

St. Peter Catholic School

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Secretary: Mrs. E. Champoux

Office Assistant: Mrs. R. Nizic

Vice-Principal: Mr. C. Tilley

Principal: Mr. T. Demeris

Superintendent: Mrs. L. Naar

Trustees: Mr. P. Murphy & Mr. M. Duarte

SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM:

Please help us to ensure the safety of your child; use the Safe Arrival System to report all absences and late arrivals. If we do not receive notification and your child is not at school, our staff will call home/workplace/emergency contact numbers to determine your child's location. In addition, PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL CONTACT NUMBERS/INFORMATION IS CURRENT to ease the process of contacting parents.

MAY 2019

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May is traditionally the month of growth in regard to nature, and for this reason, it is often noted as one of people's favourite months. The physical transformation in our part of the world is extremely beautiful to take in, yet it is also important to remember that May plays an integral role in our faith lives as well. With that in mind, May is often referred to as the Month of Mary, where we take time to recall the role she played in our salvation.

As we know, Mary is the Virgin Mother of God. It was Mary's unwavering trust in God that allowed her to live a sinless life. As Christians, we are called to reflect on Mary's kindness and willingness to be open to God in all that we say and do. To honour Mary this month, staff and students will have the various opportunities to recite a decade of the Rosary each week.

During the week of **May 6th to May 10th, 2019** St. Peter CES will be celebrating the significant contribution that Catholic Education has made to the Milton area, the province and to ultimately Canada. Our Catholic Graduate Expectations play an important role in our school and we challenge students to articulate those fundamental values that underpin Catholic education daily. The theme for this year's Catholic Education Week is: **Catholic Education: Living as Joyful Disciples**. There are five sub-themes, one for each day of Catholic Education Week and each one is aimed at helping staff and students to reflect more fully on what the theme asks of us.

Catholic Education Week is marked by special activities at all grade levels, including prayer celebrations and classroom events. The celebration allows educators, students, and community members around the province to recognize the precious gift that we have been afforded in publicly-funded Catholic education. We invite you to come celebrate this gift with us, while we all grow in our understanding of the distinct contribution Catholic schools make to society.

Please take the time to review the **Catholic Education Week 2019 online flyer** outlining the special events scheduled throughout the week. We invite you to attend our **Family Wellness Night & Intermediate Music Night** scheduled on the evening of **Thursday, May 9th between 6:00 – 8:00pm**.

We would also like to take an opportunity to highlight some of the important upcoming events happening at St. Peter CES this month! Please reference our monthly calendar for a full listing of all the events taking place during the month of May. First, we would like to wish each of our Mothers a very **Happy Mother's Day on May 12th**. Mothers truly are one of the greatest gifts from God to us. There is no way we can ever really thank our Mothers for all they do, nonetheless, we must make it a habit to continually remind ourselves of the ongoing sacrifices they make for our happiness and well-being. On **May 28th**, the Grade 7 students will be writing the board-wide Religion Assessment. Please mark your calendars as **May 20th is Victoria Day, and therefore, there will be no school!** Also, please note that the annual **EQAO testing for 'Grade 3 & 6 students only' will take place during the last week of May and first week of June**.

At St. Peter CES, we are nurtured by a strong sense of community for we know that it is through this kinship that we encounter Jesus. Experience our warm and inviting school community throughout Catholic Education Week as we embrace hope, celebrate with joy, build community, grow in integrity and live with gratitude!

Sincerely,

Mr. C. Tilley & Mr. T. Demeris

ST. PETER CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT:

St. Peter Catholic School in active partnership with home, Church and community is dedicated to excellence in education exemplifying Catholic values and fostering a life-long love of learning in a safe environment leading to spiritual, social and intellectual growth.

MAY PRAYER FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK



God of grace and goodness,
we desire to grow together in faith.
We ask you to help us to walk gently with one another.
May your Word direct our actions and give us peace.
We ask this through Christ our risen Lord.
Amen

VICTORIA DAY – MAY 20th, 2019



St. Peter CES will be closed **Monday, May 20th, 2019** to celebrate Victoria Day.
Regular classes will resume on **Tuesday, May 19th, 2019 beginning at 9:05am.**

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS



**The next Catholic School Council Meeting will take place of
Monday, May 27th, 2019 at 6:30pm in the school library.**

All parents are welcome to attend the meetings that run for approximately 90 minutes in length, highlighting various initiatives related to our school community.

Please consider coming out one evening. We look forward to seeing you there!

St. Peter CES Wellness Fair Evening:

Our Catholic School Parent Council is excited to share that St. Peter CES will be hosting a Wellness Fair Evening as part of Catholic Education Week. The event will take place the evening of **Thursday, May 9th, 2019 from 6:00 – 7:00pm**. Students from Mrs. Leung and Mrs. McLaren's Grade 6 classes will be preparing information booths for our community to come and learn about. The event features information on the following: activities and clubs happening at the school, outside community support agencies, healthy lifestyle tips, Christian Meditation for children, mental health and wellness promotion, and local youth sports clubs and fitness opportunities.

This event will be funded by the Ontario Ministry of Education Parent Reach Out (PRO) Grant as decided by our Catholic School Council. Parents and families are encouraged to attend the event and to stay to watch the Musical Concert that has been scheduled follow the Wellness Fair. The Musical Concert will take place in the gymnasium from 7:00 – 8:00pm and will feature both our St. Peter CES Children's Choir and our Grade 7 & 8 Intermediate Concert Band. We look forward to seeing all our St. Peter families at this fun and informative evening!

St. Peter CES Catholic School Council Members

HALTON CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD: WALK WITH JESUS

The Halton Catholic District School Board is pleased to announce our annual **Walk With Jesus** student walkathon during Catholic Education Week on **Thursday, May 9th, 2019**. Numerous representatives from each of our 50 schools will participate in this event. Students will exhibit a sense of community and solidarity in support of their Catholicity and social justice as they walk from the Milton Velodrome to Jean Vanier CSS, at which point they will celebrate Mass.

This year, the charitable funds raised will support the Halton Catholic Children's Education Foundation. This foundation is committed to enhancing the educational experience and enriching the lives of students within our Catholic school communities.

The participation of students from throughout the Halton Catholic District School Board community in our annual **Walk With Jesus** will demonstrate that *'children helping children'* is an important and achievable goal of this board-wide initiative in support of Catholic Education Week. Please keep student participants in your prayers on Thursday, May 9th, 2019.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK 2019

During the week of **May 6th to May 10th, 2019** the Halton Catholic District School Board will celebrate the significant contribution that Catholic Education has made to the community, the province and to Canada. Our Catholic Graduate Expectations challenge students to articulate in society those fundamental values that underpin Catholic education.

Catholic schools are Catholic communities. Catholic schools are faith communities. We – parents, students, teachers, administrative and support staff – walk and grow together in the faith which we received at our Baptism. And it is the 'together' that we grow. And as we learn from nature, growth relies on sun and water and nutrition. Otherwise, it may fade away and even die. Our growth is primarily a relationship with God, who at our Baptism, called us by name. But the response of each of us to that growth is both personal and communal. We grow in our faith in the nurturing atmosphere of our Catholic community be that of our local parish, our home, or our Catholic school community.

St. Peter CES will celebrate **Catholic Education Week** from **Monday, May 6th, 2019 to Friday, May 10th, 2019**. This year's Catholic Education Week theme is **"Living as Joyful Disciples."** To see the calendar of events for Catholic Education Week at St. Peter CES, please click the following link: [Catholic Education Week Calendar of Events 2019](#)

The 2019 theme was inspired by three sources:

1. **"Renewing the Promise"**, The Pastoral Letter on Catholic Education from the Bishops of Ontario;
2. **"Gaudete et exsultate"**, the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis on the Call to Holiness; and
3. **"Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment"**, the October 2018 Synod of Bishops.

The theme and sub-themes are very much directed to the young people in our schools, especially in their growth in holiness and their formation as disciples of Christ through the discernment of their vocational pathways. In the section of *Renewing the Promise* entitled, "A Community that Forms Joyful Disciples," we read, "Our Catholic schools help to form joyful disciples as hearts and minds are opened to the transforming love of God and to the flame of faith in action. On a daily basis, Catholic schools demonstrate the joy of believing and witness the Good News to the communities that they serve."

There are five sub-themes that we explore this year during Catholic Education Week: Rooted in Prayer

- Living in Community
- Doing Justice & Creating Hope
- Journeying Together in Faith
- Sharing the Good News

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 the students and staff at our school are Living as Joyful Disciples. For information on our major community evening event, please click the following attachment: [StPeter_WellnessNight_2019_11x17 \(002\)](#)

GRADE 3 & 6 EQAO TESTING

Ontario conducts province-wide testing of students' literacy and numeracy skills at key stages in their educational careers. EQAO contributes to public accountability and to continuous improvement on the part of every student in Ontario. EQAO's Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics is administered to students in Grades 3 & 6. It tests the literacy and numeracy skills *The Ontario Curriculum* expects students to have gained up to the end of Grade 3 & 6.

Parents care about their children's progress in school. EQAO assessments at these levels, along with classroom assessment, can help ensure that students remain on the correct academic path. With many of you anticipating the upcoming EQAO Assessment, please note that students in **Grade 3 & 6 will be writing EQAO at the end of May and beginning of June.**

We kindly ask that you ensure that your child does not miss the test days by scheduling appointments on other days where possible. Thank-you in advance for your assistance with this matter.

STUDENTS NOT RETURNING IN SEPTEMBER 2019



If your children **will not** be returning to St. Peter CES in September 2019 please advise the Main Office as soon as possible as this information is an important aspect of the planning processes and school organization for the fall. Your cooperation is very much appreciated!

GRADE 8 GRADUATION INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

To celebrate the achievements of our Grade 8 Graduating Class of 2019, please note the following activities that have been organized for our graduates:

Friday, May 3rd, 2019

- ❖ Grade 8 Graduation Hoodie Order Form was sent home. Graduation Hoodies cost \$50.00 and should arrive in early June. Graduation Hoodie Order Forms are due Wednesday, May 8th, 2019.

Tuesday, June 25th, 2019

- ❖ Graduation Mass at Holy Rosary Parish – 10:00am. Parents are welcome to attend the Graduation Mass if they choose to do so.
- ❖ Graduation Luncheon at St. Peter CES – 11:15am to 12:30pm. The Graduation Luncheon will be catered in the St. Peter CES Library.
- ❖ Graduation Ceremony to be held at St. Peter CES (including distribution of diplomas/awards and Valedictorian Address) – 6:30 to 8:00pm.
- ❖ Graduation Dance to be held at St. Peter CES. The Graduation Dance will follow the Graduation Ceremony. The Graduation Dance concludes at 10:00pm.

CLASS PLACEMENTS 2019-2020

We will be beginning the process of preparing 'tentative' class placements for the 2019-2020 school year shortly. It must be emphasized that the plans are tentative as summer registrations can significantly affect our proposed organization. In forming groups the following points are considered:

- ✚ Equitable balance of boys and girls in each class at all grade levels.
- ✚ A range of academic ability and potential in each class (e.g., classes are not streamed).
- ✚ A mix of previous classes (so students can form new friendships, meet different academic/social challenges).
- ✚ Children who are best kept together and children who are best separated.
- ✚ Number of years in a combined class (students in split grades the previous year will be placed in a straight grade, where possible).

Keeping the above issues of class formation in mind, each teacher develops a profile for every student, noting academic, social, behavioural, and physical strengths/needs. These are made into class lists by a team of lead teachers, reviewed by administration, and then returned for discussion and suggestions to the group of teachers at each grade, with further changes made as required. The class lists then remain 'tentative' pending changes necessitated due to increased or decreased student enrolment.

Placement decisions are based on awareness of your child's academic, social, learning needs, and strengths. The objective of this organization process is to achieve the most workable heterogeneous combination of student groups. With your trust in our professional judgement, we will continue to provide all of our students with the best possible learning environment. If you have concerns or questions regarding class placement, please leave a written response at the Main Office addressed to the Principal.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE – <http://schools.hcdsb.org/stpeter/>



We would like to remind our school community and especially new families attending St. Peter CES that we have our own website. Please note the website address above.

Please consult our website on a regular basis for important information about our school or if you have any questions that need to be answered about our school or community.

HEALTHY SCHOOLS UPDATE



St. Peter CES is working hard to be a health school! Together we work with various community partners such as the Public Health Department, Halton Multicultural Council, and Halton Police Services, and Halton Police Services to educate our students on making health choices. Students are encouraged to bring healthy, nutritious snacks and lunches to school. We also ask your cooperation by not sending to school with your children any snacks or lunches containing peanuts or nuts. We also remind you that we do not accept cupcakes, donuts or any sweet foods for class treats. Please join the St. Peter CES staff in taking care to ensure the health and safety of all students in the school.

GREEN TEAM NEWS



The St. Peter CES 'Green Team' continues to be a hardworking and proactive group on a mission to make a difference within our school community! This month St. Peter CES has the Ministry of the Environment coming to visit our school for a site visit and to review our Gold Certification Status.





Remember we can all make a difference in minimizing our carbon footprint...GO GREEN!

PARKING LOT NEWS

Please help us to make our parking lot an efficient and safe place for all by adhering to our Parking Lot Rules.



REMEMBER if you choose to drive a vehicle to school, particularly during peak traffic times before and after school, please...

-  BE PATIENT AND COURTEOUS TO STAFF MEMBERS DIRECTING TRAFFIC
-  DRIVE SLOWLY AND BE VIGILANT OF PEDESTRIANS AT ALL TIMES
-  DO NOT LEAVE YOUR CAR UNATTENDED AND/OR PARKED, ESPECIALLY ALONG THE CURBS AND IN THE 'KISS & RIDE' LANES
-  OBEY THE STOP SIGNS IN THE PARKING LOT

Thank-you for your cooperation in following our rules regarding the use of the school parking lot and 'Kiss and Ride' lanes. We strongly believe that we all have to work together to keep our parking lot a safe place!

SUNNY DAYS ARE ON THERE WAY!



With the onset of warmer weather, parents are reminded that their children should be protected from the harmful rays of the sun. The Health Department suggests long sleeved shirts and a good sun block with high SPF factor in order to properly protect children's skin. Light jackets or sweaters and a hat/cap are also recommended.

Please remember current clothing trends may not provide the appropriate protection from the sun required, nor may they meet the St. Peter CES Dress Code requirements. We ask that parents assist in guiding their children to make appropriate clothing choices – thanks for your assistance with this matter!

BICYCLE SAFETY

With the change in weather, many more students are beginning to ride their bicycles to school. Please take the time to discuss proper bicycle safety with your children to ensure their well-being.

1. Make sure your bicycle is in good operating condition.
2. Always ride you bicycle in a single file.
3. Obey all traffic signs and signals.
4. Learn appropriate hand signals to be used when operating a bicycle.
5. Ride as near to the right-hand curb as possible, and in the same direction as the traffic flow.
6. Keep both hands on the handle bars at all times unless signaling, and both feet on the pedals while moving.
7. Walk your bicycle on to school property.
8. Lock up your bicycle in the bicycle racks when it is unattended.
9. Be sure to wear your helmet always when operating you bicycle. Please make sure that your helmet has been adjusted properly.

PROPOSED SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR SET FOR 2019 – 2020

At the April 2nd, 2019 Regular Board Meeting, the Halton Catholic District School Board approved the **proposed 2019 - 2020 School Year Calendar**. The calendar dates will now be submitted to the Ministry of Education for final approval. Once approved, the **first day of school** for Halton Catholic students will be on **Tuesday, September 3rd, 2019**.

Please see the <https://www.hcdsb.org/News/Pages/Proposed-School-Year-Calendar.aspx>

SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS & LIBRARY MATERIALS

We remind students that they should be ensuring that they have all of their assigned textbooks from the beginning of the school year, as well as, any library materials they have borrowed as it will not be long before we are recollecting these items to complete an inventory! I know that many students have expressed concerns that they are missing an item or two, thus we ask parents to carefully assist their children in locating these materials. Please note that students who do not return all of the borrowed items, will be asked to reimburse the school.



Working together we can ensure that alleviate replacement costs, promote responsibility amongst our students, while maintaining our inventory of school textbooks and library materials for future student use. Thank-you for your cooperation with this matter!

ESL UPDATE

Devotions to the Virgin Mary From Around the World

The month of May is devoted to Mother Mary. There are many stories about her form around the world. Here are some to explore with your family!

Our Lady of Fatima – Portugal

Between May 13 to October 13, 1917, Our Lady appeared six times to three shepherd children, (now saints) Lúcia dos Santos and her cousins Francisco and Jacinta Marto. Our Lady told the children to pray the rosary every day and gave them many messages.

Our Lady of Zeitoun- Egypt

Mary appeared to a Muslim bus driver while standing on top of St. Mary's Coptic Church in Zeitoun, near Cairo on April 2, 1968. The bus driver called the police thinking it was a woman who was going to commit suicide. The crowd identified the figure as the Virgin Mary. This event was caught on camera.

Our Lady of Guadeloupe – Mexico

Juan Diego met Mary on Tepeyac Hill near Mexico City on December 9, 1931. The bishop did not believe him so Juan Diego asked for a sign. The Virgin told Juan Diego to pick roses from the top of the hill. He carried the roses in his cloak. When he opened his cloak the image of Our Lady of Guadeloupe was imprinted. The original image is kept at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadeloupe in Mexico City.

Our Lady of Czestochowa, Poland

The image of our Lady of Czestochowa is also known as the "Black Madonna." This is because of centuries of votive lights and candles burning in front of it. The image is said to date back to the Twelve Apostles and was painted by St. Luke. He gave the image to St. Helen who then gave it to her son Constantine, who built a shrine. There are many miraculous events where Poland was protected under the care of our Lady.

Our Lady of Las Lajas, Colombia

In the 18th century Maria Mueses de Quinones walked six miles between her village and a village nearby. She did not like one part of the trail, Las Lajas (the Rocks), which was said to be haunted. One day while carrying her daughter who was deaf and mute she stopped. All of a sudden her daughter shouted, "Mommy, there is a woman in here with a boy in her arms!" Maria was shocked because he daughter could not speak before this.

Our Lady of Manaog, Philippines

In 1610 a man was walking along a road in Pangasinan Region when he heard a lady's voice. He turned around and saw a lady carrying a child and a rosary lifted in her right hand. A church was built at this location and there have been many miracles where this area has been protected from danger.

Our Lady of Kibeho, Africa

The Virgin Mary began appearing to a group of teenagers on November 28, 1981 in Kibeho, Rwanda. She gave them urgent messages to share with the country. Mary predicted a "river of blood" would flow across the country and in 1982 the Rwanda Genocide took place.