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Superintendent: L. Demers



Principal: Mrs. L. Gibson
Secretary: Mrs. T. Adams



Board Chair: J. VanHeck
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“Do small things with great love” – Mother Teresa

Principal’s Message

September 2018

Welcome back to a new school year! It is with pleasure that I have the privilege of being a St. Elizabeth Charger once again. I'd like to welcome our new Charger families; as well as, Mrs. Pokornik joining us as Educational Assistant, Mrs. Mitchell from maternity leave and Mr. Watterworth in our 6/7 classroom.

There are many exciting adventures awaiting our students this year. We are building on our work with the Golden Rule. We'll deepen our faith through examining the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations. These expectations define our purpose as a Catholic educators and provide a compass for our students as they develop through their elementary and secondary education. We are called to nourish the giftedness of each individual and to protect the dignity of the whole person. We work, live and believe in an atmosphere of inclusiveness and we are taught to cherish our role as global stewards. Each month instead of the Golden Rule, the focus will be on a different Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectation. Please see the next page for a detailed description of each Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectation.

Kindness Rocks! campaign bumps up our work with the Golden Rule over the past few years and aligns with the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations. Healthy wellbeing research continues to show that a proactive approach such as kindness is a significant contributor to positive wellbeing. Kindness Rocks! builds on our work with kindness lanyard in June. Each student creates a rock with a saying or quote or picture of kindness. The rocks are housed on the religion table in the classroom and when a student receives/notices a kind act/words (either done to them or to a fellow classmate) they take a rock from the table and give it to the student who did the kind act as an acknowledgment. From then on, the student with the rock can pass their rock on to someone else. With a rock for everyone, it's possible more acts of kindness can be recognized/acknowledged within a classroom. A bulletin board will be created in the hallway that will allow for acknowledgment of outside acts of kindness & to keep the messaging visible for students and families. Our Wellness Team will work with students to lead activities to encourage students to show kindness.

Thank you for your financial support last year for our many initiatives in raising funds for student activities & excursions as well as our Outdoor Play Space Upgrades. Thanks to vigorous participation in the variety of activities we were able to install a Gaga Ball pit in the junior/intermediate area, install a sandbox in the primary end, install new primary soccer posts more appropriate for our youngest learners and supplement educational excursions. We look forward to participating in some new activities this year as well as some family favorites.

We are looking forward to connecting with families throughout the year. Please take advantage of every opportunity. The staff and myself encourage open communication with families. Please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for choosing the gift of Catholic education for your child(ren).








Sincerely,
Mrs. Gibson
Principal

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Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations

	<p>A Discerning Believer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I believe that God is an awesome God ○ I believe in and have faith in God ○ I believe that God is always with us ○ I believe that we can talk to God anytime and anywhere, through prayer ○ I believe in the stories in the bible ○ I believe in the stories of Jesus' life, death and resurrection ○ I believe in the Church community, in celebrating Mass and in the Seven Sacraments ○ I believe in forgiveness
	<p>An Effective Communicator</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I speak write and listen as Jesus would want me to ○ I care about others and speak up for them ○ I am honest ○ I think carefully before I react or speak ○ I respect all people and their languages ○ I listen to the Word of God
	<p>A Reflective, Creative & Holistic Thinker</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I have thoughts and opinions that matter ○ I make good choices ○ I have hope for the future ○ I solve problems with knowledge, understanding and prayer ○ I know we are all equal
	<p>A Self-Directed, Responsible, Life-Long Learner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I use my gifts and talents given to me by God ○ I always do my best ○ I build on my strengths and know my weaknesses ○ I set goals ○ I accept change ○ I am proud of the good things I do ○ I am thankful for the gifts of others
	<p>A Collaborative Contributor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I cooperate with others in all that I do ○ I value everyone's work ○ I respect and listen to others ○ I think of others before myself ○ I follow rules of fair play ○ I work hard in school so that I can build my community and make it a better place
	<p>A Caring Family Member</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I love God, myself and my family ○ I care about and respect my "family" at school, at church, in my community and the world ○ I care about and respect God's creation and everything in it
	<p>A Responsible Citizen</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I am a peacemaker ○ I am fair ○ I follow rules and do my share ○ I help the poor and care for people in need ○ I stand up for what is right ○ I know that all life is precious ○ I respect and protect the world and all that is in it

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HOLY REDEEMER PARISH CLUSTER SEPTEMBER NEWS

Attention all grade two parents!

This is a very special year for you and your child as he/she prepare for and receives the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist for the first time. A special meeting will held this month for all parents. This year we are offering two dates for the information meeting: **Thursday, September 27 at 7 PM at Our Lady Help of Christians parish centre OR Saturday, September 29 at 10 AM at Sacred Heart parish hall. It is only necessary to attend one of these meetings. Please watch for more information from the parish to come home with your child very soon!**

Catholic School Advisory Council

First Meeting of the Year: Monday October 1 at
6:30p.m.

A School Council Parent Self Nomination Form is included with this newsletter. If you would like to declare yourself for an elected position (Chair, Secretary) or if you would like to be a member at large please fill out the form and return to school. All parents are welcome as we will vote and establish council on this night. Visit <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/council/council02.pdf> for a description of roles and responsibilities.

Physical Education

Please ensure your child has proper footwear for physical education classes (non marking running shoes for the gym). For safety reasons and maximum participation, flip flops, sandals and crocs are not suitable for physical education classes both indoors and outdoors. Also, students in grades 5-8 need a change of clothing.

ABSENCES & LATES

Please call the school before 9:05 a.m. if your child/children will be absent or late. For your convenience, an answering machine will take calls 24/7. If you leave a message, *please state the reason why* your child/children is/are absent. If they are absent more than one day, please call the school every day or send a note indicating the reason prior to their absence. If it is more convenient to email Tracy please do so at tracy.adams@st-clair.net thank you for your support!



Co-Curricular and Sports Scene

September is a very busy month for co-curricular activities.

Junior Volleyball – Boys Coaches – Mrs. Dekoning, Mr. Watterworth
– Girls Coaches – Mrs. Lalonde

Cross Country – Ms. Quinlan & Mrs. Gibson

Robotics – Ms. Quinlan, Mr. Watterworth

We thank these staff coaches and staff leads who contribute their time and talent to

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work with the students. For all parents who will contribute to these activities by transporting children to and from locations at various venues, please remember to complete a Volunteer Driver form. It can be obtained from the office or sent home with your child. Insurance coverage is not mandatory for students who participate in extra-curricular sports activities this year but is recommended.

Healthy Snack Program

Another change this year is the implementation of the Healthy Snack Program. We are evolving the breakfast program into a healthy snack provided to all students (if they wish to participate) during the first learning block. Volunteers will prepare the fruit, vegetables, protein and our Wellness team will disperse the containers into the classroom just prior to announcements. Students will self-regulate if they need something to eat to help maintain their stamina for learning. We thank the Lend-A- Hand program, funded by OSNP, for helping to facilitate this program for us. Donations in Mr. Burgess' memory will also help support the program. Donations from families are always welcomed. "A Blank Envelope" will come home various times throughout the year if families would like to make a monetary donation.

Responsible Use of Technology

The St. Clair Catholic District School Board's policy addressing expectations for the acceptable use of technology was updated in April 2013. The policy applies to all trustees, administrators, academic and support staff, students, parents, volunteers, visitors and other persons in relation to Board computer equipment, networks as well as personal devices while on Board property or in relation to Board business or Board-related activities. To review the policy and procedures document go to <http://www.st-clair.net/policies.aspx> and click on *Responsible Use of Technology* under Administration.

Family & School Open House Wednesday Sept. 12

Families are invited to an open house to meet your child's teacher and have your child introduce you to their learning environment. Drop – in style beginning at 5:00 p.m. and wrapping up 6:30 p.m. Spirit Wear samples will also be on display this night and orders taken for those interested.

Home & School Communication

After this month, news will be posted on our Facebook page and the school website. We'll continue to update the Google calendar. A paper calendar will be sent home each month; however, please remember the Google calendar (accessed through the school website) will always have the most up-to-date information. Another advantage to following the Google Parent calendar is information is posted for future months. Parents can also follow St. Elizabeth on Twitter & Instagram.

Through collaborative discussions between staff and Catholic School Advisory Council, we have decided to pilot a "planner less" year. Planners are expensive (\$7/student). Planners

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were not always utilized most effectively to justify the cost. Students from Year 1 K – Gr. 6 will have notebooks where communication between home and school is recorded. Students in grade 7 & 8 will use electronic means of keeping organized –to be negotiated between the students and their teacher OR they can purchase their own agenda of choice. All classroom teachers will send home instructions for apps such as Remind. The night of the Open House there will be an opportunity to get assistance to sign up if needed. I strongly encourage parents to sign up for the opportunities provided. A St. Elizabeth Family Handbook includes information about St. Elizabeth and information from the board level.

Keeping Our Schools Safe

The St. Clair Catholic District School Board has installed remotely controlled door locking systems, including cameras and intercoms, at all elementary schools. Parents and visitors are required to identify themselves at the door and sign in at the office as they enter the building. It is important to note that there may be times when our school secretary will be away from her desk for a moment and visitors may have to wait. Alternatively, parents and visitors should consider the following:

1. Call and let us know when you are coming.
2. Let us know if you want to pick your child up so that we can arrange to have him/her ready for you. Ideally, send a note to your child's teacher.
3. Come during the times when the front door is not locked, but be sure to report to the office.

Thank you in advance for your patience and your support. The security of our schools and safety of our students and staff is always

Food Days & Milk

Pizza & subs are available for our hot food lunch orders; as well as we exploring other vendors that meet the Food & Beverage Policy to offer more opportunities to provide variety for lunch while raising funds for student activities and excursions. Milk continues to be available daily. Pizza will be available for \$2.00/slice. Milk will be available for \$.75. All profits are used for student activities & services (i.e. subsidized bussing costs for special events, outdoor play equipment, classroom materials, etc.). Look for an **order form** to come home in the coming weeks. CSAC will continue to sponsor food days throughout the year as well. I'd thank the parents who organize and help with food days. It is very IMPORTANT money and orders are in the office by the due date. The vendors rely on that date.

On the Horizon...

Fresh from the Farm fundraiser

Spirit Wear Sales – new designs & some favourites

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