

December 2013

St. Marguerite d'Youville

Catholic Elementary School



Phone: 905-387-4600 Fax: 905-387-0422

From the Desk of the Principal:

An Advent Reflection

Advent is a season of joyful expectations. It is a wonderful way in which we can prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord Jesus once again at Christmas. Advent is a time of waiting, waiting for God to enter our world and our hearts in a new and life-giving way.

We need to celebrate Advent. It is one of the most beautiful seasons in the Church year. We need to live the time of Advent with listening hearts. The Christ who knocked on the innkeeper's door on the first Christmas night stands today at the door of our hearts and still knocks. Advent is all about getting ready to let Christ in when he comes to us.

We all know that this can be a stressful time. Advent allows us to quiet ourselves and to reflect on who Jesus is for each one of us. I encourage all families to enjoy what this season has to offer while making sure that the added stresses do not overshadow the true meaning of Christmas.

On behalf of the entire staff at St. Marguerite d'Youville School, we wish all the students, parents, and guardians of our community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Principal: Kevin MacIsaac

Assistant to the Principal: Jim Mauro

Secretary: Ivana Gennaccaro

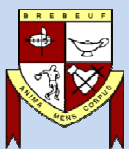
Superintendent: Ivana Fortino

Trustee: Patrick Daly

INSIDE DECEMBERS **NEWSLETTER**

- 1) Church News
- 2) Catholic School Council News
- 3) Christmas Store
- 4) Student Council News
- 5) E-Math
- 6) JEPAG Info for Parents
- 7) ECO News

Visit us on the web at
<http://stmy.hwcdsb.ca/>



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BE BRAVE



Corpus Christi Church
1694 Upper James St. Hamilton On. L9B 1K6
905-389-2472
Father Edward Mahony

Corpus Christi Parish
Advent and Christmas Schedule 2013



Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24th at 5:00pm, 7:00pm, & 10:00pm

Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25th at 9:00am & 11:00am

HOLIDAYS

The last day of school this year is on Thursday, December 19, 2013. School resumes on Monday, January 6, 2014.

Catholic School Council News

CSC would like to thank everyone who participated in our L'amontagne Fundraiser. Portion of money raised is used to support our student's learning and activities.

CHRISTMAS STORE

Teachers have sent home with children a Christmas Wish List Envelope. Please check off for whom purchases are being made for and please include money in envelope provided. Gifts range from \$1.00-\$5.00. The store will be open Tuesday December 3 (all day), and Wednesday December 4 (half day).

We would like to extend our special thanks to all companies and families who have donated gifts for our Christmas Store;



- Zanatta Family
- Mrs. Boyle
- Micieli Family
- Hanks Electrical
- Radiant Beauty Supply
- Tim Hortons
- Global Mobility Products
- Future Shop
- Hamilton Builders

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA



On Friday, December 6 in our school gymnasium, CSC will be hosting our first **Breakfast with Santa**. Students will be provided with pancakes and a juice box. Class pictures will be taken with Santa.

CSC would like to thank **Joint Educational Parent Advisory Group** (J.E.P.A.G) for providing an Orientation box which includes; beneficial parent involvement references such as;

- Reading and Writing with Your Child
- Religious Education
- Family Life Education
- Building Parent Engagement
- Parent Reference Manual of Guidelines and Policies

These books will be located in the school library and accessible to all parents.



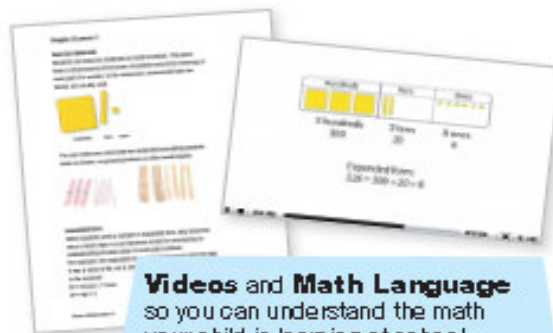
STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

October News: Many canned goods were generously donated for our food drive. Thank you to all families that participated. On Halloween, lots of cute and spooky costumes floated around the school in support of our United Way Campaign. Altogether students and staff helped raise over a thousand dollars to help our community. The dance was a huge success, along with the grade eight's thriller dance. **November News:** Students participated in our Remembrance Day ceremony and much appreciation to parents, and our Director of Education Mrs. Amos who took the time to join us. We also had a Jersey day dress down to support the Tiger Cats in the Grey Cup. **December News:** We will be celebrating our Advent season every Monday morning with a short liturgy in the gym. Joy day is on December 6th. Staff and students will be encouraged to dress in red or green, and will participate in Christmas activities. On behalf of the student council we wish everyone a wonderful holiday.

Did you know?

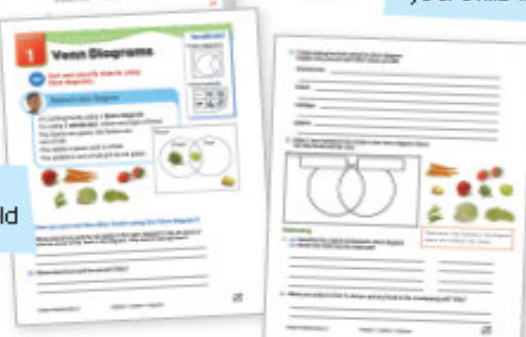
e-math+ includes features to support both you and your child:

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Joint Educational Parent Advisory Group

Cardinal Newman Catholic Secondary School Council cordially invites parents, teachers, administration and guardians to an evening with Michael Reist on Wednesday January 15, 2014 at 7:00pm. Michael Reist is a scholar, retired teacher and



author of What Every Parent Should Know about School. An excerpt from his book:

School is our children's second home. They will spend more time there than anywhere else in their formative years. We all need to talk honestly about the nature of this environment, how it works, and how it doesn't work. Our kids are depending on us to create a school system where they can learn as well as feel happy. The more we know about how school works, the better we will be able to navigate our way through "the system" and help our children do the same. What Every Parent Should Know About School is an honest, positive, thought-provoking look at what schools are today and what they could be in the future.

Join us for a thought provoking evening sponsored by the Joint Educational Parent Advisory Group. A flyer with more information will be forwarded soon; we hope to see you all there!

Clean Air for Kids Project

During the month of November, Dr. Corr and Ms. Lee worked with some students to measure air quality on streets around our school neighbourhood. After collecting this data, the students graphed the results displaying the findings for everyone in the school. Dr. Corr also provided a map for the students so they could map out the best walking route they would take after knowing the air quality measures at specific locations around the East Mountain.

This project helped the students understand the importance of clean air and the factors that would affect air quality. Students learned that they need to make better choices so that they have a healthier walking environment. Please have a look at the map the students used to map out the best route to come to school. Perhaps you would like to see if your route is the best one to take.

Thank you to Dr. Corr and Ms. Lee for working with our students on this informative environmental initiative!

School Travel Plan

The "School Travel Plan" or STP is another project the Eco Team will be working on the next term. STP is a community-based approach to deal with school travel and look at related issues. Public

Health Services has provided a toolkit as well as support to our school. We will use the information from the Clean Air for Kids project, to extend our work in this next project.

We encourage students to walk or “jingle” to school next **Friday, December 6th** on our Joy Day. We hope that this second Walk to School Day this year will be as successful as the one in October.

Bag2School

In January, one initiative that our school will be participating in is a clothes’ drive called Bag2School. **Bag2School** is a **free** fundraiser in which each student will receive a bag to take home and fill with gently used clothing, and other textiles, and then return back to school. The items are then collected by the organization, weighed and exchanged for cash. The items will then either be sold as quality used clothing in Canada and overseas or taken to recycling facilities where they will be processed into brand new products.

The fundraiser teaches students about the importance of **recycling and re-using, fostering environmental awareness** at a young age. The students will also be making a positive impact environmentally, by reducing the amount of textile waste in our landfills.