



## Prayer

Dear God,

As we journey through this month, give us the courage to support each other and to appreciate all of the wonderful gifts each of our classmates brings. Help us to be kind to each other even when we are tired and impatient. Give us the courage to meet all the challenges we face together in order to make our school a place of peace, love, joy and laughter.

Amen



## Principal's Message

As we enter into this beautiful month of May, we are reminded that we are still in the Easter Season and remain hopeful in the knowledge that Jesus is among us. Through His resurrection our faith becomes stronger, our willingness to do right grows and our love of our brothers and sisters is renewed. The

Virtue for May is "Discipleship- Walking in the light of Christ," and is rooted in the following scripture:

**Live as children of light**

**– for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.**

**Ephesians 5: 14 - 16**

The month of May is also marked by Catholic Education Week across all Catholic Schools in the province. This year's theme, "Walking in the Light of Christ....your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path," will be used to lead us in a variety of Board wide and school wide events and activities. During the masses on May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> across the Niagara Catholic family of parishes representatives from schools will provide a brief description of the gift of Catholic Education and outline the purpose of Catholic Education Week. In this months newsletter you will also find a letter from Bishop Bergie, Director John Crocco, and Chair, Kathy Burtnik. In closing, I am

proud to be a member of this Catholic community and am honored to be a participant in the education of your child. Their faith formation is as important to their development as any aspect of their formal education and thank you for your insights and collaboration as the first and foremost educator of your child.

God bless.

D. Stunt



## CATHOLICITY

### Catholic Education Week

From May 6- 11, Catholic Schools from across Niagara Catholic will celebrate Catholic Education. The following is a description of the week's events.

### Sacraments

Grade 2 - First Holy Communion  
May 6- 2:00 pm

### Just One More Success!

St. Martin's third annual **Lenten Food Drive** was a resounding success! Thanks to all who contributed. In giving *Just One More*, we contributed over 1100 pounds of food to benefit our less fortunate neighbours through *West Lincoln Community*



Cares. What a great start to the Easter season! Congratulations on showing how much the St. Martin community cares!

Special thanks to the *GT French Company* for supplying the paper bags at cost, and to the following individuals whose various contributions made this success possible: Kylie V., Karli S., Kady A., Cassie B., Joy M., Spencer B., Taylor A., Mrs. Korsmit, Ms. Luciani, Mrs. Jenkins, Mrs. Dostie, Mrs. Spadafora, Mrs. Downey, and the many students who helped load the bags for delivery on Holy Thursday.

### Me to We—Rafiki Chains

Staff and students were surprised with a FLASH MOB dance at the beginning of an assembly to kick off the rafiki chain fundraiser. The MOB learned the *We Day* dance, performed by singer Shawn Desmon and then taught it to a few other student clubs prior to the assembly. Students from the drum circle club, the choir and the scrabble club were among those participating. The FLASH MOB was a huge success, as it surprised a lot of the teachers and students, and by the end of the song, almost the whole

school was dancing. The MOB would like to thank everyone who purchased rafiki chains to help support the drought relief in east Africa. The chains were sold out in less than a week. As a result of our efforts, 150 people in East Africa will be fed for a month!



### 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 a.m. to 3 p.m. Check [www.niagararegion.ca/health](http://www.niagararegion.ca/health) for more information on Niagara's prescription Drug Drop-off Day and a list of locations near you.

# CATHOLICITY CONT'D



## NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

### CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK PLANNER 2012

**THEME: Walking in the Light of Christ**

**NAME OF SCHOOL: ST. MARTIN, SMITHVILLE**

<b>Sunday, May 6th</b>	<b>SCHOOL REP TO ADDRESS PARISH CONGREGATION AT EACH WEEKEND MASS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grade 2 First Holy Communion</li> </ul>
<b>Monday, May 7th</b>	<b>NCDSB UNIFIED PRAYER</b> <b>SCHOOL PRAYER SERVICE TO LAUNCH CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK- STUDENT LED SYMPOSIUM</b> <b>CATCH THE SPIRIT AWARDS- St. Martin Recipient - Kelsey Nicholson</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Help A Child Smile Campaign Launch</li> </ul>
<b>Tuesday, May 8th</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Help A Child Smile Campaign – Day 2</li> <li>Junior/Intermediate Coffee House</li> <li>10 000 Villages</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday, May 9th</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Help A Child Smile Campaign – Day 3</li> <li>Junior students attend St. Martin of Tours morning mass</li> <li>Responsible Social Networking Workshop – Grade 4/5/6</li> <li>Responsible Social Networking Workshop – Grade 7/8</li> <li>Responsible Social Networking Workshop – Parent Session (7 pm)</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday, May 10th</b>	<b>NIAGARA CATHOLIC PUBLIC DISPLAYS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Help A Child Smile Campaign – Day 4</li> <li>Intermediate students attend St. Martin of Tours morning mass</li> <li>Saints Scavenger Hunt</li> </ul>
<b>Friday, May 11th</b>	<b>NIAGARA CATHOLIC PUBLIC DISPLAYS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Help A Child Smile Campaign – Wrap up</li> </ul> Primary students attend St. Martin of Tours morning mass

## Shatter the Stigma-Mend the Mind



Across schools in the Niagara Region, we begin a campaign to bring awareness and educa-

tion to students and families on mental illness. Sponsored through Pathstones, students will participate in lessons and a poster contest to become better informed about what mental illness is and how to shatter the stigma. We know that 1 in 5 youth have a mental illness, but more than 65% of them will not get help because they are afraid or embarrassed. We would treat a child with a broken arm, a cut and a disease, but tend to overlook those who suffer from an invisible ailment. This campaign is intended to help students feel secure in their efforts to guarantee help and support in a compassionate manner

At St. Martin, through our work with Pathstones and the SNAP Program has been successful in providing support for many students. Please contact the office should you have any questions or comments.

## Social Networking Parent Presentation

Probably, the greatest technological advancement over the past 20 years has been the communication systems that allow individuals and groups to post information instantaneously. This technology has many benefits, is used by a growing number of individuals and will likely continue to grow in use by an even a broader and diverse population of users.

It is very important that we all come to a shared understanding of how such technology can enhance learning, how we can protect ourselves from some negativity associated with it and how we can ensure that use is

both safe and legal.

Students in Grades 4-8 will participate in a 45 minute workshop with a special parent presentation in the evening. We encourage your involvement. Thanks.

### May 9<sup>th</sup>

Grades 7-8- 12:45- 1:35

Grades 4-6- 1:40- 2:30

Parents/Guardians- 6:00 pm- School Gym



## New School Committee

A new school committee has been struck to work with Senior Administration, architects and contractors for the new school. The committee has representation from all stakeholders including, parents, church, students, a community member, teachers and support staff. The goal is to ensure that our values, characteristics and visions for the spiritual, academic and aesthetic nature of the school be included in the physical development and construction of the school. We have had one formal meeting to structure our purpose and will be touring recent new schools in our area to get a sense of what new schools can provide. We will be touring Our Lady of Fatima on Tuesday May 1<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 pm. Many thanks to this committee for all of their ideas and support.



## Welcome to Kindergarten Night

On May 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm we will be holding our annual Welcome to Kindergarten Program and evening for parents and students new to JK/SK. At this gathering we have representation from all of our partners in Catholic Education, from Fr. Obioma to public librarian to local optometrist. Parents and

children will rotate from one learning program to another to get a sense of what your child will do come September.

We look forward to this opportunity to get to know you and your child and to plant the seeds for continued collaboration for years to come.



## The Great Canadian Shore Cleanup

The students in our St. Martin Nature Club will be taking part in the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup on Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup> from 11:45-1:00. This is an excellent opportunity for the students to make real measurable impacts on the environment. The students will begin their clean up at 11:45 and will end with a picnic at the newly cleaned up site.



## Community Pathways Evening

Once again this year we will be hosting our Community Pathways Evening for families with students in grades 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 Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm.

# CURRICULUM

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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 area Speech-Language Pathologists/ Communicative Disorders Assistants/Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing or can be downloaded from the NCDSB website. Completed colouring sheets must be returned to the Special Education Department at the Catholic Education Centre before May 31, 2012. Prizes will be awarded at the beginning of June 2012.



## EQAO

This year students in grade 3 and 6 will participate in the Provincial EQAO testing. These 2.5 days of assessment are designed to assess students understanding and competence in the areas of literacy and numeracy as it relates to the Ontario Curriculum Expectations. Students have had a great deal of exposure to EQAO and are well versed in the style of questions and tasks.

**Grade 3-** May 23-29 (while it is a 2.5 day assessment we leave time for students that have been absent or unavailable to complete the assessment)

**Grade 6-** May 29-June 6.

Please do not hesitate to call should you have any questions or concerns.



## 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 28<sup>th</sup>, 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 28<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://www.maddalena-uniforms.com) \* email: [moss@maddalena-uniforms.com](mailto: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 23<sup>rd</sup>. Summer school will take place from Tuesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> until Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, 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:

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

