2nd Semester Begins

REMINDER

Semester 2 Begins

Friday, February 5, 2016



“Every person needs someone who adores them”.

Kindness Prevails!

Focus more on kindness and less on bullying

Many traditional anti bullying programs focus on reducing the negative behaviours which research states actually heightens the behavior we want to stop. If schools, communities and parents were to focus on teaching kindness and compassion to each other, positive behaviours would occur. People need to learn that kindness is contagious and does create better relationships and friendships among those they encounter.

Volume 2, Issue 5, December 2015

" A simple act of kindness can make a tremendous impact on a person's life. "

Celebrate your holiday season with kindness!

Resources and Support Tools for Classroom Teacher

Promoting Mental Health: Finding a Shared Language (great resource for classroom teachers—elementary and secondary)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Klswi_4yRaE

Did you know???

-Studies have shown that showing a picture that evokes positive emotion (eg. Puppies dancing) before giving students a test – they will have improved test results over those who didn't have the positive emotion experience pre-test.

When positive emotions are in short supply people get stuck yet if positive emotions are in ample supply, people do better,

Practicing positive psychology (complimenting someone else, prayer, smiling , etc). everyday can improve mood in most people, including children and youth.

Ten Foot and Five Foot Rule : Try it and see what happens

The “Ten Foot, Five Foot Rule” is generally a grassroots strategy, for people dealing with people. This can be tried with your staff, students and parents. It is really a simple strategy:

Within ten feet or so of a student or staff or parent, you should acknowledge them with a smile. Within five feet or so of that person, you should acknowledge them verbally. It may be a simple, “Good morning,” or “Great day today,” and end with a smile. The idea is to create a small positive interaction between you and that person. Research states that this approach has actually changed school cultures, workplace environments and some communities. This very simple easy strategy needs practicing with all in the school community. Try it and see the difference!

Questions or comments? Email Chris Preece, Mental Health Lead, chris.preece@st-clair.net



Dancing for kindness does work.