

# Sacred Heart Batawa Catholic School

January 2018



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Welcome Back Everyone!

A new year provides the opportunity to reflect on our many blessings and to set goals to make a positive difference in new ways. As a Catholic School community, the three pillars of Discipleship, Scholarship and Stewardship will continue to guide our choices and actions in 2018.

There were so many examples of Faith in Action throughout the month of December at Sacred Heart. Many thanks to all who donated items to our school canned food drive for Community Partners Food Bank in Frankford. We used some of the canned food collected, as well as some donated funds to help out 5 families within our own community. Students participated in weekly Advent Prayer services that brought us together as a school community, to strengthen our preparation for the Christmas season.

We also had the opportunity to celebrate Holy Mass in the evening with Father Don and realize the true meaning of the Christmas Season.

We are truly blessed at Sacred Heart to have such a great staff who organize opportunities for our students to strengthen their capacity in the three pillars of Catholic Education.



## A Prayer for Fortitude

Father in Heaven,

Thank you for Creating me unique And in Your image. Thank you for Giving me the ability To Think Individually, To stand up for what is right, And not to give in to peer pressure. Give me courage to chose the right path, Even if this means being completely alone. Help me to stand firm without fear And forever let me be at peace with myself. Amen



## Upcoming Dates to Remember:

Jan. 19th– Dental Screening

Jan. 19th– OPP to speak with Gr. 7/8

Jan. 24th– Skiing-Gr. 4-8

Jan. 29th– Virtues Assembly

Jan. 30th– School Mass  
11am– all welcome

Jan. 31st– Grade 7/8 students @ Skills Ontario Cardboard Boat Races

## Our School Schedule

9:00 Yard Supervision Begins

9:15 Instructional Time

10:35– Recess

10:50- Instructional Time

12:10– 1:10- Recess and Lunch

1:10-2:10 School Wide Math

2:10-3:30– Instructional Time

3:30- Dismissal



## Sacred Heart Skiing

Our students from Grade 5 to 8 will have the opportunity to once again ski at Batawa Ski Hill. We have booked two dates, Jan 24 and February 8th. An event will be created on our Online Payment System and permission forms will be sent home after Christmas. As per board policy, students will be required to attend a lesson prior to being allowed to commence their skiing activities. Snow boarding will not be permitted.



## Special Thank You!

Thank you to the Bata Development Corporation and Mrs. Bata for their donation of \$200 to both the school as a whole, and to the Parent Council. We really appreciate the continued support from our community!



Numeracy Quick Tip:# 4

**Encourage children to solve problems. Provide assistance, but let them figure it out themselves. Problem solving is a lifetime skill.**



Literacy Quick Tip:# 3

**Use a wide variety of formats**

**If your child really enjoys using an e-reader or computer, allow him to do this for some of his daily reading time. New technologies can be quite educational as long as they don't completely replace more traditional methods and formats.**

## Grade 7/8 Students Continue Work with BDC

The Grade 7/8 Students have been doing research on outdoor exercise equipment and will be meeting with Representatives from the BDC to help them make informed decisions on the new fitness trails and equipment to be completed in spring of 2018!

## Catholic School Council Vendor Fair

On February 3rd, Sacred Heart Catholic School Council will host a vendor fair in the gymnasium at the school. There are at present 17 different vendors from baked goods, to candles to clothing and jewelry items. Please come and support the Council as they raise funds for student activities!

All Sales Available Online!

At Sacred Heart we now have the ability to pay for purchases online. Any activities, food items, or field trips will now be able to be paid with a Credit Card. Simply follow the links found on our school web page to set up your profile. When a new item is added for purchase, you will receive an email letting you know that things are available for purchase. You will then be prompted to login to your account and purchase the items you wish to order. The system is very similar to that of most online shopping experiences. Please contact Mrs. Shangraw for more details if you need them!



## Safe Entry Procedures

**At Sacred Heart Catholic School we endeavour to be a safe and welcoming environment for all of our students, staff and families. We have a safe entry system that is in operation from 9am until 3:30pm each day to ensure that all visitors who come to the school check in at the office and be screened appropriately. We do from time to time have members of the community who enter the school before or after hours and do not check in at the office. The office must be your first stop every time you enter the school, and the secretary or Principal will make a call to the teacher you wish to see, before heading to their classrooms. Teachers, EA's and school staff could be meeting with other parents, each other, or on the phone discussing confidential information and it could be embarrassing for any of the parties should this information be overheard. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter, as we try to ensure the safety and confidentiality of all of our students, staff and families.**

### Safe Arrival Program

Parents/guardians are asked to call the school at 613-398-6393 whenever your child will be late or absent. A message may be left at any time on the answering machine. Please indicate your child's name, grade, teacher and reason for the child's absence. If no call is received, office staff will use the contact information provided to locate the child or the parent regarding the absence.



## Inclement Weather and Bus Cancellations

The winter months are upon us. During this cold time of year parents and guardians should be aware of how to determine if their child's bus has been canceled. Please note that the decision to cancel buses rests with Tri-Board Bussing services. Bus routes cancelled due to inclement weather are cancelled for the entire day. **If you choose to bring your child to school please note that you will be required to pick them up at the end of the day.** In order to access information regarding bus cancellations please visit [www.triboard.on.ca](http://www.triboard.on.ca). On this site you will be able to determine if your child's bus is running, delayed or canceled. In addition, information is available on all local radio stations early in the morning, Twitter and our school website.

In the last few years we have seen our schools close formally only twice. Bus cancellations do not mean that schools will be closed. The decision to close schools can only be made by the Director of Education. If schools are closed however, we will make every effort to send out a Synervoice message to your homes letting you know that Sacred Heart has been closed for the day. In the event that the schools are closed part way through the day, again a Synervoice will be sent out, and in the event parents can not be reached we will call Emergency Contacts. Please call Mrs. Shangraw to ensure that your Emergency Contact information is up to date.



## Volunteer Reading Program Kicks off in January!

We have had the opportunity to train and work with several parent volunteers and some retired teachers to develop a reading program for our students at Sacred Heart. Each week, volunteers will come into the school to read with children from Grade 1 to 3. It is our goal that every child be read to by one of our volunteers each week. This should help the children develop stronger reading fluency and comprehension skills. Studies have shown that reading to children 3-5 days per week (compared to 2 or less) has the same effect on the child's reading skills at age 4-5, as being six months older. Reading to them 6-7 days per week has the same effect as being almost 12 months older.

If you have time to be able to read with our students, please contact Mrs. Shangraw. You will need a valid Police Records Check on file, along with a signed Confidentiality Agreement.