



3966 Catherine St  
Dorchester, ON  
N0L 1G0

# ST. DAVID CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER UPDATE FEBRUARY 2010

*"Learning in the Name of the Lord"*

Our Website: [www.ldcsb.on.ca](http://www.ldcsb.on.ca)

Click on Schools: Click on St. David School

*Interim Principal:* John Welsh

*Administrative Assistant:* Pam Xuereb

*Telephone/ Fax:* 519-660-2779

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Some information items in way of keeping you "in the loop":

It was very gratifying to see how quickly and how generously the St. David community responded to the recent earthquake in Haiti. Over \$1100 was raised in a Cake Raffle and this was supplemented by a donation of \$250 from our Student Parliament.

Miss Duckitt continues her convalescence following knee surgery. She and I are regularly in touch and it is reassuring to have her weigh in on issues that concern the school community beyond my tenure. I am happy to serve until Ms. Duckitt is able to return.

Ms. Matijevic completed her yearlong French language assignment at St. David in place of Mme. Di Murro who returns from her parenting leave. We thank Ms. Matijevic for the service to our school community.

The Lenten season begins with our Ash Wednesday mass, February 17, 9:30 a.m. at Mary Immaculate Church. Please join us if your schedule permits. We hope to engage in some dedicated fund raising in support of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Food Grains Bank. More information about these projects will be forwarded in the weeks ahead.

While our Grade 8 class is busy planning their exit from elementary school with registration for secondary school, parents of incoming JK/K students are at the opposite end of the registration spectrum. We are happy to welcome a number of new families to the St. David community.

The winter term reports go home on March 22.

Our boys and girls basketball teams have enjoyed productive seasons and there has been significant skill development with each team. Thanks to our coaches and teacher supervisors.

Parts of our playground have been put off limits because of ice. We monitor the Environment Canada weather network on line and modify recess breaks as needed because of wind chill, snow, sleet etc. Please help us by reinforcing safe play with your children. When our playground is icy and snow covered, extra care is needed.

I continue to be impressed with the spirit and collective energy of the St. David community. I feel privileged to have been invited to be part of the team.

### **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.**



## LITURGICAL EVENTS

Please join us at our school Ash Wednesday Mass on Wednesday February 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM at Mary Immaculate Church.

We congratulate our grade 2 students who made their First Reconciliation on Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>.

Grade 8 Confirmation will be on Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at Mary Immaculate Church.

## JK/K Registration For September 2010

Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten registrations will take place the weeks of January 25<sup>th</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup>. Students who were born in 2006 are eligible for Junior Kindergarten, and children born in 2005 are eligible for Kindergarten for the 2010 school year. Please call Mrs. Xuereb to make an appointment. The following must be available when you register: A Birth certificate, a Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate, a Health Card, Immunization Record Card and Proof of Address. Please also have your Dr's name and # and an emergency contact name and # available.



St. Mary School

Choir and Orchestra Program

*St. Mary School has begun the application process for entrance to Grade 5 for 2010/2011.*

*Brochures with application forms will be available in all elementary schools. Please contact your principal for further details of the application and audition process or call St. Mary School at (519) 675-4423.*

*Applications are due to St. Mary School by March 12, 2010.*

*Application to the program is open to all Grade 4 students of the London District Catholic School Board. All applicants must have a Catholic Baptismal Certificate.*

*The brochure is available on the school's website:*

<http://www.ldcsb.on.ca/schools/malo/index.html>

## **French Immersion Registration for 2010-11**

The *London District Catholic School Board* offers Junior Kindergarten French Immersion for all Catholic ratepayers of London-Middlesex and Elgin at two London schools. Junior Kindergarten entry is at St. Anthony Catholic School for families residing South of Commissioners within the City of London, and at St. John French Immersion Catholic School for all other families. Please check: [http://www.ldcsb.on.ca/school\\_elementary.asp](http://www.ldcsb.on.ca/school_elementary.asp) Important Information Sessions for parents will be held at *St. John Catholic French Immersion School* on *Thursday, January 21, 2009 at 6:30pm* and at *St. Anthony Catholic French Immersion School* on *Tuesday January 19, 2009 at 6:30pm*. Registration for Catholic French Immersion will occur: *January 25 – February 5, 2010 at each school, by appointment please.*

For further information, you are welcome to contact:

*St. John French Immersion Catholic School*  
449 Hill Street, London, ON N6B 1E5St  
(519) 675-4420  
<http://www.ldcsb.on.ca/schools/john/>

*St. Anthony Catholic French Immersion School*  
1380 Ernest Avenue, London, On N6E 2H8  
(519) 660-2777  
<http://www.ldcsb.on.ca/schools/anthony/>



## **Attention Parents of 3 year – Olds!**

Do you have a 3 year-old child? Do you plan to register your child for Junior Kindergarten at St. David School next year? Join us for a free, fun introduction to your school including reading, math, games and physical activities. Meet the principal, teachers, health professionals,

librarian, educational assistants, Y staff and the Ontario Early Years Centres staff that are working for you and your children in your neighborhood. Learn more about school by joining us on the 4 scheduled dates. Our first session is Friday, February 12 at 10:00, in the school gym. The focus of the first session is Orientation, Healthy Active Living and Music. The sessions last for about 90 minutes. Subsequent session dates are: March 5 (Early Literacy), April 9 (Early Math), and May 11 (A classroom visit). We look forward to meeting you and your child/ren.

## BUSSING



We urge your continued cooperation in not parking 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](http://www.ldcsb.on.ca) or [www.mybigyellowbus.ca](http://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.

## WINTER WEAR

Winter is upon us. 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. 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.

## 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, and state the reason for the 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.

## LIBRARY NEWS



We have begun the **Forest of Reading Program** for 2010. Reading for some classes is independent and other classes share books during Library time. All students are invited to take part in this recreational reading program formulated by the Ontario Library Association. We thank the Parent Council very much for their financial help in acquiring some titles and for covering registration costs.

That is the purpose of this program?

- To promote and encourage reading for pleasure
- To promote and bring forward an excellent selection of recent Canadian books to the attention of children
- To encourage Canadian writing, Canadian authors and the improvement of writing skills

The program will continue for several months, culminating in the voting process in April. Voting for their favourite book gives the students encouragement to read the 5 books required to vote, and a strong feeling of involvement. If you are interested in viewing the titles and bio material on the authors, please visit the St. David School Library webpage and click on "Forest of Reading". We look forward to another successful year enjoying these outstanding books.



## Student Parliament News

Student Parliament was happy to start up our fundraising efforts in January with the always popular "Popcorn Fridays". Popcorn is available for \$1.50 per bag and can be pre-ordered every four weeks. Profits from popcorn sales and the

Christmas dance were recently added to our school fundraising efforts to support the people of Haiti. Parliament was very proud to support this effort, and will continue to work towards helping out in any way possible. We recently received a letter of thanks from the London Food Bank for your donations during the Christmas season, and we would like to pass along those thanks as we are grateful for your amazing generosity. In February, we are looking forward to a Valentine's spirit day to be held on Friday, February 12th....



### Healthy Hearts and Safe School Committee News

Our next meeting is Monday, February 22 @ 12:15 in the library.

In January, many classes enjoyed the Hand washing Presentation by our School Health Nurse, Kelly McMahon. Unfortunately, we had to delay the snow pile building contest to a later date due to lack of enough snow at the end of the month!

February's theme is, you guessed it, the "Olympics". We will focus on the importance of eating healthy and fitness, not only for athletes but for everyone. During the Olympic weeks, we will have various Olympic Activity charts up in the gym for classes to use during Gym class time. On Friday, February 12, we will have Red Veggie or Red Fruit day. Students will be asked to bring in a red vegetable or fruit. We will check to see which class has the most participation.

From  
And The Healthy Hearts Committee

### **Children Should Stay Home When Sick**

When children are sick, they cannot participate well in class and learn effectively. Resting in bed at home will prevent the spread of illnesses to classmates and staff and help your child recover more quickly.

Keep children home if they:

- Have a fever
- Are very fatigued
- Have a persistent cough or wheeze
- Have an earache
- Have a red eye with discharge or crust on their eyes when they wake up

At school there is often no place for students to lie down and rest. When your instincts tell you that your child is not well enough to participate at school, they are probably better to stay at home.

*From the Public Health Nurse*

### St. David Green Team News

Happy Groundhog Day! Please check out our display about groundhogs. Congratulations to Mrs. Blay's Grade Two class for reusing old Christmas cards to make new ones, and for reusing juice can lids to make awesome Christmas ornaments. A green shout out also goes to Mrs. Lewis' 3/4 classroom for composting their fruits and vegetables. Last month, members of the team told the kindergarten classes about polar bears and the arctic. We all need to reduce our carbon footprint -try to eliminate the idling of cars. Don't forget to send in your empty inkjet cartridges.

### Planning Meeting for Junior Youth Group Tuesday, Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> @7:00

There will be a second planning meeting for the Junior Youth Group on Tuesday Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 in the parish office. Plans are well underway for the start up of a junior youth group for students in elementary school. Parents, high school youth and anyone who would like to be a part of this ministry to younger youth are invited to come out and join the team. Please contact Connie Vanderheyden @ lifeteenmi@rcec.on.ca for further information.