

St. Peter Canisius Catholic School October 2017 Newsletter



Director: D. Parr
Superintendent: L. Callaghan

Principal: C. Lambert

Board Chair: J. Van Heck
Trustee: M. Roop

Thanksgiving

The year has turned its circle,
The seasons come and go.
The harvest all is gathered in
And chilly north winds blow.

Orchards have shared their treasures,
The fields, their yellow grain,
So open wide the doorway ---
Thanksgiving comes again!



From the Parish

As Canadians we celebrate Thanksgiving in October. Even though we may have our challenges and adversities, which ultimately help us grow in our faith, it is important to have an "attitude of Gratitude". There is a real joy that comes from thanking God and possessing a grateful heart for the many people and blessings we have in our lives that we otherwise tend to take for granted. Keeping in our thoughts and prayers, for those who are less fortunate and are suffering from many ailments in our world; earth quakes, hurricanes, sickness, persecution and civil unrest. May we continue to be thankful for God's many Blessings in our communities.



Deacon John Lammers

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Students,

October is a time to give thanks for our many blessings. We are thankful for the families in our school community and for the beautiful community of Watford. I am especially thankful and feel truly blessed to be a part of this school community. I very much appreciate your support.

We've enjoyed a great start to the school year and thank you for your support. Students have settled nicely into their new classrooms and the staff is working diligently to provide an excellent education for your children. We will continue to work together to look for ways to improve the learning of your children ... academically, physically, spiritually and emotionally ... so that they will continue to learn what it means to "live like Jesus".

In this newsletter we will share the many events that we have planned at the school during the month of October, the events that will be taking place within the parish cluster, and will also provide information with board newsletter inserts that will enrich the learning of your children. We thank you for your support in our efforts to provide a well-rounded education for your child. *Please note our "Save the date" section – it will provide advance notice of events that will take place in upcoming months.*

Our Board Mission is as follows: **"Walking together in Christ's light with parish and family, we are called to build a safe and inclusive Catholic learning community and to serve as partners in the formation of lifelong learners by: living our faith, promoting educational achievement and innovation, fostering stewardship, leadership and social justice"**. We will strive to work in the spirit of this mission as we plan for the school year.



Mrs. C. Lambert

Terry Fox Walk

Our Terry Fox Walk took place on Thursday, September 28 at Centennial Park.

We thank you for your "Toonie for Terry" donations which will be given to the Canadian Cancer Society.



Thanks also to Mr. Ross and his class for organizing this day and for providing an informative and meaningful assembly for our students.

Cash On Line

We are still encouraging parents and families to sign up for "Cash on Line".

We have all the sign up information at the office and the parents who are using the system seem very satisfied with the convenience. Credit Cards will be linked to the cash on line service if you would like to use that function.



Grocery Cards

We continue to sell grocery cards as a primary fundraiser for our school. Every dollar you spend at the grocery store gives us 4% proceeds. We encourage you to stop at the school and purchase these cards before you head into Foodland. Every dollar counts.

Please note that the profit from grocery card sales helps to fund school trips. Please consider using these cards when you are shopping. Thanks.



Spirit Day – Happy Halloween

The October Spirit day (October 31st) will be linked with Halloween Fun. Students will be encouraged to wear –black, white and orange.



Wacky Hair Allowed !!!

Volleyball Season

The Sr. Girls and Boys volleyball teams are in mid-season and both teams are working very hard to represent our school on the sport front. Thank you to coaches, parents, drivers and the team for your dedication to SPC. Jr. Volleyball will commence immediately after the Sr. season finishes.



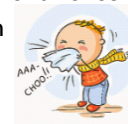
Casual Fridays

You may have noticed that the staff dress in a casual manner on many Fridays. Through donations made on these Fridays, we are supporting a number of charities affiliated with our local community.



Health and Safety

We continue to ask that all staff, students and families practice good hand washing and cough etiquette as we enter our second month of school. We continue to take direction from Public Health. We want all to enjoy school, home and work. Thank you for your co-operation.



Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention Week begins October 8 and runs until October 14. We will be conducting a random fire drill and the Watford Community Fire Service will be visiting. Fire Safety presentations will take place on Monday, October 16th and students will be given some fire safety instructions. We thank the fire department for their service to the school community.

School Advisory Council

Thanks to those who joined us on Monday, September 18 for our first Parent Council Meeting.

We had a great turn out with lively discussion. A special invitation to all parents and especially to our JK parents and those who are new to the school to join us at our next meeting on **Monday, November 13**

Please join us and help us plan activities that will enhance the learning and fun of our students and put smiles on their faces.



Cross Country Meet

The Annual Cross Country Field meet is on Saturday, October 14th. Mr. Sottosanti, Ms. Wright & Ms. Varsava have been diligently practicing with the team to help them prepare for their runs. If your child has indicated that he/she would like to take part in this event, you will receive a letter outlining all the details. For any questions about the meet - please call the school.

Education Quality and
Accountability Office



Grade 4 and 7 students will receive their respective primary and junior assessment results this week. We are proud of our students' achievements in all areas. Much of this is due to the diligence of parents, teachers and students. Hard work, perseverance and a commitment to doing their best all support students in achieving their personal best. As a staff we are examining the results in addition to our own data as we set our school goals for the current academic year. Our goal, like that of the province, is to move from "great to excellent". Our goal is always to improve on what we have already accomplished and to focus on areas that need more attention.

Interested parents may view school, board and provincial results at <http://www.eqao.com/results>.

Tuesday, October 10

Thanksgiving Liturgy prepared by Grade 6/7

Our Lady Help of Christians Church at 9:00 am

Thursday, October 25

Rosary

Our Lady Help of Christians Church at 1:00 pm.



Magazine Fundraiser

Our school will be raising funds for a new piano through a magazine drive. Your child will be bringing home a catalogue containing order forms and an outline of the fundraiser on Friday, October 6. Please return your completed orders by Monday, October 30. A representative from QSP will be at the school on Wednesday, October 11 to explain the program and prizes that can be won. We thank our Parent Council for initiating this endeavour, and Jill Turner for organizing the event for us. Your participation and support in this event is greatly appreciated. More information coming!!!!

Meet the Teacher

Thanks to everyone who attended our Meet the Teacher Night on September 25. It was wonderful to see such a large turnout. We have a strong parent community at St. Peter Canisius and are looking forward to working with you to enhance the learning and experiences of our students.



Sting Game

We are very pleased to offer you the opportunity to attend a Sarnia Sting Game with your school Community. Tickets will soon be available for the 2:05 game on December 3 against the Oshawa Generals.

This game is the Teddy Bear Toss Game and our school has been invited to sing the national anthem at the game. Our Echo Choir will be leading the group singing and we know that their performance will truly reflect our very talented students in a positive light. Students who are interested in singing at the game are welcome to work with the choir during the next few months.

Our students will also be able to help with the collection of the bears after they are thrown onto the ice. This will be a fun activity for our students and a great way for them to contribute to this community event. It is possible, but not yet definite, that Skating with the Sting will also be available after the game. We will keep you posted when this is confirmed.

Information regarding ticket sales will be available in the very near future. Join us for this fun event. We look forward to a fun day and a wonderful community building opportunity.

If you would like to donate stuffed toys to be thrown during the game, we would be happy to “toss” them for you.



Awards

During the month of September, we focused on “Self Control”. Staff identified students in their classrooms who demonstrated self-control during the month of September in their dealings with others.

Congratulations to the following students:

Self-Control: Alex M. Quinn B. Keegan T. Blake M. Ava S. Beau J. Alivia L. Brianna M. Gregory S.

We will once again use our virtues bulletin board to recognize our virtue winners each month. Winners will also be recognized at our school Mass each month.

During the month of October, we will focus on the virtue of kindness. This will be reflected during classroom teaching and in the activities and stories that are taught during the month.

Professional Development Day

The next scheduled professional activities day is scheduled for **Friday, October 27th**. There is no school for children that day.



- October 4 Fall picture day
October 6 Magazine drive begins – brochures will be sent home
October 9 Thanksgiving Day – no school
October 10 Mass @ 9:00 am
October 11 Magazine drive kick off assembly @ 11:00 am
October 11 Pizza day
October 14 Cross country meet @ Canatara Park
October 16 Fire presentations
October 18 Student wellbeing conference @ St. Anne
October 18 Grade 7 immunizations
October 23 Bus evacuation drills and safety presentations
October 25 Rosary @ 1:00 pm
October 27 PA Day
October 30 Magazine drive ends – please return all orders to the school
October 31 Spirit Day – wear black/orange/white
- November 1 Gr. 7's to St. Pat's
November 7 Mass @ 9:00 am
November 8 Pizza Day
November 10 Remembrance Day Liturgy @ 10:30 am
November 13 Parent Council meeting @ 6:30 pm
November 15 Fall picture retake day
November 20 Reports go home
November 23 Interviews
November 24 PA Day
- December 3 Sting Teddy Bear Toss Game @ 2:05 pm – our students will sing anthem and collect bears
December 5 Mass @ 9:00 am
December 6 Pizza day
December 8 Gr. 8 Faith Day @ St. Pat's
December 20 Christmas dinner & skating
December 21 Christmas concert (same show will presented twice – once in the morning and once in the afternoon)
December 21 Book Fair
December 22 Christmas Carol sing led by Echo and Dance Team
December 22 Last school day – Merry Christmas

MARK
DATE
IN YOUR CALENDAR

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

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.

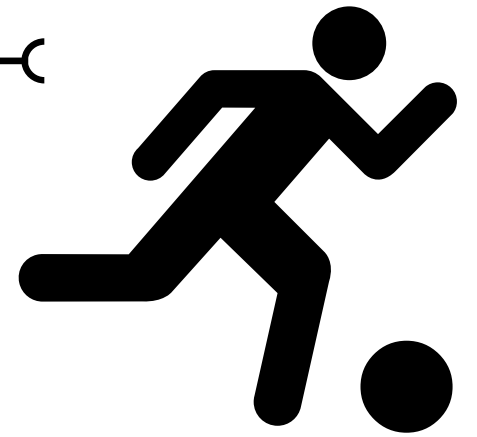
Thank you again, for understanding and supporting the efforts of your principal and the school staff, in this important matter. It is our commitment to you that, although we must always strive to meet this provincial regulation, we will always do so having regard for the best interests of our students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

Have a great school year!

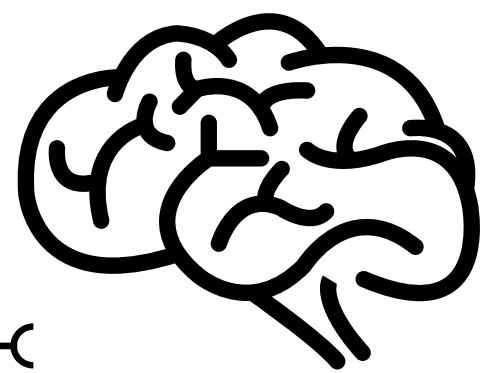
Sincerely,

Dan Parr

Please join us on Oct. 25 & 26, 6:30-8pm



CAN PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROMOTE EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT?



Hear from Dr. Dean
Kriellaars' about his leading
research and strategies on:



Faculty at School of
Medical Rehabilitation
with research in
physical literacy,
exercise, and more.

- the ABC's of physical movement
- how physical literacy can develop self-regulation
- the importance of physical activity for kids (and us all)

OCTOBER 25 @ ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, SARNIA
OCTOBER 26 @ WINSTON CHURCHILL PUBLIC SCHOOL, CHATHAM

REGISTER AT:

[HTTPS://GOO.GL/FORMS/NYASTXTWJIUBOGBW1](https://goo.gl/forms/NYASTXTWJIUBOGBW1)