

The Little Flower

A BIMONTHLY FOR PARENTS OF THE ST THERESA OF LISIEUX CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY

MARCH/APRIL 2017

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Since the 16th century, Catholic piety has assigned entire months to special devotions. The Church traditionally encouraged the month of April for increased devotion to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. "The Church in the course of the centuries has introduced various forms of this Eucharistic worship which are ever increasing in beauty and helpfulness; as, for example, visits of devotion to the tabernacles, even every day; Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament; solemn processions, especially at the time of Eucharistic Congresses, which pass through cities and villages; and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament publicly exposed . . . These exercises of piety have brought a wonderful increase in faith and supernatural life to the Church militant upon earth and they are re-echoed to a certain extent by the Church triumphant in heaven, which sings continually a hymn of praise to God and to the Lamb 'Who was slain.'"
--POPE PIUS XI



HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL YOUNG PEOPLE:

That young people may respond generously to their vocations and seriously consider offering themselves to God in the priesthood or consecrated life.

welcoming BACK spring

BY MR. SERVIDIO PRINCIPAL

IT IS HARD TO IMAGINE that we are in the final quarter of our school year. We are in the midst of Easter season, the most precious time of the Liturgical Season. **Christ is Risen. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

► I want to begin by thanking our STL families for their contribution of the \$25 portion of the Student Activity Fee (SAF). As you know, we increased the SAF this past year by \$25 to upgrade our technological equipment. Computers in the classrooms have been replaced and, moving forward, items such as monitors, projectors and Apple TVs will be purchased. I want to thank our Parent Council, who have been very supportive of this initiative and are always kept up to date regarding purchases. In addition to all of this, last year's fundraising drive allowed us to revamp all of our computer labs and replace the Library computers. New state-of-the-art projection and sound equipment was also installed in our Library. These technological enhancements will move our students to the forefront of 21st century learning. Thank you once again to all of our families.

► I would like to address a concern that has surfaced over the past few years. Our school's success has attracted many students to attend St. Theresa. We would love to accept all students applying, but the reality is that we are bursting at the seams. Senior Administration, along with our Board of Trustees, has officially capped our school due to overcrowding. As a result, only 400 students were accepted for grade 9 this coming September. The goal is to do the same for the next three years in order to get our population to 1600. Our current enrolment is 1848. As you can imagine, limiting the acceptances at 400 posed a number of issues for us this year. The format that was used for those accepted was as follows: ❶ All students from our Catholic Family of Schools who live in the area; ❷ Students attending one of our Catholic Family of Schools who live outside of our area; ❸ Students living within our area but who attend a YCDSB elementary school; ❹ Any student who currently has a sibling in grades 9 to 11; ❺ All remaining positions to be given to any student who lives in our area and does not qualify in #1 to 4. The remaining positions were accepted on a first come first served basis. I want to thank all of the families that lined up outside our school on the evening of December 16 to December 17, 2016. Please note that the Board of Trustees is reviewing the process for next year, and a

decision will be made shortly.

► I am always in awe when hearing of the great accomplishments of our students, both in academics and athletics. Three of our senior students participated in the **DECA International Career Development Conference**, held in Anaheim, California, that drew over 10 000 high school students. I want to congratulate **Alexia Tecsá, Hayden Cheung, and Jeffrey Ng**, who came **First** among 180 teams in the **Buying and Merchandising Operations Research** category. You represented our school and our Province with great pride and a business-like professionalism second to none!

► For the first time in our 15-year history, our Senior Boys Hockey Team advanced to the OFSAA championship, held in Mississauga. As YRAA champions, STL represented York Region with class and dignity and achieved **Silver** status at this tournament. Congratulations to the entire team and to coaches **Spicer, Johnson, Della Rossa, and Nero**.

► On April 28 and 29, the Department of Modern Languages hosted **YCDSB ScrabbleFest 2017**: a pairs French Scrabble tournament-fundraiser for the SickKids Foundation. A total of 213 students, from three School Boards, took part in the **1st Annual YCDSB Elementary ScrabbleFest** and the **4th Secondary Tournament**. Congratulations go to St. Joseph (Aurora) CES, who edged out St. Edward CES in the Elementary final. In the secondary contest, the St. Theresa Junior pairs of **Du-Pindwarawala and Neto-Pang** captured the **Gold** and **Silver Coupes** respectively, while the Senior pair of **Coman-Asgarpour** captured **Gold**. The doubleheader brought in **\$6,000** in support of the Foundation! Sincere thanks to YCDSB ScrabbleFest founder, **M. Marcuzzi**; the Organizing Committee, chaired by **Jeffrey Man**; and the student and staff volunteers who came together, especially during the final week of preparations.

► I want to remind parents and students that students are expected to do "the right thing". We will not tolerate any form of bullying or harassment. Simply put, zero tolerance! I ask parents to please remind their children to not engage in any year-end pranks. Students in grade 12 especially have a lot to lose if they are caught engaging in such actions. Parents and students: remember that you signed a Form in September, agreeing to potential consequences revoking prom and graduation privileges, including any criminal charges. Students, do not compromise your education or future for insignificant actions of this nature. ► I wish all students a successful final quarter of the school year!

“Man who waits for roast duck to fly into mouth must wait very, very long time.” – CONFUCIUS

► BY M. MARCUZZI, HEAD, DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES

The ‘roast duck’ aphorism by Chinese philosopher Confucius is on point when discussing the approach that students in Modern Languages are encouraged to adopt in language-learning: take the initiative to learn a second language by involving yourselves in the Department’s Supergroup activities. Here is a brief of the activities during the months of March and April and a snapshot of the semester’s closing events.

EVENT wrap-up

35 TO GO: Thank you to parents who attended *Parent-Teacher Interviews* on April 20, or who contacted their child’s French teacher to discuss her/his progress in their courses and, where necessary, sought strategies for improvement. In this regard, the ten TLC remedial sessions, offered on Fridays, ended on April 28. We thank mentors and presiding teachers for their contributions in support of our students: **Anne, Bethany, Brittany, Celina, Charlotte, Emily, Helia, Kasra, Margherita, Maya, Melinda, Michelle, Nicole, Sena, Silvia, Mme Berlingieri, M. Puopolo, and M. Marcuzzi.** ► With 35 school days remaining, we ask that parents continue to monitor their child’s progress and, if they have any questions going forward, that they should contact their child’s French teacher.

« DES JOURS VIENDRONT OÙ L’ÉPOUX LEUR SERA ENLEVÉ; ALORS ILS JEÛNERONT. » (Mt 9, 14-15) On March 3, period 3 French classes gathered in our Chapel to celebrate a Lenten Mass, with **Père Jean Al Alam.** In his homily, Father spoke of the three Ps of Lent: *la prière, le pardon et le partage,*

inviting the assembly to take up the challenge of the pre-Paschal season. Thank you to members of the Liturgy team: lectors **Eden Jung, Jake Birkness, Jaime Conway, Shawn Deng;** altar server **Jada Climacosa,** cross-bearer **Sabrina Virgilio,** gift bearers **Sina Safaeian Torbati, Gianluca Santocono, Raven Broda;** members of *In nomine Patris* **Emma Rehders** (vocals) and **Nima Diba** (keyboards); photographers **Nathan Francis, Matteo Rucchetti, Arsen Tumanyan;** **M. Moncata,** Ensemble Director; and **M. Marcuzzi,** who created the Ordinary of the Mass on *PowerPoint,* served as lector coach, and coordinated the Liturgy.



LITURGY TEAM FOR MASS, MARCH 3: B: Deng, Père Jean, Rehders, Diba; M. Moncata; F: M. Marcuzzi, Conway, Santocono, Safaeian Torbati, Broda, Climacosa, Jung, Birkness; NP: Tumanyan, Virgilio

“The rosary is the book of the blind, where souls see and there enact the greatest drama of love the world has ever known; it is the book of the simple, which initiates them into mysteries and knowledge more satisfying than the education of other men; it is the book of the aged, whose eyes close upon the shadow of this world, and open on the substance of the next. The power of the rosary is beyond description.”
—ARCHBISHOP FULTON SHEEN

PRAYING THE ROSARY: On March 3 and April 7, **M. Marcuzzi’s** French classes gathered in the Chapel to recite the Holy Rosary. Many thanks to the decade leaders: (Period 2) **Ethan Johnson, Emma Luciani, Alejandro Shiri Moreno, Alessia Alicandro, Luca Andriuolo;** (Period 3) **Danielle Ammendolia, Jake Birkness, Selena Florio, Rachel Nemes, Sabrina Virgilio;** (Period 4) **Sydney Chiu, Emily Mitchell, Charlotte Thorpe.**

THE ‘UNRIDDLERS’: Congratulations to word buffs **Sabrina Virgilio** and **Margherita Giambattista,** whose correct *Rébus* solutions were drawn from scores of entries received for the



GIAMBATTISTA, VIRGILIO, SHEN, KIM

February contest: **Sabrina** cracked the junior *rébus, coûter un bras* (= to cost an arm and a leg), while **Margherita,** the senior: *à bras ouverts* (= with open arms). Our March winners were: **Rachel Shen** (*brave bête* = good guy)

and **Eunice Kim,** for *donner sa langue au chat* [(= to give up (when guessing)]. Each entrant received a *TimCard®* for her correct solution.

‘SCRABBLEMANIE V’: The second leg of our fifth annual French Scrabble pairs tournament, *Scrabblemanie!*, for our seven classes of grade 9 students will take place from May 23 to June 9, with the playoff round held during the week of June 12.

MARK YOUR calendar

MAY 1 TO 30: *Projet gros dodo (Project Beddy-Bye)* will again be run during the month of May this year. ► **M. Marcuzzi’s** classes will be invited to bring in milk bags, which will be

woven into mats for sleeping and make-shift medical beds in disaster zones and developing countries. The bags also provide packing material for the aid containers that are shipped to these countries and provide other useful items like carry bags. As well, the non-biodegradable milk bags are kept out of landfills. ► The three classes will attempt to beat last year’s (three-class) total of 657 bags collected.

MAY 8, PERIODS 3 AND 4: Grade 10 French classes will view *Le petit Nicolas* at the YCDSB Centre for the Arts.

MAY 12, PERIODS 2, 3: **M. Marcuzzi’s** classes will recite the Holy Rosary in the St. Theresa of Lisieux Chapel. Students will lead decades of the Marian prayer.

MAY 12, PERIOD 4: Period 4 French classes will join **Father Ernesto DeCiccio** in celebrating a year-end Mass, in the St. Theresa Chapel. Parents are invited to join us for the liturgy.

JUNE 2, PERIOD 1: *Viva XV* will celebrate our French young authors and members of our Supergroups in our cafeteria. *Certificats de participation* and 15th anniversary Anthologies will be distributed. Parents of our authors will be invited to join their children at this special ceremony.

JUNE 9, PERIODS 2, 3, 4: **M. Marcuzzi’s** classes will recite the Holy Rosary in the St. Theresa Chapel. Students will lead decades of the Marian prayer.

ENCORE FOR BRITTANY! Congratulations to grade 12

Francophile, **Brittany Chang Kit,** on her award-winning entry in the *OECTA Prix jeunes écrivaines et écrivains* creative



writing contest. *Le dilemme* was selected as **Best Nonfiction, Senior** at the Unit and Provincial Levels of Competition. Brittany has garnered this award for the second year in a row: last year, her piece, *L’importance de la famille dans la société occupée,* was selected as

the top entry in the same category. ► Brittany is the third St. Theresa of Lisieux student in our school’s fifteen-year history to capture consecutive writing awards at the Provincial Level. [Rhea Szarics—Best Play, Junior (2011) and Senior (2013); Alessia Dolcetti—Best Play, Junior (2007) and Best Short Story, Senior (2009)] ► According to OECTA records of French-language *Prix* award winners since 2004, Brittany is the sixth student to earn back-to-back Provincial Awards. Thanks to her winning entry, St. Theresa of Lisieux French authors continue to hold the top position, having accumulated **22 Provincial Awards** over the past quinquennial—9 of 56 Junior Awards and 13 of 56 Senior Awards granted—qualifying our school as the **Number One Catholic High School in the Province!**

► *Félicitations, Brittany, sur tes succès en tant qu’écrivaine !*



YCDSB 2017-2018 Budget Development Process

As elected officials, the Board of Trustees is committed to the effective and efficient management of resources. Our goal is to ensure fiscal accountability while minimizing impacts on our classrooms and continuing to support student success and well-being.

YCDSB Multi-Year Strategic Plan

The Board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan identifies four commitments to our stakeholders. They include: *Integration of Our Catholic Faith, Continuous Improvement of Student Achievement, Effective Use of Our Resources and Engaging Our Communities.* These commitments steer decision-making for budget requests regarding new investments and cost reductions.

Budget Development

Funding for Education in Ontario: School Boards are funded by Ministry Grants based on student enrolment. For more information, visit the Ministry of Education website at www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/funding/.

2016-2017 budget is reviewed and year-end estimates are submitted to the Ministry of Education. "Fixed costs" are reviewed and projected for 2017-2018.

Budget Challenges

This is a challenging time for York Catholic District School Board. Faced with increasing strains on our budget, the Board is committed to working with the Ministry to develop a transparent and accountable Multi-Year Financial Recovery Plan (MYFRP). The Board is working with Deloitte who will review all expenditures and provide advice to the Board to address our deficit.

The continued challenges for the 2017-18 budget include the following:

- Declining enrolment
- Continued funding decreases in areas where costs and needs continue to rise:
 - Special Education
 - Employee benefits
- Elimination of funding for excess capacity in schools
- Continued labour cost increases in the areas of:
 - Staff absenteeism
 - Benefits

As labour costs approximate 90% of the Board's entire operating budget, the MYFRP will focus on reduction opportunities in this area.

Have Your Say

The Board of Trustees invite all members of our Catholic school communities to provide input into the budget process.

Tuesday, May 23, 2017 at 8:00 p.m. or Tuesday, June 13, 2017 at 8:00 p.m.

Catholic Education Centre

320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora, ON

To register to speak at the meeting on May 23 or June 13, or to submit a written delegation, call 416-221-6061 or 905-713-1211 ext. 13102, or email silvana.greco@ycdsb.ca.

Registered Delegates may present for a maximum of 5 minutes.

Board of Trustees Approve 2017-2018 Budget June 30, 2017

2017 MARCH BREAK ITALY TOUR

► BY MR. SAGGESE

"Of all the books in the world, the best stories are found between the pages of a passport." This quote came to life for 24 St. Theresa students who visited Italy during the March break. Principal **Joe Servidio**, Coach **Gianluca Saggese**, and the Lions visited Naples, Pompeii, the Amalfi Coast, Rome, Vatican City, Florence, Verona, Amalfi, Positano, Naples, Capri, the bay of Naples, Mount Vesuvius, and San Gregorio Magno. The team played five games against serie A and B youth academies, such as Chievo Verona, Salernitana and Napoli, garnering a record of 2-2-1. Our players displayed their skills at the Inter Milan training facility with former Italian National centre back **Fresi**. ► Professional scouts attended the games and expressed interest in certain players, who will return in the summer for further evaluation. Students spoke fondly of their memories: the best pizza they had ever had in Naples, playing briscola with locals in San Gregorio Magno, attending Mass at the Basilica in Naples, playing soccer in the piazza with the Neapolitan kids, and playing against a professional youth club. ► The bonding between the boys was another positive aspect. Other highlights included meeting Mertens and de Guzmán; visits from an Italian Senator and the President of the Italian Football Federation; and the match between Napoli and Crotone at the Stadio San Paolo. ► The team was invited to San Gregorio Magno's city hall, where they received a recognition, and captains **Watson** and **Magnifico** delivered a message in Italian before the town's mayor. ► The pictures posted through the STL LIONS SOCCER account [@stllionsoccer](https://www.instagram.com/stllionsoccer) capture not only the soccer element but the cultural experience. It was pleasing to see the amount of e-mail from parents, who expressed their gratitude of this enriching program. We also thank the parents who came on the trip to support the team.

Anthony Gurrieri, Darryl Gionna, Robert Tomasone, Luca Almeida, Gianluca Di Prospero, Matteo Imbrogno, Daniel Bogach, Daniel Bianchi, Arastou Sayrafizadeh, Luca Andriuolo, Aidan Sadeghi, Sepehr Talebi, Matteo Lupo, Luciano Lollino, Nicholas Lastoria, Donovan Watson, Lucas Magnifico, Daniel Magnifico, Gianpiero Pellicano, Lucas Lauzaran, Anthony Peticca, Matthew Fiorini, James Wagner, David Ricciuto; Mr. Saggese (Coach)

STL SERVICE TRIP TO COSTA RICA

► BY MR. GANUELAS. On March 12, a group of 19 students, accompanied by three supervisors, departed for sunny (and humid!) La Fortuna, Costa Rica. The main reason for the trip was to serve at La Fortuna Orphanage and with the Maleku, an indigenous community.

The students fundraised over the school year to bring several large suitcases of educational, craft, and sport items to share with the groups. The STL students made new friends with the children at the orphanage, engaging them in play, art activities, and music. While at the Maleku Reserve, our group viewed the office addition that was built with funds from the STL community. They assisted in the levelling of a floor, reforestation, garden weeding and planting, tree tagging and trench digging. They demonstrated to our new friends throughout La Fortuna that St. Theresa's *Little Way* is alive and well! Our students learned about the medicinal properties of plants in the jungle as well as why we need to preserve the Amazon rainforest. They were taught about tribal sustainability. On our last day on the reserve, the Maleku showed their appreciation to the STL group with a ceremony in traditional garb and presented the school with a hand-painted mask. The students also had



time to experience some of the many things that Costa Rica has to offer. They completed a 5-kilometre volcano hike and experienced a thrilling seven ziplines! They enjoyed organic food grown and prepared on site at Finca Oasis. The group sampled the local cuisine and volunteered at Proyecto Asis Wildlife Sanctuary, a facility dedicated to the protection and rehabilitation of wild animals. The week was full of laughter, singing, and gratitude for the many blessings that were received. The teacher-supervisors are so proud that our students did so many little things with extraordinary love. This trip was life-changing and, hopefully, the first of more to come. To learn more about this experience, please visit www.STLCostaRica.ca. Costa Rica 2018: Join us!



STL STUDENTS REMEMBER VIMY

► BY MR. DAWSON

Vimy Ridge was a significant battle of World War 1, which took place on April 9, 1917. Many historians claim the battle was part of our country forging its own national identity.

In April, twenty-five students from St. Theresa of Lisieux CHS travelled to Europe to honor Canadians who fought in the Battle of Vimy Ridge 100 years ago to the day. Students participated in a ceremony with 25 000 people from across Canada to honor their memory and sacrifices.

Following the ceremony, students travelled to the town of Arras, France, to a war cemetery. Our students represented the *Little Way* with such great pride. As one student pointed out: "Seeing the cemetery and the many fallen soldiers really brought home how much sacrifice was made for future generations." All of our students were proud to pay their respects, and to say thank you. Students were able to see the rich history of Paris, including visits to such sites as Napoleon's tomb, the Champs-Élysées, the Eiffel Tower and many other historic sites. It was off to Amsterdam, where the tour included a visit to one of the city's best know historic sites, the Anne Frank House, where Anne spent two years hiding from the Nazis. Finally, students were immersed in the turbulent history of the city of Berlin. They visited sites such as the Brandenburg Gates, the Holocaust Memorial, as well as the graffitied remains of the Berlin Wall. Staff members **Mrs. Robinson**, **Mr. Macchiusi**, and **Mr. Dawson** were very pleased with the conduct of students shown on the tour, as well as the respect for history that they demonstrated.



GIVING HOPE AND A CHANCE OF LIFE

► BY MICHAEL DINATOLO

On April 21, St. Theresa of Lisieux's HOSA chapter hosted a Canadian Blood Services *One Match Bone Marrow and Stem Cell Swab Event*. With the guidance of Chris from OneMatch, fifteen student volunteers and two teachers recruited 78 members of our school community between the ages of 17 and 35, as potential stem cell donors. Through the use of a DNA cheek swab, these donors were giving a person in need hope and chance of life. Stem cell donation is a way to help people worldwide who suffer from blood disease and blood cancer. We encourage those who have never heard about this cause to find out more at blood.ca. We would like to thank **Mr. Tacchino** and **Ms. Elliott**, STL's HOSA chapter, the student volunteers, and those who swabbed and joined the stem cell registry. We made real change in our community, STL! Thank you so much, and remember: you can be the match that saves a life!

Junior Badminton Tandems of Lee and Wong, Chu and Bazzana, Advance to YRAA

► BY MR. CALABRESE

On March 28, the 16-member Junior Badminton team travelled to KC Badminton Club to participate in their Round 1 Tournament to face noteworthy opponents from the host school, Bayview Secondary, Richmond Green Secondary, and Richmond Hill High School. Eight of our players went on to advance to the Round 2 Tournament at Sir William Mulock Secondary. ► At the Round 2 Tournament on April 26, the team played extremely well and displayed great badminton skills. The following members had exemplary success: **Jamie Lee** and **Kathryn Wong** (2nd, Girls Doubles Tier 2), **Adam Bazzana** and **Kevin Chu** (2nd, Boys Doubles Tier 2), **Aaron Du** (4th, Boys Singles Tier 2), **Mary Zhuang** and **Michael**

ROUND 1 TOURNAMENT PLAY: Mixed Doubles Mary Zhuang and Michael Chan, prepare to attack a serve; Girls Doubles Jamie Wong and Kathryn Lee, fully focused to receive a serve.



Chan (4th, Mixed Doubles Tier 1). Advancing to the **YRAA Championships** on

May 3, played at the prestigious Pan Am Centre, will be **Jamie Lee** and **Kathryn Wong** along with **Kevin Chu** and **Adam Bazzana**. ► Best wishes to these members, in their pursuit of YRAA gold in their respective divisions. Good luck, Lions!



LIONS OF THE MONTH are selected by staff for doing the ordinary things in an extraordinary way: being a good role model, willing to help others, performing good deeds within the community, and for involvement in activities, good behavior, and academic effort. 'Lions of the Month' receive a certificate and a school pen for this recognition.

Here are the 'Lions of the Month' for March and April: Kimberly Agulan, Sepehr Ahmadi, Keana Barbieri, Hanna Bharwani, Shakib Bheriani, Christian Borissov, Melanie Chao, Brittany Chang Kit, Darren Chen, Julia Chiappetta, Sydney Chiu, Julia Cohen, Matteo Colangelo, Nicole Colozza, Mark Dal Bello, Marco Dileo, Mary Ellen Donatelli, Chiara Ferraro, Lisa Galloway, Odysseus Gavros, Melissa Giardina Papa, Matthew Glynne, Emily Hutchinson, Justin Inwood, Noah Irvine, Gavan Johnston-Evans, Michelle Koo-Yam-Too, Adrienne Lee, Chi Un Lee, Liora Lipat, Jordana Lucci, Veronica Malo, Zoe Manglal-Lan, Charlene Mansour, Rebecca M'Carthy, Sahara Mehdi, Sabrina Valenzuela Neto, Anton Novikov, Maya Pavlova, Brian Pham, Paolo Pitassio, Joseph Power, Shadi Raeisdanaei, Paolo Riccio, Faith Ruetas, Artin Samirad, Riley Santos, Erika Scorcica, Christina Summers, Sara Tamjidi, Matthew Tawfiq, Shayanne Thomas, Charlotte Thorpe, Alessandra Troiani, Sarina Villa, Berge Yaacoubian, Angela Zhang.



THE LITTLE FLOWER is a bimonthly which is published five times a year for parents of the St. Theresa of Lisieux Catholic High School community. Current and back issues of 'The Little Flower' are available on our school website, at stlh.ycdsb.ca (under 'PARENTS').

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