



MADONNA DELLA LIBERA

✦ CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ✦

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Mr. D. Pace – Principal

Mrs. M. Petrella – Vice-Principal

Mrs. Debbie Cotter – Secretary

Living and Learning Together in Christ

February 2021 Newsletter

The Caregiver's Prayer

Compassionate and healing God, help us to see your face in the faces of our sisters and brothers who are sick or injured. Guide us to reach out to them with hearts of compassion and hands which serve their needs.

When they are anxious, help us to know how to reassure them.

When they feel alone, help us to notice and be present.

When they feel confused, help us to listen and assist in finding answers to their concerns.

When they need comfort, help us to communicate care and understanding.

When they are weak or discouraged help us find ways to refresh their spirits.

When doubt or darkness touches them, give your Light to guide them and lift them up.

Help us as caregivers to always turn to You as the source of our own strength and compassion as we seek to serve the needs of our sisters and brothers who are vulnerable.

Amen.

A Message from the Principal and Vice-Principal

February marks the half-way point of our school year and there is so much to look forward to in the coming months. We celebrate the feast of Saint Valentine on Sunday, Feb 14th. Valentine's Day reminds all of us to love others, as Jesus loved us. Teachers will spend time reminding students about the importance of treating everyone with kindness and respect and treating all others the way we would like to be treated ourselves. We ask you to please reinforce this message at home. We hope that everyone has an enjoyable Family Day long weekend **on Monday, February 15th**.

God Bless, Daniel Pace and Miriam Petrella

REPORT CARDS will be mailed out to homes



GO HOME – February 5th

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION



It is that time of year where our District completes Kindergarten Registrations for next September. I know it seems early but planning now helps us ensure we have proper staff and programming to meet the needs of our youngest learners! Even if you already have children registered in our school, it is necessary for you to formally register your younger children to ensure we know they are coming. If you have a child who will turn 4 this year then they are eligible for Junior Kindergarten! Please hold CTRL key and click [here](#) to access the registration page and feel free to call or email our school should you have any questions or concerns.

As well, please pass this information along to anyone else you may know in our area who have children the same age!

Looking forward to meeting our newest learners!

Thank you for choosing Catholic Education.

Transitioning to high school during a pandemic? No worries... we've got you!

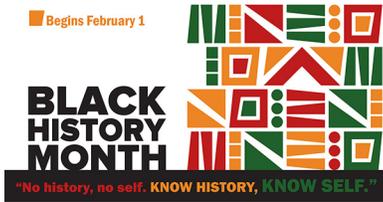
When faced with a global pandemic that has also essentially shut down the Province, **local area Grade 8 students were faced with one more challenge**: How can they meet grade 9 teachers, high school staff, learn about programs, see what high school looks like and has to offer? Local Catholic secondary schools understood that this has become 'one more thing' students needed to navigate and decided to help by introducing **Secondary Virtual Open Houses from January 18 – 22, 2021**.

Assumption College School

- Assumption College guidance counsellors are here to help. If you have questions about your academic programming or about specific course offerings, please contact kdickson@bhncdsb.ca.

St. John's College School

- The St. John's College guidance team are ready to assist and support all students. If you have questions about your secondary journey or about specific courses, please contact bspiers@bhncdsb.ca.



"No history, no self. Know history, know self."

The Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board strives to be a dynamic, responsive, vibrant, peaceful, and inclusive place to learn and work. Celebrating Black History Month is one step in honouring that objective.

Black History Month was created to recognize a deficiency in parts of our society. In the past, some have neglected to celebrate and recognize the inherent rights, stories and achievements of Black Canadians. Black history, Indigenous history, European history, Asian history, are all part of the same social and historical narrative that has created Canada. Each is equally important in our history. If we ignore any one of these narratives, then our understanding of the Canadian story is distorted.

Our moral imperative as Canadians and as a Catholic community, is to honour the contributions of our Black Canadians in the creation and development of Canada. In December 1995, Canadian Parliament officially recognized February as Black History Month, following a motion introduced by the first Black Canadian woman elected to Parliament, the Honourable Jean Augustine.

Our theme for Black History Month this year is **"No history, no self. Know history, know self"**, which is based on the words of Dr. Jose Rizal who said, "A person who does not look back to where he came from, would not be able to reach his destination." Although February is the pinnacle of celebrating Black History, we are called to continuously learn and seek change.

Again this year, Black History Month celebrations and activities will occur in our schools across the system providing opportunities for education and reflection on the contributions of Black Canadians and the plight for freedom and equality. These learnings honour strength, resiliency, courage, community, peace, acceptance, and respect.

The Gospel teaches us in many ways, that all humans are worthy of respect and dignity and we must be allies to those who need support. We must actively engage in processes that lead to reconciliation and advancement of the human race.

The Madonna Della Libera ACE Group (*Advocacy*Community*Empowerment), led by our students and staff are preparing several activities to ensure our students learn continuously and see positive change in our communities.

Each one of us is called by name, in the image and likeness of God. (Isaiah 43:1)

Madonna Della Libera Students and Staff

Virtual Learning FYI

- + **Wake-up & Dress For School:** Set a routine as if you are going to school. Don't open your eyes and log-on, you are not ready to learn. Be in the mindset of school.
- + **Feed Your Brain:** Get food in your body
- + **Power-walk for 5min!** Either around your home or outside, and get fresh air into your lungs and oxygen to your brain
- + **Respect Your Teachers/Classmates:** Always be ready or logged-in 5min before your lesson (camera/mic off).
- + **Camera Settings:** If possible on Google Meet, MS Teams or Zoom, blur your background, or use a virtual background.
- + **Take Screen Breaks:** When finished with a lesson, walk away and exercise, get fresh air, phone a friend.
- + **Hydrate:** Drink water throughout the day. Buy a tumbler with a straw and spill-proof lid
- + **Technology Fails:** Internet connections go down, computers freeze, "classroom" accounts have technical interruptions - Don't Panic! Your teachers will understand.
- + **One Hour Before Bed:** Turn off all screens and wind down before closing your eyes. Read, do a puzzle, write a journal, spend quality time with family. (Parents - you too!)

Finally:

Be patient with your teacher and remote learning. Your teachers were given a few short months to "figure it out" (not fair to them) and there will be technical issues.