

**St. Mary – St. Cecilia Catholic School
January Newsletter**

**Stephanie Swenson, Principal
Trustee Karen McAllister
Superintendent Dr. Donaleen Hawes
Monday, January 8th, 2018**



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HAPPY NEW YEAR

Dear Families:

The month of December was filled with many exciting learning activities for our students such as the Pens & Paints program, the Robotics Competition at Algonquin Collage, our Indigenous Carpet Lessons, our Robotics & Lego challenges and special learning that went on during our snow days to name a few. Our Faith based learning was also at the forefront with our beautiful Advent Celebrations and School Mass.

Our Santa's Workshop was a resounding success, with a wonderful fireplace scene, a visit from Mrs. Claus with hot chocolate and rice crispy squares, for every student. Everyone involved had fun in painting a Christmas tree ornament. Thank you to our Catholic School Council for all of the time and effort they put through for this special event!!

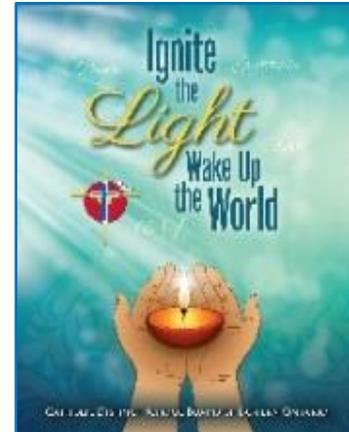
We would also like to thank Marjorie Barrie for the beautiful ??? displayed at the front of the school. Thank you for your generous time that you put forth!!

We would like all of our families to know that we were able to acquire a play structure for our school yard free of charge. The money that we have been raising from the Pancake Breakfast fundraiser will now be used for other yard upgrades for our students. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call the school.

On behalf of St. Mary – St. Cecilia School staff, we wish you a safe, happy and healthy 2018. Happy New Year!!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Swenson



Upcoming Events

January 12

Christmas Mass

January 15

Kindergarten Open House

January 18

Kindergarten Registration Day

Gregory wants to be a Principal when he grows up. He wants to work at his school and help people be safe!!



Learning at St. Mary – St. Cecilia School



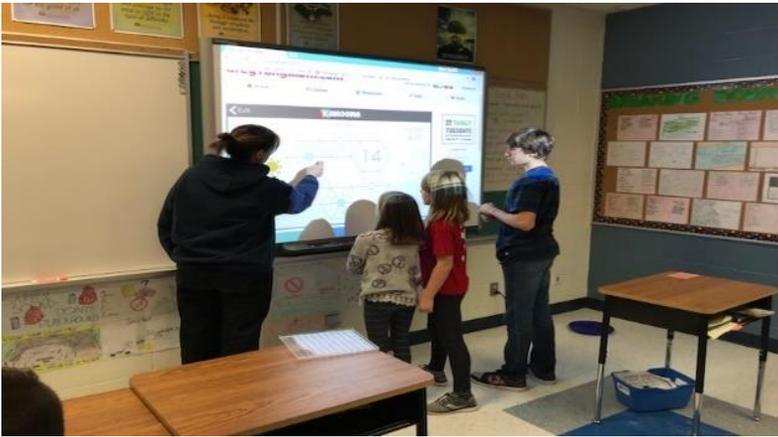
Robotics and Learning



Indigenous Carpet Lessons in Grade 2



Kindergarten Meets Mrs. Claus!!



Learning Math with Technology on a snow day!



Math Learning Games on a snow day!!



Learning through Lego to the Read Aloud "The Little Drummer Boy" on a Snow Day!!



The ECO Club

The Green Team has been very busy. They have created a bulletin board at the front entrance, to encourage the students to think about ways they can help with environmental stewardship. Our focus in the new year will be water. We also ended 2017 by handing out the first ECO Trophy to the class who earned the most ECO points from our environmental audit. Congratulations to Mr. Fitzsimons' grade 7 class! Which class will win the trophy next, for their energy efforts! The ECO Team were also the recipients of the Silver category through ECO School Ontario and working towards the Gold!!

EOHU News

MyQuit is a personalized one-stop shop program for smokers in Eastern Ontario to access the resources and expertise needed for greater chances of success in their quit attempt. Coaches trained in the latest quit smoking techniques deliver this program free of charge. When you start the program, you meet with a coach to determine your needs and the method of support that suits you best: individual coaching, group coaching, coaching by phone or online. Services are accessible at various locations across the region and can be combined with quit smoking medications, which you may be eligible to purchase at a reduced cost.

For more information about the program, visit www.MyQuit.ca or call 1 877 376-1701.

Special Education Advisory Committee

This committee is open to any interested parents who would like to attend the monthly meetings. You are also able to access information regarding activities of the (SEAC). Detailed, monthly minutes and agendas are available to parents either through the Board website at www.cdsbeo.on.ca or can be made available through the office. For further information on meetings, agendas and minutes, please contact the school.

The next SEAC meeting will be held on January 31st, 2018 at the Kemptville Board Office.

South Dundas Fire & Emergency Services



Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. As you stay cozy and warm

this winter, **be fire smart!** Install and test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms at least once a month and have an escape plan. Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from any heat source like fireplaces, woodstoves, space heaters or candles. Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents **every year**. Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it outside at least 10 feet from your home and any nearby buildings. Plug only one **heat-producing appliance** (such as a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time. Keep portable generators outside, away from windows, and **as far away as possible from your house**.

Winter Weather

As we are in the full swing of winter, it will be important for students to ensure they have the necessary items for outdoor play. It would even be beneficial if students brought in an extra pair of pants and socks that can be kept in a plastic bag in case of need. This would be preferable to the school calling you at home or work to bother you for dry clothes. Students remain inside for recess if the temperature is -20 degrees or colder. Thank you to the parents who called the school during our inclement weather days when the busses were canceled. If parents can call the school for walkers or students driven in and leave a message that your child will not be attending that day due to the weather, it would be greatly appreciated. This is extremely helpful to our secretary, Mrs. Verhoeven.

Kindergarten Registration

Registration for September 2018 begins in January. We will be hosting an Open House on Monday January 15th, 2018 from 4:00-5:30 pm. This Open House will consist of a tour throughout the school as well as time spent in both Kindergarten classrooms with refreshments. During the Open House, you will receive your child's registration package to be filled out and brought back to school on Thursday January 18th. We will be holding registration throughout this day by calling the school and booking your appointment time. Both you and your child will have an opportunity to spend some time with the Kindergarten teachers. Please bring your child's baptismal certificate, a small photo, their immunization record, birth certificate and any custody documents (if applicable)

Family Literacy Day

ABC Life Literacy Canada encourages families to "Learn at play, every day." Engaging in literacy activities as a family improves a child's skills and also helps adults keep their skills sharp. Here are a few ideas to get your family started!

Play With Your Food: Get toothpicks and small pieces of apple, cheese, grapes, or whatever snack you want (marshmallows, yum). Now build a house, tower or circle by attaching your snacks with toothpicks. Best part is you can eat it (not the toothpicks, of course)!

Slumber Party Book Club: Choose a book to read as a family, then watch the movie together in your PJs. Talk about what you liked from the book and the movie (and don't forget, lots of popcorn).

Pack Your Bags: Have your teen plan a dream family trip. They can plan the whole thing – from hotel, to adventures, to flights. Build research skills while having fun.

Favourite Food Find: Create a grocery store scavenger hunt with your weekly shopping list. Maybe add a few special items you don't get all the time for a special treat (and an extra challenge for scavengers).

Draw Me A Home: Get large sheets of paper and draw the rooms of your dream home. Add in the rooms you always wanted (trampoline in your bedroom and pool in the basement!) Get some of your favourite toys and play with them in the house.

Letter Model It: With modeling clay, make the letters of your name using all the colours of the rainbow. See [some ideas](#) from Family Literacy Day Honourary Chair, Barbara Reid.

Favourite Family Food: Write down how to make your favourite family meal. Share the recipe with your friends and family or make a video showing how to make the meal.

Text You Later: Encourage older kids to read and write through texting. Send them a link to an article you think they'll like and ask them what they thought.

The Punch Line Is: Swap your favourite jokes with your friends. See if your parents know them! (What's a ninja's favourite drink? WATAAAAA!!!!)

The Letter Train: Say a word and have your friend say a new word that begins with the last letter of the word you just said (play, yellow, waffles, snow).

EQAO Tips

What can you do throughout the school year to help your child prepare for the Primary and Junior Assessments?

Encourage your child to fill in all space given to write a text

- Encourage your child to highlight key points when reading a text
- Encourage your child to read various materials (ex: magazines, flyers and newspapers)
- Encourage your child to always do his/her best

The Aaronic Blessing for Students

The Lord bless you in your coming and going.
The Lord wrap you in comforting love.
The Lord shine upon you in this classroom.
The Lord wisely guide your steps home and beyond.
The Lord gaze upon you in your joys and sorrows
The Lord give you peace.



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