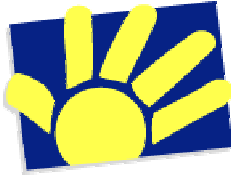


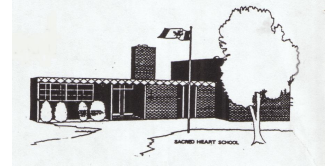
January 9, 2008

[HTTP://WWW2.HPCDSB.EDU.ON.CA/~SACREDHEART](http://www2.hpcdsb.edu.on.ca/~sacredheart)



## Sacred Heart School

225 Cornyn St.  
Wingham, On.  
N0G 2W0



Phone: 357-1090 or 357-2289 Issue 5

### Principal's Address

Welcome to a fabulous 2008. I trust that everyone had a joyous and relaxing Christmas holiday. Thank-you to everyone who attended our Christmas Celebration, supported our Christmas Outreach projects and dropped off baking and other goodies at the school. We really appreciate your kindness.



As school resumes in this year 2008 there are many upcoming events that both staff and students will be involved in. We try to maintain a balance between academics, sports and special events and activities.

Let us remember that as a Catholic School system, it is our primary duty to ensure our students achieve the expectations of the Ontario Catholic School Graduate. Our first school mass will be celebrated on Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. The grade 3/4 is helping to prepare this mass. All parents and friends are invited to join us for this mass.

As we begin the new year, we also begin to prepare our students to receive the Sacraments of 1<sup>st</sup> Communion and 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation. Students will receive the Sacrament of 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation on upcoming Saturdays in February with 1<sup>st</sup> Communion to follow at the beginning of May. Parents are reminded of the importance of helping their children prepare for these holy celebrations. Our grade 7 and 8 students continue to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The next Confirmation Preparation Class is Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at Sacred Heart Church from 10:00-11:00 a.m. Remember it is imperative that all students wishing to be confirmed attend these days of preparation.

### A Catholic Community of Caring

As stated in prior newsletters all schools in our system are striving to become communities of

caring. To become a faith centered community of caring we need to develop the 5 pillars of respect, family, caring, responsibility & trust. For the months of January and February Sacred Heart will focus on what it means to be a person of caring. Also please try to reinforce our weekly virtue at home. We know that the virtues are the characteristics Jesus had and we are all striving to become more Christ-like.

Don't forget to check out our Community of Caring bulletin board which features great information. A parent lending book display will soon be added below the great bulletin board. We thank Cindy VanNes and Lorraine McIlhargey for their updates to this board.



### EQAO/School Improvement Plan

Throughout the coming months a School Improvement Plan Review Committee along with staff and parental support will analyze recent assessment results including EQAO, review our current Improvement Plan, identify needs within our school and update our School Improvement Plan. The school plan with all updates and changes will be presented to staff and the School Advisory Council for suggestions and input before being finalized. The continual work for school improvement is extremely important. Input from all stakeholders is greatly appreciated.

### Safe Schools/Bill 212

On February 1st, 2008 the Safe Schools Act will be replaced by an amendment to the Education Act. This is a major update. Please see the attached memo for more information on this legislation.

### Kindergarten Registration



Kindergarten registration for Sacred Heart School took place earlier in the fall. If you missed that registration time or know of anyone who may have missed registration, please contact the school.

### Mother Teresa Faith in Action Award 2007

The Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board is pleased to host the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Mother Teresa Faith in Action Awards which recognize exemplary service to

Catholic Education. The nominees for this award can represent all stakeholder groups in Huron Perth-volunteers, teachers, principals, priests and parishioners. Each year, the Award honours the people of Huron-Perth who strive every day to live out their faith...and in doing so, create school communities, which embody the very mission of Catholic Education.

Nomination forms are available in each school and parish and must be returned by Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup>.

### Winter Gear

Parents are reminded that it is imperative that students have proper outdoor attire for the winter season. Parents are encouraged to send extra mittens and socks to school during the winter season. All students must also have a pair of inside shoes at school. When purchasing inside shoes for school, we ask that you give some consideration to **not** buying black or dark soled shoes, if possible, as they leave ugly skid marks on the floors.



### Public Speaking

The traditional speech and storytelling practices are being changed in all Huron-Perth Schools this year (please see the attached letter). It is no longer mandatory for all students to present a speech or story. The only grade which is required to write a formal speech is the grade 7/8 classroom. Any other student from grade 1-7 who wishes to present a speech or story is invited to do so. The majority of preparation would have to be completed independently at home. The school will offer a speech club to give advice and support. If your child is interested in participating in this competition guidelines will be sent home to you. Students from grades 1-3 can be involved in Story Telling and students from grades 4-8 are invited to present speeches. The school level competition will be held on February 12 at 9:30 a.m. beginning with the primary grades.

### Healthy Schools Update

As you are aware, our school continues to be designated as a healthy school by the Huron County Health Unit. This means that we make a concentrated effort to promote healthy living practices within our school community at all times. A number of promotions and activities are undertaken to promote this. For the month of January we will be revisiting the importance of drinking water, eating healthy foods and engaging in daily physical activity.

Our Safe and Healthy School Committee will be meeting on Monday, January 28 at 1:00 p.m. If you have an interest in being part of this very important group, please contact the school.

### SPORTS UPDATE

Congratulations to our grade 7/8 volleyball teams who represented our school at the Zone Tournament on December 11<sup>th</sup>. Special recognition goes to the girls team who finished 2<sup>nd</sup> and the boys team who played extremely well. Thank-you to Mrs. Anderson & Mrs.

Weiler for dedicating much time to the organizing of this day and coaching of the teams.

### Knights of Columbus Free Throw

Students from the ages of 10-14 years are invited to take part in the Free Throw Competition. The initial throw offs will be held at our school during the week of January 21<sup>st</sup>. Entry forms will be sent home with students who qualify for the next level of competition. If anyone would like to lend a hand with this event, your help would be greatly appreciated. Thank-you to Mrs. Waechter for overseeing Free Throw.

### Remembrance Day Legion Winners

Sacred Heart students did an outstanding job entering submissions to the annual Legion Remembrance Day contests. Many excellent submissions were entered by many of our students. Of all schools participating Sacred Heart tied for the most winning entries. Congratulations to the following students.

**Emily McDougall**-1<sup>st</sup> in G. 7-9 essay

**Maisy Jefferson**-1<sup>st</sup> in Gr. 7-9 poem

**Jayden Anderson**-1<sup>st</sup> in Gr. 4-6 essay

**Wyatt McIlhargey**-1<sup>st</sup> in Gr. 4-6 poem

**Liam Gangl**-2<sup>nd</sup> in Gr. 4-6 poem



### School Advisory Council News

Our first meeting of the new year will be held on Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the library. The School's Improvement Plan for the upcoming year will be discussed as well as plans for the Family Literacy/Fun Night on January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Beginning next month we are hoping to begin offering a series of round table discussions information session for parents. These sessions will occur after school and child care will be provided on school related issues. The discussions are open to all parents and are an opportunity for parents to share knowledge, expertise, frustration and questions. More information will follow. Thank you to all parents and community members who generously give of their time to serve on the LSAC. A huge thank-you to all the families who helped decorate the school float for the Santa Claus Parade and helped with our Christmas Celebration.

### Volunteers Needed

If you feel you can lend a hand in any of the following capacities, please contact the school. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

*Volunteers to help run the School Pancake Day/Shrove Tuesday on February 5 from 10:00-12:30. Many people are need in order to provide this treat. Please contact*

*the school if you can be of assistance. If we get enough help we will proceed with the pancakes.*

*We are still looking for a volunteer to offer a couple hours each week to accompany students for visits at the local nursing home. Please contact the school if you could help.*

*We desperately need any interested parent to help with our school Public Speaking Club. This club must begin immediately. If you can help please contact the school.*

*We are always looking for parents to volunteer on a regular basis in our classrooms. If you would like to work in this capacity just let us know.*

### **Literacy Days**

On Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> we will celebrate Literacy. On these days we will be recognizing literacy as the key to academic success. Students will display various pieces of writing, have an opportunity to share favourite books and celebrate literacy. On the evening of Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> there will be a Family Literacy/Fun Night where families can have fun with literacy based games, be entertained by readings written by our own students and enjoy our guest author. Additional information will be forwarded to you as plans are finalized. Please plan on attending this important event.



### **Skiing (Weather permitting)**

On January 25<sup>th</sup> our students in grades 7/8 will be participating in our annual ski trip to Talisman Ski Resort. This is always a fabulous day that introduces our children to a life long active sport. Any parents or family members wishing to join us for the day are invited to do so provided that they use their own transportation and contact the school.

### **Snowballs At School**

Parents and students have been told that snowballs are NOT allowed at school as they present a serious safety risk. Our policy is this: snowballs will not be thrown at anything or anyone at any time for any reason. Children who throw snowballs will face immediate consequences. We appreciate your support in ensuring the safety of all students.

*(The only exception to this rule is the use of snowball targets when available).*

**Attention:** If you ordered CFL light kits and have not yet paid or picked them up please do so a.s.a.p. The Gr. 4/5 class has raised \$1640.00 with this project.

### **CHEERS**

**Cheers** to the School Advisory Council for purchasing and arranging our Christmas Social on December 12<sup>th</sup>.



**Cheers** to all our students for the outstanding job they did at our Christmas Celebration.

**Cheers** to Bill Townsend and Phil Main for all their assistance at the Christmas Celebration.

**Cheers** to all the parents and students who attended first term Parent/Teacher Interviews. We appreciate the effort made for the rescheduling of many of these meetings due to the poor weather conditions.

**Cheers** to Schmidt family for donating the lovely tree and lights to the school for the Christmas Season.

**Cheers** to Mr. & Mrs. Marklevitz for all the work they did cleaning the school over the holidays.

**Cheers** to Mr. & Mrs. Anderson for the rearranging they did to accommodate our new fridge in the staffroom.

**Cheers** to the Quebec Trip Organizational Committee for all the work they are doing.

**Cheers** to Angela Ventura and Sheila Terpstra for overseeing the Quebec Trip ticket sales.

### **PREMIER'S AWARDS FOR TEACHEING**

From time to time parents encounter educators and school staff who excel at unlocking the potential of Ontario's young people. We sometimes wish we could somehow recognize how much we appreciate all that they do.

The Premier's Awards for Teaching Excellence honour the extraordinary work of teachers, support staff, principals and vice-principals, and celebrate their positive impact on student learning and achievement.

Fourteen recipients will receive awards in 10 different categories.

#### **WHO CAN BE NOMINATED?**

To be eligible for the nomination, the person must:

Work in the publicly funded education system at the elementary or secondary level in Ontario

#### **HOW WILL RECIPIENTS BE CHOSEN?**

A Selection Panel, made up of members from the education sector, will select the winners. The Panel will assess nominations on how closely they meet the category criteria. Visit

[www.ontario.ca/teachingawards](http://www.ontario.ca/teachingawards) for the awards Selection Criteria.

#### **DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS**

Your nomination must be received by January 28, 2008.

Nominations received later than this date will not be accepted.

**Contact the school if you would like a nomination form. Please see the attached for additional information.**