

Sacred Heart of Jesus School

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Dr. M. Ssemanda, Principal

Mr. G. Frade, Principal Intern

February 2019

✠ A Message From Fr. Charlie Jordan

School Newsletter – February, 2019

Blessed Sacrament and Sacred Heart Schools

February is the month we celebrate Family Day – a time set aside to see the blessings of our family. I realize this can be difficult – our family home may not be the loving place we would like it to be.

The challenge is to see the positive – sometimes, actually a lot of the times, “less is more”.

This is also a time when we celebrate the world wide family we belong to.

May it be a time for you to reach out to someone in your family who may be in need of human touch.

May you see the blessings of being part of a parish family – the Church, not perfect, is a family of believers in need of constant renewal.

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Superintendent of
Education

Mr. P. Daly
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Message from the Principal

We are grateful that God is continuing to bless our school year as it continues to move along. We are at the midpoint of the year already. The Staff are continuing to support our students to gain the necessary skills needed to meet the required curriculum expectations. We remind ourselves as follows:



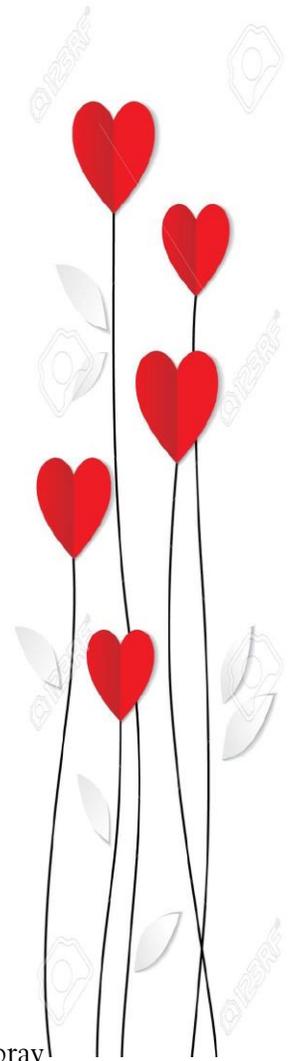
*Love is Patient. Love is Kind. Love is not Jealous.
It is not boastful or arrogant. It does not become angry easily.
And it does not hold a grudge. Love does not rejoice in what is wrong.
It rejoices in truth. There are three things that last, faith, hope and love.
And the greatest of these is Love.*

1 Corinthians 13:4-5,13

February is a month focused on love and relationships. It is also a month in which we celebrate Black History Month. We use this opportunity to pray for strong relationships with each other and with God. On Monday, February 18th, the school will be closed as we celebrate Family Day. We get a wonderful opportunity to reflect and appreciate our family relationships.

As a family focused on love and relationships, we can spend more time with family, pray together, read Scripture together, slow down and enjoy God's gifts together. Let us focus as a community on love and caring for each other as we prepare to begin the Lenten season.

On Tuesday, February 12th, students from SK to grade 8 will receive their Term 1 Report Cards. Students are encouraged to set Term 2 goals based on report card results, and to continue to work hard and review their learning materials regularly. With the Final Report going home on Tuesday, June 25, there is still plenty of time for students to improve through goal-setting.



Safety Concerns

It has been brought to our attention that some parents are parking illegally and this is causing a lot of confusion and traffic congestion problems. Please obey the parking signs by parking legally. Below is the information regarding the parking and fines:

"park" or "parking" when prohibited, means the standing of a vehicle whether occupied or not except when standing temporarily for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading or unloading merchandise or passengers;

Fine: Early Payment \$26.00 (payment within 7 days of the offence) Late Payment \$33.00 (payment within 15 days of the offence)

"stop" or "stopping" when prohibited, means the halting of a vehicle, even momentarily whether occupied or not, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the directions of a constable or other police officer or of a traffic control sign or signal;

Fine: Early Payment \$60.00 (payment within 7 days of the offence) Late Payment \$75.00 (payment within 15 days of the offence).

We do not want any of our parents/guardians to get ticketed. Your cooperation and understanding in this important matter is very much appreciated.

Family Day

Monday, February 18, 2019 is Family Day. This is a day that we dedicate to the gift of the family. There will be no school that day as the students will be celebrating the day with you. Happy time together!



Next Council Meeting

Our next Catholic School Council meeting will be on Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Learning Commons. All parents are welcome to attend.

Provincial Report Cards

Term 1 officially ends on Friday, February 1, 2019. First term Provincial Report Cards will be sent home with all students from Kindergarten to Grade 8 on Tuesday, February 12, 2019. Parents who wish to have an interview with their child's teacher are requested to please send a note to school so that arrangements can be made to accommodate the request. Please remember to return page 3 of the report card so that it can be filed in your child's OSR - Ontario School Folder.



Black History/Diversity Month

February is a month to not only celebrate the achievements and contributions of Black people in North America and the world but how many diverse groups of people have made a difference throughout history. Black history month is a time to learn about different people and be grateful for the diversity we have here in Canada. There are many African-North Americans past and present that have played a positive role in building the world you and I live in today. Let us celebrate Black History month together!!

Groundhog Day

Groundhog Day is a popular tradition celebrated in Canada on February 2. It derives from the superstition that if a groundhog emerging from its burrow on this day sees a shadow due to clear weather, it will retreat to its den and winter will persist for six more weeks, and if it does not see its shadow because of cloudiness, spring will arrive early. We hope it arrives early for sure.

New Registrations

Registrations for students entering Junior Kindergarten or Kindergarten in September 2019 are now being taken in February. Please call Mrs. Conciatori at the school to book an appointment to register your child. Tell neighbours and friends! We need to know about all new students as soon as possible in order to begin planning for class organization and staffing for September. Please make sure you have the following documents with you upon registration:

- Original Birth Certificate (if Canadian Citizen)
- Landed Immigration or Refugee Status (if applicable)
- Original Catholic Baptismal Certificate
- Proof of Residency



Copies will be made at the school to initiate your child's file. Junior Kindergarten students must have been born in 2015 and Kindergarten students must have been born in 2014.

Please note that Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Elementary School will continue to offer the

Full Day Kindergarten Program for Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten children for September 2019. Parents may wish to read the information brochure which is available at the following website to become more familiar with the program being provided.

<http://www.hwcdsb.ca/programsandservices/kindergarten>

Inclement Weather – School Closure

Unless announced on the radio, all schools will remain open even though the weather may be severe. As always, parents have the right and the responsibility to decide to keep children home if there is any question as to their safety. We do ask that you call us if your child will be absent. Any school closures or cancellations of transportation will be announced on the following TV/radio stations as well as the Board's website and Twitter/Facebook accounts by 7:00 am.:



900 CHML/ Y108 FM/ 95.3 Fresh FM/ K-Lite 102.9 FM/ Jewel 92.1 FM/ CKPC 1380 AM Radio
CHCH TV Morning Live

The school board website (www.hwcdsb.ca);

Twitter (<https://twitter.com/HWCDSB>)

Facebook (www.facebook.com)

The Hamilton Spectator (www.thespec.com)

CBC Hamilton (www.cbc.ca/hamilton)

Winter Weather



Now that colder weather is here, please have children come prepared for outdoor recesses. It is necessary for hats, mittens and winter coats to be worn to school. We strongly encourage labeling of all clothing items to avoid loss of articles.

Before & After School



Parents/Guardians you are reminded that supervision is not provided before 8:30 a.m. and after 3:10 p.m. Students who are not directly being supervised by their parents, guardians or caregivers must go home right after the bell for their safety and due to liability reasons. Please remember that the school doors are locked after 3:15 p.m. We thank you all for your cooperation.

INDOOR/OUTDOOR SHOES AND BOOTS

Please be reminded that ALL students need indoor and outdoor footwear for the cold and wet weather. Children spend a good portion of time outside and in addition to warm clothing, they require warm footwear. Also, we ask that children not wear wet footwear in the school.



NEW REPORTING ABSENCES (Safe Arrival Program)

Our new Absence Reporting System has been implemented. Parents can report their child's absence quickly and conveniently in one of three ways:

1. Parents can call into an automated interactive telephone system via a toll free number 1-844-469-5486.
2. Parents can log into a website, hwc.schoolconnects.com to authenticate their Portal account.
3. Parents who have authenticated their accounts and have either an iOS or Android device can download an app.

The automated notification system will contact parents at multiple contact numbers until one of the designated contacts is reached. If the system is unable to reach a designated contact after 20 minutes, office staff will follow up. By reporting your child absent in advance using the Safe Arrival toll free number of the Safe Arrival Portal website/app, you will NOT receive a call. We would also like to remind parents to inform the office of any changes in phone numbers and/or addresses as it is essential that we be able to reach you in case of an emergency involving your child.

Student Attendance



Regular attendance is crucial to success at school. When students are habitually late or leave habitually early, they miss critical class time, feel disorganized and may miss important information. Punctuality is an important life skill that students learn and helps them establish good work habits for their future. Encourage your child(ren) to take responsibility for themselves to prepare and plan ahead in order to be ready and on time for school. Working together makes a difference for student learning.

Lateness: School Arrival

Lateness continues to be a concern at Sacred Heart of Jesus School. Many students miss the initial part of their instructional school day due to this late arrival. **Valuable learning time is lost.** This is tabulated and forwarded to the Hamilton - Wentworth Catholic District School Board for auditing purposes. Chronic lateness is reported to the school's social worker. Please ensure that these inappropriate patterns of behaviour are not established with your children. Students should arrive at school no later than 8:50 a.m.



© Can Stock Photo

Illness

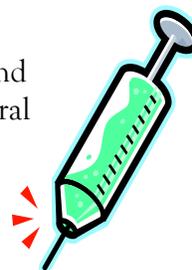
During the winter months, children have the tendency to become sick often. We have had too many students come to the office with health complaints shortly after they arrive at school.



(Should your child show symptoms of illness in the morning, please keep him/her at home.) Once at school, they are expected to be here for the entire day unless physical symptoms of high fever or vomiting are present. Also, please keep in mind that if a child is well enough to come to school, he/she is well enough to go outside to play.

Check It Out Clinics

Community Professionals are available at a variety of locations to meet with families and their children from newborn to 6 years of age to offer consultation, teaching and referral with respect to their child's development. Early Child Development Identification sessions are free and no appointment is necessary. Please note the hyperlink to a newspaper article highlighting the importance and benefit of Check It Out Clinics for children and families. <http://www.thespec.com/news/local/article/624994-checking-out-your-child's-development>



Cold Weather Alerts



During Cold Alerts, schools have been advised to keep students indoors. The Medical Officer of Health for the City of Hamilton issues a Cold Alert when current or anticipated weather conditions are at or below minus 15 degrees Celsius or minus 20 with a wind chill. If there is no Cold Alert Advisory, students will more than likely be outdoors for recesses; therefore, proper winter clothing is needed daily. This includes layered clothing, a heavy coat, snow pants, waterproof boots, hats, gloves and scarves. Both indoor and outdoor shoes are required.

Winter Safety

Snowball throwing is forbidden on school property. Since most snowballs may contain ice, throwing snowballs becomes similar to throwing rocks; therefore, students who throw snowballs will face very serious consequences, which may include suspension.



Now that we often have snow hills in our playground, climbing them is not permitted, before, during or after school. We have had many accidents on the snow hills. Winter activities can be exciting and fun, but we want to ensure that everyone is safe. Activities which are safe between 3 or 4 students in their backyard, can become a dangerous activity when there are many more students in one area. Please discuss these reminders with your children. We will continue to remind them at school! **Students who choose not to abide with these safety rules will be given consequences.**

Safety



We need your cooperation to make sure the fence and gates to the playground remain closed to ensure the safety of our staff and students.

Playground Safety

For the safety of our children in the playground, we ask that only NERF (soft) balls be used. No other type of ball should be brought to school except for the basketballs being used at the basketball net. For the safety of all of our children **please do not bring any dogs on the school property.** Some children are not only allergic to them but others may be very frightened of dogs and even the best behaved dogs may react unexpectedly when confronted by large numbers of children. Thank you all for your cooperation.



Seasonal Flu Update



As the flu season approaches, students are reminded to wash their hands frequently, to cough/sneeze into the elbow and to avoid sharing snacks and personal effects. If your child displays flu-like symptoms, it is strongly recommended to keep your child at home in order to prevent the spread of the virus.

Anaphylaxis

Sacred Heart of Jesus School is a place where all children feel safe and have a sense of belonging. To ensure the safety and well-being of all children, please note below the important information from Anaphylaxis Canada:



- Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that is rapid in onset and may cause death;
- Signs and symptoms of a severe allergic reaction can occur within minutes of exposure to an allergen (a substance capable of causing an allergic reaction)
- Very small amounts of certain foods can cause severe reactions when eaten. This may happen if a person at risk touches an allergenic substance and then subsequently touches the mouth. Even a very small amount 'hidden' in a food or transferred to a serving utensil has the potential to cause a severe allergic reaction. Direct ingestion of an allergy-causing food poses the greatest risk for people with food allergies.

Cooperation from parent and guardians in adhering to the guidelines below is most appreciated:

- There are students at this school who are allergic to the following foods items: Peanuts, all nuts, tree nuts, raw eggs, sea food, and hazelnuts
- Please avoid bringing these allergens into the school.
- Reinforce hand washing practices: wash hands before and after eating.
- Remind children not to share or trade food, food utensils, or food containers.
- Please do NOT bring any food products into the school; with permission, **non-food items** are permitted for various celebrations and special events and activities.



Thank you for your help in keeping all our children safe.

New Concussion Protocols"

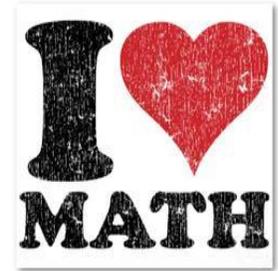


The Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board (HWCDSB) recognizes that children and adolescents are among those at greatest risk for concussions. The potential for a concussion is greatest during activities where collisions can occur, such as during physical education (PE) class, playground time, or school-based sports activities. However, concussions can happen any time a student's head comes into contact with a hard object, such as a floor, desk, or another student's head or body. Recent research has made it clear that a concussion can have a significant impact on a student's cognitive and physical abilities. Without identification and proper management, a concussion can result in permanent brain damage. Awareness of the signs and symptoms of concussion and knowledge of how to properly manage a diagnosed concussion is critical in a student's recovery and is essential in helping to prevent the student from returning to learning or physical activities too soon and risking further complications.

Please be advised that should your child be suspected of a concussion based on the signs and symptoms they are presenting, this new Concussion protocol will now come into effect. For more information on this protocol, please visit the Board's website under the Board tab, Policies and Procedures at <http://www.hwcdsb.ca>.

Making Math Fun In The Classroom & At Home!

E-math+, a new online tool for Grades 3-6 has been created in partnership with Nelson Mathematics to connect math learning in the classroom and at home. Your child in grades 3-6 has been registered and a package containing their login and information about the new tool has been sent home. E-math+ has features designed specifically to help you understand the math lessons your child is learning and help you assist your child to be successful: understand current math language and teaching strategies. Extra support and practice for your child can be obtained online as well as accessing the Nelson Mathematics textbooks. Be sure and take some time to view this tool with your child(ren) and to use it to reinforce math concepts!



February Award Recipients



Teacher	Academic	Christian Attitude	Courage
Mrs. Giornofelice-Boyd FDKA	Myles	Christian	Emerson
Mrs. DiGiacinto - FDKB	Audrey	Skender	Erickson
Mr. DiBenedetto Gr 1/2	Ava	Jayda	Thomas
Mr. Donelson Gr 2/3	Keynan	Sarah	Adora
Miss Cifani Gr 2/3	Maddison	Reilly	Quentin
Mr. Frade Gr 4/5	Steve	Lorenz	Julia
Mr. MacLeod Gr 6/7	Cassandra	Zavryl	Marianne
Ms. Delio Gr 7/8	Princess	Ella	Christian

French Café

We will be having our French Café for students, parents, visitors, teachers and staff on Thursday, February 14th. The Café will be open from 10:00a.m - 2:00p.m in the school gymnasium. (It will be closed briefly during afternoon Recess). A schedule of class visits to the café will be given to the teachers the week of the Café. We invite you to come and enjoy a variety of treats and the pleasant surroundings of our transformed gymnasium.

Curriculum Update

Mrs. Giornofelice-Boyd, Mrs. DiGiacinto & Miss Martins FDK

This month the FDK students will be working on making and interpreting data on graphs in mathematics. During Literacy the focus will be on letter identification and recognizing familiar words in text. The students have also been working on inquiry using topics that the FDK students are interested in with Mr. Rossini Teacher- Librarian.



Mr. DiBenedetto Gr 1/2

In literacy, we will explore how to research information and write a report. Both grades will also learn how to think deeper about what they are reading in order to infer what characters are feeling or thinking. In math, the grade 1's and 2's will work on addition and subtraction strategies, mental math, and how to solve problems using different math tools and techniques.

Mr. Donelson Gr 2/3

We are finishing up our Measurement unit and we will be moving onto addition and subtraction. Grade 2s will be learning to solve problems involving the addition and subtraction of one and two digit whole numbers, Grade 3s will be learning to solve problems involving the addition and subtraction of single and multi digit whole numbers. Both Grade 2 and 3 students will be conducting research projects to reflect on and celebrate the significant roles black Canadians have played in shaping our history.



Ms. Cifani Gr 3/4

In February, the grade 3's and 4's will continue our numeracy unit. We will be focusing on representing and describing the relationships between coins and bills up to \$10(Gr.3)/ \$100 (Gr.4), as well as estimating counting, and representing (using the \$ symbol) the value of a collection of coins and bills with a maximum value of \$10(Gr.3)/ \$100 (Gr.4).

In literacy, we will begin our narrative writing unit, focusing on organizing ideas and information in order to write main ideas and include supporting details such as setting, characters, problem and solution in a logical sequence. For our reading strategy, we will be beginning inferencing, and reading to understand meaning, and looking beyond the text.

Mr. Frade Gr. 4/5

In February, the grade 4/5 class will be moving onto addition and subtraction in math, along with 3D geometry if time permits. They will transition into inferencing as a reading strategy and into procedural writing. In science, the grade 4 students will be wrapping up on habitats and communities, while the grade 5 students finish up on the human organ systems. On the court, the junior boys' basketball and junior girls' volleyball teams continue to plug along, strengthening their skills and teamwork in anticipation of the playoffs.

Mr. MacLeod Gr 6/7

In Math, the Grade 6 and 7 class will be moving on to our Measurement Unit. The grade 6 class will be exploring money, surface area, capacity and volume and various units of measurement related to mass. The grade 7 students will focus their attention on area and volume of prisms and irregular figures. In literacy, the class will continue to infer authors' messages through words, pictures, videos and various forms of media. Our writing focus will turn from Biographies to Procedural writing. The grade 6 students will wrap up their Social Studies Unit "Canada's Interactions with the Global Community", by completing their fifth and final chapter, "Canada and the Global Environment". Grade 7s will continue their Science unit on "Heat" and their History Unit "New France". Students will be learning about some of Canada's early explorers, including Jacques Cartier and the early settlements along the St. Lawrence River.

Ms. Delio Gr. 7/8

The grade 7/8 class will be working on making inferences as they read. We will be finishing writing procedures and beginning expository writing. In math, we will be moving on to term two measurement. We have just finished our first geography unit and will be moving on to history. In History, we will be investigating Canadian's conflicts and changes between 1800-1850 for Grade 7 and the changing society between 1890- 1914 for Grade 8. In science, we will be focusing on "Pure Substances and Solutions" in Grade 7 and "Fluids" in Grade 8.



ONLINE PAYMENTS NOW AVAILABLE!

For safety and efficiency reasons, we want to reduce the amount of Cash & Checks coming into our school. School related expenses are now available online for you to make payment.

Parents please register!

Here's how:



Step 1: Go to this website:

<https://hwcdsb.schoolcashonline.com>

Step 2: Register by selecting the "Get Started Now" and following the steps

Step 3: After you receive the confirmation email, please select the 'click here' option, sign in and add each of your children to your household account.

Any questions or concerns, please contact parenthelp@schoolcashonline.com or 1-866-961-1803