



St. John the Baptist Catholic Elementary School

Working Together with Jesus We Succeed

Mr. A. De Tullio
Principal

Mr. M. Brennan
Principal Intern

Fr. L. Amaszka – St. John the Baptist Parish

Mr. C. Ciapanna
Superintendent of Education
Mr. A. Perri - Trustee

January 2018 NEWSLETTER

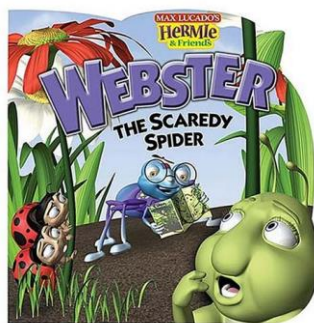
The virtue of focus for the month of January will be the Cardinal Virtue of **Fortitude**. When we practise fortitude we overcome obstacles and resist temptations in the pursuit of good.

The Learning Goal for the month of January is:

I can be more courageous.

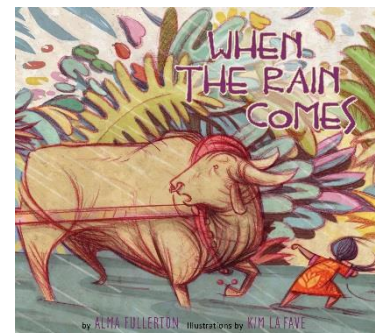
The Success Criteria for fortitude is:

- **I can pursue what is good**
- **I can overcome obstacles**
- **I can resist temptations**



Being courageous also involves listening to the Word of God, speaking, writing, and listening as Jesus would want us to, and caring about others and speaking up for them. These actions are all part of being an effective communicator which is one of our Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations.

Families are encouraged to discuss the virtue of fortitude with their children. Books are available, for loan, at the school to support these discussions and they include “When the Rain Comes” and “Webster the Scaredy Spider.” Please feel free to contact the school for further information on borrowing these items.



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year everybody! As a staff, we resolve to another year of productive partnerships with parents, the CSC, our Parish, and the broader community. Helping our students achieve to their full potential in the context of our faith will always be our purpose and pledge.

We are grateful for the good works of the Catholic School Council who deserve recognition for having hosted Advent Craft Night, which was a great success. A record-sized crowd prayed together, were entertained by our youngest students, and then enjoyed an evening of family, friendship, and crafts. Many thanks are also extended to the families and classes who generously donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Angel Tree which helped families in various ways over the Christmas season. We are also grateful for the work of Mrs. Persia for her dedicated service in coordinating donations made to the school by various community groups and distributing the resources to some of our families.

Please be aware that on February 13th, the school (independent of CSC) will host its only fundraiser this year. The Pancake Tuesday and Mardi Gras Move-a-thon will be in lieu of the Valentine's Dance, which falls on Ash Wednesday this year. More details will follow.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL (CSC)

The next CSC Meeting is on January 24th from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. We hope to see you there. You are welcome to bring your children. Please also save the date (April 25th) for the CSC's Third Annual Pasta Dinner.

PARISH NEWS

For three weeks in January we will be holding a shoe drive (January 8th to January 22nd). We will collect **gently worn footwear** to send to Wells of Hope in Guatemala. Please tie the shoes together so they will stay as a pair! These are the types of shoes we will be collecting: running shoes, casual shoes, and casual sandals. We will also be **collecting gently used backpacks and school supplies**. The Student Council will support this initiative at the school.

SNUGGLE UP AND READ DAY

Tuesday, January 30th, is Snuggle Up and Read Day at St. John. Students may come dressed in their pajamas and are encouraged to bring their favourite book to read. Scheduled activities will take place.

SCHOOL VOICE MESSAGES AND EMAILS

The school is now able to send pre-recorded phone messages and emails to all families at once. This tool could be useful for last minute reminders, such as an event being cancelled. Sporadic phone messages may be difficult to remember; therefore, the school newsletter will remain the main method of communication, since details are planned and communicated in advance. The student agenda also serves to empower students to be responsible for relaying information.

MORNING ENTRY

Rather than having students and parents wait in the cold from 8:50 a.m. - 9:05 a.m., we have decided to schedule direct entry for the winter months (January – March). Entry will be just as it is on indoor recess days. Parents are asked to trust that supervision is in place within the building and are asked to refrain from dropping their child at class. 'Grab and go' breakfast items will be served to all students as they enter the building after 8:50 a.m. in the morning. Direct entry also allows focused instructional time to begin promptly at 9:05 a.m. Students arriving after 9:05 a.m. must enter the front door and receive a late slip.

MORNING HOMEWORK CLUB

The school is pleased to offer a weekly homework completion time for Grades 2-8 starting at 8:05 a.m. - 8:50 a.m. from Tuesday to Friday. Our Educational Assistants will support students that need help with homework completion. Please contact the school to indicate interest. Attendance may be consistent or just when a need arises. Teachers may contact parents to suggest attendance at Homework Club.

CHESS CLUB

Students in Grades 1 to 8 will be able to enjoy Chess Club at lunch time. After competition at school for students that are interested, one student per grade will have the opportunity to play at the HWCDSB Tournament (March 27th).

TRAFFIC AND PARKING REMINDERS

For the safety of all pedestrians, please remember to follow all traffic and parking laws.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

The Green Team encourages everyone to make the environment a priority in 2018 by reducing waste and energy, reusing and discovering new ways to care for planet earth. At St. John the Baptist we recycle paper, cans and organics. We collect used batteries, ink cartridges, pens and markers, keeping these items out of landfill. A gentle reminder to all drivers to turn off your engine when dropping off or picking up students at school in order to keep the air cleaner. Happy, healthy and environmentally responsible 2018!

YWCA BEFORE AND AFTER PROGRAM

Happy New Year to all! The children have been busy with multiple crafts such as sewing, painting, and baking. They have also been taking on responsibilities in the classroom. These responsibilities include different roles and the roles are rotated among the children. Please ask your children about these wonderful roles they hold. The children have expressed an interest in quilting and crocheting. They will be working very closely with the teachers on this new project. If you have any spare material or yarn (any colour) that could be used for the new project, please bring it in and share with the teachers. We look forward to a wonderful year with your children.
Antonella (Supervisor) YWCA Hamilton Child Care

STUDENT AWARDS: DECEMBER

	Class:	ACADEMIC/LEARNING SKILL: (e.g., Math or Self-Regulation)	ACADEMIC/LEARNING SKILL: (e.g., Math or Self-Regulation)
KA	Miss Frank / Mrs. Viscoso	Rico P. (Cooperation)	Levi S. (Attentive Listening)
KB	Mrs. Rivero / Mrs. Bajus-Harrison	Davros M. (Attentive Listening)	Maren M. (Co-operation)
1A	Miss Kollarich	Hannah H. (Health)	Brandon F. (Initiative)
1/2A	Mrs. Persaud	Samantha G. (Spirit of Joy)	Vivian B. (Attention to Detail)
2A	Miss Curciarello	Ilaria T. (Caring Classmate)	Benjamin P. (Manners)
3A	Mrs. Petrina-Mus	Ella B. (Organization)	Chloe O. (Responsibility)
3B	Mrs. Villabroza	Olaf F. (Collaboration)	Paige R. (Language)
4A	Mrs. De Tina	Ayden W. (Homework Completion)	Lily M. (Mathematics)
4/5A	Mr. Docherty	Luka G. (Respect)	Nicole G. (Responsibility)
5A	Mr. Bolger	Grace E. (Reading Comprehension Award)	Guilia T. (Math Award)
6A	Mrs. Innes	Gilia M. (Visual Arts)	Eric W. (Perseverance)
7/8A	Mr. Brennan	Gabriel C. (Excellent effort in Phys. Ed. (gym))	Autumn L. (Great overall effort)
8A	Mr. Biagetti	Jocelyn P. (Math)	Oliver L. (Responsibility)

ROBOTICS NEWS & WE TEAM NEWS

On Saturday, December 9th the SJB Robotics team competed at the FLL HWCDSB Qualifier tournament. The team had a fantastic showing and captured the prestigious Judge's Award and a spot to the provincial tournament on January 28th, 2018. The team will continue their work for their water project, Project Blue, in the next several weeks in preparation for the tournament.

PROJECT BLUE AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Blue is an initiative that the St. John the Baptist Robotics and WE Team (we.org) have partnered to help tackle the water crisis in Canada.

We have recently discovered that millions of people in the world do not have access to reliable drinking water. While our Robotics team was investigating how communities can filter their water we had a realization that there are many communities in Canada that are on boil water advisories. In researching which communities in Canada are under boil water advisories, it became clear that the majority of advisories were in remote communities, which were home to many Indigenous people. We think this inequality is unfair.

Our Robotics team has also discovered the amazing and game changing products that LifeStraw brings to people in need of safe, reliable drinking water. People have been using LifeStraw products for years in developing countries and in disaster relief situations with much success. The answer became very clear to us, take LifeStraw products and make them available to Indigenous communities that could benefit from them. We realize that the Canadian government and policy makers must step up to improve living conditions in Indigenous communities, but we believe LifeStraw can be an interim solution to the water crisis in Canada.

Through some investigation and calling on contacts in our community, we have discovered a potential partnership with the Lubicon Cree in Northern Alberta. We have learned that this small community is in need of clean drinking water and we would like to improve the quality of life with LifeStraw products.

The Project Blue Coin Drive came to an end on Wednesday, December 20th. We had an exciting contest between classrooms to raise the heaviest coin collection. \$1600 in proceeds will go towards purchasing LifeStraw filtration systems so we can send them to the Lubicon Cree. We have also applied for a Ministry of Education "Speak Up" grant which could award us an additional \$2500. We expect to find out the results sometime in January. Wish us luck!



ROBOTICS TEAM:

FRONT ROW: Mr. Docherty, Elyon B., Kailee T., Abby S., Mr. Brennan

BACK ROW: Noah L., Asher C., Cavin T., Antonio D., Ethan A., Zoe J., Miss Frank, Mr. De Tullio



January 2018

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Welcome Back! 9:30 Awards Assembly	9	10 BR Option Sheet Presentation to grade 8s 5:00 Jr. Boys B-ball 7:00 Sr. Boys B-ball	11 4:15 Jr. Girls V.Ball 5:00 Sr. Girls V.Ball	12 Pizza Day Sprit Wear Sr. Girls Volleyball Tournament	13
14	15	16 School Mass at 9:25 a.m.	17 5:00 Jr. Boys B-ball 7:00 Sr. Boys B-ball	18 4:15 Jr. Girls V.Ball 5:00 Sr. Girls V.Ball Gr. 4/5 & 5 Trip to Marydale	19 Pizza Day Sprit Wear Gr. 4 & 6 Trip to Marydale	20
21	22	23 Gr 8 Feeder School Visits	24 CSC Meeting: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. 5:00 Jr. Boys B-ball 7:00 Sr. Boys B-ball	25 Pizza Day Sprit Wear 4:15 Jr. Girls V.Ball 5:00 Sr. Girls V.Ball	26 PA Day	27
28 Robotics Tournament at Waterloo	29	30 Snuggle Up & Read Pajama Day	31 5:00 Jr. Boys B-ball 7:00 Sr. Boys B-ball			

February Dates:

- Snack Program (Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at morning recess)
- Daily Breakfast Program (8:35 – 8:50 a.m. for sit down) Also on the yard at 8:50 or after entry on indoor days)
- Homework Completion Time for Grades 2-8 starting at 8:05 a.m. - 8:50 a.m. (Tuesdays – Fridays)
- February 8th – Junior and Intermediate students attend Bulldog's game
- February 13th – Report Cards sent home
- February 13th – Pancake Tuesday and Mardi Gras Move-a-thon
- February 14th – Ash Wednesday School Mass at 9:25 a.m.
- February 15th – Grade 8 Graduation Photo Day
- February 19th – 21st Grades 3-8 confessions
- February 20th – First Reconciliation and First Communion Parent Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- February 21st - CSC Meeting: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
- February 28th – Pink Shirt Day



Last year CSC funded the purchase of PINK shirts for all students. This year the school and/or CSC (pending approval) will provide the same style PINK shirts for students that are new to the school this year.

Please detach and send to the school (before January 22nd) if you are interested in purchasing a new shirt of a larger size for your child (that has already received a shirt). The cost is \$5.

Student Name: _____ Size: YS YM YL S M L XL

Teacher Name: _____ Cash Online #: _____