

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



St. Clair Catholic
District School Board



Ursuline College Chatham December/January Newsletter 2021-22

Principal Message

Christmas break is just two weeks away and the hectic pace of the holiday season can quickly distract us from the true meaning of Christmas. Christmas is about the expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of Christ's coming. It remains a joyful time of year to celebrate with family and friends.

With the start of December upon us, I am amazed how quickly our year has passed by. We have had a very successful modified semester with many memorable events starting to replace the pandemic restrictions we have known for the last 18 months.

Our recent return to athletics has been outstanding. There is a buzz about building school spirit. Our Terry Fox Community Walk, proud moments with our honour students at the Virtual Academic Assembly and success of the UCC Cares Can Food Drive all bring life back into the school.

Additionally, our students are engaged in active learning and moving towards exams at the end of January. Our faith has been celebrated and fostered through daily prayer, guest speakers and retreats.

We have so much to be proud of and grateful for. Every aspect of our success can be attributed to a dynamic staff, supportive families and outstanding students. I'm certain that you as parents and guardians couldn't be prouder of the resiliency of your child. The return to face to face learning has been so positive for so many. I know I remain incredibly proud to be associated with such determination and willingness to follow protocols so that we have the chance to learn together.

So as we expectantly await Christmas, the break from school and the opportunity to reconnect in our homes, I hope you enjoy the time as family. Celebrate the peace of Christ. January will be upon us in no time and so will exams. They will start on Thursday, January 27th through Thursday, February 4th. Our grade 8's will be invited to a Virtual Open House prior to the start of Semester 2. More details will be sent home to families in January. We welcome all those who are interested in seeing what UCC has to offer.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Ray Power

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Message from Chaplaincy Department

Happy Holy Days! If I were to ask a classroom of students to share their favourite Holiday, most often Christmas is favoured among them. I hear from the students the wonderful traditions of gathering with family and friends, as they experience the Advent themes of peace, joy, faith, and love. Our community will also be coming together during this season to celebrate these Advent virtues.

First, we have the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr. Danny Santos, presenting the topic of Discernment and Vocations on Tuesday, December 7th. High School students are pressured with many choices and decisions that have an important effect on their future. Fr. Danny will be speaking to the Christian practices of choosing what is right and good, not only for us, but those around us, and for the greater good of society.



The UCCCaes Club will be preparing and serving a take-out meal for our annual Christmas dinner on Thursday, December 9th, from 5-6PM. In addition, our school is working with R.O.C.K. Missions to gather enough winter clothing to help those in the community. Thank you to the staff and students who have donated food and clothing for these outreach ministries. God bless your charitable spirit.

Lastly, our Advent Liturgy will be held virtually on Monday, December 13th, from 11:50-12:10PM. Each class will gather as a small community to pray and reflect during this Holy Season. as well as a larger community virtually. This prayer service will highlight the mystery of the Incarnation, and how God enlightens us to see the good in us and our potential to be Holy through Christ. Many blessings to you and your family during these Holy Days, and may you recognize the grace of our Lord is with you.

Sincerely,

Thomas Dula, Chaplaincy Leader

Lancer Athletics

The return of Lancer Athletics has been a huge success. Many championships were won but the real measure of success has been the participation levels and smiles of our Lancers! Over 150 Lancers returned to competition with the Blue and White once again representing UCC with pride.

Football and soccer failed to form leagues as most other schools did not have teams. Not to be denied the opportunity to play, the Lancers still practiced and formed internal leagues to give our kids an opportunity to play.

Cross Country, Tennis & Golf all competed in outdoor LKSSAA leagues. The Cross Country Team competed in many meets highlighted with the Junior Boys winning the LKSSAA Championship & Gavin Meriano crowned the Individual Junior Champion. Mary Bondy & Gillian Wells won the LKSSAA Girls Doubles Tennis Championship. The Boys Golf Team won the LKSSAA Championship maintaining our seven year reign on the title. Members of the boys team were Ayden & Bobby McKinlay, Marcus Jones, JP Lemak and Adam Vsetula.

Boys Volleyball and Girls Basketball returned to the courts. The boys swept the LKSSAA championships with both Junior & Senior finishing first in league play and both teams sweeping CKSS in the LKSSAA finals. The Senior Girls Basketball Team also finished first in league play and defeated St Pats in a very competitive LKSSAA final.

Winter season tryouts are nearing completion and the Lancers look to take to the ice with Boys & Girls hockey as well as curling. On the hardcourt the Boys Basketball and Girls Volleyball Teams will start LKSSAA league play the first week of December and complete through late February.

It has been very rewarding to see the return of Lancer Athletics. Thank you to the many dedicated coaches, athletes and parents who have supported our Lancers.



*UCC Spiritwear
makes a great
Christmas gift!*

—
ORDER BEFORE DECEMBER 8
& USE THE 'FREE SHIP TO
SCHOOL' CODE AT CHECKOUT!

<http://shopgp.online/ucc>

School Cash Online - Update

School Cash Online no longer offers parents the opportunity to pay for a fee by using MYWALLET. If parents have funds sitting in their MYWALLET, they will have until October 31st, 2021 to use the remaining balance. After November 1st, 2021, the remaining balance will be refunded to the parents.

If parents would like to request a refund they need to:

1. Login to School Cash Online
2. Click 'refund' under the 'myWallet tab on the top navigation bar
3. Enter the amount to be refunded in the 'Amount to Refund' field
4. Click 'Confirm'

Responsible Use of Technology

The St. Clair Catholic District School Board's policy addressing expectations for the acceptable use of technology 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.

Gently Used Uniforms Needed

UCC is in need of gently used uniforms in medium, large, extra large and 2XL sizes. These uniforms are available for students to borrow/have when they have a uniform malfunction or food spill, etc. while they are at school. Due to COVID these past 18 months, our current stock has been depleted and we are in need of both girls and boys uniform pieces. If you have any donations they can be dropped off to the Guidance Office (Grand Ave entrance).

Consent for Release of Student Information

Under the Board's Social Media and Electronic Communications policy, signed parental consent is required for release of student photographs, videos, classroom work, etc. for various publications, including Board websites or social media sites, newspapers, television and radio newscasts.

Once consent is obtained, it remains in effect for the student's entire school career. However, if at any time for any reason parents/guardians wish to revoke consent, you are asked to please contact the school.

The full policy can be found on the Board website at <http://www.st-clair.net/policies.aspx>
Go to Section B – Administration.

Peanut Butter Substitutes

It is the practice of the St. Clair Catholic District School Board not to permit peanut butter substitutes in schools, where students are known to have peanut butter allergies. This is a position which has been reviewed with the Medical Officers of Health for Lambton County and Chatham-Kent, and which they support. The Board's Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) also supports the Board's position.

The difficulty is this. Although the product itself is perfectly safe, it mimics another product which is deadly for students who are anaphylactic to peanuts. The substitute looks, smells, spreads and tastes like peanut butter. It's packaged like peanut butter; and, it's sold on grocery store shelves in the peanut butter aisle. Once it's out of the jar, you can't tell the real thing from the substitute and that's what makes it so dangerous for students with nut allergies.

Therefore, St. Clair Catholic will err on the side of caution. In school communities where anaphylaxis to peanut products is an issue, parents are advised that the substitutes are not acceptable food items and an alternative should be sought. Parents are also advised that if the product is sent to school, the child will be provided with a healthy alternative or asked to eat in a location that will ensure there will be no contact with students who are allergic.

In our Catholic school communities, it is the responsibility of each of us to safeguard the well-being of all of us. We look out for each other. A danger to even one child is a threat that we must all take seriously. Sometimes that means sacrificing what we may perceive as our right in order to meet the needs of another. In instances where a child's life may be at risk, the choice is simple.

Scent Awareness

The St. Clair Catholic District School Board, in collaboration with our Joint Health & Safety Committee, has developed a Scent Awareness Procedural Guideline, to guide staff, students and volunteers in this important area of wellbeing.

Fragrance can have a strong impact on the health and productivity of some individuals. Exposure to strong scents and fragrances in the environment can cause a range of effects, from mild discomfort to triggering an asthma attack, which directly impacts the health of those individuals. The purpose of the new procedural guideline is to promote an environment which supports teaching and learning for all staff, students, volunteers and visitors to our buildings. To that end, the guideline directs individuals to refrain from wearing or using scented products on Board premises and during Board-sanctioned activities.

Scented products include but are not limited to:

- Personal hygiene products (e.g., shampoo, conditioner, hairsprays, deodorants, colognes, after-shaves, fragrances, perfumes, lotions, soaps, cosmetics and creams);
- Industrial and household chemicals and cleaners;
- Air fresheners (e.g., deodorizers, potpourri, oils and candles)

The Board has worked with the public health units in the development of these new procedural guidelines, which have in recent years become common in public spaces. Signage is posted in all St. Clair Catholic buildings.

As always, thank you for your support and cooperation, as together we work to keep as a top priority the health and wellbeing of our staff, students and visitors to our buildings.

UCC Student Athletic Association



UCC SAA would like to thank

Riverview Gaming Centre

for their continued support.

We are so excited to have our student athletes
back in the gym and on the field!

Live bingo sessions beginning in November!

Visit [RiverviewBingo](#) for more info.



Important Information for Parents/Guardians Regarding Registered Education Savings Plans for Your Children

Anyone can open an RESP account for a child—parents, guardians, grandparents, other relatives or friends. While you can open a plan for a child, you can also name yourself or another adult as the beneficiary. An RESP allows adults to earn interest on their RESP tax-free.

For more information about RESPs visit the Government of Canada website at: [Information about Registered Education Savings Plans \(RESPs\) - Canada.ca](#)