

MAY 2017

# SISTER CATHERINE DONNELLY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

**“Sister Catherine Donnelly Catholic School strives towards instilling lifelong learning skills and personal excellence based on the foundation of faith, school and community support”**

Mr. Zulian -Principal

## IMPORTANT DATES

May 1-5	Catholic Education Week
May 1	Brain Injury workshop for Gr.8
May 2	Pro-grant night- (Self Defense)
May 3	Gr. 8 to Georgian College
May 4	Gr. 6, 7 & 8 visit St. Joseph's for Mass
May 5	Rosary Celebration
May 8-10	Gr. 8 to Camp Kandalore
May 9	Brain Injury workshop for Gr. 7 JK Info Night (6:7pm)
May 17	Gr. 7 & 8 Immunizations Gr. 6 VIP Graduation Talent Show
May 18	Track & Field (rain date May 19)
May 23	School Photo
May 24-26	Gr. 3 EQAO
May 30- June 1	Gr. 6 EQAO
June 2	PA DAY (no classes for students)
June 5	Confirmation at St. Mary's Church (5pm)



Jesus said, “I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5).

A vine begins as a single branch. As it grows, new branches begin to grow from the first one. Then more branches form. The whole vine is made up of many branches that spread and grow. The life of the vine depends on the branches staying attached to each other. If we were to cut them all apart, the vine would die.

On June 4, 2017, we return to Ordinary Time after Pentecost. Remember Ordinary Time is a season of precious growth and change. Each of us grows in holiness during Ordinary Time, but we do not just grow by ourselves, apart from other people. The True Vine that is the body of Christ is also becoming stronger and fuller with the growth of its branches. We can even say that the True Vine is like the mustard seed.

Jesus tells us to “abide” in him. To abide means “to stay” or “to remain”. There are many ways we can “stay” in Jesus. For example, how does Holy Communion help us to “stay” part of Christ’s body, the Vine of Life? What does God give to us at Mass? There are other ways we can abide in Christ. When we pray, we turn to God and open our hearts to him. We lift our thoughts and hopes to God, our souls rest in him. At those moments we can see the place in our hearts where his kingdom is growing and -- with our care and patience -- will one day bloom.



**Catholic Education Week:  
Walking Forward Together April 30 - May 5, 2017**

This year's Catholic Education Week theme is, "*Walking Forward Together.*"

The theme and its five sub-themes are drawn from three contemporary Catholic documents that address the need for reconciliation and renewal – in our lives, with our families, in our relationships with others and in our relationship with our environment and our common global future.

The first is the 2016 response of the Canadian Catholic Bishops to the Truth & Reconciliation Commission that we need to heal past injustices by "*Walking Forward Together.*" The second is the 2015 encyclical, *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home* by Pope Francis, which emphasizes the cultural roots of our ecological problems and advocates urgent world collaboration for the care of our common global home. The third document, *Amoris Laetitia: The Joy of Love* is a 2016 Apostolic Exhortation by Pope Francis, which applauds our dedication and concern shown to children, families, migrants, the poor, the elderly, and to persons with special needs, as a sign of the Spirit. These supportive relationships are a test of our commitment to show mercy in welcoming others and to help the vulnerable, to be fully a part of our communities.

Our Catholic Education Week biblical quote, "*Do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God*" (Micah 6:8), acknowledges the important role of justice and solidarity with our Indigenous peoples, our environment, the poor and marginalized, and all those who work to protect our common global future.

There are five sub-themes for each day of Catholic Education Week:

- Day 1: Walking Forward Together with God
- Day 2: Walking Forward Together with Our Families
- Day 3: Walking Forward Together with Others
- Day 4: Walking Forward Together with Creation
- Day 5: Walking Forward Together in Hope

Every year, the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) provides our Catholic schools with a resource kit to help schools prepare for Catholic Education Week. Using these resources as well as our own developed activities, we have prepared a series of activities, which will highlight how our school is 'Walking Forward Together.'

**Board News**



School Calendar

There will be no classes for students Monday, May 22, 2017. The school will be closed for Victoria Day.

There will also be no classes for students Friday, June 2, 2017. This day is scheduled as a Professional Activity Day.

## How do you spell success? Ask Grade 1 student, Lauryn D!



As an avid reader and writer, it seemed natural for Lauryn D., to show her love of words by entering a spelling bee competition. On Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, Lauryn participated in the regional, annual Spelling Bee of Canada, which took place at Barrie's Kempenfelt Bay School. She spent many weeks practicing spelling words and attending a coaching session. On the morning of the primary division competition, Lauryn, along with many students from across Simcoe County, took part in a nail-biting, exciting round of spelling in front of cameras and a large audience. Although Lauryn was eliminated, she left with a big smile and said she wants to register again next year. Lauryn has shown us that success is about trying your best and never giving up! Your friends and family are very proud of you for embarking on this new, educational experience!

### **Kindergarten**

We are continuing to accept kindergarten registrations for September. Please call the school at 705-726-1221 to register your child.

### **Information Night**

The journey of learning and spiritual development for our students is a lifetime experience that begins at home and continues at school. As a Catholic school of the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board, we are proud of our commitment to the continuous improvement of student learning, as well as to the witness we bear to our faith.

Kindergarten provides an introduction to a world of widening horizons. Most importantly, it marks the beginning of an active partnership between parents, school, and parish, all working together to help our children develop fully their potential and sense of self worth. This coming school year is particularly exciting for our school community as we begin the journey into full day kindergarten.

It is a sincere pleasure for our school staff to welcome new students to our school. Our Kindergarten Parent Information Night is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.** The Kindergarten classrooms will be open and the Kindergarten teachers are also available at this time. The Information Night will provide information about making a smooth transition into kindergarten. Please RSVP to Janette Prisciak, our School Office Administrator, by Friday, May 5, 2017 to confirm your attendance.

### **Transportation**

Transportation to and from school is only provided for some pupils. Bus students must take the bus home in the evening unless they have presented a note indicating parental permission to remain at school or walk home. These notes must be sent to the office. Students who wish to get off their regular bus at a stop other than their normal one must have a note indicating parental request for the change. This request must be sent to the office for approval before being given to the driver concerned.

A record will be kept at the office. Those students who are not normally bus students will not be permitted to ride the bus. Occasionally, we receive requests from parents to allow their child to ride the bus in order to visit a friend's residence. Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate this request. Please note our students who ride the bus; skateboards are not permitted to be carried on the bus. This is a direction from the bus company to its drivers. Staff on duty both in the morning and afternoon will address this issue with students if required.



### **Primary (Grade Three) and Junior (Grade Six) Assessments**

The Primary and Junior Assessments this year are comprised of a variety of assessment activities in six one-hour sessions designed to allow students to demonstrate their skills and knowledge relating to reading, writing and mathematics as described in *The Ontario Curriculum*. The assessments will measure student performance and provide information to help improve teaching and programs.

The Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) has designed and will oversee the implementation of the system of assessment, based on provincial standards. The assessment will give a thorough view of students' knowledge and skills. It requires students to illustrate their thinking processes as they solve problems, express opinions, and arrive at answers. This type of performance-based assessment gives teachers insight into children's knowledge and skills and points out specific areas of difficulty.

Our Grade 3 and 6 students will be working on the assessment from May 23 to June 1, 2017. This assessment provides one more piece of information about a child's performance and progress. It will complement what teachers observe in class throughout the year, helping them to address your child's learning needs. Its intent is to point the way to adapting and improving programs. Student, school, board and provincial reports will be available in the fall of 2017.

EQAO has developed a Parent Bulletin to give you more information about the assessments and an understanding of what to expect. The bulletin is available on the EQAO web site ([www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com)) under "Parent Resources."

### **Dress Code**

As the warmer weather approaches, administration and staff of Sister Catherine Donnelly School would like to take this opportunity to review the School Dress Code with parents and students.

Students, staff, parents, guardians, volunteers and visitors are to dress respectfully at school and school-sponsored activities. The following choice of dress is not permitted:

- clothing with drug or alcohol-related slogans, images and/or inappropriate language
- hats, hoods, bandanas and sunglasses in the school
- halter tops, tube tops, see-through mesh shirts, short shorts/skirts, inappropriate tank tops, exposed undergarments and bare midriffs

A student's appearance is primarily the responsibility of the student and his/her parents. It is expected, however, that students will wear appropriate clothing that is not offensive or distracting to others.

A student referred to the office for non-compliance of the Dress Code will phone his/her parent reporting the referral and will be given the opportunity to change into other clothes (i.e., gym clothes, clothes provided by office). The student may return to class once they are wearing appropriate clothing.

If a student is referred to the office a second time for non-compliance, the student will phone his/her parent and will remain in the office until the parent provides a change of clothes. A review of the Dress Code will be provided to the parent and student by administration at this time. If necessary, subsequent referrals to the office for non-compliance will result in further disciplinary action that may include, but is not limited to, suspension.

### **Catholic School Community Council**

Thank you for your support with the chocolate fundraiser. At this time totals are still be counted and once finalized prizes will be awarded.