



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

## St. Peter Canisius Catholic School January 2018 Newsletter



Director: D. Crawford  
Superintendent: S. Johnson

Principal: C. Lambert

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



Dear Parents,

Happy New Year and Welcome Back! We hope that this newsletter finds you and your family happy and healthy in 2018. As we start back to school, the staff of St. Peter Canisius School will continue to hold high expectations for students. January is a great time of year to set new goals and motivate your children to reach their fullest potential. We will continue to focus on small group reading instruction and problem solving in Mathematics. We are also working to help our students develop a growth mindset and are providing leadership opportunities for our students through a variety of school activities.

December was a busy month at the school. It was wonderful to see such a large crowd at our Christmas concerts to enjoy the various talents of our students. Special thanks to Mrs. Lobsinger for her hard work with the students. We enjoyed fun activities such as our Pajama and Ugly Sweater Day. Our Christmas dinner was amazing! A special and heartfelt thanks to all the parents, under the leadership of Louise Rombouts and Gina Sanders, who served up our wonderful meal. A huge thank you goes out to Todd and Sandra White and our friends at Brookside who prepared the meal for us at such an affordable cost and made the event possible. Thanks also to Jegs for donating buns and butter for our meal. Drinks and additional meal costs were funded using money from our student activity fund. Echo and our Dance group led us in our Christmas carol sing-a-long. We thank them for their leadership. Special thanks to Ms. Wright, Mrs. Soetemans, Mrs. White, Mrs. Van Lieshout and Mrs. Murray for volunteering their time to work with these groups. The acts of kindness that we have experienced throughout the month of December made December a month of many wonderful memories. A sincere and heartfelt thank you to all of you and God bless you for your generosity.

Thanks, also, for contributing to the various collections that took place in December. Your food donations made their way to people in our community who needed them. We are very thankful to our school community for their generosity. Thanks to all of you who supported this cause.

St. Peter Canisius was well represented at the Sarnia Sting game on December 3. Our students did an amazing job singing the anthem ... I am still receiving compliments from people at the arena about how wonderful they sounded. It was heartwarming to witness the many teddy bears flying to the ice and to watch our students help with the clean up. We had more than 100 at the game from the school community to cheer the Sting on to victory. It was a wonderful day. We are looking forward to repeating this event next year and hope that even more of you can join us. Thanks for your incredible support.

I feel truly blessed to serve as the principal of St. Peter Canisius ... this is a wonderful school community. Thank you so much for all your acts of kindness and support during the first four months of this school year. I look forward to many more exciting memories in 2018.

### Our New Year Wish for You

This year may you be blessed with the things that money cannot buy.  
FAITH to move the obstacles that life puts in your path.  
HOPE that empowers optimism and endurance when the days are dark and dreary.  
And most of all, the security and comfort of LOVE that makes life and living possible.



### Message from Deacon John

Welcome to 2018! When we begin a New Year we should use this as an opportunity to recognize a chance for new beginnings. As we look back over the past year, we may notice some areas in our life that we could have forgiven sooner, or loved deeper, or spoken a more encouraging word. We can ask the Holy Spirit to help us discern our goals and plans for 2018 and help guide our actions and reactions, so we can be more like Christ with our encounters with those we love, and with those we're trying to love.

May you have a Blessed, Faith filled New Year.



### Virtue Winners

Congratulations to the following students who were selected by their teachers as having demonstrated Christmas Spirit and the virtue of Joy in their dealings with others during the month of December.

**Joy: Kacie P. Claire E. Shannen L. Caleb M. Addisen J. Joey H. Cassidy D. Kaitlyn VDN. and Eva V.**

**Christmas Spirit: Mason K. Katherine T. Mercedes H. Tyler v. Tom H. Tanner R. Ryan M. Natalie W. and Faye A.**

### Kindergarten Registration for September 2018



**kinderSTART** is a special one day event for parents to register their children for Kindergarten. It's also a great opportunity for parents and children to learn more about school together!

At St. Peter Canisius Catholic School, **kinderSTART** will be held on Wednesday, February 28th from 9:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

The program is offered in partnership with the St. Clair Catholic District School Board and our Best Start community partners. Through **kinderSTART** children and parents have an early opportunity to visit the school, register for Kindergarten and meet staff in preparation for Full Day Kindergarten in the fall of 2018.

We also welcome all younger siblings (18 months to 3 years) to attend. Our community partners will be there to offer lots of valuable information and support.

Registration packages will be sent home prior to the **kinderSTART** date, with siblings or through Best Start. These will be sent to our prospective students who we know will be eligible for Kindergarten in September of 2018. If you know of anyone who has a child who is eligible for JK in September of 2018, please ask them to notify the school so that they can pick up their package. They are also welcome to attend our **kinderSTART** day.

### Parent Advisory Council



Our next Parent Council meeting is scheduled for January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 pm in the library. We are always grateful for new members' input. Mark your calendars.

We look forward to seeing you there.

### Bus Cancellation

Please remember that if the busses in Zone 1 or Zone 4 are cancelled due to severe winter weather conditions, St. Peter Canisius School is still open. Information regarding bussing is announced on the local radio stations as well as on the website: [schoolbusinfo.com](http://schoolbusinfo.com).



## High School Information Session



Grade 8 students have a lot to do to prepare for high school. Many decisions have to be made by parents and students over the next few months. These decisions are not easy. To help you make informed decisions, St. Pat's has organized the following sessions for both parents and students:

St. Pat's will be holding a Family Open House and information session on **Thursday, Feb. 15.**

Grade 8 students will attend an orientation session at the school in the morning of that day, and will have a tour of the building. Lunch will be provided.

Parents and students are also invited to attend a welcome and information session at St. Pat's which will take place on the evening of Thursday, Feb. 15 from 6:00 – 8:30 pm. More information regarding this opportunity will be available in our February newsletter.

This opportunity is not just for the Grade 8 parents ... the information session is open to all families, regardless of the age of the children, to visit the school and to become more aware of the wonderful opportunities that St. Pat's has available for your children.

We hope that you will be able to take advantage of this opportunity to visit your Catholic High School.

## Grocery Cards

We would like to thank everyone for their continued support in purchasing these cards. This is a major fundraiser for our school and provides many items to support the students in the classrooms and outside of the classroom that they would otherwise not be able to have (i.e. learning materials, play and sports equipment, library books, class trips etc.). Certificates are available from Dina at the school – 876-3018



## Board Office News

Our school board has a new director. We congratulate Mr. Dan Parr on his retirement and wish him many happy and restful years as he begins this new stage in his life. We welcome Deb Crawford as our new director and Scott Johnson as our new Superintendent. We look forward to working with them in the New Year. We are blessed to have such strong leaders in our system.



**ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

*Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey*

## St. Clair Catholic District School Board Mission Statement

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 life-long learners by:

- Living our faith;
- Promoting educational achievement and innovation;
- Fostering stewardship, leadership, and social justice

## Thank you for your generosity.

From Dina, the staff and myself – thank you so much for all the cards, gifts, treats and Christmas wishes that we received during the last few days of December.

We truly appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity.



## Canned Good Collection

Our canned good collection for Christmas 2017 was a great success. We nearly doubled our goal of 500 cans. The constructions made in individual classes reflected our Christmas theme very well. Mr. Ross's class created a hearth and Christmas tree. Mr. Sosttosanti's students made Santa's sleigh at the North Pole, Mr. Symeonakis' class was very patriotic – the Parliament Buildings and an inuksuk. Mrs. Brown's class made a literary connection with the novel they are reading. Mrs. Timmerman's class built a super deluxe two-leveled fireplace. Mrs. Murray and Mrs. Wilcox created traditional nativities and an Advent wreath. Our grand winners were the creators of the Polar Express, Miss Varsava, Ms. Wright & Mrs. Van Lieshout's classes.



## New Piano

After much discussion and consultation with staff, we have decided to purchase a higher quality keyboard instead of a clavivova. The main reason for the change in plan was a keyboard would be easier to move around the school and up and down the stairs. There is also a significant cost difference – we will purchase the keyboard in January using our profit from the magazine drive, which was \$1400.00. We thank you for your support of that fundraiser and are pleased that we reached our financial goal.



Family literacy programs focus on parents as the means to improve the reading and writing skills of all family members. By reading to children and engaging in fun literacy activities, parents are actively keeping their own skills sharp while at the same time strengthening the relationship between the family which, in turn, encourages lifelong learning.

Family Literacy Day® is a national awareness initiative created by ABC Life Literacy Canada in 1999 and held annually on January 27 to raise awareness of the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family.

Taking time every day to read or do a learning activity with children is crucial to a child's development, improving a child's literacy skills dramatically, and can help a parent improve their skills as well.

Visit [abclifeliteracy.ca/family-literacy](http://abclifeliteracy.ca/family-literacy) for more information.

To celebrate this day, we invite our students to dress as their favourite literary character on January 26. Thanks for your support.



**The Community of St. Patrick's Catholic High School Invites Parents and Students from all Sarnia-Lambton Catholic Elementary Schools to our Annual**

**JK to 12**  
**FAMILY OPEN HOUSE**

**St. Patrick's Catholic High School**

1001 The Rapids Parkway, Sarnia

**Welcome to the Fighting Irish Family**

*Learn more about our strong Catholic education and programming.*

**Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Student Open House**  
**9:30 am – 12:15 pm**

- Information and activities on site
- Lunch to be provided
- Please call to register if not a student in our Catholic Partner School.

**Family Open House**  
**6:00 – 8:30 pm**

- 6:00 pm – Welcome and information session in the cafeteria for parents and student
- 6:45 pm – information and activities in gym and tours of facility for parents and students of all JK – 12 families

Students in our Catholic elementary partner schools will receive additional information in their home schools.

Other interested parents and students should contact:

Lori Gray 519-332-3976, Ext. 20410

Student Services Secretary [lori.gray@sccdsb.net](mailto:lori.gray@sccdsb.net)

St. Patrick's Catholic High School 1001 The Rapids Parkway, Sarnia



**January Dates to Remember**

Jan. 9	Confirmation Preparation mtg. 7:00 pm OLHC
Jan. 10	Pizza Day
Jan. 16	School Mass at 9:00 am Mrs. Murray's class prepares
Jan. 19	Grade 8 Confirmation Retreat
Jan. 22	Parent Council at 6:30 pm
Jan. 26	Character Day
Jan. 27	Family Literacy Day



**February Dates of Interest**

Feb. 2	PA Day
Feb. 7	Pizza Day
Feb. 13	Grade 8 Graduation & SK Celebration Pictures
Feb. 14	Ash Wednesday Mass @ 9:00 am Mrs. Brown's class prepares
Feb. 15	Grade 8 visit to St. Pat's for the morning
Feb. 15	St. Pat's Open House from 6:00 – 8:30 pm for any families in any grades who are interested in touring St. Pat's to learn more about your Catholic High School
Feb. 20	Report Cards go home
Feb. 22	Student Led Interviews
Feb. 28	Kinderstart from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm

## Message from our Chaplaincy Leader

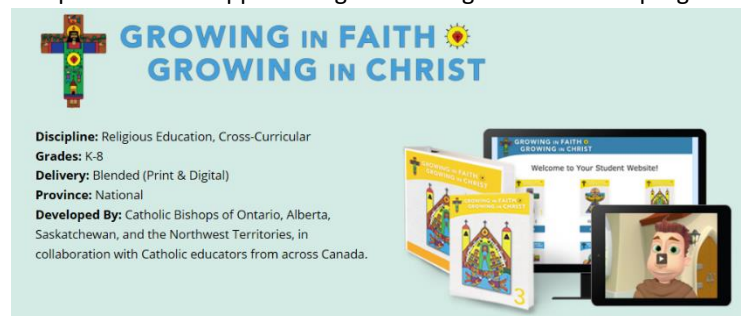
Happy New Year everyone. I trust the Christmas HOLYdays were good to you and I pray that this year will bring renewed faith, hope and love to your families. I am always strengthened by the Christmas season. Just knowing the story of Jesus' birth into a humble family bolsters my hope for my family. Knowing that Jesus came among the chaos -of unexpected pregnancy, last minute travel, birth in a manger and no room at the inn- helps me to trust that Christ is with me now no matter what circumstance the new year will bring.

It is my delight to keep you updated on the faith formation tools in our schools. The Elementary Curriculum Consultant at our board (currently Kim Fitzmorris) has been working hard to familiarize our system with new Religious Education resources.

Pearson Publishing is creating a new program. This resource is being developed with Canadian Catholic educators and the Bishops of Ontario, Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories. Our school board has been purchasing these yearly and will continue until we have all of them. We currently have purchased kindergarten – grade 4.

The benefits of this resource are immeasurable. This short-term target of the Board's Strategic Plan\* will help to bring our Board's Mission alive.

- Implement and support the grade 4 Religious Education program and the digital resources for grades 1-3



<http://www.pearsoncanada.ca/school/growinginfaith/student-home/>

*Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ* has textbooks as well as separate online resources for teachers, parishes and students/parents (currently available up to grade 3). This resource is interactive and engaging. Together, we can teach our students about our faith; having a common resource, at our finger tips, will be quite helpful.

- Our Catholic faith, sacramental life, and commitment to social justice will be taught, learned and lived in partnership with parishes and homes. Not only do these resources help us to educate the children in our homes, parishes and schools, they also have faith formation modules to keep the teachers informed on the basics of our faith.
- We provide adult faith formation for our staff. We feature these resources in meetings with teachers, parents and parish workers. At the request of Bishop Fabbro, this resource will be one topic at our annual Great Family of our Church Gathering when we gather principals, parents, parish workers, high school students and community partners (i.e. Catholic Women's League, Knights of Columbus members and local politicians)
- The community will be well-informed about the Catholic programs, services and choices that we offer. Should you have any questions about how to access the online resource with your student, the classroom teacher will be your best contact. Our plan is to continue buying the resources each year; next year, we will purchase the grade 5 textbooks and grade 4 online resources (as Pearson makes them available).

Have a lovely year bearing witness to your children becoming the wonder-filled people God intends them to be. We are so blessed to partner with you as they grow in faith.

Margaret Palmer, System Chaplaincy Leader.

\*The bullets listed above have come directly out of our Board's Strategic plan. For more info, click here.

<https://www.st-clair.net/Data/Sites/1/media/public/Curriculum/BIPSA.pdf>