



Ursuline College Chatham

Catholic Secondary School

January - February Newsletter

Director: Deb Crawford
Principal: Ray Power

Superintendent: Scott Johnson Board Chair: J. Van Heck
Vice-Principals: Rick Baggio, MaryAnn McCrae

January-February 2020

Principal's Message

Happy New Year!

Although we are starting a new decade, we are still working to wrap up the first semester of the 2019-2020 school year. Exams are being written and we will transition into second semester next week.

A new challenge to our start is the political unrest between teachers groups and the provincial government. Effective Monday, January 13, OECTA – elementary and secondary catholic teachers will be entering into initial stages of job action. It will have a limited impact in the day to day operations at the school level as the teachers will predominantly not participate in ministry of education training, professional development, ministry reporting and staff meetings to name a few. I encourage families to monitor the St. Clair Catholic District School Board website for updates.

The school year is passing very quickly. During the first month of semester two, students in grade 9 through 12 will need to start selecting courses for their 2020-2021 school year. It is an important process as it helps determine which courses need to run next year. I ask parents to take the time to sit and discuss plans with their child. Discussing future goals, pathway plans required to reach those goals and course options hopefully takes some of the anxiety out of making important decisions. Please consult myblueprint.com, an online web based tool with your child to help future planning. All students will be expected to select course of study using this online tool.

The season of Lent is also approaching. UCC will hold Ash Wednesday services for each grade level on February 26th during period 3. I would like to extend an invitation to parents and guardians to join us if you are available.

During the next month, extensive work will continue with our grade 10 students in preparation for the OSSLT test. Daily class visits by Rosie Mitchell, our Student Achievement Teacher started in the fall and will be ongoing until March Break. The goal of Rosie's work is to reinforce skills that the students require for the test and to identify where students need to focus some of their energies. In addition, afterschool tutoring is also available to students who require some skill remediation.

The year continues to provide rich examples of student achievement, accomplishment and opportunity. As I visit classes and reviewed student progress I am impressed with the success of so many. I am also acutely aware that there are students that still need supports to meet with greater academic success. When I do my classroom visits, it is exciting to see students actively engaged in learning and participating with their peers and teachers.

The extra-curricular events that I have had the opportunity to attend have been exciting and entertaining. Volleyball, football, basketball, cheerleading, wrestling, We Scare Hunger, school dances, the Christmas in Muskoka play, and as recently as the UCC talent show, dance show and Christmas Concert all showcase the many talents of our students.

I'm certain that you as parents and guardians couldn't be prouder of the academic and extracurricular success of your child. I share that pride as I witness how your children represent themselves here at school and in the community.

Welcome to 2020 and I wish you all a successful New Year!

Ray Power
Principal

A Message from our Chaplain

Our thoughts and prayers continue to go out to you and your family this New Year. In the beginnings of 2020, **Catholic Education at Ursuline College** remains steadfast on the work of the Holy Spirit, who transforms our hearts and mind to the love of God. It is evident among the staff, parents, students, and visitors at our school that a certain disposition of joy and kindness radiates our classrooms and hallways. We attribute this school spirit largely in part to our faith in Jesus Christ.

Last year our school board promoted what **Pope Francis** would call “**Synodality**”, by developing its mission and vision with the spirit of all educational partners. **This year**, our Religion Department at UCC will be **conducting the same style of leadership by listening to the spirit of our students, and what they need in regards to faith development**. We are excited to hear what they have to say and how we can better serve them, because **they are our future Church**.

Lastly, did you know **old electronics** are the **fastest growing source of waste** in North America? **During our Lenten Journey**, UCC will become more mindful of reducing, reusing, repairing, and recycling discarded electronics, known as E-Waste. Students involved in the **Pedagape club will be leading the entire school in collecting old electronics for 40 days**. Our primary plan is to offer desired items (in good condition) to those in need, and recycle all end of life electronics. **Please contact Mr. Dula** if you are able to donate or have questions regarding the items in need. In addition, let us walk together in the footsteps of Christ this Lent, by following **Pope Francis’ call to “Care for our Common Home”**.

With gratitude,

Thomas Dula ~ Chaplaincy Leader

Guidance News

Course Selection

The online process for choosing next year’s courses begins in the coming weeks. Counsellors will be visiting classrooms to present information on pathway planning through MyBlueprint. Students should consider their course selections seriously to ensure they are meeting post-secondary programs and pathways goals.

Volunteer Hours

We will be hosting a Volunteer Fair in early March. Representatives from our local community partners will be here to provide opportunities for students to complete their 40 Hours. Details to follow.

Don’t forget to Show Your Sheets! You may submit any number of volunteer hours at any time by bringing your completed “Completion of Community Involvement Activities” sheets to Guidance.

Graduation

The Graduation Ceremony will be Wednesday, June 24th, 2020 beginning at 7pm at the Capitol Theatre. 40 hours of Community Service and a School Withdrawal Form must be completed and submitted to Guidance in order to receive Grad tickets.

HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK

As part of a class project, a Grade Nine Religion class organized a *Homelessness Awareness Week* from January 13th - January 17th.

The class reached out to the entire student body and challenged them to bring in the items below that were identified to be needed by the homeless in Chatham.

GRADE 9 : blankets or sleeping bags (new or gently used)

GRADE 10: Toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss

GRADE 11: Mitts and Hats (new or gently used)

GRADE 12: Band-Aids, Polysporin, soap

The classroom that brought in the most items won a *pizza lunch* purchased by the Grade Nine Religion class. Mrs. Doherty's, Per. 1, Gr. 11 English class brought in the most items.

All items collected were donated to **ROCK Missions**, a group in Chatham that go out into the streets every week to make sure our homeless are taken care of by providing basic needs and food.

Thank you for supporting this initiative in such an impactful way.



Alan from **ROCK Missions** came to collect all the items UCC gathered during the **Homeless Awareness Week**. He was overwhelmed by the generosity of our school and stuffed his truck full.

He wanted to express his gratitude for the help.

Literacy Skills AFTER SCHOOL

February-March

Workshop Schedule

Every Monday and Tuesday

2:30-3:30 PM

Rm. 205

Completely FREE

Snacks provided

Literacy Skills Workshop Schedule - 2020 SEMESTER 2

Date	Workshop Title	Date	Workshop Title
Monday February 3	Summarizing: Finding the Main Idea and Supporting Details	Tuesday February 4	Summarizing: Finding the Main Idea and Supporting Details
Monday February 10	Inferencing: Finding Implicit Meaning in a Text	Tuesday February 11	Inferencing: Finding Implicit Meaning in a Text
Monday February 17	Reading Strategies and Multi- ple Choice Questions	Tuesday February 18	Reading Strategies and Multi- ple Choice Questions
Monday February 24	Writing a News Report	Tuesday February 25	Writing a News Report
Monday March 2	Essay Writing: Introduction	Tuesday March 3	Essay Writing: Introduction
Monday March 9	Essay Writing: Advanced (You must bring a previously written essay to participate)	Tuesday March 10	Essay Writing: Advanced (You must bring a previously written essay to participate)
Monday March 23	Last Chance Test Overview	Tuesday March 24	Last Chance Test Overview

OSSLT DATE: March 31, 2020

Director of Education Deb Crawford Releases Director's Annual Report 2019

Director of Education Deb Crawford has released her ***Director's Annual Report 2019***, following a presentation to the Board of Trustees. It can be viewed or downloaded by [clicking here](#).

"I am very pleased to present the ***Director's Annual Report 2019***, which profiles just some of St. Clair Catholic's many programs, initiatives and faith development activities that have helped our students to achieve tremendous success throughout the 2018-2019 school year," says Mrs. Crawford. **"I am proud of the work of our staff and students in every school right across the district."**

Some highlights of the report include:

- A focus on our faith, through social justice projects in our schools and our communities
- Our emphasis on elementary and secondary math
- Supports for students in pathways planning and experiential learning
- Equity, diversity and inclusive education
- Supports for students with special learning needs
- Wellness and healthy living
- Stewardship of our planet, both at the school and the Board level, including the Board's five year energy conservation plan
- The development of our new strategic plan
- Continued progress at the St. Angela Merici construction site and the planned opening of the new school in September 2020

The **Education Act** requires that each year, the **Director of Education** must submit a report on Board activities, programs and initiatives to the Board of Trustees and the Minister of Education. ***The Director's Annual Report 2019*** will now be forwarded to the **Ministry of Education** and shared with schools, parishes and community partners across the district.

2020 IMPORTANT DATES

February 3	Second Semester starts
February 3	Vaping Tour Class Presentations
February 4-5	Grade Level Conduct Assemblies
February 7	Report Cards go home
February 12	Winter Team Pictures
February 17	Family Day Holiday
February 20	Dress Down Day
February 25	School Advisory Council Meeting - 6 p.m. Library
February 25-26	Gr. 12 Retreats
February 26	Ash Wednesday Prayer Services
March 2-5	Gr. 10 Retreats
March 5	Hot Dog Day
March 12	Dress Down Day
March 16 - 20	March Break
March 24-25	Gr. 11 Retreats
March 26	Dress Down Day
March 31	OSSLT— Gr. 10 Literacy Test (tentative)
April 2	Parent/Teacher Interviews
April 7	Courage for Freedom Presentation
April 8	Stations of the Cross
April 9	Hot Dog Day
April 17	Stations Of The Cross
April 18	Dress Down Day
April 10	Good Friday
April 12	Easter Sunday
April 13	Easter Monday
April 20	Spring Team Pictures
April 24	P.D. Day

**UCC
is the place to be!**

UCC CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The **next meeting** of the Ursuline College Catholic School Advisory Council will be held on
Tuesday, February 25, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.
 in the school library.

New parents are always welcome.

Meetings are held approximately **6 times a year** and run from
6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

This is an excellent way for parents to have direct input into the many decisions that affect the education of their children.

Please contact Mr. Ray Power in the school office for further information.



FEBRUARY IS...



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

BLACK HISTORY
MONTH 2020

**CANADIANS
OF AFRICAN
DESCENT:**

GOING
FORWARD,
GUIDED BY
THE PAST



During the month of February, Canadians have an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of black Canadians and reflect on their stories, their experiences, and their accomplishments. The St. Clair Catholic District School Board has pulled together a selection of curriculum and community resources that honor Black History and offer opportunities for learning. The 2020 theme for Black History Month is: "**Canadians of African Descent: Going forward, guided by the past.**" ([linked](#))

FAITH



"Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the full staircase." (Martin Luther King Jr.)

Throughout the month of February, schools are encouraged to reflect upon Black History and how it connects with Catholic Education. Classrooms are encouraged to use the linked resources found in this newsletter to support classroom discussions and connect to our Catholic Teachings. The United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent (2015 to 2024) encourages us to "promote greater knowledge of and respect for diverse heritage, culture and contribution of people of African descent to the development of society".



CURRICULUM



Teaching students the importance of tolerance is a year-round priority. Black History Month provides an opportunity to help students dig a little deeper into just what it means to accept others and the role that acceptance plays in cultivating a culture of kindness inside the classroom. Check out the resource links and ideas throughout this newsletter to bring the important achievements, past and present, into the classroom and engage in critical discussions this month and all year.

HISTORY



Black History Canada provides resources on the history of Canada's Black Community. This site provides an in depth teaching guide along with interactive resources and activities to support the teaching and learning of [Black Canadian History](#). In addition to the teaching guide, the website offers an interactive timeline to use in the classroom: [1600-1700](#); [1700-1800](#); [1800-1900](#); [1900-Present](#) ([Click on each time period for resources](#))

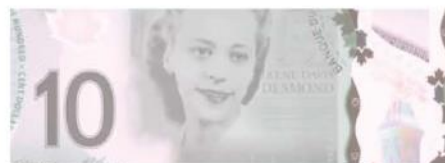
CANADIANS OF AFRICAN DESCENT



Black people have lived in what we now know as Canada since the 1600s. For over 400 years, Black men and women have contributed to all areas of society. They have fought a fight for racial equality, a fight that has benefited all Canadians.

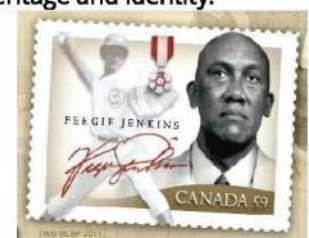
Viola Desmond

Viola fought to end racial segregation in Canada and became a civil right's icon. [Who Is Viola Desmond? \(Click Here\)](#)



Other Noteworthy Historical Figures

Read the biographies of some notable people who have helped shape Canadian heritage and identity. ([Click Here](#))



CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS



Bring the Museum to your classroom!

The **Chatham Kent Black Historical Society** will bring the virtual museum to your classroom and engage within your classroom discussions with you and your students.

Contact Information:

Samantha Meredith

info@ckblackhistorysociety.org

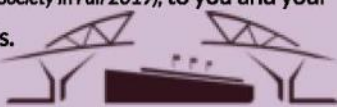
Local Event: Feb. 8

Talkin About Bessie @ 10:30 am

Location: Chatham Kent Public Library
([click here to find out more](#))



The **Sarnia Historical Society** will also connect across classrooms to bring the story of **Peter Pennington** in this [linked article](#) and **Elizabeth Workman** in this [excerpt linked](#) from his novel: *Keeping the Peace: 160 Years of Policing the Imperial City* by Phil Egan, (to be published by the Sarnia Historical Society in Fall 2019), to you and your students.



Contact Information: Phil Egan

philegan@cogeco.ca

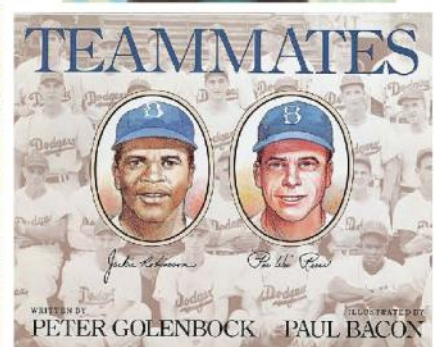
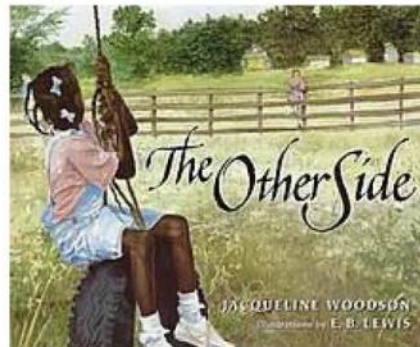
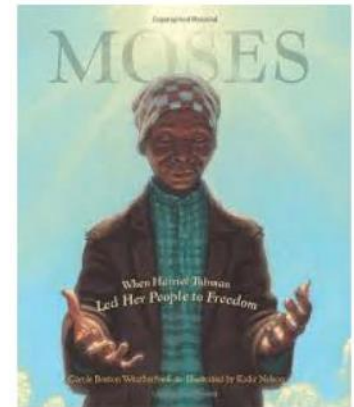
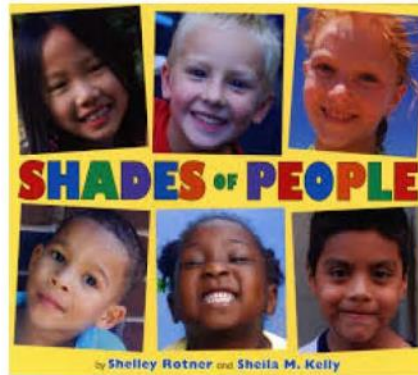


The **Buxton National Historical Site and Museum** offers educational programming through [online](#) educational classroom kits, hands on and interactive experiences at the museum, and visits from the museum into the classroom for ALL schools upon request.

Local Event: Feb 22 Kid's Event @ 1:00

([click here to find out more](#))

READING TO CONNECT CONCEPTS



This [List of Books](#), currently in most schools, develop an understanding of key concepts such as tolerance, courage, diversity, respect, kindness, and love, among other important concepts to uncover with students. **Christopher Paul Curtis** is a local author who will connect in classrooms and responds [online](#) to his reader's questions.

Kayak Magazine also provides great stories and examples of the ways Black Canadians helped to build and shape this country. Check out this [PDF](#) of the magazine along with this [Educational Package](#) for use in the classroom.

Black History through poetry offers a way to bring voice along with critical thinking about complex social issues into the classroom. Also consider using images and [Quotes](#) to provoke student thinking and reflection.

Please see this [Overview](#) of Critical Literacy and Black History for ideas about connections across the curriculum.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



Explore the following links for more information:

[Buxton Museum \(Staff will visit CK & SL classrooms!\)](#)

[CBC Kids: All About Black History Month](#)

[Chatham Kent Black Historical Society](#)

[The Underground Railroad](#)

[Uncle Tom's Cabin: Visit Uncle Tom's Cabin on Family Day @ 11:00 \(click here\)](#)

