

# St. Ursula Catholic School



426 Lacroix Street  
Chatham, ON  
N7M 2W3  
(519)352-3620



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1-866-366-6139

www.st-clair.net

Director of Education: D. Parr

Superintendent: D. Crawford

Chair of the Board: J. VanHeck

Board Trustee: A. Mallett-Snobelen

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## Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Students,

Wow! We are in the month of October already. In October we begin to see the signs of Fall and celebrate Thanksgiving. There are so many things for which to be thankful! We have an awesome God who is good to us. He gives us many gifts-our world, our life and our health, our family and friends. We are reminded to take time to say thanks for all the good around us.

On Thanksgiving, we are invited to take time to respond to God in gratitude, for all his blessings, especially

the gift of his son Jesus.

The start up at St. Ursula Catholic School has been successful! By continuing to work in partnership with home, school, and parish, we can ensure a successful year for all our students. As students settle in to their new classrooms and adjust to school routines, we want to stress to you the importance of consistent homework routines at home. The habits that are developed early in your child's elementary education will stay with them in the workplace as adults.

Open communication with your son's or daughter's

teachers is also the key to helping your child reach his or her full potential.

We hope you have a great Thanksgiving weekend filled with family and friends. We do have a great deal to be thankful for. Enjoy time with your family and friends, remembering all that God has given us.

Mrs. Kelly VanBoxtel

Principal



## Parent Council

We would like to invite all parents to our first Parent Council meeting on Monday, October 2 at 6:30 p.m in the school library. Come out and play an important role in your school community. All parents are welcome.

### NO SCHOOL ON

- October 9 – Thanksgiving
- October 29 — PA DAY

## Focus on Faith

*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



## SCHOOL VISITORS

**We ask that all parents and visitors report to the office and sign in when they enter the school.**

**This is for your child's protection.**

## MEET THE STAFF EVENING – WOW!

Thank you to all who attended this Fabulous evening! It was another successful school event. The largest number of families ever!!!

A special thanks to Mrs. Mrs. vandenEnden, Mrs. McCaffrey-Lachine and Mrs. Bennett for planning this spectacular Survivor event. Thanks to our school staff for being a part of the night and

for their great assistance throughout the evening.

The Zoo 2 You was a HUGE success!! Boomer, the kangaroo, was my favourite animal. Thanks to Parent Council for paying half to bring this spectacular event to our school. I loved all the pics and selfies of the students with all the exotic animals.

Don't forget to purchase your Charger Spirit wear—t-shirts and/or hoodie sweatshirts.

Also, thanks for your support of purchasing new books for your students.

Our Book Fair raised **\$1776.00** which will be used to purchase new books for our school library. Thanks Mrs. Woods for organizing another successful book fair.

Thanks everyone for supporting our school!!! Go Chargers!

## Monthly School Masses

*We will be participating in monthly school masses/ para liturgies throughout the year. Our next school para liturgy is on October 20 at 9:30 to celebrate St. Ursula Feast Day.*



## WELLNESS COMMITTEE

**Wellness Committee**- Our students have graciously stepped up to volunteer and have been put into teams to assist the JK/SK's at the lunch recesses. They are true team leaders who encourage and support our youngest students with positive play and problem solving strategies. We touch base regularly to assist the Teams with any concerns or needs. What a FABULOUS group of team leaders we have.

**Keep up the great job everyone!**



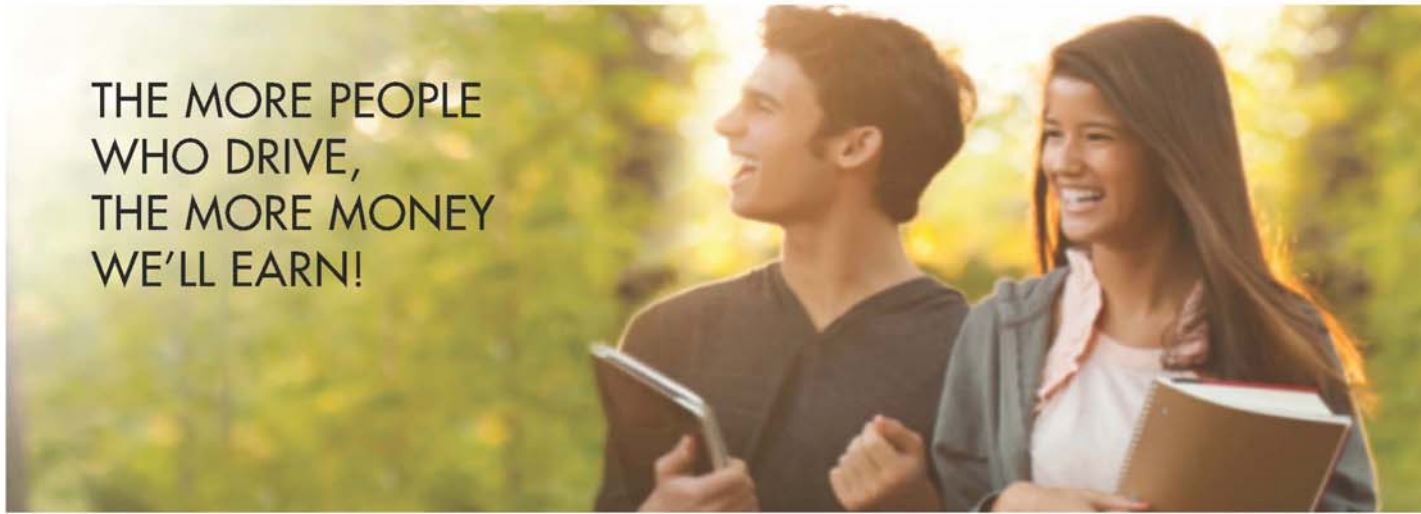


**BUICK** DRIVE FOR YOUR STUDENTS  
CANADA 

#BuickStudents

**TEST DRIVE A NEW BUICK**

HELP BUICK DONATE UP TO  
**\$10,000** FOR OUR SCHOOL.\*



THE MORE PEOPLE  
WHO DRIVE,  
THE MORE MONEY  
WE'LL EARN!

**PROUDLY PRESENTED BY**



**FOR:**  
**Christmas in Muskoka**

**WHERE:**  
Ursuline College  
85 Grand Ave., N7L 1B6

**WHEN:**  
Saturday, November 4th, 2017 • 9:00AM - 3:00PM

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. BUICK WILL DONATE \$20 PER VALID TEST DRIVE. MAXIMUM DONATION \$10,000. LIMIT TWO (2) DONATIONS PER HOUSEHOLD.  
WWW.BUICKDRIVEFORYOURSTUDENTS.CA



*A bucket filler is a loving, caring person who says or does nice things that make others feel special!*

*When you make someone feel special, you are filling a bucket.*

## CLASSROOM ORGANIZATION

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



# LAST CALL

## Gift Card Survivor Island

### DUE OCTOBER 3, 2017



St. Ursula is attempting a NEW fundraiser. Here is how the fundraiser works: We are asking for a donation of \$10 (all proceeds going to towards St. Ursula's Robotics program and Technology) and a \$10 - \$25 gift card (your choice except NO LCBO or BEER Store gift cards.) per entry.

- The draw will begin on October 4, with the final draw on October 18.
- Each day, family participants are eliminated from the island as names are drawn from the pot. Names are drawn daily until the final ones left standing are named the "Ultimate Survivors" winning 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes. The number of names drawn daily will depend on the total participation.
- To add a little twist to the game, at the time of entry, participants may opt to donate an additional \$5 to gain themselves one immunity entry. If your name is drawn and you have an immunity entry, your family name will go back in the draw the following day.
- The amount of gift cards to win depends directly on the donations collected. There will be THREE prizes: 70% of the gift cards goes to 1st place, 20% to 2nd place and 10% to 3rd place. This is an opportunity to get stocked up for the Christmas holidays, and gift cards makes great gifts!
- Each child per family will receive a St. Ursula Chargers buff upon registration.
- The deadline for donations collected is October 3. If you would like to participate, please let me know.



CASTING CALL

# Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes

## OCTOBER 2017

<p>Follow-up of Parish Mission DVD Series</p>	<p>Sept. 27, Oct. 4,11,18,25, Nov. 1 at 6:30 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Church Hall</p>
<p>SAY/YES Mass</p>	<p>Oct. 22, 9:30 a.m. at Blessed Sacrament Church and 11:30 a.m. at St. Agnes  Any Gr. 1-8 student interested in helping at Mass to do readings, usher, gift bear, etc. please contact <b>Mike McPherson at 519-352-9483</b></p>
<p>Sacramental Preparation</p>	<p>Thank you to all the families who registered for First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation. Start praying and working hard to get ready for your Sacraments!</p>
<p>Confirmation Commitment</p>	<p>Congratulations to all the grade eights and their fami- lies who attended the Confirmation Commitment cer- emony. Let's pray for all these students.</p>
<p>Weekend Masses  <b>Wishing all families a Happy Thanksgiving Week- end!</b></p>	<p>Please join the parish families at Sunday Mass:  Blessed Sacrament: Sat. 7:00 p.m.; Sun. 9:30 a.m.  St. Agnes: Sat. 5:00 p.m.; Sun. 11:30 a.m.  St. Joseph: Sun. 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.  St. Ursula: Sat. 5:00 p.m. Sun. 9:30 a.m. Sun. 7:00 p.m  Polish Mass at Our Lady of Victory: Sun. 11:00 a.m.</p>
<p>Baptism</p>	<p>Any families who are interested in having their chil- dren receive the Sacrament of Baptism, please con- tact  <b>Colleen Keane at 519-352-8530</b></p>

# UCC LANCER CORNER



Hey Future Lancers,

High School is obviously a stressful thought, but it's not as bad as it seems. In September, they have this amazing group of kids from Grade 10 and up, they are the Lancer Link leaders. During the last week of August, you go to UCC, spend the morning with them and have a BBQ. The leaders play team building games with you, show you around the school and give you a tour of where all your classes will be.

There are many sports teams and clubs that are just starting up for the fall season. Some of the sports teams are Junior volleyball, Senior basketball, Junior and Senior football, cross country, cheer, Junior soccer and golf.

The musical that's being performed this year is "Annie." St. Ursula's former student, Madison Mailloux got the lead role as Annie. Congratulations Maddie!!! As you can see there are many exciting things that are happening at UCC, but it's only just the beginning.

Also, Lance, our Mascot was extremely excited to visit the Charger Dome at Meet the Staff Night!!! He enjoyed meeting all his future lancers. He looks forward to seeing you soon.

Lancer Loud  
Lancer Proud

Megan Basso  
Grade 9 UCC student

