

# The Crusader

## ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

P.O. Box 580, 1930 Wildwood Drive, Bright's Grove ON, N0N 1C0

Phone: (519) 869-4204

Fax: (519) 869-6518

Principal: Leonard Fera

Secretary: Cynthia Cullis



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

*Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey*

<http://www.st-clair.net>

**Director:**

D. Parr

**Superintendent:**

L. Callaghan

**Board Chair:**

J. Van Heck

**St. Michael School**

**Trustees:**

M. Parks, L. Ward

**School Hours**

8:10 am.	School Begins
8:10 - 9:50	Classes
9:50 - 10:05	Recess
10:05 - 10:55	Classes
10:55 - 11:50	Lunch
11:50 - 1:30	Classes
1:30 - 1:45	Recess
1:45 - 2:35	Classes
2:35 pm.	Dismissal

**ALLERGY ALERT!**

We have students at our school with severe, life-threatening allergies to peanuts and/or nuts. Please keep this in mind when sending snacks and lunches to school with your child(ren).

### OCTOBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the staff we would like to thank you for the continued support during the start-up of our school year. September was a productive and busy month with both staff and students settling into their new classrooms and routines. We would like to thank all the families who attended our "Meet the Staff" evening and thank Wes Harding who discussed the topic of Resiliency. The following newsletter and calendar will provide further information about upcoming events.

I would like to thank all of our staff for the diligence and the dedication they have consistently displayed in their continued efforts to assist in the implementation of the SCCDSB's Mission Statement and Strategic Plan. We pray for continued growth in our staff's ability to promote and challenge our students' academic, social, and emotional development.

We would also like to thank Father Vince, Father David and Mrs. Bresette for their continued support in developing our future Catholic leaders.

Kind Regards,

Mr. L. Fera

Principal

**Cake Walk Fundraiser:** Last year our students had the opportunity to make their own rosaries out of clay and this year we will be providing the same opportunity for our Grade 2 students. Our Grade 6 Class will be assisting the Grade 2's with their design but will also be making 25 rosaries to be donated to the St. Joseph's Hospice. Money raised from the Cake Walk will go to funding the costs of making the rosaries to be donated to the Hospice.

**SCCDSB Mission Statement and Strategic Plan**

During the month of October, staff will be reviewing the current SCCDSB's strategic plan and mission statement with the students in meaningful and grade appropriate dialogue. We are hoping to determine new targets for our SIP that will help our students further their faith and 21st Century Learning Skills.

**Thank You!**

At the start of the school year, many notes, forms, and communications go home. Thanks to all of the parents who were so quick to reply to the notes, complete and return the forms, and respond to the communications. Your cooperation is appreciated by many!

**Terry Fox Run/Walk will be held on Wednesday, October 4th**

Thank you to all students and their families who have generously sought donations for the Terry Fox Walk/Run. We will continue to accept donations until Friday, October 13th. Our goal has been 100% participation!

### **School Advisory Council**

On Tuesday, September 12th, the School Advisory Council met in the Library at 6:30 p.m. The SAC would like to extend an invitation to all parents who would like to consider being a part of this collegial group. There are four meetings left for this year and we ask that you consider coming to even one meeting to get an idea of what topics are discussed and how this group works to benefit all students within our school community. Please consider being a member of the SAC, even as an occasional member. Our next School Advisory Council meeting will be Tuesday, November 7th at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

### **Medical Needs and Medication in the School**

Parents, in cooperation with their health care professionals, have the primary responsibility for the health and wellness of their children. At the school, we have a subsidiary responsibility to support students with health needs and chronic health conditions while the students are under our supervision during the day at school.

**Please note that by board policy, school employees cannot administer over the counter medication such as cough syrup, pain medication, ointments and creams. Students are not to bring over the counter medication to school.**

Prescribed medication including puffers, injected medication and epi-pens will be supported in the school by board staff in accordance to Board Policy 3.5 Health Support. Please contact the school prior to sending any type of medication to school. Please refer to this policy on the St. Clair Catholic District School Board site under the Board tab on the top of the Board page. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school office and we will be happy to support you.

### **Apostolate of the Rosary**

As per the past few years, a group of volunteers will continue to come to the school monthly to instruct and pray the Rosary with the students. Each student will receive a Rosary. All volunteers have had training prior to the school visits. The JK to Grade 5 classes have a 20 minute presentation focusing on one decade of the Rosary and one mystery of the Rosary. Grades 6 to 8 have a 30 minute presentation focusing on five mysteries with meditations. We look forward to beginning this program in October which is traditionally the month of the Rosary.

### **Allergies**

Nut allergies are a serious concern for the St. Michael Catholic School community. We have several students with life threatening allergies. Therefore, we ask students, parents and staff to refrain from bringing foods that may contain any form of nut within them. We would also ask that all community members not send any "peanut safe" alternatives that may look and smell like peanut butter to the school as the staff do not have the time or expertise to determine what contains nuts.

**Cross Country:** Our Cross Country team has begun training for their season and will compete on **Saturday, October 14th** at Canatara Park. We would like to thank the team and their coaches for working hard and representing our school.

Coaches: Mrs. Keys, Mrs. Medeiros

### **Volleyball**

Both our senior teams have begun their respective seasons and we would like to thank our coaching staff for supporting our teams: **Senior Girls' Team** Coach: Mr. Nead  
**Senior Boys' Team** Coaches: Mr. Cardy

### **Milk Program**

Our milk program is up and running. Tickets are distributed weekly. Any funds raised through this program will be used to support the purchase of classroom supplies for the school.

### **Thanksgiving School Mass Celebrations**

We will be celebrating mass on Friday, October 13th at 9:30 a.m. Mrs. Kingston's Grade 5 class will be leading this mass and all are asked to join us!

### **Reminder**

Friday, October 27th is a Professional Activity Day.

---

### **Picture Day is Coming!**

- **Mark your calendar for our School Picture Day on Thursday, October 19th**
- Picture Day Order forms will be sent home with all students.
- Please review the information form and send it back with your child on Picture Day. All students will be photographed for school service products. Proofs will be sent home for you to preview before you buy.
- Watch for exciting online order opportunities when you receive your proofs!
- Be ready to bring your smiles on picture day!
- For Tips on preparing for photo day visit [lifetouch.ca](http://lifetouch.ca) Questions call Lifetouch at [1-866-457-8212](tel:1-866-457-8212) or email: [guestservices@lifetouch.ca](mailto:guestservices@lifetouch.ca)

### ***October School Newsletter Insert***

As parents/guardians, it is important that you understand and support the role of the principal and Board staff as it relates to classroom organization in your school.

As you may be aware, the provincial government regulates the number of students in classrooms. In elementary schools, class-size caps are set by provincial directive for individual grades; and, in addition, a system-wide average must be maintained across the entire district. Therefore, classroom loadings in your school have to be viewed from a system perspective, not just at the local level. It is also important to note that provincial funding is tied to compliance with this regulation. In other words, if we don't meet the provincial directive there is a financial penalty, which affects our Board – and by extension, our students.

The result of this directive is that combined grades are common across the system and across the province, as a means of ensuring that boards are compliant with the provincial regulation. Unfortunately, there is a common perception among parents that combined grades are detrimental to learning; or, that it is a reflection of students' abilities – that is, in a Grade 2-3 split, the Grade 2s are above average learners and the Grade 3s are below average. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Every classroom in every school meets the needs of every student, whether it is a combined grade or a straight grade. Further, a great deal of time and effort goes into decisions which determine the loading of classrooms. These decisions are ultimately made by the principal, in consultation with Board administrative staff, and preliminary class lists are developed over the summer. However, occasionally one or two new students on the first day of school can push a class size over the threshold, which creates a domino effect that can impact every grade in the school. Sometimes, because of the mandatory system-wide averages, enrolment issues at another school in the district can have an effect on the classroom organization at your school.

When large-scale classroom reorganizations occur, the principal and teaching staff make every effort to accommodate the changes with as little disruption as possible. Students changing classrooms are always given a warm welcome by their new teacher and their new classmates.

Thank you again, for understanding and supporting the efforts of your principal and the school staff, in this important matter. It is our commitment to you that, although we must always strive to meet this provincial regulation, we will always do so having regard for the best interests of our students and staff.

Have a great school year!

Sincerely,  
Dan Parr  
Director of Education

### ***Focus on Faith – October School Newsletter Insert***

*The secret to happiness is to live moment by moment and to thank God for what  
He is sending us each day in His Goodness  
St. Gianna Beretta Molla*

---

It is appropriate to highlight this quote from St. Gianna during the month of October, when Canada celebrates **Thanksgiving**. Gratitude is a great theme in our faith. The word *Eucharist* means “Thanksgiving” and so, every Mass we celebrate is a testament to the value of GRATITUDE.

When we live a life of gratitude, we start realizing that we have what we need and become content with what we have. When we do this, we need less, consume less and waste less. It is an essential value if we are to care for the earth and her inhabitants. Cultivating gratitude can help to shape the values of Institutions, schools and families.

One of the goals found in our Board’s Strategic Plan shows this value on an institutional level:  
*We all care for God’s creation by managing and reducing our carbon footprint in measurable ways.*

On a school level, one might see the influence of gratitude in:

*Prayers for creation*

*An environment club/ Good Neighbour Program*

*A food drive to feed neighbours.*

On a family level, this value can be seen in these actions:

*Providing garbage free lunches*

*Buying modest amounts of clothing*

*Repairing items rather than replacing them*

*Not buying the latest technology just because*

On a parish level, this is seen in ways that include:

*Celebration of mass*

*St. Vincent De Paul Clubs*

*Catholic Women’s League and Knights of Columbus efforts.*

Gratitude is an essential value of our faith and therefore part of the culture of our schools each day and month. Every day is Thanksgiving for a person or community of faith. Let’s try to remember that when we celebrate Thanksgiving this year.

God bless your celebrations.

Margaret Palmer

System Chaplaincy Leader

---



