



Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome Back and Best Wishes to all for 2018!

Congratulations to our school community for raising \$7,742.20 for the Christmas Angels program which has been used to purchase gift cards to local grocery stores for families in need.. We also accessed a very generous \$8,286.64 from our **Good Samaritan Trust Fund** which has directly covered utility bills, rent and other expenses of many of our families in need. That is a total of \$16,028.84 going directly to relieving the pressure felt by families this Christmas. Simultaneously we filled 60 backpacks with essential items for the homeless in Ottawa/Gatineau through the organization "Backpacks for the Homeless.". This will directly impact the most vulnerable in our society.

Final summative exams will run from January 24th until January 29th (see attached for the exam schedule and 11am bus schedule). Students must attend and complete examinations assigned in courses. **If a student is unable to attend their exam, a doctor's note is required.**

Our grade 9 students taking math this semester will complete their EQAO culminating assessment on **January 17th and 18th.**

**We have a PD Day scheduled on Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. Semester 2 begins Thursday, February 1st.**

Semester one high school report cards will be sent home on February 14th. Term One elementary report cards will be sent home on February 26th.

**STA will be hosting an OPEN HOUSE for any new students interested in registering at our school for the 2018-2019 school year on Thursday, February 8th at 7pm. Come visit our school to learn more about our many program and extra-curricular offerings.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school.

Wishing you peace, health and happiness in this new year!

Yours in Catholic Education,

Danny Palumbo,  
Principal



## The Chaplain's Corner

### Talk about Good Timing

Learning good timing isn't easy, but it's one of the greatest skills we can ever learn. You and I, however, sometimes 'jump the gun' instead of patiently watching and waiting for the right moment to act.



If you're a musician you know how important good timing is. You know exactly when you should start playing, and exactly when you should stop. And you also know how important it is to listen to the other musicians around you for your cue.

God has good timing down to a science—and that's what Christmas is: God waited for the perfect moment in history, and after watching, waiting, and inspiring hope in us, he sent us Jesus. Jesus is the answer to the human condition.

The interesting thing for us is that God continues to enter into our history—it wasn't just a one-time deal! In fact God enters into **our story**, making it not only our story but "his-story"—the Christmas story is not relegated to December 25 anymore; it's a life-long journey!

Remember, God has good timing down to a science, and perhaps the challenge for us is the same challenge people had 2017 years ago when Jesus was 'born in a barn': how do we develop the eyes and heart to recognize God entering into our story? We could reflect on this for days, but here's a simple launching pad for reflection: Jesus was born in a mess. That's right, look for the nativity scene of your own life—the place in your life that's messy and unpleasant—that's where God will show up.

I hope and pray this Christmas has been filled with wonder for you and your family, and may your journey be filled with the presence of Christ our saviour.

Chris Vonesch,  
Chaplaincy Leader

### **January Dates to Remember:**

**Jan 15, Catholic School Council Meeting at 6:45 PM in the Library**

**Jan 18, High School Band to perform at Feeder Schools**

**Jan 17 & 18, Grade 9 Math EQAO testing**

**Jan 19, Casual Day, proceeds to the Mission Team**

**Jan 24 to Jan 29, High School Exams**

**Jan 31, PD Day**

**Jan 31, SEAC Meeting in Kemptville at 6 PM**

**Feb 1, First Day of Semester 2**



**Grade 7 & 9 in 2018–2019**

Mark your calendar on **Thursday, Feb 08, 2018 at 7 PM** to attend our open house for all students interested in registering in the Fall. Students and parent(s)/guardian(s) are invited to tour the school, meet teachers and administration staff, and find out about all our great academic and extra curricular programs at STA.

**PROM NEWS...**

**Grade 12 Graduates:**

This year's prom will be held at the Infinity Convention Centre in Ottawa on Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. (Friday June 1<sup>st</sup> is a PD day!) As we prepare for Prom, we have many financial commitments and deadlines that must be met. To ensure that we meet the financial deadlines, we are requiring a deposit from all graduates attending prom. A deposit of \$50.00 must be made by Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018. This payment must be made through School Cash Online (link can be found on the STA home page). The balance owing on the ticket will be determined at a later date as it is dependent upon the success of our fundraising activities. Graduates do not have to put a deposit on a ticket for a guest attending from another school but the option is there if you wish to. If you have any questions, please speak with Ms. Cox in Room 213 or Ms. De Coeur in Room 127.



**Dates for SEAC – 2017-2018**

- Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018
- Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018
- Monday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**EQAO Math Assessment**

Attention all grade 9 students/parents and guardians. The EQAO math assessment dates have been set: Students taking **MPM 1D** will write their assessment on **Wednesday, January 17th and Thursday, January 18th, 2018.**

***Attendance is mandatory for these dates. Please do not plan any holidays or appointments during these dates.***

**Healthy Choices:**

“Kids do well if they can” – Greene, R.W., 2008. Kids need to feel capable of restoring relationships and resolving conflicts successfully without resorting to unhealthy behaviours such as aggression or drugs and alcohol. Resilient young people feel a strong sense of safety, demonstrate the ability to show restraint, and are able to say “no” to people who put them at risk. Every time a child or teen chooses a healthy response over an unhealthy response, their sense of empowerment and self-control are fostered.

Adults need to control their kids at times, because children and teens are still developing the ability to control themselves. But parenting based primarily on control usually lacks warmth and, with too many restrictions, children learn only how to obey (or how to not get caught misbehaving), rather than how to make good choices about their behaviour.

As young adults, they will be in charge of their own lives and that requires self-discipline, which will enable them to think and act responsibly on their own. Here are some practical tips on helping children and teens make healthy choices:

- Work with your child or teen to solve problems, to encourage them to take responsibility for, and ownership of, his/her behaviour.
- Use a neutral, non-confrontational tone (e.g., “I notice that you have been...”) when talking about behaviour with your child or teen.
- For the aggressive youngster: Encourage him/her to participate in sports activities.
- Give positive reinforcement to the student for showing self-control in situations that would normally make him/her angry, annoyed, or upset.

**ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

1211 South Russell Road, Russell, Ontario K4R 1E5

**Principal: Ms. Donna Koekkoek**

**Vice-Principal: Mr. Danny Palumbo**

Phone Number (613) 445-0810 Toll Free 1-877-559-7729 Fax Number (613) 445-1520

Web site: [www.sta-russell.com](http://www.sta-russell.com)

*'FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING'*

Dear Parents/Guardians & Students,

As you are aware, final summative examinations will run January 24 - January 30, 2018. The schedule will be as follows:

**Day 1 on Wednesday, January 24, 2018 – (Period 1/ Week 1)**

**Day 2 on Thursday, January 25, 2018 - (Period 2/ Week 1)**

**Day 3 on Friday, January 26, 2018 - (Period 3/ Week 1)**

**Day 4 on Monday, January 29, 2018 - (Period 4/ Week 1)**

**Day 5 on Tuesday, January 30, 2018 - Alternate exam day (in the event of a snow day)**

All exams will be written in the regular classroom unless otherwise arranged. In the event of a snow day, all exams will be written on the following day. Exams will begin at 8:20 a.m.

Semester 1 report cards will be sent home on Tuesday, February 14th, 2018.

We will be providing a noon bus during the exam days. The buses will be following the late bus routes. **Please note: there are only 2 buses. Please check below for the stops for each route. Buses will only stop at the designated stops. Buses will depart from the school at 11:00 a.m. Students remaining at school can utilize the library for studying purposes.**

<b>Route #1</b>	<b>NOON BUSES</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
11:10 a.m.	Yorks Corners Rd. (Stinson Gas Station)
11:20	Metcalfe Arena
11:35	Marionville (Gregoire St.)
11:45	Morewood (School)
11:55	Chesterville (Scotia Bank)
12:15	Winchester (Arena)
<b>Route #2</b>	
11:05 a.m.	Corner of Wade Rd/ & Castor St.
11:10	Jean Coutu, Embrun
11:15	Embrun Arena
11:20	Notre Dame/ Lapointe
11:30	Cambridge School, Forest Park
11:45	Crysler Gas Station
11:55	Berwick Gas Station
12 :00	Finch (Corner Store)

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact the school. Wishing all of our students success on exams.

Sincerely,

Danny Palumbo

# Living & Locally Fair

10th Annual

**9:30-4:00**  
Saturday, January 20th  
**St. Thomas Aquinas**  
**Catholic High School, Russell**

- hot lunch available
- FREE to attend
- Food Bank donations gratefully accepted

**LOCAL:**  
Farmers  
Food  
Artisans  
Community

[www.livinglocallyfair.ca](http://www.livinglocallyfair.ca)





# Trustee News

CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

Volume: XII  
Number: 4  
January 2018

Todd Lalonde, Chair (Cornwall-Glengarry)  
Ronald Eamer, Vice-Chair (Cornwall-Glengarry)  
Nancy Kirby (Lanark)  
Brent Laton (Grenville County and Elizabethtown-Kitley Township)

Karen McAllister (Stormont-Dundas)  
Robin Reil (City of Brockville, Town of Smiths Falls, and Leeds County)  
Sue Wilson (Prescott-Russell)  
Andrew D'Alessio (Catholic Student Trustee)

## Revised Financial Estimates

At the Board meeting of December 19, 2017, the Board of Trustees reviewed the revised financial estimates for the current 2017-2018 year that were due to the Ministry of Education on December 15, 2017.

Manager of Finance, Ashley Hutchinson, presented the revised estimates to the Board of Trustees.

"The estimates include actual enrolment and staffing as of October 31, 2017, and any known expenditure changes since the June 2017 budget submission," began Mrs. Hutchinson.

The total operating expenditures for 2017-2018 is \$178.1 million, with capital expenditures at \$20.2 million, and total expenditures at \$198.3 million.

"Overall, the Board has experienced an increase in enrolment of 1.5 per cent over the forecasted enrolment from the original estimates, which is very positive," continued Mrs. Hutchinson.

"The total revised operating in-year surplus for 2017-2018 is \$136,000. The Board will provide interim reports in February and May, with the final financial statements presentation to the Board of Trustees in November 2018."

## Farewell Messages for Retiring Director

Trustees shared best wishes and parting messages to retiring Director of Education, Wm. J. Gartland. The December 19th Board Meeting was Mr. Gartland's final meeting as Director. He will be succeeded in January by Associate Director John Cameron.

Trustees presented Gartland with his official Board name plaque, and thanked him for his immense contributions and outstanding, provincially recognized accomplishments during his tenure. Director Gartland retires after serving for 11 years in the position.

## Chair and Vice-Chair Elections

Mr. Todd Lalonde, Trustee for City of Cornwall and Glengarry County, has been acclaimed to the position of Chair for the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario at the December 5 Board Meeting. It will be the second term as Chair for Mr. Lalonde, who is entering his twelfth year as a Catholic school trustee.

Mr. Lalonde addressed trustees and guests, "First and foremost I would like to thank my fellow trustees for the continued confidence and support that you have given me this evening. I appreciate the opportunity to serve as Chair; it is truly a privilege to serve with such good people. In my twelve years as a trustee, I have appreciated all of the guidance given to me by trustees and administration. We are all very fortunate to be part of such an amazing team."

City of Cornwall and Glengarry County Trustee Ron Eamer was acclaimed during the annual meeting to the position of Vice-Chair of the Board. Mr. Eamer has served as CDSBEO trustee since 1981, and has served terms as both Chair and Vice-Chair.

"Thanks to my fellow trustees for trusting me with this position again. You all know that I believe in this Board, thoroughly. It's been a passion of mine for some 37 years, and my passion for this Board is as strong as it was in 1981. I have more confidence now than ever, in our very talented staff. We know that not all boards in the province enjoy the same successes that we do, and that is why I'm looking forward to working with all of you again in my role as Vice-Chair."

Chair Lalonde thanked outgoing Vice-Chair Robin Reil and congratulated Trustee Eamer.

Director of Education Wm. J. Gartland, congratulated Mr. Lalonde and Mr. Eamer. "The annual meeting is a wonderful celebration of our Catholic faith, and an opportunity to renew our dedication to Catholic education. Our trustees continually demonstrate their commitment to Catholic education, and their work contributes to our Board's reputation as a leader in this province. I know Mr. Lalonde and Mr. Eamer will continue to provide excellent leadership at the Board table."