

ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
ST. Vincent CATHOLIC SCHOOL
9399 McNaughton Line East, CHATHAM, ONTARIO, N7M 5J7
519-354-4066



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey

SCHOOL	BOARD	PARISH
Principal: N. Stevens Administrative Assistant: B. Dillon	Director: D. Crawford Superintendent: L. Callaghan Board Chair: Mr. J Van Heck	Administrator—Father Higgins Parochial Vicar—Deacon Steve Administrative Assistant—C. Zimmer

JANUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year Everyone! I hope all families in our School and Community had a peaceful and relaxing Christmas Holiday. Another year, another set of goals and new resolutions. Work on keeping yours. You CAN DO IT! Let us hope that this year we balance work, kids and find time for ourselves. I hope your new year is filled with great blessings for you and your families.

We are sending out this paper copy at the beginning of this New Year. All forthcoming newsletters can be found the first of the month on the school website. We are trying to save paper. Please go to www.st-clair.net then to the left click on Schools. Then click on Visiting our Schools then click on St. Vincent School. On the homepage you will see newsletter at the top.

As we begin this term, I would like to share that we have a new director for the St. Clair Catholic School Board and her name is Deb Crawford. She is our former school superintendent. With Deb's new role our new school superintendent is Laura Callaghan. We welcome her to our school and she will be in charge of transition meetings with the amalgamation of the three schools for the Fall of 2019.

N. Stevens nicole.stevens@st-clair.net

Virtue of the Month— Patience

Patience: Calm acceptance of a situation. But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Romans 8.25 (NRSV)

Subject of the Month- Physical Education Physical Education teacher (Mrs. Matteis) and classroom teachers will discuss who in their class shows co-operation, sportsmanship, willingness to try new skills, and safety in the gym.

School Council

Next School Council meeting Tuesday, January 31st, 2017, 5:30 – 7:00

Topics of Discussion include: Chris Preece, Mental Health Lead for the St. Clair Catholic District School Board - giving us a presentation on Well Being and our Kids.

School Council Highlights:

[Christmas School Luncheon](#): Thank you to Brian and Christina Machado and the Chatham Breakfast Grille for cooking up our Christmas Luncheon. Our countless volunteer parent elves made the day a great success. Thank you to all families for donating and we look forward to enjoying the lunch again next year.

[Christmas in Muskoka](#): A list of Christmas Tree winners will be at the end of the newsletter. Christmas in Muskoka was another huge success with a profit of approximately \$105,000. A huge THANK YOU to all who supported this event.

[Christmas Family Craft](#): Thank you to all the families who sent in pictures of their Family Craft. The entire School Council hopes you enjoyed the craft.

ATTENTION ALL GRADE 8 STUDENTS and THEIR PARENTS



GRADE 8 PARENTS:

Thursday, February 1st there will be an information night for Parents at Ursuline College! Topics of discussion include: credits, graduation requirements, course levels, changing levels, option pages, timetables. This evening will be held in the theatre from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Doors open at 6:30. There will be guided tours.



Kindergarten Registration for September 2018

kinderSTART is a special one day registration event in each school, for parents and children who are beginning Junior Kindergarten in September 2018. It is an opportunity to visit the school to meet the staff and engage in activities in preparation for Full Day Kindergarten; and a chance to bring younger siblings (18 months to three years) to participate in the *Ages and Stages* developmental questionnaire. **kinderSTART** is also a fun and informative opportunity to get tips on healthy living and immunization for your children.

At St. Vincent Catholic School, **kinderSTART** will be held on Monday, February 12th. Please call the school to book an appointment for that day. Morning appointments will be between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.; and afternoon appointments will be held between 2:30 and 5:30 p.m.

We hope to see you then!



INCLEMENT WEATHER

January has arrived and one never knows what's ahead for this winter season. In the event of inclement weather, please stay tuned to our local radio stations for school bus cancellations or school closure. Bussing information is also available by internet at www.schoolbusinfo.com. You can also download the MySBI app for up to date bus information.

If buses are cancelled and your child does not ride the bus and will not be attending school you must call the school to notify the office of their absence. ***Also note that when buses are cancelled in the morning due to inclement weather they will not run in the afternoon. Parents who drive their children to school must make arrangements to pick them up at dismissal time.***

School bus cancellations mean the school is still open for learning.

Schools CLOSED means due to weather schools are closed for staff and students.

2018

Parents – Apply today for the Canada Learning Bond (CLB)

You may receive up to \$2,000 for each child born on or after Jan 1, 2004. Eligibility is based on the family income – but if you have received the NCBS (National Child Benefit Supplement) in the past or have income under \$45,917 starting in July 2017, your child may qualify for some or all of the money. Open an RESP (Registered Education Savings Plan) and apply for the Canada Learning Bond at the same time.

You will need the following information...

Adult:

- 2 pieces of Government ID (one photo/not health card)
- Social Insurance Number

Children:

- Birth Certificate
- Social Insurance Number

If you have any questions, call your financial institution or visit www.learnck.ca



WINTER DRESS

- Winter is here! Is your child dressed for the weather? It is that time of year when students need to be reminded of the necessity of dressing properly for the weather. Mittens/Gloves, hats, neck warmers, boots and snow pants should be worn. Labeling items would be helpful, as many boots and mittens look very similar. Often items make their way to the “Lost and Found” and are not claimed. Students must have indoor running shoes to wear in the school after boots are taken off and for Physical Education in the gym. Students go outside for 15 minutes during both recesses and 25 minutes at lunch break. Research indicates that fresh air allows students to refocus on their studies. Please note that children who are too ill to go outside should remain at home since indoor supervision is not available during recess breaks. Weather conditions are monitored daily and decisions to send students out on extremely cold days are based upon our local weather conditions and School Board Policy. When extreme cold days occur, students will stay indoors, they should, however, always come prepared to go outside.

Focus on Faith - By Margaret Palmer, System Chaplaincy Leader

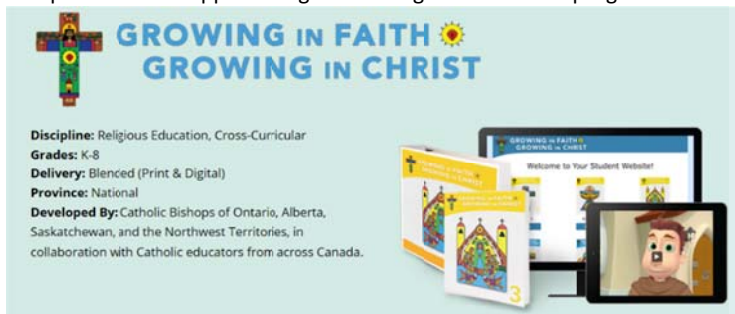
Happy New Year everyone. I trust the Christmas HOLYdays were good to you and I pray that this year will bring renewed faith, hope and love to your families. I am always strengthened by the Christmas season. Just knowing the story of Jesus' birth into a humble family bolsters my hope for my family. Knowing 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>

Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes School Newsletter for
January 2018



The Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes with God's peace and hope to all our school families in the coming New Year of 2018!

-Confirmation classes will resume Jan. 14th (1:00-2:30) and Jan. 16th (6:00-7:30).

-After School Faith Formation will begin again on Tuesday, Jan. 9th at 4:00 p.m. at St. Agnes Church

-Feast of St. Agnes Dinner will be held on Jan. 19th at St. Agnes Church Hall. Tickets will be available after Sunday Mass and at St. Agnes Parish Office.

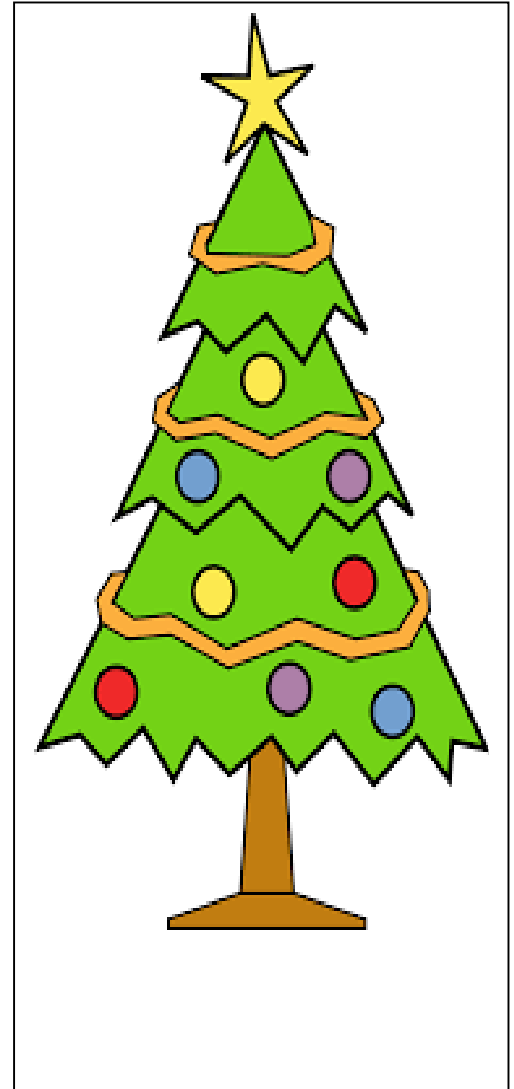
-For any information regarding the Grade 5 and 6 Youth Group, please call Mike at 519-352-9483

-Congratulations to all the children who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Wishing you God's peace.

-Any families who are interested in having their children baptized, please contact Colleen Keane at 519-352-8530.

Congratulations to the Christmas Tree Winners for 2017! Christmas In Muskoka

- ☒ The Ursuline College Graduating Class – **K. Schram**
- ☒ Christ the King Catholic School, Wallaceburg – **N. Feddes**
- ☒ Good Shepherd Catholic School, Thamesville – **R. Bellamy & K. Tricker**
- ☒ Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association – **M. Ball**
- ☒ Muskoka Woods Leadership Camp – **A. Lambkin-Hoskins**
- ☒ 99.1 CKXS (Your Music Variety) – **C. Johanson**
- ☒ The Catholic Education Centre – **D. Keikens**
- ☒ St. Joseph Catholic School, Chatham – **G. Lucio**
- ☒ Rural Roots Landscape & Design – **E. Vaskamp**
- ☒ St. Agnes Catholic School, Chatham – **J. Nydam**
- ☒ St. Joseph Catholic School, Tilbury – **S. Delyzer**
- ☒ St. Michael Catholic School, Ridgetown – **K. Fernandes**
- ☒ The Chatham Kent Police Association – **K. Graves**
- ☒ St. Vincent Catholic School, Chatham – **C. Leclair**
- ☒ Waddick Fuels – **K. Loma** ☒ Georges P. Vanier Catholic School, Chatham – **S. Bordeau**
- ☒ Preferred Building Products – **L. Laliberte**
- ☒ TekSavvy Solutions – **A. Dumais**
- ☒ The Giving Tree/The Rotary Clubs of Chatham-Kent – **C. Konc**
- ☒ Glasshouse Nursery & Garden Centre – **L. Jubenville**
- ☒ The Catholic Trustees & Diocese of London – **D. Dewar**
- ☒ Monsignor Uyen Catholic School, Chatham – **B. Phillips**
- ☒ Anjema Eye Institute – **C. Archer**
- ☒ St. Anne Catholic School, Blenheim – **L. Ellis**
- ☒ St. Elizabeth Catholic School, Wallaceburg – **S. Sutton**
- ☒ McDonald's Restaurant, Wallaceburg & Chatham – **S. McLean**
- ☒ Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School, Chatham – **G. VanHooren**
- ☒ Gagner Chiropractic Health Centre – **N. Coutts** ☒ Matties & Gordon Mortgages – **M. Authier**
- ☒ St. Ursula Catholic School, Chatham – **S. Ulch** ☒ PAWS – Pet & Animal Rescue – **T. Suitor** Catholic Principals Council of Ontario – **C. Walton**
- ☒ Holy Family Catholic School, Wallaceburg – **S. Kucharski**



St. Clair Catholic District School Board

Chatham Elementary Schools Construction Projects

User Committee Provides Input into Design of New Elementary Schools

The last of five scheduled meetings of the Chatham Elementary Schools User Committee will be held November 20. The committee, which is made up of teachers, support staff and representatives of Curriculum, Special Education, Information Technology and Facility Services, has been meeting to provide input to assist the architect in building design concepts. Also included in the discussions, was all relevant information that was brought forward by members of the Pupil Accommodation Review Committee (PARC) during the accommodation review process.

The information gathered from the User Committee will be built into the design plans for both the north and south Chatham elementary schools.

At the Regular Board Meeting of November 28, project architect, Alison Hannay, will present to the Board of Trustees a schematic design of the north elementary school. Although it may not be in its final form, it will be the first visual rendering of the building — an exciting step in the process!

The Board wishes to express its tremendous appreciation to the members of the Chatham Elementary Schools User Committee for their time and great expertise. They are: Brenda Corchis, Janet Boyle, Sara Vadovic, Heather Griffioen, Paul Anato, Cathy Bechard, Cathy Stuart, Deb McCabe, John Davis, Marcie Myers, Tony Montanino, Lisa Demers, Amy Janssens and Deb Crawford. The committee was chaired by Alison Hannay, Cornerstone Architecture Incorporated.

Next Steps in the Process — North, South and OLOF Site

North Elementary School Update

- ⇒ Soil sampling will be completed in the near future at the construction site, 801 McNaughton Avenue, W., Chatham
- ⇒ In addition to the presentation of the schematic design, the results of a traffic study will be presented at the November 28 Regular Board Meeting. Following a review by Trustees, the results of the study will be forwarded to the Municipality of Chatham-Kent.

South Elementary School Update

- ⇒ As indicated in the last update, property selection in the north was relatively straight forward, as the Board owned the McNaughton, W. property. However in south Chatham, property acquisition has been more challenging.
- ⇒ Administration is actively engaged in discussions regarding a suitable site for the school. As it takes two full years from property acquisition to project completion, the opening of the south Chatham school will not meet the original target of September 2019.

Our Lady of Fatima Site Update

- ⇒ A study is underway to determine future needs of the school's mechanical and electrical systems. Any upgrades will need to be completed at the time of building renovation. The building's structure is also under review.
- ⇒ Wilson Dias Architects Inc. has been selected to lead the project and a staff User Committee will be established in the near future to provide input regarding design concepts, similar to the north and south school projects.
- ⇒ The architect will begin to develop a schematic design and when completed a public meeting will be held, sometime early in the New Year, to share details about the design and the scope of the renovations with the school community.

Establishment of Transition Committees — January 2018

Although it may seem early in the process, the time is approaching for us to develop Transition Committees, made up of principals, staff, parish partners, parents and senior students, who will help guide the process of bringing six schools together into two brand new school communities; and for Monsignor Uyen to transition to the newly renovated school at the OLOF site.

We will begin a call for members and setting the terms and mandates for the committees in the New Year; however, the scope of the work is likely to include establishing school colours and mascots, names for the new schools, events to bring students together in the new school communities and planning opening and blessing celebrations. Additional responsibilities may be added once the committees begin their work. Stay tuned for more details about these important committees in January!

