

MAY 2012

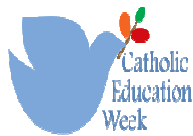
CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK: MAY 6-12

WALKING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

(See reverse of calendar for daily activities.)

Prayer for Catholic Education

O Holy Spirit, source of truth and grace for those entrusted with the Christian development of children, enlighten our minds, strengthen our wills, and fill our hearts with generosity so that our homes, our parish, our school and our community may cooperate effectively with You, and with one another in the exalted mission of Catholic Education. We make our prayer through Christ, Our Lord, Jesus, Mary, Joseph, pray for us.



PRAYERS FOR THE IPPOLITO FAMILY

Our prayers continue to go out to the Ippolito family during this very difficult time. Just a reminder that:

1) A Trust Fund for Matthew & Kyle has been established at the TD Bank in Beamsville. You may make a donation directly to this fund or submit donations to the school. Cheques are to be made payable to Betty Ann Sorley and quote Branch #3553, Account #6068285. We will collate all donations and submit them on behalf of the St. Mark School community by May 11.



2) Our CSC will be organizing a "Family Mass" celebrated by Father Phil on May 16, 6:30 pm in our gym. This Mass will also be a memorial to Mr. Ippolito. Please join us in this evening of prayer and remembrance.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK ACTIVITIES

The Catholic Education Week theme, "Walking in the Light of Christ" provides a meaningful springboard for:

1) Virtue for May is Discipleship: As a Catholic Learning Community of students, parents and staff, we treasure the gift of Catholic education and share the gospel vision of life. Our classroom discussions will focus on opportunities for life-long learning and the importance of cherishing the life-affirming values of honesty, acceptance, dignity and justice in our homes, school and community. May we support each other on our life-long journey of discipleship, faith and learning, and strive to be effective signs of Christ's love in our world.



2) Parent Volunteer Tea: A Tea will be hosted by staff to acknowledge and thank our many parent volunteers who help us day-in and day-out. Beverages and tasty treats will be served on May 9, 11:30-12:30 pm in the library. Invitations have been sent out. If we have accidentally

missed someone, please call the school. A special thank you to Mrs. Metelsky, Mrs. Meger, Mrs. Henderson and Mrs. Chisholm for coordinating this annual event.

3) Congratulations: The Board will celebrate the annual CEW "Catch the Spirit Award of Excellence" on May 7 at St. Paul

Catholic Secondary School. One student from each school is selected and we are pleased to announce that Rebecca Hendriks, Gr.7, is our recipient. We congratulate her for demonstrating many of the outstanding qualities that are established by the Board: Catholic Leadership, Faith, School Philosophy, Family Commitment, Community Relations, Involvement in School & Community Activities, Commitment to a Difficult Situation or Task, and High Degree of Academic Excellence. Rebecca, we are VERY proud of you!



4) A CEW letter from Bishop Bergie, Chairperson Kathy Burtkn and Director Crocco will be sent home on May 4. Also, we would like to thank our Catholic Education Week committee for coordinating all our weekly activities: Mrs. Minne, Mrs. Henderson, Mrs. Fitzpatrick, Mme Swindley and Mrs. Chisholm.



THE ROSARY

The month of May is a time of special devotion to Mary, the Mother of God. The Rosary is a simple and beautiful form of prayer for peace and it allows us to walk through the life of Jesus, seeing and learning about Him through the eyes of Mary. The Catholic school is an integral part of the church's mission to evangelize youth – to socialize students into a Catholic faith community in which a Christ-centered approach is the focus for instruction in all subject areas. For our very special intentions, we say the Rosary and honour Jesus and His Mother. We entrust our children to her care and protection as they make their faith journey through life towards eternity. One of the main focuses of our Religion program during May and Catholic Education Week is continuing to learn about and praying the Rosary. We have purchased a 'glow in the dark' rosary for each child to use and keep. Also, Mrs. Luppino and her Wednesday morning Prayer Club will be focusing on the Rosary. This club finishes at the end of May and we gratefully thank Mrs. Luppino for her time and prayers.



GR. 7 FAITH FESTIVAL

In alignment with the Board's Vision 2020 and their Strategic Direction to build a strong Catholic identity and community to nurture the distinctiveness of Catholic Education, they are pleased to confirm the 1st annual Faith Festival for all Gr. 7 students in Niagara Catholic. This inaugural year Faith Festival will be a half-day event with Father Tony Ricard from New Orleans. He is a dynamic and humorous speaker with a great message that the students will certainly enjoy. Our Gr. 7 classes will attend on the morning of May 2 at the Holiday Inn Suites in St. Catharines.

ST. HELEN CHURCH BUILDING FUNDRAISERS

There are two special projects that are currently underway to help raise funds for building a new St. Helen Church adjacent to our school property. We certainly are looking forward to St. Helen Church ground-breaking in the near future. The Special Events church leaders are organizing:

- 1) Cookbook Sales: Our students will be involved in a contest by designing a front cover. The winning submission will be used as the front cover of their cookbook. More information to follow.
- 2) Raffle: Want to win \$25,000? There will be two Early Bird draws of \$500 & 12 monthly draws of \$2000 until April 2013. Only 520 tickets will be sold and all tickets remain in play for each draw, so you can win multiple times. Ticket cost is \$100. If you are interested, contact Steve Metelsky at 289-566-9090 or smetelsky@cogeco.ca. Good luck and thanks for supporting our new church.
- 3) Pledge: You may be contacted by telephone by the fundraising team for your financial support.



UNITED WAY "DISNEY DAY"

On Apr. 25 we held a spirit day for United Way entitled Disney Day. Thank you for your generosity, as \$350 was sent to the local United Way. Also, on May 15, our staff will be involved in a "Denim Day" with proceeds going to the Cancer Society.

COFFEE HOUSE MAY 3

Mrs. Cairns has been very busy with the Gr.4-8 students preparing for our musical performance. On May 3, there will be performances at the following times for families:

- For Gr.4-6: 1-1:30 & 6-6:30 pm
- For Gr.7-8: 1:45-2:30 & 6:45-7:30 pm

There will be a 10 am dress rehearsal assembly for all of our students to view the performances. Also, as part of these performances, families will be invited to shop in the Fair Trade market between performances and sip on donated coffee and tea. Information has been sent home.



EQAO PROVINCIAL ASSESSMENT

All Gr. 3 & 6 students in Ontario will be involved in an integrated assessment unit in May and June. This province-wide assessment will provide an overall measure of the quality of education in Ontario and will form a basis for recommendations about the development of programs for our students. The assessment is based on provincial outcomes and standards from the Ontario Curriculum and will involve tasks in Reading, Writing and Mathematics. The Education Quality & Accountability Office (EQAO) is responsible for the design, administration, marking and reporting of this assessment, with individual student and school results available in the fall of 2012. These results will reflect what students know, complementing what the teacher has observed throughout the school year. Remember, together we have prepared the children since birth and throughout the primary and junior grades to ensure the best possible results. All we expect is that everyone will try their best! More information will be sent home with the Gr. 3 & 6 students and the exact dates for the Assessment will be in this correspondence.

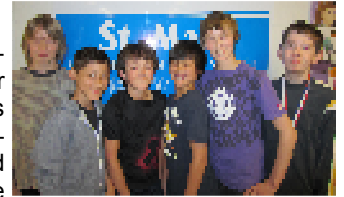
FAREWELL & WELCOME

We bid a fond St. Mark farewell in mid-May to Mrs. Cairns who begins her maternity leave. She is very excited and anticipating her third child. We give a warm welcome to Mr. Pomorski who will assume her music teaching responsibilities. Also, Mrs. Thacker has taken a medical leave. We wish her good luck. We welcome back Miss Zavarella who will assume her Gr.3 responsibilities until the end of June. We are pleased to announce that Mrs. Melfi welcomed Niko, born Apr. 9, weighing 5lbs, 8ozs and Mrs. Psiloyenis delivered Lillia, on Apr. 21, 8lbs, 7ozs. We welcome Miss Champagne, our new CYW.



CHESS

Congratulations to our Junior & Intermediate chess teams for their skillful chess playing. Both teams did very well in the Apr. 20 tournament. The Junior team advanced to the Gold round, finished the



CHAMPIONS of Area 4 and went on to the Board finals.

They emerged the **NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD 2012 JUNIOR CHESS CHAMPIONS!**

The Intermediate squad advanced to the Bronze round and finished in 3rd place in Area 4. All players were at the top of their game. Junior CHAMPS were: Dylan DiFabio, Patrick Green, Patrick Alvarez, Max Mosquite, Abram van Engelen, Malcolm Van Den Hurk; Intermediate Team: Jack Mosquite, Mason Bermel, Brandon Mahu, Jake Mousseau, Anthonie Korstanje, Matt Borsodi. A big thank you to our coaches, Mrs. Pellizzari and Mr. Zack for their time and talents and to Mr. Zack for assisting with the coordination of the Area 4 Tournament at our school.

SCRABBLE

St Mark will be sending 3 junior delegates and 3 senior delegates to the board scrabble tournament on May 2 at Msgr. Clancy School. The coaches, Mme Swindley and Mme Geoghegan wish them "Bonne Chance".

SAFE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

- 1) Thank you for remembering that our school is nut-safe.
- 2) For safety reasons, we discourage students from leaving school to buy their lunch. Students may only leave school property with written parental permission. Parents are responsible for their children when they leave school property.

SPORTS

1) Handball: Our junior boys handball team had an awesome performance in the tournament here in March. They dominated, going undefeated all day. As a team they played at a high level both physically and mentally— great teamwork and great fair play. They were treated to a pizza party for their efforts. Well done **CHAMPS!**



- 2) Soccer: Our junior and intermediate soccer teams will participate in the West Wing tournaments this month.
- 3) Our school track & field meet for Gr.4-8 students is scheduled for May 17 (rain date 22nd). Thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Moscato, Mr. Montague, Mr. Mezzavilla and Mrs. Chisholm for coordinating this event. Since the children will be outside, please remember hats, sunscreen and lots of fluids. The BT family of schools meet will be in June.



PA DAY - MAY 18

On May 18, the staff will be involved in a PA Faith Day with the theme of enriching our personal faith witness. Various activities have been planned. There is no school for the children this day.



MATHLETE TOURNAMENT

Question: What is the value of $2y^2$, if $y=3$?
The 1st annual Niagara Catholic Intermediate Mathletes Tournament for the BT Associate schools will take place on May 23 at BT. Each elementary school will send a Mathlete Team



comprised of four students. Good luck to our Mathletes: Alexa Bousfield, Zoe Van Den Hurk, Ian Snow and Matt Borsodi. (Answer, 18).



DIRECTOR VISIT

On Apr. 5, the staff was treated by their Teachers' Association (OECTA) to a luncheon. Their President and Senior Administration did all lunch supervision so staff could enjoy an uninterrupted meal. Mr. Crocco, the Director, was on hand with his vest to keep everyone safe.

ECO TEAM

The Eco-Team has been hard at work during the month of April. We participated in a school ground clean-up and have been polling all the classes about which animal we want to adopt from the World Wildlife Fund. The overwhelming choice was the snow leopard. We have also done a school-wide waste audit and a spirit day for Earth Day! Planned for May is a tree planting, Albright Manor clean up and bottle free water day.



FOREST OF READING PROGRAM

On May 22, Mrs. Dobson will accompany our Red Maple & Silver Birch reading team to Our Lady of Fatima for a Reading Celebration with the readers from St. Martin and Fatima. The primary students chose *Giraffe and Bird* as the best new Canadian picture book. Congratulations to all our readers. Reading is the key to success!

ST. MARK & BROCK YMCA STUDY

Our students will be participating (voluntarily) in a formal professional study administered by Brock University and the YMCA of Niagara focusing on gaining a better understanding of the factors that contribute to positive development for families. The YMCA is sponsoring the study because it has recently expanded its presence in west Niagara and is interested in understanding the extent to which their new community presence impacts the quality of life for children, youth and families in west Niagara. An information package will be sent home soon for parental review and optional consent. Thanks to Mr. Montague for coordinating this study with Brock.



PATHSTONE MENTAL HEALTH ANTI-STIGMA

The Pathstone Mental Health Anti-Stigma Committee, working in conjunction with schools from Niagara Catholic District School Board, has launched a campaign entitled *Shatter the Stigma Mend the Mind*. This campaign is designed to decrease the stigma that surrounds mental illness through education. The campaign supports one of our Board's 2011-2012 Strategic Directions and Priority Indicators Enabling Strategy— "To design a Niagara Catholic Mental Health Support Plan to address the need for increased supports for mental health." A great way to accomplish this is by taking this message to schools and helping to raise awareness about mental illness, which is very common and treatable. One in five people will experience a mental illness at some point in their lifetime, 70% of mental illnesses begin during childhood and adolescence, and the earlier treatment is started, the better the outcome. Our new CYW, Miss Cham-

pagne, with the assistance of Mrs. Milloy and staff will roll out this campaign in the first week of May. Also, once again the Board will be hosting our Community Pathways Evening for families with students in Gr.7-12. This evening is to inform parents of community resources available for children with ASD, Developmental Disabilities, Learning Disabilities and Mental Health concerns. A variety of agencies will set up booths with information and pamphlets and are happy to discuss with parents about the services they provide and how to access them. The event will be held at the Catholic Education Centre at 427 Rice Road in Welland on May 24, 6-8p.



MAY IS BETTER HEARING & SPEECH MONTH

Many in-class activities will take place this month to raise awareness and celebrate better hearing and speech. Mrs. Delville, our Communication Assistant, will be working with staff and students during May. Also, posters and information will be prominently displayed in the school for parents to read.



AV

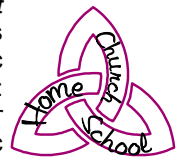
We are in the process of upgrading our AV inventory. We have purchased LCD projectors, Blue Rays, stereos, a digital camera and HDMI cables. Hopefully, information about computers (COWS) will be coming soon from the Board.

STUDENT SUPPORT RESOURCES

We are completing our four-year plan of purchasing texts and resources to support student learning and our School Improvement Plan. In this final year, we will be buying new literacy support resources for ELKP-Gr. 3. Also, our very extensive bookroom for students and staff will soon be installed in our student-teacher workroom in the new addition.

PARTNERS IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION

On the evening of May 17 all Principals with their Pastor, CSC Chairs and Council members will participate in this annual Board symposium at Denis Morris at 7:00 pm. The keynote speaker is Brett Ullman of the Catholic charity *Worlds Apart* who will speak on Media, Faith and Culture. This is a great opportunity for us to live our Catholic School Council motto of, "Supporting the Triad: Home-School-Church" and to revitalize our commitment to our children and Catholic Education. CSC Councilors wishing to attend are to contact Mr. Montague by May 8.



Happy
Mother's Day
Mommy &
Grammie

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

by Jackie Galloway & Katie Thomson, CSC Co-Chairs



FAMILY & MEMORIAL MASS – MAY 16, 6:30 PM

The CSC has planned the annual St. Mark Family Mass for Wed. May 16, 6:30 pm in our gym with Father Phil. We will also celebrate the life of Mr. Ippolito at this Mass. Please join us as we pray for the Ippolito family and celebrate Catholic Education.



PARENT REACHING OUT GRANT

We were successful in our application for this PRO grant and received \$1000. Arts will be the theme of this grant and tentatively, an evening performance is planned for students and their parents. More information to follow. Also, we will be applying for PRO grant funds for next school year.

NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

The NCPIC and Board has arranged for a Faith Formation "Family Night with Father Tony Ricard" on May 3 at Denis Morris, 7:00-8:30 p.m. All parents and students are invited. Father Tony from New Orleans, is a dynamic and humorous speaker with a great message that you will certainly enjoy. You will not be disappointed.

ST. MARK PASTA DINNER

CSC's pasta dinner and Basket Bonanza fundraiser in celebration of St. Mark's Day on Apr. 25 was a huge success. A total of \$2000 was raised to support student resources. Thanks to all who participated and thank you to all who donated for the fantastic baskets.



FLOWER FUNDRAISER

As you are aware, the CSC is holding a flower basket fundraiser until May 7. Pick up is on May 9 & 10 from 3:00-6:00 pm in the school foyer.

CAMPBELL'S LABELS

We are still collecting Campbell's labels to purchase outdoor playground equipment for September. Congratulations to Miss Ciarlo's class who has collected the most labels and will be treated to a pizza party.

PRAYER CLUB

All children are welcome to Mrs. Luppino's weekly Wednesday morning prayer club that will run until the end of May.



NEXT CSC MEETING

Our next monthly meeting is Tues., May 8, 6:30-8:00 pm.

Gr. 8 GRADUATION



1) Graduation: This very special occasion will take place on June 22 beginning at 6:00pm with a liturgy celebrated by Father Phil at St. Joseph Church. Following the celebration, our awards and diploma ceremony will be held. The students will reassemble afterwards for dinner and dance in BT cafeteria. Thanks to Mrs. Moscato, Mrs. Clifford, Mrs. Milloy, Mme Chininea and our parent committee for organizing what will certainly be a memorable and enjoyable evening. A very special thank you to our Catholic School Council which has generously subsidized the costs!

2) Pictorial Memories: We would like to thank Mrs. Clifford, Mrs. Moscato, our parent and student committee who have been working on a first class DVD of photographic memories for our Gr.8 students. If you have not already done so, please submit your photos. The committee will try to capture the many memories at St. Mark in this great video momento.



BT CORNER

1) Blessed Trinity Relay For Life: On May 11, BT will be hosting their 2nd Relay for Life, a student run, teacher supervised, fundraiser & Cancer awareness event. Due to the nature of the Relay (7pm-7am) it is difficult to have our elementary students participate; however, we would like for them 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 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 Gr. 7-8 students at St. Mark have already been informed about the luminaries and will be purchasing them through their teachers. Thanks for your support.

Mr. John Cino, Student Success Teacher.

2) The Student Services Department would like to thank all the Gr. 8 parents and teachers for their diligence in completing and returning the Option Sheets. Gr. 9 orientation is scheduled for Aug. 28 and the incoming Gr. 9 students will have the opportunity to pick up their timetable and move into their assigned lockers. A letter will be sent home in August outlining the day's events. If you have not yet paid the \$55 activity fee, please do so as soon as possible. Payment can be brought to BT. Maddalena Uniforms is the supplier of our school uniforms. If you were not able to attend the uniform fitting, the Tuck Shop will be open every Thursday from 10-2 pm, or contact them at 1-877-553-9991. If your son/daughter is considering summer school, July 3-30, applications will be available from their teacher.

Mrs. Josephine Moretuzzo, Program Chair Student Services.