

# Faith, Teamwork, Excellence



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<http://stmm.hwcdsb.ca>

**December 2015**

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

JOY days at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Elementary School are based on two ways of understanding the word J O Y.

Taking each letter individually we place CHRIST at the heart of Christmas.

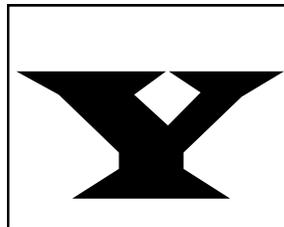
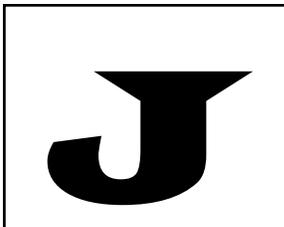
J = JESUS. The child Jesus, Our Saviour, Emmanuel. God first-Always  
O = Others. We put others before ourselves in taking care, in finding a gift to share.  
Y = You. Do not forget about you and your needs. You matter. But note the order.

This does not take away from JOY as we understand it. That feeling of awe and splendour. Laughter and excitement are best expression of JOY.

We do get JOY from presents and feasts together. These memories are what make the holidays so special.

But, when we seek how we celebrate the JOY of CHRISTmas it is the first version that matches best the words of St. Margaret Mary who reminds us to “unite yourself with Jesus..in all that you do.”

We Do wish all J O Y. , good health and happiness this Christmas.



## ONTARIO GRADUATE EXPECTATIONS FOR DECEMBER A Self-Directed, Responsible, Lifelong Learner

**This month we invite you to help your child demonstrate initiative and take responsibility for his/her's Whole Self. Provide opportunities for you and your family to discuss important matters that invite each one to stop, think and offer thoughts.**

**In your home, in our school community and our world we need to value those who promote respect, dignity and the welfare of all.**

**As you do so remember that St. Margaret Mary invites us to “Unite yourself with Jesus...in all that you do.”**

“Unite yourself with Jesus  
... in all that you do”  
St. Margaret Mary

Director of Education  
Mr. D. Hansen

Superintendent  
Mrs. S. Pizzuti

Trustee  
Mr. J. Baiardo

Principal  
Mr. J. Coons

Principal Assistant  
Miss J. Iacozza

St. Margaret Mary Parish  
Fr. Bergsma  
(905) 388 - 2200

Weekend Masses  
Sat. 7:00 pm  
Sunday 8:30 am /  
10:15 am / 12:00 noon

*St. Margaret Mary Prayer*

*Eternal Father,*

*You entrusted St. Margaret  
Mary with the grace to spread  
devotion to the sacred Heart of  
Jesus.*

*Help us embrace the love of  
Christ by following Saint  
Margaret Mary's loving  
example.*

*Guide us along the right path  
and bless us as we seek to unite  
ourselves to you in all our  
thoughts, our words and our  
actions.*

*May we, like Saint Margaret  
Mary, always find lasting  
strength, courage and peace in  
you.*

*We ask this through the Sacred  
Heart of Jesus, who lives and  
reigns with you and the Holy  
Spirit one God, forever and  
ever. Amen*

## “TELL THEM FROM ME” SURVEY

The **St. Margaret Mary Survey is an online survey** supported by the Board that allows parents to give their input into school improvement initiatives in an anonymous way. All parents will be given an opportunity to participate.

You are encouraged to complete the survey, but may choose not to

**The survey is to be conducted between Dec. 7 – 18, 2015.** All Staff and students in Gr. 4-8 may participate. **Please follow these steps included in the letter sent home to complete the Parent/Guardian survey.**

This note will be sent out on Monday Dec. 7, 2015 to parents to provide more details and explanation of this survey. Thank you .

If you would like more information, please contact the school.

### CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL 2015– 2016

Your Catholic School Council continues to support the school in a number of ways. The CSC responds to survey requests by the Board and Ministry and is supporting our families in need through donations and promotion of our Christmas Tree of Hope. Thank you to those who responded to the call to support families in our community.

More information is to come from the CSC as they report on the Parent Survey from last month and have planned a number of exciting opportunities to bring our community together.

The next meeting is Tuesday January 12, 2016 starting at 6:30 p.m. in the Learning Commons.

## Anaphylaxis Awareness Caring For All

**St. Margaret Mary Catholic Elementary School** is a place where all children feel safe and have a sense of belonging. To ensure the safety and well-being of all children, please note below important information from Anaphylaxis Canada:

Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that is rapid in onset and may cause death;

Signs and symptoms of a severe allergic reaction can occur within minutes of exposure to an allergen (a substance capable of causing an allergic reaction)

Very small amounts of certain foods can cause severe reactions when eaten. This may happen if a person at risk touches an allergenic substance and then subsequently touches the mouth. Even a very small amount 'hidden' in a food or transferred to a serving utensil has the potential to cause a severe allergic reaction. Direct ingestion of an allergy-causing food poses the greatest risk for people with food allergies.

**Cooperation from parent and guardians in adhering to the guidelines below is most appreciated:**

There are students at this school who are allergic to the following foods and items:

nuts, tree nuts, red dye, egg, shellfish

Parents will be advised of allergens specific to a classroom; please avoid bringing these allergens into the designated classroom.

Reinforce hand washing practices: wash hands before and after eating.

Remind children not to share or trade food, food utensils, or food containers.



## A Message from the St.MM ECO TEAM

Being ECO friendly has become a way of life here at STMM. The recycling program continues to be a great success thanks to students and staff. Special thanks go out to our Custodian, Mr. Kelly, who goes above and beyond to make sure that all blue bins and green bins are collected and cleaned regularly.

Congratulations to Mr. Tartaglia's class and Mrs. McSweeney's class for winning the Gold Bin for the months of October and November. Coming up in the new year will be our book swap and litterless lunches (aka boomerang lunch).

The ECO team wishes you a happy, ECO friendly holiday!

## THREE SCHOOL ADVENT MASS at St. Margaret Mary Church

On Thursday December 10, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. our school joins the St. Anthony Daniel and St. Kateri Tekakwitha school communities to celebrate Advent. Mass at The Church will be followed by a reception in our Gymnasium. We look forward to seeing families gathered for this special community celebration.

## SCIENCE FAIR CLUB at St. Margaret Mary

### SCIENCE CLUB

This year we will be having a Science Fair Club. The HWCDSB Science Fair will be held on **February 27th, 2016**. Students interested in joining must commit to meeting, showing the progression of their work, taking suggestions from the teachers and applying them to their completed project. Students chosen will move forward to the System Science Fair and present their project. Students may work with a partner or may work alone on the project.

More details to follow.



## Safety at School for Staff, Students and Visitors

Our school property, like all schools, does become slippery at this time of year. Please dress for the weather (proper footwear such as boots and low-heeled shoes) and be aware of slippery and icy patches on our grounds.

Students are reminded to change the nature of their play at this time of year (ex. No footballs, soccer balls that become harder as the weather gets colder).

Finally, we continue to follow Concussion Protocol for injuries to the head. Preventative measures include reminders to all students to be mindful of activities that can hurt their heads. Remind your children to be safe.