DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2016: Issue 4

“MERRY CHRISTMAS AND BEST WISHES”

As we journey through the season of Advent, may we pray for patience and for hope as we await the celebration of the birth of Christ. We continue to pray for those in our community who are ill and in need of prayers. May they find the Advent season a time of solace and peace.

Also, note that you will be able to attend a Christmas Concert presentation by our JK-8 classes on December 20 at 9:15 AM. Look for more information coming home regarding these presentations in the next few days.

This is the time of year when we gather with friends and family to celebrate the birth of Jesus and reflect on the many good things in our life. We, especially children, are filled with excitement! During our weekly Advent celebrations, we reflect on the symbols of hope, peace, joy, and love.

On behalf of the staff of St. Michael school, we extend our best wishes during this Christmas season to you and your family. We hope that you will be blessed with the spirit and gifts of that first Christmas—peace, love, and goodwill towards others. May the promise of Christmas help show God’s boundless love for you and may you be blessed with good health, prosperity, and happiness throughout the New Year!

We also extend our best wishes to your families in the upcoming New Year. We look forward to having our students back, safe and sound to St. Michael Catholic School on January 8, 2017.

Best Wishes,
Mr. K. Herod,
Principal

Here’s What’s Happening at St. Michael Catholic School during the Advent Season

◆ Me to We team will be having a Christmas Shoe Box drive December 12–16. Please fill a shoe box with school supplies and small toys
◆ Christmas Treats Sale: (School Council Fundraiser): December 23: 9:30 to 11:30 AM Gymnasium
◆ Advent Mass at St. Michaels School: December 14 @ 9:30 AM
◆ Christmas Concert Presentations, “The Presence of Christmas”: JK-8 Classes: December 19 @ 9:00 am; December 20: 9:00 am. “All classes are working hard to prepare a festive performance, and out of respect we ask that audience members do not leave during any performances”
◆ Thanks and Congratulations to our Staff, Students and Volunteers for their Great Works of Charity this Advent Season.

Cold Weather—Outside Recess

The colder weather has arrived. The safety of students will always be the first consideration to go out or stay indoors for recess. When the wind chill is –20 or lower, we will keep students inside for recess. When the wind chill is –15 to –19, lunch recess outside will be shortened. We refer to the Environment Canada Website when making the decision regarding outdoor play.

A Christmas Prayer

Heavenly Father, the gift of your son gives us so much joy! We thank you for this day, filled with wonder and small adventures. May we always remember that you are the source of all goodness as we praise the miracle of Jesus, Whom you sent to us to lead the way back to you. We ask this through Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen

THANK YOU ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL
BOO BOO BOOGIE DANCE-A-THON

We had a very successful student dance-a-thon and the support of the parents really made our program a huge success.

Top Fundraisers: Robert Woods—Gr.7
Thomas Hayward—FDK

Classroom Winners: Mrs. McHugh—FDK
Mr. Boragina—Gr. 5
Mrs. Sariava—Gr. 6/7

I-Pad Winners: Noah Taylor—gr. 2
Haydee King-Walter Gr. 6
April Wood—Gr. 7
Christmas Holidays
Christmas Break will be from December 24th, 2016 - January 8th, 2017. May the JOY of Christmas, the magic of the season and our celebration of the birth of Jesus be in your hearts. We wish families continued blessings as we celebrate a Happy New Year 2017. On behalf of the entire staff at St. Michael School we would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very reflective and rejuvenating Holy Christmas. We hope that you have plenty of time to connect as a family and to truly enjoy this very special season.

THANK YOU & CONGRATULATIONS

- Congratulations to our Girl’s Basketball Team for their play this year. Our team enjoyed a great season and gave a valiant effort in season play. Thank you Mrs. Saraiva for the time and efforts you dedicated.
- Boys Volleyball enjoyed a great tournament at St. Mary’s High School. A fun day was had by all participants. Many Thanks to Mrs. Ames for her commitment to the efforts of the boys.
- Thanks to Mrs. Knight and her classes for organizing and presenting a wonderful Remembrance Day Service.
- Thanks to Mrs. Mawdsley who runs the Nutrition for Learning
- Thanks to Mrs. Dickert and Mrs. Ames for their efforts with the craft Club.
- Mrs. Sullivan, Mrs. Norman and Mrs. McHugh who run our craft club.

EARLY PICK UP AND DROP OFF
Please write a note in your child’s agenda, or send a written, dated, and signed note. Phone calls disrupt the students in the classroom and valuable teaching time. Your co-operation is appreciated to help us keep interruptions to a minimum!

Coming in late? Please tell your children to sign in and get a late slip from the main office, so both the teacher and the office will know the student is late.

Our rule of thumb, “If you’re entering the school via the front door…you’re considered late.”

BUS DELAYS AND CANCELLATIONS
For up-to-date information on school bus delays, cancellations, and school closures, please visit www.stswr.ca.
To contact Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region directly, phone (519) 650-4934.
Information about student transportation cancellations, or school closings due to severe weather, is also available through the following media outlets:

- KFUN FM 99.5
- CKGL AM 570
- DAVE FM 107.5
- CJOY "Magic" FM 106.1
- CKBT "The Beat" FM 91.5
- CKWR FM 98.5
- CHYM FM 98.7
- KICX FM 106.7
- FAITH FM 94.3
- CTV - Southwestern Ontario

For school closure , you can also visit www.wcdsb.ca click on “Delays and Cancellations”.

2017 SCHOOL YEAR
CALENDAR “AT-A-GLANCE”

January
9: First Day Back after Holidays
27: Professional Activity Day

Feb.
6-10: Public Health—Fit Go Challenge
7: School Council 6:00
9: Valentine Dance-a-thon
14: Valentines Day
16: 1st Provincial Report Goes Home
20: Family Day: Provincial Statutory Holiday
23: School Council 5:30
28: Pancake Tuesday

March
1: Ash Wednesday (Lent Begins)
5: Grade 2 First Reconciliation 2:00 (Church)
6: Graduation Photos Gr. 8 and SK
14-18: Spring/March Break
28: School Council 6:00pm
29: Bishop Banquet
29: Confirmation Mtg—Parent & Child 7:00 pm

April
7: P A Day (No School)
13: Holy Thursday
14: Easter Friday
16: Easter Sunday
17: Easter Monday
30: Gr. 2 First Holy Communion 2:00 pm
26-28: Grade 8 Retreat @ Camp Brebeuf

May
2-6 Education Week
2: School Council 6:00 pm
22: Victoria Day
23: Gr. 7 & 8 Confirmation—St. Clements

June
2: Professional Development Day
23: 2nd Provincial Report Goes Home
15: School Closing Mass @ Church
30: Last Day of School
**LATENESS AND ATTENDANCE**

WE ARE EXPERIENCING A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS BEING LATE EACH DAY AND ENTERING OUR FRONT ENTRANCE RATHER THAN THEIR USUAL ENTRY POINT INTO THE SCHOOL. PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILDREN GET UP ON TIME AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO ARRIVE AT SCHOOL WELL IN ADVANCE OF OUR BELL TIME OF 9:00 AM. STUDENTS CHRONICALLY LATE MAY BE ASKED TO PAY BACK THE TIME AT RECESS OR LUNCH IN SUPERVISED WORK ROOMS OR WILL FACE PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE MEASURES. CHRONIC LATENESS IMPEDES THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS AND INTERRUPTS CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION AND LEARNING THAT HAS ALREADY BEGUN FOR THE DAY OR PERIOD.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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**WHEN YOUR CHILD IS NOT FEELING WELL**

Please ensure that your child comes to school every day with the appropriate clothing and footwear for outdoor play. Please do not send your child to school after telling them they can call home if they feel ill or worse. Please ensure your children are well enough to come to school, as all children will benefit from going outside for recess and lunch breaks.

**LOST AND FOUND**

Please take a moment to visit the lost and found box at our school before the Christmas break. There are all kinds of goodies in the box that have been gathered through the first term. Come and claim your child’s lost belongings before it is donated to St. Vincent de Paul.

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**Visitors at School**

Parents/guardians are asked to help make our school safe by remembering the following guidelines. Throughout the day, schools often have many visitors or personnel who enter the school or our school site.

WCDSB policy is that all visitors to a school must sign in at the main office and present or possess proper identification. This policy is designed to protect our children from coming into contact with unidentified individuals. Your understanding is appreciated.

If you are dropping off lunches, kindly report to the main office. We will then have your child(ren) come to the office to get his/her lunch.

DO NOT ACCESS THE SCHOOL AND PROCEED TO YOUR CHILD’S CLASSROOM UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. YOU MUST REPORT TO THE OFFICE AND WE WILL PROCESS YOUR REQUEST.

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**Christmas Bake Sale:**

**December 23**

If you are able to donate to our Christmas Bake Sale, kindly deliver your creations to the school at any time on the 22nd or early on the 23rd. Thank you in advance for your support.

We ask that you please package them individually. Items to purchase range from .25 cents to $1.00.

Thank you for your ongoing support of this School Council activity. It is an activity that our students love for Christmas.

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**IMPORTANT NOTICES:**

- **ST. BENEDICT HIGH SCHOOL GRADE 8 PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT TAKES PLACE ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2016 AT 6:30 PM. ALL PARENTS OF GRADE 8 STUDENTS ARE TO ATTEND TO GAIN VALUABLE INFORMATION ABOUT CAREER PATHWAYS AND COURSE SELECTIONS.**

- **SACRAMENTS OF RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

  WE HAVE CONFIRMED DATES FOR GRADE 2 FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

  FIRST RECONCILIATION: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2016: 2:00 PM

  FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2016: 2:00 PM
**DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER**
Reminder that All students must wear proper footwear in the school at all times should have indoor and outdoor foot wear. Students should bring extra clothes especially socks in the colder or wet days. All outdoor wear such as gloves/mitts, hat, jackets, snow pants and outdoor foot wear should all be labelled.

**COLD WEATHER – OUTSIDE RECESS**
Our Canadian winters are one of our loved traditions but of course one needs to be dressed properly to enjoy outside fun in the winter snow. All outdoor wear such as gloves/mitts, hats, jackets, snow pants and outdoor foot wear should be labeled so that it may be returned if lost. The colder weather will be here very soon. The safety of students will always be the first consideration to go out or stay indoors for recess. When the wind chill is -20 or colder, we will keep students inside for recess. When the wind chill is -15 to -19, lunch recess outside will be shortened. All other winter days will be recess as per usual as our students have great fun in the snow building structures and visiting with friends. We refer to the Environment Canada websites when making the decision regarding outdoor play.

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**Healthy, Active Living Fit Bit**
FitBit Newsletter Article – December 2016
Fun and Festive Celebrations

**Healthy Holiday Celebrations!**

Holiday celebrations allow schools the opportunity to make nutritious foods taste great. They also provide an opportunity for students to learn about healthy eating. With a little creativity, you can help students practice what they know about healthy eating and Canada’s Food Guide during the holiday celebrations!

Shift the focus from food to fun!
- Have a tasting party where kids can vote which healthy foods they would like to have. Including kids in the decision making may enhance their acceptance of healthy foods at celebrations
- Ask parents to bring things like games, crafts and other fun activity items instead of food

**Food Ideas**
Use nature’s colours to your advantage! There are a ton of vegetables to match the colours of the season.
- Create a Christmas tree out of broccoli and various veggies as tree ornaments
- Use carrot sticks as a representation of Hanukah candles
- Make fruit kabobs, alternating green and red grapes, or green and red apple pieces
- Decorate mini bagel holiday ornaments with colourful veggies cut in a variety of shapes
Cut fruit into the shape of snowflakes (repurpose the cookie cutters!)

This recipe meets the criteria for Maximum Nutritional Value.
ST. CLEMENT’S PARISH - HOLIDAY DATES TO REMEMBER

UPCOMING ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICES @ ST. CLEMENT
Tuesday, Dec. 13 – 7:00pm
St. Clement Church, 745 Duke St., Cambridge

CHRISTMAS MASSES

December 24th, 2016 – Christmas Eve
5:00pm – Children’s Mass
9:00pm – Family Mass
12 “Midnight Mass”

December 25th, 2016 – Christmas Day
8:30am – Family Mass
10:30am – Family Mass
12 noon – Family Mass

NEW YEAR’S MASSES

December 31st, 2016 – New Year’s Eve
8:30am – Family Mass
10:30am – Family Mass
12 noon – Family Mass

January 1st, 2017 - New Year’s Day—Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
7:00pm – Family Mass
10:30am – Family Mass
12 noon – Family Mass

DECEMBER 2016

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The **Library Learning Commons** is getting to be a busy place!

In addition to regular Library visits, our Learning Commons space has been used for the Grade 4 Bible Ceremony, student presentations from the Toronto Zoo, Lunch Bunch, and many club meetings.

**On Monday December 5** our **MakerSpace** will begin. A variety of stations will be open for students from grades 1-8 to **explore, learn, and make**. Assisted by an enthusiastic group of Intermediate students, I am really looking forward to bringing this experience to St. Michael.

**Mrs. Kerry’s Grade 6** class has begun a **coding adventure** with me. Over the next few weeks we will be using **SCRATCH** to create our own stories.

**Open Book Exchange** takes place each Friday morning for students who need to get a new book to get them through the weekend!

**Follow the Library Learning Commons on Twitter!**

@smic_lc  And keep up with all the happenings.....

**Upcoming Events:**

**Forest of Reading**—Reading clubs for every grade. Watch for it!

**Grade 7 Lego Robotics Team**

**Scholastic Book Fair**—February , 2017. Dates to be confirmed.

**Mrs. Julie Starr**

**United Way Campaign - 2016**

Hats Off to our AWESOME Staff who raised approximately $150.00 in our first annual United Way Campaign Staff Soup Luncheon - Way to Go Angels! Thank you for your contributions to this worthwhile cause.
How Can I Support my Child’s Learning??

- The greater the support that families provide for their children’s learning and educational progress, the more likely that their children will do well in school and continue on with their education.

You are an important partner in your child’s mathematics education. When you find ways to engage your child in thinking and talking about mathematics, you are providing an important key for unlocking his or her future success. Today, critical thinking, problem solving, reasoning ability and the ability to communicate mathematically are essential skills. These processes are the foundation of mathematics instruction in Ontario schools. They are brought into play as you engage your child in the activities suggested in this guide. Enjoy learning together!

Top Tips for Parents:
- Build strong, positive attitudes about math.
- When children feel positively engaged and successful, they are more likely to stick with an activity or a problem to find a solution.
- Begin with activities that meet your child’s level of mathematical understanding. Early success in solving problems will build your child’s confidence. Gradually move to activities that provide more challenge for your child.
- If you and your child are more comfortable in a language other than English, use it. Your child will understand concepts better in the language that he or she knows best.


SAFE AND SECURE SCHOOLS
To ensure the safety and well being of all students these procedures MUST be followed by all who visit our school.

1. Visitors, parents, high-school students, and others must report to the main office and obtain a Visitor’s Identification badge if you wish to proceed beyond the main office area of our school. A pass can be obtained by checking and signing in at the office.

2. During recess and lunch-break parents, visitors or any other adults are NOT permitted to be on our school playground. Please report to the office.

3. Any parent who wishes to contact his/her child during the school day must proceed to the main office and inform the secretary/principal.