

ST. JOSEPH PHOENIX NEWS

Principal—Ms. L. Spadafora

MAY 2012



2012 "CATCH THE SPIRIT" STUDENT AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

This award is presented to recognize **excellence** within the Niagara Catholic District School Board's student population. One elementary, secondary and Adult & Continuing Education student has been selected from each school in our board.

The student representative shows and demonstrates outstanding qualities in the following areas:

- Catholic Leadership
- Catholic Faith and Catholic School Philosophy
- Family Commitment
- School Community Relations (rapport with teachers and other students)
- Involvement in School Affairs and Activities
- Involvement in Community Activities
- Commitment to a Difficult Situation or Task; and High Degree of Academic Excellence

Congratulations to **Adam Kozlowski** who will receive the award. The entire staff of St. Joseph School is very proud of Adam and we wish him the best for his continued success in the future.

On Friday, May 11th, the author Michael Morpurgo will be visiting our school. He will be presenting to our students in Grades 2/3—8. He is also well known for his book, War Horse.



Wonderful Mother

God made a wonderful mother,
A mother who never grows old;
He made her smile of the sunshine,
And He moulded her heart of pure gold;
In her eyes He placed bright shining stars,
In her cheeks fair roses you see;
God made a wonderful mother,
And He gave that dear mother to me.

Pat O'Reilly

 * The staff and students of St. Joseph School send a big *
 * thank-you to Ms. Mercuri and Ms. Gautreau, *
 * Mrs. Baldasaro's, Mrs. Semple's and Mrs. Ciccone's classes *
 * for all their hard work on our gardens. They look beautiful! *

French Performances

The grade 3, 4, 5 and 7 classes are pleased to invite you to our Showcase of French Learning on Thursday, May 10 at 1:00 pm. Please join us in the gym as the grade 3 and 4 students present their plays *Trois Petits Cochons* and *Boucles Violettes*. Also included in the performance will be a French fashion show by the grade 5 students and French songs presentation by the grade 7 class. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to demonstrate their French proficiency in an authentic performance setting. We look forward to seeing you there!

Please note that the French Café will return next year with a revised format. The new Café format will encourage a more authentic cultural experience where the students will be able to practice their developing conversational skills. We look forward to French Café 2013!

GRADE 8 GRADUATION will take place at St. Joseph Church on Monday, June 25th at 5:30 pm.



The Ontario Government announced that effective July 1, 2011, students will be able to start accumulating Community Involvement hours in the summer before they enter Grade 9.

IMPORTANT APPROACHING DATES

- May 3: Dental Screening
- May 6: Grade 2 First Communion—Noon Mass
- May 6—11: Catholic Education Week (see Pg 2 for events)
- May 18: PD Day
- May 21: Victoria Day—No School
- May 23: Junior Girls' Soccer Tournament
- May 25: Junior Boys' Soccer Tournament
- May 23—29: EQAO >>> Grade 3
- May 30—June 6: EQAO >>> Grade 6

Supporting our Catholic Virtue of the Month

In our front foyer we will be displaying our monthly virtue. Students will be responsible for showing us what the virtues mean to them.

April Virtue—HOPE

Miss Smith's Grade 1/2 students lead us in this month's virtue of Hope. The service was held on Tuesday, April 3rd in our school gym. Thank you for sharing your talents and gifts in being an example of hope for us all.



May Virtue—Discipleship

For this month's virtue assembly we will be celebrating our virtue of Discipleship through our Opening Prayer service on Monday, May 7th, for Catholic Education Week led by our Grade 4 students.

Catholic Education Week Planner 2012

Sunday, May 6th	<i>Weekly Masses at St. Joseph Parish - First Holy Communion for Grade 2 Students</i>
Monday, May 7th	<i>Opening Prayer Service (outside or gym if it is raining) - 9:00 a.m. (led by Grade 4 students)</i> Student Symposium @ 1:00 pm led by Hana Markham, Stephen Hagan, Logan Valk and Mykenzie Belcastro-Smith Grade 1 students will participate in Community Helper visits through-out the week Catch the Spirit Award @ St. Paul HS @ 7:00 pm
Tuesday, May 8th	<i>Opening Prayer Service - (outside weather permitting) - 9:00 am (led by Grade 6 students)</i> School Mass at St. Joseph Church, 10 a.m. - led by grade 7 students St. Joseph Spirit Day - all students to dress in school colours/spirit wear Choir Showcase - evening performance for parents @ 6:30
Wednesday, May 9th	<i>Opening Prayer Service - outside (Weather permitting) - 9:00 am (led by Grade 5 students)</i> Grade 4 Bible Ceremony with Msgr. Vladimir - (am) School Trivia Party 1:00 pm (multi grade groupings; questions will be focused on Catholic Education Week Themes and curriculum)
Thursday, May 10th	<i>Opening Prayer Service - outside (Weather permitting) - 9:00 am (led by Grade 3 students)</i> Crowning of Mary Ceremony - 10:30 am with Grade 2 & 8 students Showcase of French Learning - 1:00 pm
Friday, May 11th	<i>Opening Prayer Service - outside (Weather permitting) - 9:00 am (led by Grade 8 students)</i> Author Visit - Michael Morpurgo Closing, Walking in the Light of Christ School Liturgy - (TBA -led by parent community) Choir, Karate and Chess teams to Catholic Education Week display at YMCA Grimsby

BROCK—YMCA SURVEY

Attention Parents! Brock University researchers are coming to our school!

Our school has agreed to participate in a study called the Brock-YMCA Child and Family Development Study. The purpose of the study is to understand the process of youth and family development, and the factors that contribute to positive development for children, youth, and families. For the study, both students and parents are invited to participate.

In the next few weeks, your child will bring home some materials. These include an information letter about the study, a survey for parents, and a letter asking for your consent for your child to participate in the study.

If you participate, you will be eligible to submit a ballot to win one of three prizes available for your school:

- Kobo Vox e-reader;
- One week at a YMCA day camp;
- Birthday party hosted at the YMCA.

Anyone who returns a completed consent form and parent survey will receive a ballot for the draw!

If you have any questions at this time, please contact Ms. Spadafora.



Rising Phoenix!!!



Chess Tournament

On Friday, April 20th, our Chess team participated in the area Chess tournament. Our boys worked very hard and showed their master skills against many skilled competitors. I would like to thank our Chess teams for all their dedication to coming to practices and for working together.

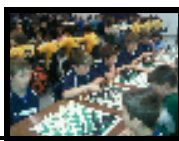
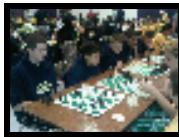
Junior team members:

Jack Baran, Kyle Bryl-Dam, Josh Bryl-Dam, Ben Carmosino, Joel Chauvin, Caleb Godwaldt, Filip Kapsa, Aidan Mindorff, Owen Russo and Ethan Valk

Intermediate Team members:

Liam Bowie, Spencer Frattaroli, Adam Kozlowski, Daniel Mazur, David Ollier, Matthew Seljan, Hunter Spadaro, Logan Valk, Thomas Volz and Patrick Zima

It was a pleasure "coaching" our Chess team. Thanks Ows!!!
Ms. Spadafora



Phoenix Heritage Fair 2012

Congratulations to the grade 4 and 5 students who participated in this year's St. Joseph NCDSB Heritage Fair. It was a lot of hard work and study as students chose and researched a Canadian topic of interest and presented their information in a visual format of their choice. We learned a lot about our Canadian heritage as project topics ranged from the history of the Canadian flag and the importance of the beaver as a Canadian symbol, to the history of Air Canada and Great Canadian Hockey players. All of the research and writing was done in class, so the projects really showcased our new learning and how much our students have learned about researching and paragraph writing. A special congratulations to our top four winners: 4th place Lucas Michtics, 3rd place Hannah Locco, 2nd place Elizabeth Tomaino and 1st place Sarah Mojeski.

Elizabeth and Sarah competed at the regional fair held at Brock University on Wednesday, April 25th and represented St. Joseph with style. The girls had a great day attending workshops, making new friends and checking out other projects. Sarah and Elizabeth also had the opportunity to travel to Fort George to participate in the 200th Anniversary Celebrations of The War of 1812. Congratulations to Elizabeth who won the Haunted Press Publishers Award. Well done everyone!



Thank You

We would like to thank Mrs. Semple for her dedication to support our students in Gr. 2/3, for her assistance with Eco-Schools; coaching sports teams; and participating in many school and Board committees. We wish her the very best!!!

Welcome Back!

We would like to welcome back Mrs. Wall into the Gr. 2/3 class and congratulate her on the arrival of her son, Ethen, almost a year ago.

Blessed Trinity Hosts Relay For Life

On May 11th and 12th Blessed Trinity will be hosting their second Relay for Life – a student run fund raiser and Cancer awareness event. The event is totally student run with teacher supervision. Because of the nature of the Relay (a 12 hour event - 7pm to 7am) it is impossible to have elementary students participate; however, we would like for the elementary students to become aware of the event and have a chance to contribute in some way.

Part of the Relay is a survivor lap, where survivors of cancer walk for a lap just after sunset. To light their way the track will be surrounded by luminaries. Luminaries look like lunch bags and have a candle inside. Luminaries can be purchased for \$5 and can be decorated and personalized by those who purchase them.

The Grade 7 and 8 students at your school have already been informed about the luminaries and will be purchasing them through their teachers. If your child is not in Grade 7 or 8 and you would like them to purchase a luminary please contact John Cino at 925-945-6706 Ext. 2310.

PARENTS - DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR KIDS MAY BE DOING?

One out of five youth have reported misusing prescription drugs in the past year!

A lot of them say they are getting them straight from their home medicine cabinet.

We can protect our kids:

- **Lock up** all prescription medications
- **Talk to your children** about the dangers of misusing prescription drugs
- **Take back** all old or unused prescription medications to your local pharmacy or
- **Drop them off** at various locations around the Niagara region on **Saturday, May 12, 2012 from 10 am to 3 pm**

Check www.niagararegion.ca/health for more information on Niagara's Prescription Drug Drop-off Day and a list of locations near you.

Millions of Canadians Have communication disorders.....Audiologists, Communicative Disorders Assistants, Speech-Language Pathologists and Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing can help



By the time a child is four and a half, he or she will have a vocabulary of approximately 2000 words, will be able to understand and follow directions, and 90 to 100 percent of his or her speech will be understood. Most children will have mastered all English speech sounds by the age of eight. By school age, a child should be able to speak in complete sentences with minor grammatical errors. A child's language skills continue to develop through the school years. From about age 9 to 19 most language growth occurs in the area of written language. Early detection of communication disorders is vital! If you are concerned about your child's speech and language development, consult a Speech-Language Pathologist or Audiologist. A listing of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists is available by contacting the College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario (CASLPO) at 1-800-993-9459 or visit caslpo.com.

Communication Disorders...Know the Warning Signs

Your child may have an underlying speech, language or hearing concern if he or she...

- Begins talking later than expected
- Does not respond consistently to sounds
- Has a history or chronic ear infections
- Has problems understanding others
- Cannot seem to express his or her thoughts and ideas
- Speaks using incomplete sentences
- Has difficulty playing or communicating with friends
- Says "huh" a lot and needs information repeated often
- Stumbles, avoids or gets stuck on certain words or sounds
- Is performing below expectations in the classroom
- Is having difficulty learning to read
- Has problems with swallowing or chewing
- Has frequent or long-term hoarseness
- Is unable to control the volume of speech

How can you get services from an Audiologist or Speech-Language Pathologist?

- Meet with your child's Classroom Teacher or Educational Resource Teacher and talk about your concerns
- A listing of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists is available by contacting the College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario (CASLPO) at 1-800-993-9459 or visit caslpo.com

To help celebrate Better Hearing and Speech Month during the month of May, Niagara Catholic's Speech-Language Pathologists, Communicative Disorders Assistants and Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will be having their 6th annual **colouring contest**. The contest is open to all primary students from ELKP to Grade 3. This event will focus on bringing awareness to the needs of our students with communication concerns or delays. Colouring sheets are available from your child's classroom teacher. Completed colouring sheets must be returned to the classroom teacher **before May 31st, 2012**. Prizes will be awarded at the beginning of June 2012.

**You are invited to our
Annual Family
Year-End BBQ**

**Wednesday, June 13th
5:00—7:30 pm**

**We have a Bouncy Castle
Games for the young ones
Raffle Baskets
Cotton Candy & Popcorn
Ice Cream
Hot Dogs, Hamburgers and Pizza**

**Please contact the school
if you are able to volunteer**

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

PLEASE BE SURE TO RETURN THE
FUN FAIR VOLUNTEER NOTE BY
FRIDAY, MAY 4TH.

BT CORNER

The Student Services Department would like to thank all of the grade 8 parents and teachers for their diligence in completing and returning the 2012/2013 Option Sheets. **Grade 9 orientation is scheduled for Tuesday, August 28th, 2012.** At this time the incoming grade 9 students will have the opportunity to pick up their 2012/2013 timetable and move into their assigned lockers. A letter will be sent home in August outlining the events of this day. If you have not yet paid the \$55 activity fee, please do so as soon as possible. Payment can be given to your grade 8 teacher or brought to Blessed Trinity.

Maddalena Uniforms is the proud supplier of the Blessed Trinity school uniforms. If you were not able to attend the uniform fitting which took place March 26, 27 and 28th, the Tuck Shop will be open every Thursday from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., or contact them @ 1-877-553-9991 * web page: www.maddalena-uniforms.com * email: moss@maddalena-uniforms.com.

If your son/daughter is considering summer school, applications will be available in the office of each Elementary School the week of April 23rd. Summer school will take place from Tuesday, July 3rd until Monday, July 30th, 2012. A Summer School information flyer was included in your Open House package. If you require any further information, please contact Continuing Education @ (905)682-3360 or <http://alc.niagaracatholic.ca/summerschool.asp>

Upcoming events:

- Spring Concert – Friday, May 4th at 7:00 p.m.
- Catholic Education Week – Sunday, May 6th – Saturday, May 12th

**NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL
BOARD**

Invites you to join us

at

Community Pathways Evening

DATE: Thursday, May 24, 2012

LOCATION: Catholic Education Center
427 Rice Road, Welland

TIME: 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

This display is to provide parents of students with special needs in grades 7-12 with information regarding agencies and supports available in their community and how to access them. Light refreshments will be served.

Guest Speakers:

Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Contact Niagara

Community Living - Family Support Representative

Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)

Many other agencies will be available to answer questions and provide information:

**John Howard Society
Ontario Brain Injury Association
Powerhouse Project
Voice For Hearing Impaired Children**

Please R.S.V.P. by May 7th to your child's Educational Resource Teacher. Also, please include the number of family members attending.



FREE DENTAL SCREENING COMING TO YOUR SCHOOL

A Public Health registered dental hygienist is scheduled to visit our school Thursday, May 3rd to assess students in grades JK, SK, 2, 4, 6, 8.

During this time the registered dental hygienist will perform a visual assessment of each child to determine his/her dental needs. Parents will be contacted if their child requires immediate dental care. Public Health dental programs may financially assist children who do not have access to required dental care. If your child is not in one of the targeted grades and you would like him/her to take part, please call the Public Health dental program at 905-688-8248 ext. 7399 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7188 or email dental@niagararegion.ca.



BEFORE SCHOOL BUS ROUTES AND PARKING

Prior to 9:00 am, we ask that you do not park along the bus drop-off area located between the ELKP gates and the main front entrance as we cannot allow the students to walk between parked cars, for their safety.

AFTER SCHOOL DISMISSAL ROUTINE

In an effort to keep all our students safe during after school dismissal **at the end of the day.**

1. **Pylons will be placed across the bus loading zone— so that ONLY busses will have access to enter and all bussed students will exit through the side playground doors**
2. **All walkers/pick ups/bike riders will exit through the front doors and walk toward the front of the school (Robinson St.) and will be picked up in the Kiss 'n' Ride area**
3. **Once all buses have left the school, all other traffic will be able to exit through Doran Ave.**
4. **Please remember that Doran Avenue is an exit only**
5. **We ask that parents not park on the south side of the Fire lane as it is a No Parking zone and the By-law officer has advised us that they will issue tickets accordingly**
6. **We ask that parents discuss the after school pickup location with their child in the morning before school**

WE APPRECIATE THAT IT WILL TAKE BOTH OUR STUDENTS AND PARENTS SOME TIME TO ADJUST TO THIS NEW ROUTINE. OUR HOPE IS TO MAKE THE DISMISSAL OF OUR STUDENTS AS SAFE AS POSSIBLE. WE ASK THAT IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS YOU CALL THE SCHOOL TO DISCUSS THEM.

New St. Joseph Sensory Room

We are pleased to announce the completion of our sensory room. A sensory room is utilized to provide gentle stimulation or relaxation to students with unique cognitive, behaviour, sensory, developmental or physical needs. In a sensory room, students' sensory needs are met through the strategic use of sound, touch, colour, vibration, and/or scent. By providing students with access to a sensory room we are helping to ensure their success in the school environment.

We would like to extend an enormous thank you to Ali Barkovich, an alumni of St. Joseph, for sharing her artistic talents by painting the murals on the walls. Also, to Mr. Barkovich who helped set up the room and Mrs. Barkovich for all her dedication and time in supporting all our students and organizing the sensory space.

