



3966 Catherine St
Dorchester, ON
N0L 1G0

ST. DAVID CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2010

"Learning in the Name of the Lord"

Our Website: 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

While putting away the Christmas ornaments, I happened on an old Banker's Box in the corner of our basement. In it, were some of the mementoes from my first year teaching – 1976, Grade 6-7, St. David Catholic School, Dorchester. I was reminded how prominently the school has figured in my own personal story. Providing coverage for my colleague Ms. Duckitt in the coming weeks will be my fourth tour of duty at St. David. As the venerable Yogi Berra put it, "It's déjà vu all over again". The pre Internet St. David School of my first assignment was, surprisingly, not too different from the current version. Although the school population was smaller then and the building less roomy, the daily routines don't really change that much from one generation to the next. And the things that mattered in 1976 are still important today. Reading, Writing and Arithmetic provide the foundation as does the Catholic school fourth "R" – Religion. I am fortunate to step into a well run school with excellent routines and protocols. I will do my very best to provide appropriate leadership and support for the students and staff. I will

follow the practices established by Ms. Duckitt and her staff and make a safe school environment a priority.

The term ahead will be a busy one. Our staff continues with their Teacher-Learner Critical Pathway program. The fundamental idea of the T-LCP is that classroom practice can be organized in a practical, precise and personalized manner for each student, with the intended outcome being increased achievement for all students within the classroom. Preparation for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Confirmation are ongoing. Our school basketball teams will take to the court and organized physical activity in all grades will be a main focus. The St. David Catholic School Council will carry on with its initiatives in support of the school community. We ask for your continued support.

As I adjust to the school's day to day rhythms, I ask that you not hesitate to contact me if there is some way I might be of assistance. I know I speak on behalf of our staff and students in wishing you and your family a happy and healthy New Year.

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 Mass on Wednesday January 20th at 9:30 AM at Mary Immaculate Church.

Please pray for our Grade 2 students, some of whom will receive their First Penance on Wednesday, January 20th at 6:30 PM.

OUTREACH

Thank you so much for your generous contributions during our Advent Outreach projects! We collected bags of coats, boxes and boxes of food, and \$450 for a family in need. You have demonstrated what a truly caring community we are.

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 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 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.

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



Many thanks to staff, parents, friends and students who attended our recent literacy event, the Book Fair. It was very successful due to your generosity and interest in reading. Preceding and during the "Galaxy of Books" Book Fair, we held various contests and draws to create interest and excitement. The winner with the exact number for "count the number of Saturn's rings" was Sydney V. in JK/K. The winner of \$25 worth of free books for herself and her classroom was Payton H. in gr.3/4. All of the contestants who entered the Art contest should be commended since the entries were outstanding. The winners were Mac G. in gr. 6/7, Rachel L. in gr. 6/7, Ty G. in gr. 3/4, Rachel G. in gr.3/4, and Turner S. in gr.1/2. I hope that you all enjoyed your prizes, books and candy canes. Thanks to the St. David Library Club members who were instrumental in making informative posters and assisting at the Fair. We also appreciate the help at the Fair from our volunteers -Mrs. L. Liem, Stephanie Zuk, and Mrs. Jemmett's children. Keep Reading!



WILDCAT STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Sports

The basketball season has begun. Thank you to parents Mrs. J Baas (Girls') and Mrs. L. Slingerland (boys') who have volunteered to coach the teams. Special thanks to Mrs. R. Hail and staff who will serve as the staff supervisors.

Student Parliament News

Student Parliament members were extremely busy in December, building school spirit and helping the community! Throughout the Advent season, students and staff were encouraged to bring in non-perishable food items to support local food drives. Student parliament collected items for the "St. David Cares" Christmas train in the front foyer, and rewarded classes for their efforts with amazing renditions of a variety of Christmas carols. On the final day of school before holidays, students in grade six to eight brought in canned goods to attend the dance in the afternoon, and enjoyed the opportunity to have some fun while helping the community. In total, over 1000 pounds of goods were collected and donated to both the London and Dorchester Food Banks. Thank you St. David's for your generosity. Your spirit of giving reflects the true meaning of Christmas, and is truly appreciated!

Healthy Hearts and Safe School Committee News

In December, the Dorchester Fire Department gave the whole school a fantastic presentation on Fire Safety and Equipment. Many thanks to the Firemen and to Ms. Friedrich who volunteered to put on all the equipment! The Fire Safety Posters from our school contest are displayed on the bulletin board by the office. Congratulations to our winners and thank you to those who participated with their awesome posters!

Our next meeting is Monday, January 25th at 12:15 in the library. January's theme is Winter Activities and we will have a snow pile building contest later this month. Also, the health nurse, Kelly McMahon, will have a handwashing presentation "Glitterbug" on January 21st.



St. David scrubs up!

On Thursday Jan 21, 2010, the students of St. David will participate in a handwashing learning activity. Mrs. McMahon (our public health nurse) will be teaching students how to properly wash their hands using a special hand lotion and Ultraviolet light called the "Glitterbug" machine. Students will get the opportunity to

view "fake" germs on their hands and see how well they can wash these germs off. With all the colds, flus and viruses out there, this can be a valuable lesson for all! **The number #1 thing we can do to prevent illness is by simple handwashing!**

St. David Green Team News

The Green Team wishes to congratulate Mrs. Peterson and the group of intermediate students who put on a wonderful play using only recycled and previously used materials. Last month, the Green Team made some pinecone bird feeders for the birds near our school. We are now collecting inkjet printer cartridges so they can be recycled. Please help our Green Team by sending your empty inkjet cartridges to the school (Mrs. Dewancker's room).

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our Class Basket fund raiser was a huge success and raised \$1254. Many thanks to all parents who sent in donations for the baskets and bought raffle tickets. Special thanks to Mrs. Zuk, Mrs. Gubbels and Mrs. Burns for organizing the event.

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

Mary Immaculate Junior Youth Group Parent Involvement Meeting Wed. Jan 13th, 2010

Hey are you looking for a great way to share your gifts of time and talent and faith? Perhaps the Junior Youth Group is where you need to be. An information/organizational meeting is being held Wed. Jan 13th @ 6:30 in the Mary Immaculate parish office building. Please join us as we explore the possibilities for the junior youth group; grades 6-8 and plan where we will go from here. 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 See you on the 13th 😊