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Principal

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THE HAMILTON-WENTWORTH CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
**ST. MARGUERITE d'YOUVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

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Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic  
District School Board  
*Believing. Achieving. Serving.*

*Proud Feeder School of St. Jean de Brébeuf*

Weekly Newsletter for September 11-15, 2023

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**GREETINGS FROM THE PRINCIPALS' DESKS**

Hope everyone is settling into the routine of being back at school. It has been a great start up. We still do not have a permanent Secretary but Mrs. Zivolek is doing a wonderful job of holding down the fort! Please be patient as we transition our new office staff.

It is great to see so many parents in the morning dropping off your children and picking them up at the end of the day. If your child is having separation anxiety, please do your best to drop them off and then leave. Our staff will make sure they make it safely to their classrooms. We are all part of the village to help raise our children.

Looking forward to the blessings the second week of school will bring!

**RELIGIOUS FOCUS FOR THE YEAR**

This year we will be focussing on the Catholic Graduate Expectations and the Seven Habits of Happy Kids

**The 7 Habits of Happy Kids**



**Habit 1- Be Proactive: You're In Charge**

I am a responsible person.  
I take initiative.  
I choose my actions, attitudes, and moods.  
I do not blame others for my wrong actions.  
I do the right thing without being asked, even when no one is looking.

**Habit 2- Begin with the End in Mind: Have A Plan**

I plan ahead and set goals.  
I do things that have meaning and make a difference.  
I am an important part of my classroom and school.



**Habit 3- Put First Things First: Work First, Then Play**

I spend my time on things that are most important.  
I say no to things I know I should not do.  
I set priorities, make a schedule, and follow my plan.  
I am self-disciplined and organized.

**Habit 4- Think Win-Win: Everyone Can Win**

I want everyone to be a success.  
I don't have to put others down to get what I want.  
When a conflict happens, I look for a third solution.  
I believe that we all can win!



**Habit 5- Seek First to Understand Then to be Understood: Listen Before You Talk**

I listen to other people's ideas and feelings.  
I try to see things from their viewpoints.  
I listen to others without interrupting.  
I share my opinions and ideas.

**Habit 6- Synergize: Together Is Better**

I know that everyone is good at something.  
Everyone needs to get better at something.  
We can all learn something from each other.  
Working in groups helps to create better ideas than what one person can do alone.



**Habit 7- Sharpen the Saw: Balance Feels Best**

I take care of my body by eating right, exercising and getting sleep.  
I learn in lots of ways and lots of places, not just at school.  
I take time to help others.

Cash Online

Catholic School Council Elections

Welcome to Mrs. Bellavia's Grade 1 Class

Mrs. Bellavia's Class is Learning About Whole Body Listening

Mrs. Hunt & Ms. Bilanzola's Classes Experiment with Numbers

A Successful Week in Ms. Santroni's Class

CYO & Clubs

Professional Activity Day No School for Students

Telling Tales

Yellow Walk or Roll to School Day

St. Marguerite d'Youville Feast Day

Growth Mindset

Mental Health

Good Manners Matter

Math Nugget

Pope Francis Twitter

Looking Ahead



- † a discerning believer formed in our Catholic Faith Community
- † an effective communicator
- † a reflective, creative, and holistic thinker
- † a self-directed, responsible, lifelong learner
- † a collaborative contributor
- † a caring family member
- † a responsible citizen

Our September Monthly Awards Assembly will be held on Fri. Sept. 29 at 2:30 in our gymnasium and we will be presenting an overview of the Catholic Graduate Expectations and the Seven Habits of Happy Kids  
Please join us

### NEWS FROM THE PEWS

On Thursday, September 14, Fr. Mark Gatto along with Associate Pastor Fr. Peter Robinson and our Seminarian William Meehan will be visiting our school. We are looking forward to this wonderful visit.

### OPENING OF THE NEW CHURCH

The opening of the new church is tentatively set for Sunday, October 22 at 3pm

### SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION: CONFIRMATION/FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



#### Parent Meeting for Confirmation:

Thursday, October 26, 7pm

#### Confirmation Celebrations:

Sunday February 4, 2 pm



#### Parish Links

St. Catherine of Siena  
905-383-3381

[stcatherineofsienachurch.ca](http://stcatherineofsienachurch.ca)

**Prayer to  
St. Marguerite  
d'Youville**

Saint Marguerite  
d'Youville,  
we turn to you in humble  
prayer  
because your life speaks  
to us  
of goodness,  
compassion and love  
in a world of suffering,  
anguish and pain.  
It is not unlike the world  
you knew  
as you went about doing  
good  
with a great love for the  
human family,  
with preference for the  
poorest of all.  
Your dream of universal  
charity  
became a mission in the  
Church.  
We give thanks to you for  
the  
inspiring vision that is  
ours today  
as your dream lives on.  
May we learn as you did  
the life-giving power of  
love,  
the profound peace of  
unfailing trust,  
the deep mystery of  
suffering and pain,  
the comfort of prayer.  
Saint Marguerite, teach  
us to listen,  
In the silence of our  
hearts,  
to the God of Mercy and  
Compassion.  
that we, too, may be  
signs of God's love  
to all people of our world.  
Amen.  
St. Marguerite d'Youville,  
Pray for us.  
Amen.

**Follow us on Twitter**

**@stmyces**

### **Parent Meetings First Communion:**

Wednesday October 25, 7 pm.

### **First Reconciliation:**

Parents/Guardians are invited to bring their children for Confession some time before First Communion.

Any Saturday 4 pm to 4:30pm or you can also contact the church to set up a different time.

### **First Communion Celebrations:**

Saturday April 27, 11 am and 2 pm

## **CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK 2024**



### **We are Called to Love / Appelés à aimer**

"If we love one another, God lives in us."

(1 John 4:12)

«Si nous nous aimons les uns les autres, Dieu demeure en nous.»

(1 Jean 4, 12)

Each year, the Catholic community of Ontario engages in a week-long celebration of the unique identity and distinctive contributions of Catholic education during Catholic Education Week.

This year's celebration is entitled, "Catholic Education: We are called to Love" and will be celebrated during the week of May 5-10, 2024

The five sub-themes for Catholic Education Week are:

Monday: As people of hope / Dans l'espérance

Tuesday: As people of faith / Dans la foi

Wednesday: As people of mercy / Avec compassion

Thursday: As people of justice / Dans la justice

Friday: As people of joy / Dans la joie

The themes for Catholic Education Week 2024 are inspired by the following considerations:

• With joyful anticipation of the Jubilee Year of 2025, we are inspired by Pope Francis announcing the theme of "Pilgrims of Hope." With open hearts of love,

we can continue to “fan the flame of hope” for a bright future.

- On the fifth anniversary of Renewing the Promise, we celebrate that Catholic Education is centred on our Christian call to love. This love permeates how we live in the world and as we act with love, we build a better future. As Pope Francis stated in 2023, “He wants us to be artisans of a new history, weavers of hope, builders of the future, peacemakers.”
- The theme of the synod, “Enlarge the Space of Your Tent,” invites us to listen in love, to be a healing presence to one another and to strengthen relationships.
- Catholic Education Week comes at the same time as Mental Health Awareness Week. Through love and compassion, we continue to support each other’s wellbeing. God is love and we are always called to live out this love.
- In our continued work for Equity and Inclusion in Catholic schools, a focus on love reminds us that all God’s children are loved unconditionally.
- In his visit to Canada last summer, Pope Francis gave us hope for our continued work for Truth and Reconciliation. Through prayer and a commitment to love, stronger bonds are forming and a new way forward is emerging.

For more information visit <http://www.goodnewsforall.ca/>

### **CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK PRAYER**

#### Catholic Education Week Prayer

God who is love, Love is our calling, and the goal for which you have made us.

As we celebrate Catholic Education Week, may our love in action reveal to our world that we are people of justice and mercy.

May our daily words and example show clearly that we are people of faith and hope. In the ways we reflect you daily, may everyone recognize us as people of joy.

Help us to never forget how much you love us, and to cherish your life within us, which gives energy and direction to our loving.

May we hear your call to love generously and inclusively, and may we call our world to be more loving also. All of this we ask in the name of Jesus, our Friend and our Lord.

Amen.

### **PROCEDURES AND PROTOCOLS**

In order to keep everyone safe and healthy we have made some changes

to the procedures and protocols for a smooth transition back to school.

Our School Day schedule:

**Supervision begins on the yard at 9:00 am**

**Bell Rings at 9:15**

**First Period: 9:15-9:45**

**Second Period: 9:45-10:25**

**Recess: 10:25-10:40**

**Period Three: 10:40-11:20**

**Period Four: 11:20-12:00**

**LUNCH: 12:00-12:50**

**Period Five: 12:50-1:30**

**Period Six: 1:30-2:10**

**Recess: 2:10-2:25**

**Period Seven: 2:25-3:05**

**Period Eight: 3:05-3:35**

**Supervision for the Kindergarten Students begins at 9:00**

**Please kiss your child and drop them off in the gated yard.**

**There should be no students at school before 9:00 am as there will be no supervision available.**

We are encouraging all students to use ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION (walking, biking, rolling) to reduce the vehicle congestion at our school.

**Dismissal is at 3:35 pm for all students:**

Students will be dismissed from their respective doors and can proceed to meet you.

Students are strongly encouraged to leave their precious and personal items at home, only bringing to school what is necessary for their learning.

Students will be encouraged to wash their hands before and after eating. They are also encouraged to use hand sanitizer freely and as needed

#### **PARKING/DROPPING OFF STUDENTS**



**As part of our continued School Travel Plan, the parking lot will be off limits to private vehicles and only available for school bus access and staff parking. This will alleviate parking issues and make the school grounds safer for all. Your continued cooperation is encouraged as it is for the safety of our children. To avoid a potential hazard, no parents can drive into the parking lot after**

**8:45 am or 3:15 pm.** Children are walking through the parking lot to get to or from the sidewalks and moving vehicles in the lot present a potential problem. We are asking all parents to **PLEASE REFRAIN FROM PARKING IN THE SCHOOL PARKING LOT BEFORE OR AFTER SCHOOL.** **No vehicle will be allowed to drive out of our parking lot until after the bell at 9:15 am in the morning until 3:45 pm in the afternoon.** Let us go green and park on the side streets and encourage your children to walk a block or two to school with you.

As safety is our primary concern, a dangerous situation occurs when many cars try to move into the parking lot and block the entrance way or stop in front of the school in the **No Stopping Area**. Please do not block the roadway, especially as the school bus tries to enter. Also, do not stop to drop children at the stop signs on the street in front of the school as cars find it difficult to see children at these intersections. Please help us alleviate this ongoing problem and keep our students safe!

### CHILDREN PLAYING ON THE FRONT LAWN BY THE PARKING LOT



**Please refrain from allowing your kindergarten children to play on the front lawn by the parking lot while waiting for older siblings.** The buses come through the lot and children playing in that area present a distraction as well as a dangerous situation with them running back and forth while using equipment. Please take your children off to the side grassed area and let them play there while you wait. We want to ensure the safety of all. Thanking you in advance for your cooperation.

### NEWS FROM KINDERGARTEN



We are off to a wonderful start to the school year. We are asking for parents' help in transitioning their child upon drop-off and pick-up routines. Please make these times quick and efficient. A quick goodbye kiss and hug in the morning. In addition, a quick exit from the kindergarten yard as the daycare is eagerly waiting to use equipment and must wait for the yard to clear. Your child has had opportunities to play in the yard with equipment throughout the day and is encouraged to exit the yard with you at dismissal time.

We appreciate your continued understanding and support.

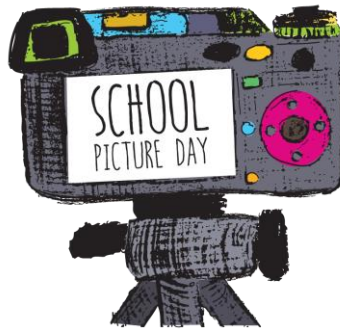
Kindergarten Team

### MEET THE STAFF BBQ

Our Meet the Staff BBQ will be held on Thurs. Sept. 28. Harvey's will be providing the Hamburgers and Hot Dogs. Order forms will be sent out on Mon. Sept. 18 to be returned on Mon. Sept. 25. Please place your order online.



### PICTURE DAY



Our Picture Day has been rescheduled to Tuesday, October 24. Please be sure to wear your neat uniform and bring your best smile. Retake Day is on Thursday, November 23.

### CASH ONLINE



The Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board offers online payment for parents. This safe, convenient and easy to use software can simplify the payment process for families. To register, please visit <http://hwcdsb.schoolcashionline.com/>

If you need support with getting your online School Cash set up, please come in on a Friday and our secretary would be happy to help!

# CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

## Catholic School Council Elections



Our Catholic School Council Election will take place on Thurs. Sept. 28 at 6:30 pm in the Learning Commons following our Meet the Staff BBQ. Please consider getting involved.

### CANDIDATE NOMINATION FORM

Only PARENTS can return this form. It must be submitted to the Office and signed and dated by office staff. (Do not send this with your son or daughter as it will not be accepted by the classroom teacher.)

**PLEASE RETURN FORM TO OFFICE BY MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2023, 3:00PM**

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

I am the parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, who is currently  
(Full name of student) **registered** at this school.

Parent's/Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Business phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING ONLY IF YOU ARE NOMINATING SOMEONE\*\*\***

### **ST. MARGUERITE d'YOUVILLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL CANDIDATE NOMINATION FORM**

I wish to nominate \_\_\_\_\_ for an elected  
(full name of parent/guardian nominated)  
position as a parent/guardian representative on the school council.

She/he is the parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_  
(full name of student)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nominator's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

The person I have nominated is an employee of the board. YES  NO

**\*\*\*COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING ONLY IF YOU ARE NOMINATING YOURSELF\*\*\***

I wish to declare my candidacy for an elected position as a parent/guardian representative on the school council.

I am an employee of the board. YES  NO

\_\_\_\_\_  
Candidate's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

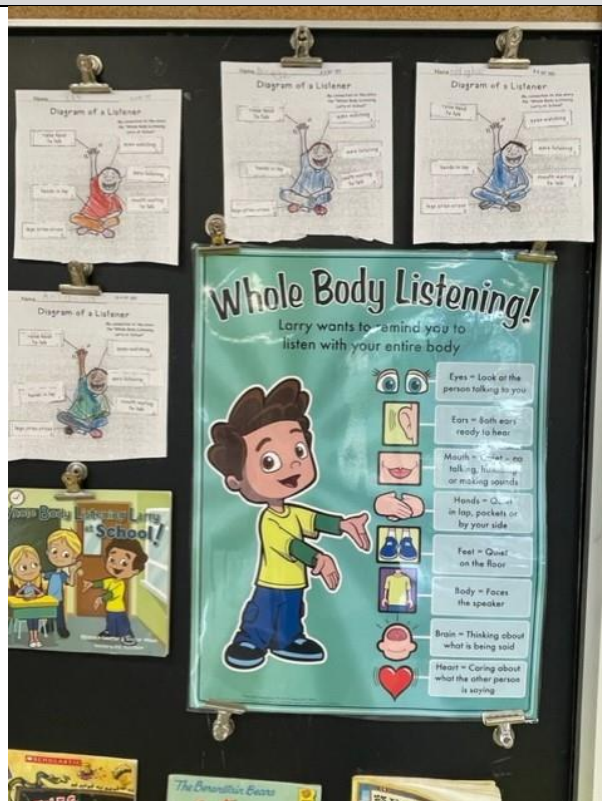
\*\*\*\*\*  
Please include a brief biography of the candidate you have nominated (or autobiography for a self-nomination) on the back of this sheet or on a separate sheet attached to this form. You will be notified when your nomination has been received.



**WELCOME TO MRS. BELLAVIA'S GRADE 1 CLASS**



**MRS. BELLAVIA'S CLASS IS LEARNING ABOUT WHOLE BODY LISTENING**



Mrs. Bellavia's class is learning about Whole Body Listening!! Larry reminds us to listen with our entire body.

MRS. HUNT & MS. BILANOLA'S GRADE 2 CLASSES EXPERIMENT WITH NUMBERS



# Bubble Party

Grade Two Classes met the challenge working together to find numbers and celebrated with a Bubble Party! How many bubbles did 40 students blow?







## A SUCCESSFUL WEEK IN MS. SANTRONI'S CLASS



## CYO & CLUBS



Welcome back to all sport and club enthusiasts! Are you ready for another great year at St. Marguerite d'Youville? Our athletic and club journey officially begins with Flag Football at the end of this month. Tryouts will be underway starting next week for our senior boys and girls and the season begins September 26th. Also, by the end of this month, we will start training for the Fall Cross Country in October. All so exciting!

If your child is participating in a team sport, please let the coaches or myself, Ms. Rivera (C.Y.O. Rep), know of any short-term absences due to illnesses or extended absences for vacation in advanced. Commitment is truly important but so is communication. This helps the coaches make the necessary adjustments for regular and playoff season games.

An outline for sports and clubs will be provided in subsequent newsletters once the information is shared by C.Y.O. and teacher coaches and supervisors are ready for their team or club activities.

Let's get ready to rock 2023!

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAY

Fri. Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> is a Professional Activity Day. There is no school for students. Staff will be involved in professional development activities. Enjoy a nice long weekend!



Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board  
Believing, Achieving, Serving

### ***Elementary Professional Activity (PA) Days 2023-2024***

***The Ministry of Education revised Policy/Program Memorandum 151 which outlines the new responsibilities of district school boards as it pertains to Professional Activity Days devoted to provincial education priorities. Starting in the 2023-2024 school year, school boards are required to post a detailed summary of PA Day activities at least 14 days in advance of the PA Day on the board's public website.***

***All HWCDSB Professional Activity Days begin with staff joining in our faith through prayer/liturgy as we gather as a Catholic Professional Learning Community***

**Date:** Friday, September 22, 2023

**Length:** Full Day

**Topic 1:** AM - Literacy and Mathematics

**Entity Hosting:** HWCDSB

**Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s):** HWCDSB Elementary Consultants, central board staff

**Description:** This PA Day will meet the Ministry of Education priorities regarding Literacy and Mathematics.

Kindergarten Educator Teams and Grade 1 Teachers will be exploring early literacy strategies and the new Ministry Language Curriculum document (2023) to help support implementation.

Grades 2-5 Teachers will be exploring new mathematics resources to help support effective use and implementation.

Grades 6-8 Teachers will be exploring the new language curriculum, identifying key changes and developing implementation and assessment strategies.

**Topic 2:** PM - Occupational Health and Safety Training

**Entity Hosting:** HWCDSB

**Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s):** HWCDSB staff through self-directed modules

**Description:** This PA Day will meet the Ministry of Labour requirements regarding Occupational Health and Safety Training.

Topics will include:

- Globally Harmonized System (GHS)
- Anaphylaxis Awareness
- Asbestos Awareness
- Cyber Security
- Safe School Incident Reporting (SSIR)
- Violence and Harassment

## TELLING TALES

The Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board is collaborating with community partners to support the 15th annual "Telling Tales" Literacy Festival.

The theme of this year's Telling Tales is "Stories Help Us Grow" and will feature many Canadian and international authors who will share book talks and offer book signings.

When: September 16 and 17, 2023-10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Where: Royal Botanical Gardens (Hendrie Park), 680 Plains Road West Burlington, L7T 4H4  
Registration: Families obtain free tickets by using the following link:  
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/telling-telling-festival-tickets-681085965457>  
Tickets are required.  
Free bus pick-ups and drop off is offered from <https://tellingtales.org/free-bus-to-telling-tales/>

### YELLOW WALK OR ROLL TO SCHOOL DAY



# IT'S COOL TO WALK OR ROLL TO SCHOOL

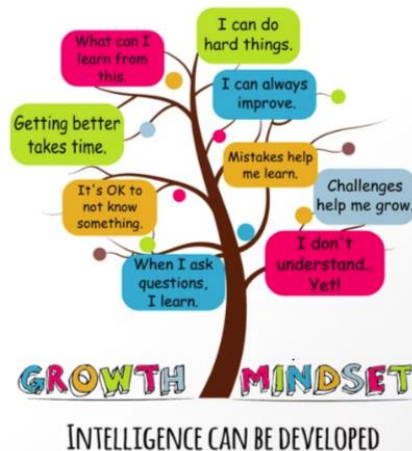
It's Yellow Day on Wednesday, October 4th!

On Wednesday, October 4th all students, staff and families are encouraged to wear Yellow and walk and bike to school. Let's minimize our carbon footprint in this community. Be sure to walk or ride your bike to school! We pray for great weather! Happy Yellow Day!

### ST. MARGUERITE d'YOUVILLE FEAST DAY

Please plan to attend our Patroness St. Marguerite d'Youville's Feast Day Celebration on **Monday October 16 at 10:40** in our Gym. All parents and relatives are welcome to come and celebrate with us

### GROWTH MINDSET



MENTAL HEALTH

# when you feel ANXIOUS

@POSITIVELYPRESENT



ASK FOR HELP

I'M FEELING ANXIOUS CAN YOU HELP ME?



TAKE A DEEP BREATH



LISTEN TO SOOTHING SONGS

WRITE ABOUT HOW YOU FEEL



STAY PRESENT

FIND A POSITIVE DISTRACTION



GOOD MANNERS MATTER





## MATH NUGGET

### Math Nugget

“Good Mathematics is not about how many answers you know...It’s how you behave when you don’t know.”

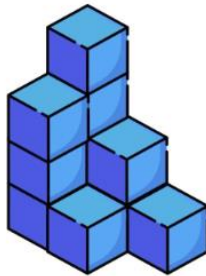
Author Unknown



# Math

<http://www.mathies.ca/> has added WINS, an activity section for parents if you want to have a look!

© How many total blocks are there?



Complete this task with your family then submit your answers in the Math Nugget Box in the office to be entered into a draw at the end of each month! Good luck!

## POPE FRANCIS TWITTER

From Pope Francis Twitter



God places his hope not in the great and the powerful, but in the small and the humble. [#NativityOfMary](#)

## LOOKING AHEAD



- Flag Football Season begins the week of Sept. 23
- Rowan's Law Day Thurs. Sept. 28
- Truth & Reconciliation Week Sept. 25-29 Dress in Orange on Fri. Sept. 29
- Meet the Staff BBQ and Catholic School Council Elections Thurs. Sept. 28
- Monthly Awards Assembly Fri. Sept. 29 2:30 pm
- Mon. Oct. 2 Thanksgiving Food Drive begins
- Wed. Oct. 3 Yellow Day
- Mon. Oct. 9 Happy Thanksgiving Day
- Mon. Oct. 16 St. Marguerite d'Youville Feast Day