



Celtic X-Press

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Heart of the community, success for each, a place for all.

Important Dates Before Christmas

Nov. 29	Dodgeball Charity Tournament
Nov. 29	Grade 8 Parent Night
Nov. 30	Teams/Clubs Photo Day
Dec. 1	Model U.N. Day
Dec. 4	Advent Wreath Lighting
Dec. 5-7	Grad Photos
Dec. 6	Grade 11 French Trip
Dec. 7	Fall Dance
Dec. 8	P.D. Day
Dec. 14	Arts Night
Dec. 12-15	Grad Photos
Dec. 18-22	Christmas Spirit Week
Dec. 22	Christmas Assembly

MEET YOUR ADMINISTRATORS

My name is **Kevin Hinsperger** and I am very happy and proud to be at St. David for the third time. I had many wonderful years at St. David as a student and was educated and guided by many great teachers who inspired me to become one myself. After several years teaching geography at St. Benedicts in Cambridge, I was lucky enough to come back to St. David as a teacher. It truly was a privilege to be working with the very educators who inspired me. I spent nearly 6 years teaching at St. David in the areas of Canadian & World Studies and Student Success. During my time at St. David, I felt the call to school leadership and embarked on my career as a vice principal working at Resurrection Catholic Secondary School and for the past 6 years at St. Mary's High School. When I was informed that I would be coming back to St. David, I was sad to be leaving the St. Mary's community and at the same time excited to be back at St. David for the third time. I look forward to working with staff, students, and families of St. David.

My name is **Glenda Leusink**. I have worked with the WCDsb for 28 years — 15 of which as a Vice-Principal at Monsignor Doyle, St. Benedicts and Resurrection. This is my first year as a Principal and I feel blessed to be at St. David's. I truly believe that all students can learn and it is my daily responsibility to teach, coach, encourage, and mentor so that each person can reach their full God-given potential. My door is always open and I look forward to working alongside students, staff and parents in the coming days, months and years.

My name is **Deanna Wehrle**. I am so lucky to spend my days with my 3 busy kids and my husband Shawn. We love to watch our kids play their favourite sports, hockey and lacrosse. Shawn works in education as well and is also an avid sports fan. My teaching career began in the Religion department at Resurrection and then St. Benedict where I taught Phys Ed and Religion and eventually moved into Guidance. I enjoyed (and greatly miss) coaching Basketball, Volleyball and Slo-Pitch. I have also had the pleasure of working at St. Mary's and St. Louis. I am truly enjoying getting to know the St. David community and look forward to continuing to work with the staff, students and parents.

DEACON'S CORNER

The Chaplaincy Dept. has had a busy startup to the new school year and first half of the semester. Starting in late August we had an in-school retreat with the "Head Start" students. These are new Celtics who are in Gr. 9 and spend a few days in the school getting used to the facility and they also get a sense of how life at High School will be different from time in their Elementary School. This year we had close to 100 students take part in 2 retreats in our Chapel. On the first day of classes we resumed our Morning Prayer as part of Announcements & O Canada. As part of our prayer we always try to connect with the larger community, including intentions for things that may be going on inside and outside the walls of our school.

In early October we welcomed Fr. Dave Lewis, Pastor of St. Teresa Parish – Elmira to celebrate our Opening School Mass in our Gym. It is truly a wonderful sight to see close to a thousand students come together in a respectful manner to hear God's Word during our celebration. Our Rosary Group continues to meet each Wednesday during lunch to pray the Glorious Mysteries and to offer intentions for the members of our Celtic family who are most in need.

We have also welcomed Fr. Martin Mikulski, Pastor of St. Clement's Parish in St. Clements and Fr. Aleks Mazur, Pastor of St. Agnes Parish in Waterloo as they celebrated Holy Mass with individual classes in our Chapel. There are a number of Priests who come to our school on a regular basis to celebrate Mass with our students and staff. This past week, as part of the Gr. 10 Religion Retreat there were two groups that gathered for a Liturgy of the Word in the Chapel. We focused on, "What it means to be part of a community..." and also made connections to the Anti-Bullying Week activities that had been going on during the week.

We are looking ahead to early December when we will light the first candle on our Advent Wreath to mark the 1st Week of Advent. The candle lighting will take place in the Cafeteria during two separate Liturgies, one for Grades 9 & 11 and one for Grades 10 & 12. Each day during the Advent Season, a student in each classroom will read a reflection and prayer to their classmates.

As always, the Chapel is available through the day as a quiet, safe space for students and staff who need a moment to collect their thoughts...refocus...and return to the day. We have had a great start to the year and are looking forward to a busy 2nd half of this first semester.

GUIDANCE

Celtic Express Guidance News
November 2017

Follow us for all guidance related information, upcoming events and important dates.

Website: <http://stdavid.wcdsb.ca>

Twitter: @stdavidguidance

Remind: text 778-651-9772 and message your class code as follows:

Grade 9: @sdav2021

Grade 10: @sdav2020

Grade 11: @sdav2019

Grade 12: @sdav2018

Post Secondary Planning Meetings: Guidance counsellors have met with all grade 12 students in both September and November in order to discuss post-secondary options. Information was provided to assist students in decision making for next year including how to pursue apprenticeships, job search resources, financial planning and application processes for both college and university.

University and College Fairs were held at St. David and senior students were provided the opportunity to attend and connect with colleges and university representatives from across Ontario.

Grade 9 Take Our Kids to Work Day

On Wednesday November 1, many grade 9 students enjoyed the opportunity to experience and learn about the world of work as they began to explore possible career paths. From all reports, this was a great learning opportunity for our grade 9 students.

Grade 8 Day

On Wednesday November 1 all grade 8 students from the St. David Family of Schools experienced a day in the life of a high school student at St. David. Students followed individual timetables to partake in high school classes. The day was enjoyed by all! We look forward to welcoming all of our newest Celtics in September.

UCEP Campus Visit

On Tuesday November 7, a group of grade 11 students who may be eligible for the University Co-op Education Program had the opportunity to visit St. Jerome's University to tour the University of Waterloo campus and learn more about the UCEP program. It was a very informative and exciting day for all who attended.

Important Information for Graduating Students

Resources for post-secondary planning

www.tcu.gov.on.ca and www.apprenticesearch.com for apprenticeship information

www.ontariocolleges.ca for college information

www.electronicinfo.ca for university information

www.indeed.ca for workplace opportunities

College Applications

Students applying to college need to create an account at www.ontariocolleges.ca Applications are due February 1, 2018

University Applications - PIN numbers

Grade 12 students who wish to apply for university are reminded to pick up their PIN numbers in the guidance office. Applications are due January 17, 2018

Scholarship and Bursary information

Students looking to pursue post secondary education are encouraged to research and apply to the many available scholarships and bursaries available. Websites which are helpful include www.scholarshipscanada.com

https://yconic.com

www.findmyscholarships.com

www.studentawards.com

Students are also encouraged to follow Remind by texting 778-651-9772 and messaging their class code @sdav2018 as guidance counsellors will use this platform to text information on upcoming scholarship information and due dates.

OSAP

Students can now apply for the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP). Please visit www.ontario.ca/page/osap for information and use the aid estimator to quickly assess what financial assistance you may receive .

Community Service Hours

Visit www.volunteerkw.ca for local volunteer opportunities. **Grade 12 students must complete these hours by April 27, 2018 in order to be eligible to graduate.**

Upcoming Events

Grade 8 Parent Night

On Wednesday November 29 we look forward to welcoming grade 8 parents and students to learn more about St. David. The evening is open to all grade 8 students in our school boundary. Parents and students will have the opportunity to see all of the amazing learning that is happening both inside and outside of our classrooms. The night will run from 6:30-8pm.

STUDENT LIFE

Wow! What a whirlwind few months. Celtics began the school year with an opening BBQ on September 8th and it hasn't stopped since. From our opening assembly, to spirit week culminating in a fantastic night of football with the KW Bowl it is clear that our Celtics have many talents and that these talents all contribute to our vibrant student life.

The grade 9's were welcomed in September by our Link crew, a presentation by Andy Thibodeau and a fantastic night of dancing at the grade 9 Luau Dance. By spirit week in October, the grade 9's had a routine established and fit right in with our cafeteria and homeroom activities. By Halloween, they showed off their pumpkin carving skills and a grade 9 classroom dominated the carving competition – Well done!

We celebrated Random Act of Kindness Day together by giving notes of encouragement to each other, and acknowledged Bullying Awareness Week, reminding us all to stand up against all forms of bullying. Cedric even managed to make a few trips to our family of schools to help out with some of their events – He loves helping out!

As December approaches we look forward to our Winter Semi-Formal on December 7th at Bingemans. It will be a winter wonderland! Christmas week and our annual Christmas assembly are always amongst the highlights of the year. We can't wait to share them with you.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AT ST. DAVID'S

Cooperative Education is a great way to earn two credits while practicing essential skills and work habits, within our community at an experiential learning placement. Students assess their skills, create resumes and cover letters, and practice for a job interview, prior to working at a placement arranged by the teacher. Working 3 hour days in either the morning or the afternoon, students apply knowledge and skills learned in one of their courses. This semester we thank our many Cooperative Education employers as they provide our students with a safe working and learning environment: Northfield Trim and Door, Erbsville Electrical, Crunch Fitness, Pinehaven Nursing Home, Voyageur Patient Transportation, Riepert Salt and Supplies, City of Waterloo (RIM Park), University of Waterloo, Re/Max (Maurer Team), Return of the Dragon, Kidsability School, Paragon Security, Digital North Media, Grand River Hospital, The WHIP Boxing Academy, Canadian Mental Health Association, Tim Reimer Construction and FreshCo.

Caption for photo: Mica Carreon works daily preparing garnishes in the Garde station at Wildcraft, as she has aspirations of becoming a chef.



STUDENT PERSPECTIVE



Grade 11 Phys Ed Camping trip reflections:

I loved how being disconnected really forced us all to talk to one another and get to know each other, and it forced us to look around at all the beauty and nature around us, not feeling the need to snapchat or instagram it, but instead stitching the pictures in our minds for us to remember it. I had an absolute blast on the hiking trip and I wouldn't have wanted it any other way.

As much as i love doing that as well as taking lots of pictures so i can look back on the trip, i think refraining from doing so and just capturing it all with my eyes (as corny as it sounds) was an incredible experience. I definitely was more aware of my environment and it was nice to walk by the water or sit by the fire within my friends and think WOW THIS IS SO PRETTY SUCH AN INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE instead of I NEED TO FIND SOMEONE TO TAKE A PICTURE OF ME IN FRONT OF THIS SO I CAN PUT IT ON INSTAGRAM.

ATHLETIC COUNCIL



This year's athletic council is comprised of 41 student leaders. Everyday the athletic council organizes intramurals including "Open Gym" at lunch for free in the gymnasium. Intramural League games take place on Tuesday's-Friday's in Basketball, Dodge ball, Soccer and Hand ball. The athletic council also helps with various sporting tournaments in promoting, organizing and scorekeeping the games. Go Celtics Go!!!



On Tuesday September 26 the period 2 Rec. leadership class put on St. David Catholic Secondary school's 12th annual Terry Fox run. The event lasted all four periods with over 250 phys-ed students in attendance. Although it was a hot day, the Rec. leaders and participants managed to keep a positive attitude, good energy and, most importantly, remember the real reason why we were out there. On that day we honored a selfless man who set out on a journey over 36 years ago to make a difference. Thank you to all the Celtics for participating, donating and helping to carry on Terry's mission to make a change and raise awareness.

By Jessica Guillemette

Follow us on Twitter @StDavidAthletic and like us on Facebook (ST. David Celtics Athletics). Scores and schedules can be found on the District 8 website www.district8.ca.

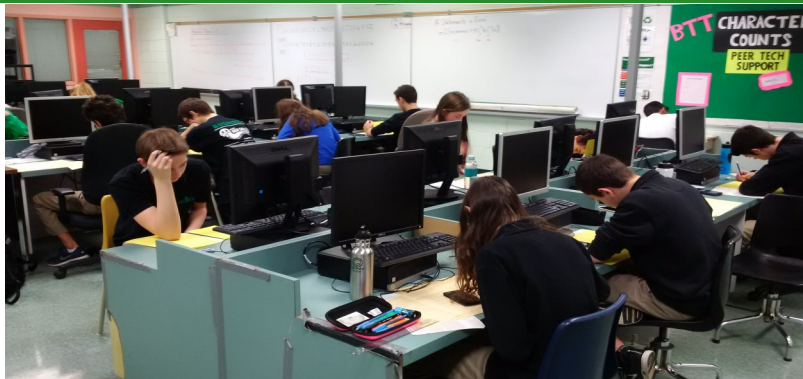
Hey Celtics! The Athletic Council has been super busy these past few weeks with intramurals and other fun events. Last week we had our 3-point tournament where Celtics got together at lunch to see who could make the most 3-pointers! Although there was a lot of tough competition, our junior winner was Matthew Nandu and the senior winner was Adam Davison. Our intramural basketball season is wrapping up so that dodgeball intramurals can begin! Dodgeball intramurals will be from Tuesday to Friday starting on December 1st. It's all for fun, so come on down to the gym and play some dodgeball!

Coming up next is our annual school dodgeball tournament on November 29th! Get together with a team of 6-10 of your friends and sign up to have a fun third and fourth period playing with your fellow Celtics. Tchouk ball is a new initiative that athletic council has begun to plan this year! We are hoping to launch Tchouk ball soon during Monday lunches in the gym. It is a super fun, new game that will give Celtics an opportunity to have fun and learn a new game. As well, ball hockey intramurals are beginning in January after school. There are many ways to get involved with intramurals and athletics at St. David, so get down to the gym and see all that our school has to offer! By Grace Solylo

CANADIAN INTERMEDIATE/MATH COMPETITION

Celtics Hard @ Work:

The 2017 Canadian Intermediate/Senior Math Competition took place this year on Wednesday November 22nd. The challenge was met by 24 of our Math Celtics who worked tirelessly for 2 hours! Congratulations on a job well done! Results forthcoming in December. The St. David's math club meets every Monday after school from 2:30-3:30 in room 227. We are always looking for new members :)! Mr. J. Gmach and Mr. A. Spanopulos.



CELTIC ATHLETICS

Celebrating Our Fall Season

This Fall season our Celtics, once again, proved their determination, athleticism and most importantly their character. They played their way through league matches, play-offs, silver and gold D8 finals, CWOSSA championships and OFSAA competition, representing St. David with pride.



In tennis news, Sarah Helsby and Jessie Bauer won gold at both D8 and CWOSSA. Moving on to their OFSAA competition in the spring. This year's tennis team consisted of 20 athletes who were dedicated, grew as athletes and had fun!

Our Junior Boys Soccer had a successful season, finishing 2nd in the regular season, before losing in the D8 semifinals to a tough Monsignor Doyle squad. The boys represented the school well and should be proud of their efforts.

In golf action, Quinn Doucette, the one woman of the St. David Golf Team, finished first at District 8, 2nd at CWOSSA and represented the school with poise in the extreme cold of North Bay finishing 35th out of 98 at OFSAA (second highest for CWOSSA golfers). Congratulations to Quinn!

A huge congratulations on another great year in Celtic Football. The seniors finished with a silver medal while the juniors got stronger, more aggressive, improved their skills and laid the foundation for a great season next year.

Both the Senior and Junior Girls Basketball teams developed and represented St. David well. The seniors were silver medalists at the CWOSSA Championships! They played their hearts out and demonstrated immense character this season.

In boys volleyball action both teams made it to the D8 finals. The seniors, after a 25 year drought, came home with gold and our juniors, a silver. What a phenomenal showing this season!

The Celtic Varsity Girls Field Hockey team were District 8 silver medalists, with several athletes graduating, this was a notable season for this team. Well done girls.

Last but not least, our Cross Country team had a strong showing at District 8 and CWOSSA, creating community and demonstrating a wicked work ethic while running through the best and worst of weather.

A huge thank you to all of the coaches for their time, energy and passion for Celtic athletics! Coaches: George, Verbiski, Bedic, Spanopulos, Temple, Kelly, Reinhardt, Griffin, Lang, Collins, Kropf, Denomme, Hall, Murphy, Vrolyk, Boland, McGrath and Schumacher. Thank you all so much! We look forward to an exciting winter season. Stay tuned!



REMEMBRANCE DAY

On November 10th students, staff, and guests at St. David CSS paid their respects to the veterans, first responders, current soldiers, police and fire persons who have served or are serving our nation. The service began with the entrance of the Processional Colour Guard, which included our honoured guests; the Right Honourable Bardish Chagger, and Commander Gurpal Bhalla. Followed by O Canada which was led by Kevin Coates and sung by the cast of Celtics on Broadway. The service was led by our chaplain, Deacon Ed Macintosh.

Our Principal Glenda Leusink spoke to the experiences of those from the St. David community, along with over 100 students and staff from the Waterloo Catholic District School Board, who journeyed to the First World War Western Front, a trip that culminated in the 100th anniversary of the famous Canadian victory at the Battle of Vimy Ridge in April of 1917. They recounted their visits to the Menin Gate Ypres Last Post ceremonies, Beaumont Hamel (site of the massacre of the not yet confederated Newfoundland troops) that began the Battle of the Somme, First World War Canadian gravesites, students also visited French, German, British grave sites and Vimy Ridge. Students had spent months leading up to the trip researching veterans of the Great War. They each chose a veteran and through detailed research the students were able to get an intimate introduction to these brave men and women (some the same age as the students themselves) who paid the ultimate sacrifice. The student presenters brought Vimy Ridge; a battle where Canada proved itself as a country home to the St. David community. One image that struck a chord with all who were present at the Vimy service were the endless pairs of Canadian boots that surrounded the monument and a sea of red. Ms. Leusink concluded the presentation with: "As an educator there is no greater feeling than knowing that your students "Got it."

Our next guest speaker was Mr. Will Knapp, one of St. David's guidance counsellors who spoke of the impact of growing up in a military family and on base in Europe. His father was a member of the Royal Canadian Air Force. While Mr. Knapp was a child in post war Europe he grew up amongst abandoned gun turrets, discarded shell casings. While children played amongst what had been abandoned they were injured and killed by what the war had left behind.

Mr. Kuldeep Bachher, a biology teacher at St. David's and a former member of the Indian Army introduced Commander Gurpal Bhalla who spoke of his experiences and the importance of living a life of service.

The Honourable Bardish Chagger, Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Minister of Small Business and Tourism, and Member of Parliament for Waterloo then brought greetings from the Prime Minister of Canada to the St. David community as we commemorated Remembrance Day. The ceremony is a way to commemorate and honour veterans young and old, and all who live a life of service. They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old:

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them.

CELEBRATING THE ARTS

Celtics on Broadway

On Nov. 22, 23 and 24, close to 100 students worked together to put on *Celtics on Broadway*, which brought to life twenty-seven songs from an assortment of Broadway shows. These students worked incredibly hard on this production since the beginning of September, and their efforts were rewarded with a first rate show. We hope you had the chance to enjoy this show.



Arts Night - Thursday
Dec. 14, 2017
7:00 p.m.
St. David Cafeteria



Calling all students who are interested in being part of a drama play production in the upcoming *One Act Drama Festival*! Please come out at lunch on Wednesday, November 29th to learn about this exciting experience and how the cast and crew will travel to perform this show. Actors are to sign up for an audition on Tuesday, December 5th and Wednesday, December 6th, 2017. For more details, please see Mrs. Foran.

