

**St. Mary – St. Cecilia Catholic School**  
**February Newsletter**  
**Stephanie Swenson, Principal**  
**Trustee Karen McAllister**  
**Superintendent Dr. Donaleen Hawes**  
**Thursday February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018**



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Dear Families:

February promises to be a busy month for learning at St. Mary – St. Cecilia Catholic School, with scheduled curricular and co-curricular activities. We have the Earth Rangers coming to visit, our School-wide Olympic activities will take place beginning with the ceremony on the 9<sup>th</sup>. All students will be learning about St. Mary and St. Cecilia throughout the month in preparation for our Board-wide Catholic Education Coalition. Students will be provided pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and participating in our Ash Wednesday Mass, as well as the Lenten Celebrations each week. We wish our grade 5/6 & 7/8 students the best of luck in their hockey tournaments this month.

The Catholic School Council has been working incredibly hard in preparing for our school's largest community fundraiser – The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual PanCake Breakfast. Please help support our students by attending this great event on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February. We very much look forward to seeing you there!!

We would like to invite all staff and parents to our Catholic Education Coalition event at St. Michael's CHS in Kemptville on Thursday February 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 6:30-8:30. Bishop Gerard Bergie will speak on "A Precious Past – A Promising Future" as an opportunity to enrich our faith and come together as a community. We look forward to seeing you.

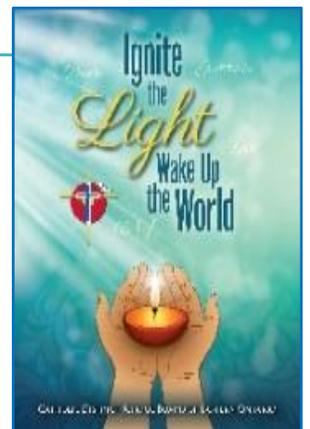
We will be holding a Jersey/Hat Day to support the Student Senate on Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018. We ask that students and staff who participate in this event donate \$1.00 for the privilege of wearing a jersey or hat.

We would like to thank Christina Kozmin, Bree McNairn and Aimee Baker for volunteering their time to help with the Mapledale Cheese Fundraiser earlier this year. It was greatly appreciated. This fundraiser was a huge success bringing in \$1785.55 which will go towards the cost of busing, manipulative materials, technology, books and sports equipment for the students.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the school. Have a great month.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Swenson, Principal



## Upcoming Events

### February 4

Grade 2 Enrollment Mass

### February 11

17<sup>th</sup> Annual Pan Cake Breakfast

### February 16

Grad & Sibling Photos

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*Learning at St. Mary – St. Cecilia School*



The Grade 5 Trip to Ecolo de Niede was an amazing expericne for our students –A huge thank you to Madam Dana and Mrs. Cartier for providing this wonderful learning opportuntiy!!



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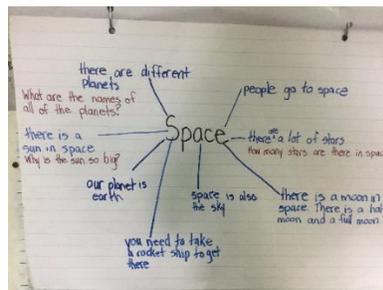
## Lego Robots and Learning

The students are using a small Lego robot and an iPad to do a coding challenge. They had to program the iPad (which is connected via Bluetooth to the robot) to move the robot by turning on the floor tiles to specific spots. The students had to create a string of code on the iPad that would cause the robot to move to the specific location. They were 3 variables that students had to think about: Speed, Power, and Time.



## Science and Space

The Kinders brainstormed what they "know" about space and also asked some questions that they wanted answered. They read a nonfiction and a fiction book about space using Bookflix on the Smartboard and then learned about what life is like in space for astronauts, answering some of the questions within their time slot – what great fun in learning!!



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## Speed Stacking

Speed stacking is a great physical fitness activity as it keeps the students moving and engaged in a fast-paced activity. The benefits of this great eye-hand coordination activity is that it engages both sides of the brain at the same time which leads to better concentration and problem-solving abilities. The math component is built into this activity as the students are building their pyramids in rows ...with one less....each time, Students can use their subtraction or take away strategies to build these pyramids. The stacking up and stacking down is engaging and requires practice and concentration.



## Math and Vertical Surfaces

Grade 6 students were engaged in math activities using vertical surfaces. Both whiteboards and Windows using Crayola wipe-off markers allowed students to have fun figuring out math factors and multiples with their partner. Mistakes are easy to see and correct, and using colored markers was great too. The students loved standing up, stretching to reach the top of the window.....combining exercise with math. A great alternative to sitting in a desk.



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## Lego Bridge Challenge

On the snow day, students were challenged with two separate building tasks. The first task was to build a bridge across the "water" (blue construction paper) that was strong enough to support the weight of an object (a water bottle for the older students, a toy car for the younger ones). The second task was to build some way for the LEGO Figure to get out from the bottom of the bucket. Students remained focused and engaged, and various methods of success were demonstrated by all the different groups around the gym.



## Math Centres in the Gym

Students participated in math centres creating patterns, 2D shapes and exploring the Dreambox program on the iPads."



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## Family Literacy Day Activities

In Miss Beauregard's Grade one students experienced Bedtime stories at school. Students were invited to wear their pajamas and bring in a stuffy, a blanket, a flashlight, and a favorite bedtime story. Students got all cozy and shared their bedtime stories by flashlight during reading groups. Later, students did a lego build to represent a part of their story and presented it to the class. Also, students wrote about their favorite stuffy they brought in.



## 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!!



### **Healthy Smiles Ontario Provides Free Dental Care for Eligible Children**

Children aged 17 and under can access free routine dental care if they are eligible, through this government program designed for lower-income families in need of support. The program provides access to regular visits to a licensed dental provider and covers the cost of treatment including check-ups, cleaning, cavity fillings, x-rays, scaling, tooth extraction and urgent or emergency dental care for severe toothaches. Eligible children's families must live in Ontario and have household income that meets the program's eligibility requirements. Parents can enroll their children in the program online or by mail. For more information about Healthy Smiles Ontario, contact the EOHU at 613-933-1375 or at 1 800 267-7120. Visit our website at [www.eohu.ca](http://www.eohu.ca).

### **EQAO Tips**

The best thing is to take about 30 minutes every day to go over your child's homework related to reading, writing, and mathematics. Ask them if they have any difficulty in one area and focus on helping your child get the correct answers.

You've heard the saying, "Practice makes perfect," so for EQAO preparation it's a good idea to get some sample questions. Some teachers give sample questions, or you can get them online.

Talk to your kids about the EQAO test and let them know the test results are useful to know, but that the results won't impact them directly. Reassure your kids to do their best, but not to get too stressed out about it.



## **Homework**

### **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](http://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 Wednesday February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the Kemptville Board Office.

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## South Dundas Fire & Emergency Services

### Know the Dangers of Ice

Many factors affect ice thickness including: type of water, location, the time of year and other environmental factors such as, water depth and size of body of water, currents, tides and other moving water, chemicals including salt fluctuations in water levels, logs, rocks and docks absorbing heat from the sun, changing air temperature and shock waves from vehicles traveling on the ice.

**Ice Colour** The colour of ice may be an indication of its strength, clear blue ice is strongest, white opaque or snow ice is half as strong as blue ice, opaque ice is formed by wet snow freezing on the ice, grey ice is unsafe and the greyness indicates the presence of water.

Did you know ice thickness should be 15 cm for walking or skating alone, 20 cm for skating parties or games and 25 cm for snowmobiles



### Prayer

Loving God, take my poor offering of friendship and remind me every day of your invitation to journey with you in the Easter miracle of the Resurrection. Allow me to accept the weaknesses and defects that you and others see in me, but which are hidden from me. Lift me up when I fall and always let me reach, not reject, your outstretched hand of welcome and forgiveness. And, keep my sins and doubts from leaching the joy out of life.

Amen



