



3966 Catherine St
Dorchester, ON
N0L 1G0

ST. DAVID CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2009

"Learning in the Name of the Lord"
Our Website: www.ldcsb.on.ca
Click on Schools: Click on St. David School

Principal: Joan Duckitt
Administrative Assistant: Pam Xuereb
Telephone/ Fax: 519-660-2779



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

On Sunday, November 29th the season of Advent began, and we once again look forward to the coming of Jesus. During Advent, we try to prepare our homes, schools and lives for Jesus, the King of Glory and the Prince of Peace. Advent is a time of simple living and extra prayer in preparation for the new coming of Jesus our Saviour.

On behalf of the staff of St. David School staff, I extend warm wishes for a holy and happy Christmas.

A reminder that we attend school until Dec. 18th, and return in the new year on Jan. 4th.

Unfortunately I am booked for surgery on January 5th and will be off school for several months; likely until after the March Break. Mr. John Welsh will be placed at St. David temporarily until I am well enough to return. Mr. Welsh is a retired Principal who is familiar with our school community. He began his teaching career at St. David and was principal of the school from 1994 to 1997. We have planned time to discuss his transition and the needs of the school. I know you will welcome him warmly. He looks forward to spending time at our school.

LITURGICAL EVENTS



Our next school Mass is on Wednesday, December 16th at 9:30 AM led by Mrs. Di Trolio's and Mrs. Lynch's classes.



In lieu of a Christmas Concert, the staff has decided to host a Family Advent Mass on Tuesday, December 8th at 6:30 P.M. at Mary Immaculate Church. A carol sing will begin at 6:15 P.M. led by our school choir. What a perfect way to express the faith and joy of our catholic school community by celebrating the Eucharist together. Please join us!

As a school we are focusing on the virtue of *hope* during the season of Advent.

OUTREACH

We have started our winter coat drive (for adults and children). Please send new or used coats that are in good condition to the school. These can be dropped off in the box in the front foyer.

Our Student Parliament has begun its annual canned food drive train in the front foyer. Students and staff are asked to bring in non-perishable food items during Advent.

The London District Catholic School Board's Mission Statement:

To serve the Catholic student in a community that nurtures a living faith and provides a quality Catholic education that enables the individual to become a contributing member of the Church and Society.

BUSSING



Thank you for cooperating by not park on the road in front of the school as this creates a traffic congestion for the busses waiting to enter our lot. The best and safest alternative is to park in the Church parking lot.

In the case of inclement weather or an emergency that may affect transportation you are advised to check the Board's website www.ldcsb.on.ca or www.mybigyellowbus.ca for up-to-date information. Local radio stations may carry information as well, though it may not be in the most timely fashion.

In the event of an emergency that occurs during the school day, a telephone system, manned by St. David's parents will be initiated by the school's Office, and parents will be contacted directly about the emergency, and their required response.

A reminder that when busses are cancelled; they are cancelled for the day. Therefore, if bus students are dropped off in the morning by parents, students must also be picked by 3:30 P.M.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

The report card is only one of the many ways to report on students' learning and progress. The Parent-Teacher Conference is another important vehicle to communicate about achievement and progress.



Parent-Teacher Conferences for all JK to grade 8 students will be held after school and in the evening of **Thursday, Dec. 3rd**. If you requested a conference, your time was confirmed with your youngest child's report card. Bring in a non-perishable food item for our food drive.

If you were unable to get a conference time scheduled, please contact your child's teacher directly to make alternate arrangements to meet and discuss your child's progress.

WINTER WEAR

The snow will soon begin to fly, and with that comes all the winter gear. We encourage all students to dress appropriately for the winter weather as they will be expected to go outside at recess times, except during extreme cold and/or inclement weather. During "boot" weather, it is

imperative that all students have "inside shoes". It is not safe for students to be in class or the gym in bare or stocking feet. Students must be ready at all times to proceed outside immediately in case of an emergency.

SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM

Thank you for your assistance in implementing the safe arrival policy, and for your cooperation in keeping children who are ill at home. When your child is ill, please take the time to call the school. To assist the Public Health Unit in its surveillance of the H1N1 pandemic, please state the reason for absence. Let us know if your child is experiencing any of the following flu symptoms: fever, cough, diarrhea, vomiting etc. In order to control the spread of the flu, students experiencing these symptoms must remain at home. If they are sent to school parents/emergency contacts will be called to retrieve them from school.

DENTAL SCREENING

As part of School Health Services in schools served by the Middlesex-London Health Unit, registered dental hygienists from the Middlesex-London Health Unit do annual dental screenings in certain grades. If you do **not** wish your child to be involved with this health unit program, please write a note to your child's teacher informing them of your wishes.

A flyer is available at the office should you wish more information on the School Dental program.

LIBRARY NEWS



The Scholastic Book Fair will be held in the Library on November 30th through December 3rd during school hours for students. On Thursday, Dec. 3rd, the Fair will remain open until 7:30 pm for parents to shop. There will be contests and a chance to win books. In addition, this year there will be an opportunity to purchase books for your child's classroom. Books make great Christmas gifts. Hope to see you there.



WILDCAT STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Wildcats Volleyball Season Recap.

The Boys' and Girls' Volleyball teams had very successful seasons and represented St. David School with Wildcats pride!

The boys' team finished 5th in their division, moving them into the "C" division playoffs. After a first-round bye, they handily defeated St. Mary's (West Lorne) to advance to the semi-finals. They played extremely well, but lost a tough five-set match. Great teamwork and skill development was displayed throughout the season. Special thanks to Mr. Poljanowski for his time in helping to coach the team! Team members were: Mitchell, Brandon, Stephan, Tyler, Justin, Josh, Brett, Cam, Jonathan, Ryan, Michael, Mac, and Graham.

The girls' team finished 3rd in their division, moving them into the "B" division playoffs. A straight set victory over St. Jude's (Ingersoll) advanced them to the quarter-finals, where they lost a very well-played game to St. Patrick's (Lucan) in four sets. Positive teamwork, skills, and spirit helped the team to achieve at a high level. Team members were: Alyson, Julia, Brittany T., Katie M., Rachel, Brittany M., Sarah, Danielle, Katie P., Kieva, Dana, and Laryssa.

The boys' and girls' volleyball seasons would not have been as successful without the assistance and support of many people. A big "thank you" goes to: Kaylin Hail and Haley Roberts for refereeing; the St. David Catholic School Council for their financial support for league and tournament fees; and the families of the players for their support in driving to games and tournaments and for being such enthusiastic fans. Great work, Wildcats!

On December 4th our school will also participate in the Intermediate Hockey Tournament. Thank you to Mr. Stout for coaching.

Green Team

Our green team and Recycling Club has begun under the direction of Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Ward and Mrs. Dewancker. They are planning 100 green

projects in order for our school to again the status of a "green school".



News from Student Parliament

As the advent season begins, St. David's Student Parliament is excited to be organizing our first major project – **a food drive of non-perishable goods**. Please send in canned and non-perishable goods throughout the month of December. Student Parliament members will collect the goods, and add them to our "St. David Cares" Christmas train in the front foyer. **Parents are encouraged to bring an item to add to our collection on Parent Interview Night, December 3rd, as well.** Donations will be given to the Dorchester and London Food Banks.

Student Parliament will also be hosting a Christmas Dance for the grade six to eight students on Friday, December 18th in the afternoon. Students are asked to bring in a canned good for an entrance admission.

Thank you so much for your generosity! We truly are blessed with such a caring community here at St. David School!

Healthy Hearts and Safe School Committee News

Our next meeting is Tuesday, December 1 @ 12:00 P.M. in the JK/SK room. We have many new members. Bring your ideas for December and January!

November's focus was the theme Nutrition – Fabulous Fruit. We had daily announcements about the importance of fruit every day. On November 20th, we participated in "The Big Crunch". Everyone brought an apple to school and we all took a "BIG Crunch" at 12:05. On November 27th, we had "Favourite Fruit Day".

Congratulations to the classes with the most participation! They received fancy new pencils and a certificate.

In December, we will focus on the theme "Fire Safety". We will have a Fire Safety Poster contest for the whole school.

Student Performance

On Friday December 4th at 9:30 A.M. intermediate students will be presenting a production of *The Fall of Freddy the Leaf*. Many thanks go to Mrs. Peterson for organizing this production and Mrs. Adams for helping. They have spent hours preparing our students and props.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

Class Basket fund raiser is underway. Baskets will be raffled off after Parent-Teacher Conference Night. Tickets are available now or at the Conference Night on Thursday, Dec. 3rd. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. We also have one grand prize that will be raffled off for \$10/ticket – Boxing Day with the Red Wings (includes 4 tickets to the game, 1 parking pass, 1 pass to Olympia Club, \$30 Shell gas card- \$500 value).

Poinsettia orders can be picked up at the Office on Thurs. Dec. 3rd.

Our next School Council meeting is on Tuesday, January 12th at 7 PM.

NEWS FROM MARY IMMACULATE PARISH

Last Chance - Come:
Get Involved – You Won't Regret It

Want to know about a great way to get involved at Mary Immaculate Parish. The youth are in need of people who are willing to hang out and have fun with them and yet at the same time help them to learn about and grow in their faith. You don't have to be an expert in the area of faith but rather someone willing to journey with the young people. Together we will build relationships with the youth and one another through crazy games, prayer, sports, talks and skits. It is an exciting and rewarding opportunity. For those of you who would like to share your gifts of time, talent and faith, whether you have a little or a lot of time to give, single, newly married, parent or grandparent, there is something for you to do. Perhaps this may be where God is calling you to serve at Mary Immaculate Parish. Give it a try. People are needed to run games, share a faith story, make food, chaperone kids, and the list goes on. If you would like more information or you would like to get involved please call:

Connie Vanderheyden @ 519-455-3217 Ext. 29
lifeteenmi@rcec.london.on.ca
Thank you



LOOKING AHEAD

January 1 – Happy New Year! Feast of the Holy Family
January 3 – Solemnity of the Epiphany
January 4 - back to school
January 12 - School Council Meeting 7 PM
January 20 - School Mass 9:30 AM
January 20 – First Reconciliation Grade 2s 6:30 PM
January 20 – Gr. 8 Parent Night RMC 7 PM

FROM ALL OF US
TO ALL OF
YOU....

HAVE A
BLESSED CHRISTMAS
AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR!



~the staff of St. David School

