

Southpoint Sun.

## Torch Run raises money for Special Olympics

Dozens of police officers from Windsor and Essex County took to the road on Wednesday, May 25 for the Law Enforcement Torch Run to help raise funds for the Special Olympics.

The officers, including members of the Leamington OPP, traveled through Leamington about 10 a.m., running from the Big Tomato, past Leamington District Secondary School and on to Cardinal Carter Secondary School. There, they had a stopover and were presented with a cheque for \$480 for the cause.

Wednesday, June 1, 2016



Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics included a stop at Cardinal Carter for a cheque presentation. From left to right are Essex OPP Constable James Chauvin, CC student Anthony D'Aversa, CC vice-principal Ryan Coristine, and Leamington OPP Constable Pauline Brockman.

Southpoint Sun- June 1, 2016



From left to right, Mattea Mastronardi, Samantha Peters, Michelle O'Keny and Gabby Quenneville put some finishing touches on their sidewalk chalk masterpiece during a visit for Grade 5 to 7 students from St. Louis Catholic Elementary School to the Sun Parlor Home Friday, May 27. The group of about 85 students received an invitation from SPH to spend an afternoon with its residents and received free beverages and chips during their visit. The event was one of several where St. Louis students have ventured off of school grounds to foster a connection with other community groups and organizations.

## Queen of Peace hosting open house

By Bryan Jessop

Queen of Peace staff are ready to bid farewell to the building at 57 Nicholas St., although the approach to an upcoming open house is celebrating a merger rather than mourning a closure.

"We like to think of the school as moving rather than closing," said Queen of Peace principal Marta Marazita, referring to the Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board's decision to send JK to Grade 6 students to St. Louis Catholic Elementary School while Cardinal Carter Catholic Secondary School will eventually host a middle school for Grade 7 and 8 students from both Leamington feeder schools. "It's just a building, really. The students are what make a school."

On Thursday, June 16, Queen of Peace will host an open house for all current and former students, staff, parents, administrators and other supporters. The event will start with a 6 p.m. mass in the school's gymnasium, led by celebrants Fr. Patrick Fuerth and Fr. Danny Santos. The open house itself will run from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., offering to visitors finger foods and refresh-

ments as well as the chance to reminisce over memories generated at Queen of Peace since it was built in 1961. Walks in and around the school will be included, with old photographs and other memorabilia to be on display.

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— Marta Marazita

"This will be their closure; for everyone who's had an emotional attachment," Marazita explained.

Former staff and students are being asked to e-mail old photos from the school to [queenofpeace2016@gmail.com](mailto:queenofpeace2016@gmail.com), from where they will be arranged into a power point presentation during the open house. Three committees at Queen of Peace have been working on the open house for the past two months, including groups overseeing the mass, food and décor and the event's set up. In order to assure that

enough food and beverages are available, each family planning to attend the open house is being asked to RSVP by calling the school at 519-326-9023.

The decision to close Queen of Peace became official in early April with a unanimous vote by the school board's trustees, who also voted at the same time to close one elementary school in Amherstburg and another in Windsor. The Leamington school will officially close after the last day of classes for the current school year — Wednesday, June 29. Thursday, June 30 has been designated as a P.A. Day. Queen of Peace currently hosts 242 students from JK to Grade 8 as well as 25 staff members.

Currently, there are two transition committees designated to ease the move from Queen of Peace to St. Louis — one for JK to Grade 6 students and the other for Grade 7s and 8s. Thus far, the committees have arranged a Fun Day for students of both involved schools at St. Louis for Monday, June 27. On June 21, students from both schools will meet at St. Joseph's Church on Sherk Street for mass.

# 'Pray it Forward'

## ST. WILLIAM



Has a year already flown by?

Well it indeed has and that means it was time to "Pray it Forward".

Last year, Grade 3 and 6 students writing their EQAO assessment were given prayer treat bags. These were from the Youth Commission of Good Shepherd Parish, led by youth co-ordinator Mrs. Hewer.

The Youth Commission has been in partnership with our school for many years now, supporting our students at this time with nourishment for the body and soul.

Our Grade 3 and 6 students have been well prepared by their teachers: Mrs. Grey, Mrs. Canniff, Miss Giachini, Mrs. Grgicak, Mr. Renaud, Mrs. Roy and Mrs. Graziano and were ready to write.

While they were sharpening their minds and pencils, another group of students were preparing to "pray it forward".

Mrs. Masse, who is also a member of the Youth Commission at Good Shepherd Parish, had her students ready to continue the cycle of blessings.

These former Grade 3 students re-

called how last year the prayer cards helped to calm their nerves and the treats helped to give them fuel while writing.

The cycle of blessings continued as these Grade 4s eagerly packed up the goodie bags for their fellow Wildcats with a juice box and snacks.

On the front was the most important part. The Grade 3s received a prayer card with a picture of Jesus working while Mary fondly looks on at her son.

Grade 6 prayer cards were of Joseph doing the same with Jesus.

Inside was a message and a prayer to let the students know their parish of Good Shepherd, was their in prayer to support them and values their good work.

Many of the students in Grade 4 noted the importance of the card when writing.

Not only did the 4M class make the bags for their own school, but in a kind gesture to our neighbours at St. Pius X Catholic School, we made the bags for our Pacer friends, so they know we support them too.

We are all in this together.

God Bless!

# Aaron Ekblad shows the game of hockey

Story and photo  
by Matt Weingarden  
Staff reporter

If there's a mantra on which he's built a successful hockey career, Florida Panthers defenceman and Lakeshore native Aaron Ekblad says he's passionate about whatever you do in life.

It's a lesson he learned from the legendary Bobby Orr about the time he was in Grade 8 and the former Boston Bruins' star wasn't talking just about hockey, but life itself.

Ekblad, 20, addressed students enrolled in the Corpus Christi Middle School/F.J. Brennan Centre of Excellence and Innovation's Hockey Canada Skills Academy last week.

"I take passion wherever I go," he told the students. "Nothing lasts forever. You have to take advantage of what this world has to offer."

Ekblad, who was selected first overall in the 2011 OHL Entry Draft and first overall by the Panthers in the 2014 NHL Entry Draft.

## Hockey and academics

The 6'4" Ekblad was always well ahead of the curve when it came to hockey and academics, but listening to him speak – it's obvious that he's also wise beyond his years.

"I've been fortunate to learn some life lessons from people like Bobby Orr (agent) and (Barrie Colts' head coach) Dale Hawerchuk," said the soft-spoken Ekblad.

He attended St. Anne Catholic High School and was an honour roll student.

Ekblad's application to be the only player

born in 1996 in the 2011 OHL Entry Draft was approved unanimously after a vote by Hockey Canada.

With the approval, Ekblad became a defenceman and the second player to be granted exemption.

The status allowed him to bypass the Canadian Hockey League age requirement and be eligible age.

The only other players to be granted such eligibility are centre John Tavares in 2012, Connor McDavid in 2012, and Joseph Veleno in 2015.

Ekblad has started practice for the World Cup of Hockey in St. Louis and will play for the North American team, even though he would certainly be a contender to make Team Canada.

"We have a great young player," said Ekblad. "I think it's going to be really tough to stack up against a full squad from the U.S., Finland and Sweden."

Of note, when asked who he would like to defend against in the playoffs, Ekblad said the Pittsburgh Penguins superstar Sidney Crosby will "turn you inside out" and the Washington Capitals forward Alexander Ovechkin.

"Not only is he a big guy, but he's really accurate," said Ekblad.

Which is the loudest building in the world? The United Center in Chicago.

Who is the toughest team to play physically?, one student asked.

"Without a doubt, the Los Angeles Kings. I hate playing them," he joked.

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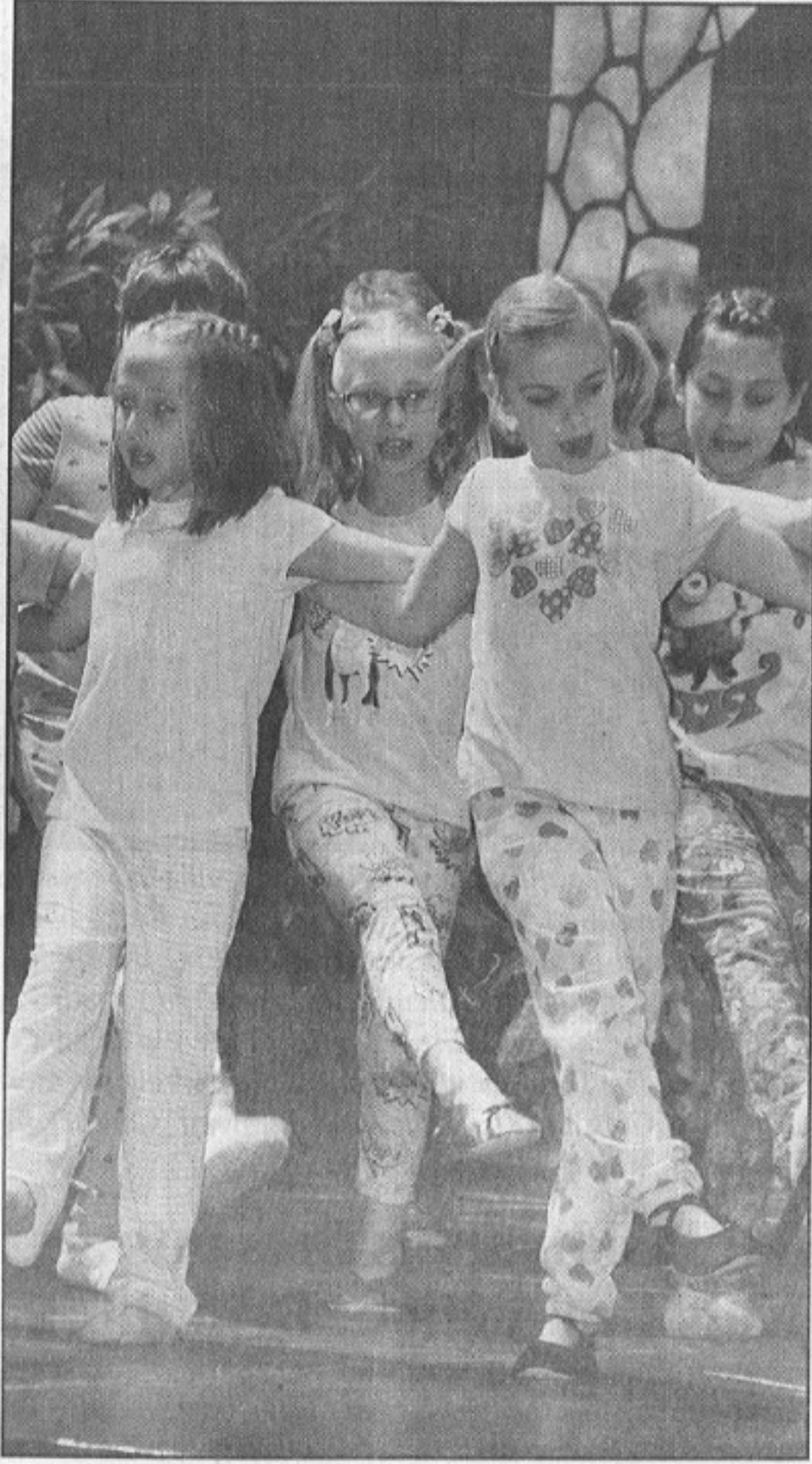
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Florida Panthers defenceman and Lakeshore native Aaron Ekblad spoke to students enrolled in the Corpus Christi Middle School/F.J Brennan Centre of Excellence and Innovation's Hockey Canada Skills Academy last week.

## St. John thespians take to the school stage



A talented group of young actors took to the stage last week at St. John de Brebeuf elementary school. The performance of 'Charming' and 'Pajama Party' featured high-energy scenes and lots of laughs. The cast spent seven weeks rehearsing, giving up their own time to ensure an outstanding performance. They delivered just that to appreciative audiences. Pictured are scenes from the play.

Photos by Steve l'Anson

# "Living Stones" take Wildcats on a path

**By: Lola O. and Mikalia T.**

This year the Bishop's office of the Diocese of London provided an opportunity for students in Gr. 8 to engage in the Coporal Works of Mercy and respond to one of the following questions with a creative, artistic response: How does serving others make God present in the world around me? How do we discover Christ in the disadvantaged?

At St. William School, this was a perfect project after the Confirmation program run by Fr. Chris and Mrs. Hewer, which tied in with activities around the school, such as our Giving Tree project done in conjunction with the Social Justice Committee of Good Shepherd Parish, our Mission Team and our CSC.

Students were subsequently invited to participate in the "Gr. 8 Living Stones Contest".

Students would be able to choose to submit a video highlighting a dance routine, musical skit, drama or spoken word, an artistic rendering such as a painting, drawing, sculpture, digital art or photography or fi-

nally a written composition, such as short story or essay.

Mr. Diubaldo, Gr. 8 teacher, felt it was an exciting contest to participate in.

Seeing the value in the lessons of the contest, Mr. Diubaldo extended the project to the Gr. 7 students in his class, however they could not submit.

"I had already seen the compassion of my class during Advent for the Giving Tree project", noted Mr. Diubaldo, "When sponsoring a student their own age, the students were led to the perfect gift by envisioning the child opening the present Christmas morning."

The latter was their springboard.

At first there was a struggle to see God and His calling in the student's lives, however soon through brainstorming came a deep understanding.

Each child chose a medium that was a particular strength to them. Many chose slideshows and media, while others painted and wrote poems. All put forth making the teacher proud.

**WILDCATS:** Continued from page 9

The project was easy, due to the creative freedom allowed.

The result? While submissions came from all across the Diocese of London, the winner and two honourable mentions came from Mr. Diubaldo's class at St. William School.

Emma McConnell won first place and a tablet. Honourable Mention went to Payton Morand and Taylor Meloche. The entire class had an ice cream party courtesy of Claire Bondy from the Bishop's office. Our parish of Good Shepherd also plans on honouring the students.

Emma McConnell noted that it was fun expressing herself through pictures and envisioning what she wanted to draw.

"I wanted to depict that we all need help sometimes and I felt that my picture, which showed how we could be kind to each other might inspire others to do the same," she said.

Taylor Meloche noted that she too enjoyed the project and bringing her message to others.

Payton Morand chose to create a picture with a hand of light touching a dark hand, whose finger tips began to change due to the contact with the light.

Payton noted the opportunity was fun and allowed her to investigate something different!

We are proud of our Wildcats, shining the light of Christ on others, while on their path of discovery, which led to success.

# ST. PETER Celebrating Gold level status



The St. Peter EcoTeam, with Mr. D'hondt and Ms. Couto, recently celebrated their achievement of Gold level status from Ontario EcoSchools.

Photo courtesy of Fred Macapagal

Congratulations to St. Peter Catholic School, which earned a Gold level status from Ontario EcoSchools recently.

Gold level status indicates that a school has taken a comprehensive approach to implementing the EcoSchools program and has achieved significant results in each section of certification.



To earn Gold status, a school must achieve a minimum of 75 per cent of the possible points in each of the six sections of certification, as listed: Teamwork and

Leadership, Energy Conservation, Waste Minimization, School Ground Greening, Curriculum, and Environmental Stewardship.

## ST. PIUS X

# Pacers track team competes at UWindsor

### *All-Star Band performs in national contest at Canada's Wonderland*

The St. Pius Pacers track team – consisting of over 140 students in Grades 3-8 – attended the annual WECD SB track meet at the University of Windsor.

Congratulations to all the winners and participants.

Thank you to all the teachers who helped train the team!

Way to go Pacers!

The All-Star Band travelled to Canada's Wonderland on June 13 to perform in a contest with schools from across Canada.

### **Farewell to seven staff members**

We would also like to say goodbye to all the teachers who will be leaving our school.

Farewell to Mrs. Sarkis, Mr. Murphy, Mme. Levesque, Mrs. Metler, Mrs. Harris-Reaume, Mrs. Loebach, and Mrs. Hunter!

By Sean Breault

# St. Anne's Natalie Gagnon wins OGS' Dr. Brearley Genealogical Essay Prize

Natalie Gagnon, a Grade 12 student at St. Anne Catholic High School, was recently named this year's recipient of the Dr. Don Brearley Genealogical Essay Prize.

The province-wide competition, open to all Ontario secondary school students in Grades 11 and 12, features the award, a \$500 prize, and membership to the Ontario Genealogical Society.

This is the second time in three years that a student prize has been awarded locally.

Entitled "Pieces of the Past", Natalie's winning entry uncovered details of her ancestors who came to this region and settled in the McGregor area.

Her essay begins with a family trip to the Ontario Archives in Ottawa and to Quebec several years ago, which led to traces of the Gagnon family and attempts to "Pick up the Pieces" of research of the Gagnon name where her grandfather, Georges Gagnon, left off.



Natalie Gagnon is congratulated by Debra Honor, of the Ontario Genealogical Society – Essex County branch.

Her research includes peeks into their family life and connections to a musical past!

Natalie comes from a long line of musicians and linking this passion to her ancestors revealed a deep love of music in her French heritage.

## schools

ST. WILLIAM

# A celebration of intergalactic proportions!

## Star Wars-themed Open House was an unforgettable evening

May the Force be with you!

The Wildcats of St. William School celebrated the hard work and learning they have done this year with an unforgettable evening!

Our CSC worked very hard to prepare and organize our Open House, which was of intergalactic proportions!

The tour began at the door with a passport, when families were greeted by Princess Leia and a Stormtrooper, who later moved to a photo booth where students could read with and have a picture taken.

The Tech station in the library had the robotics museum, featuring the hard work of our robotics team. Why not sign-up next year?

Entertainment was also offered with a short concert from our intermediate music students and singing from our very own choir the Kids Praise Club along with a Fire and Ice Show from Mad Science.

The fun didn't stop there. Students could get hands on at the 'I Am Your Father' Father's Day card station, then use their spatial reasoning skills at the snap cube station. Creativity was flying!

With all of the minds on and hands on work, students could stop by the Nutrition station, where they could talk to a Sobeys wellness representative about healthy snack choices and sample some too!

Students were off to their classrooms next to visit teachers and show off their talents.

Students could seek further nourishment at the concession, run by our Grade 7s in support of their Muskoka Woods trip next year.

There was also food for the soul at the Good Shepherd Parish station where the theme was ASAP – "Always Say a Prayer".



Photo courtesy of Joe Bachetti

The Catholic School Council at St. William recently hosted a Star Wars-themed Open House for families.

Students hung signs with the theme and wrote items they would pray for which were displayed on a cross.

Our Opening Doors of Mercy quilt, made of pieces from each student in our school, was proudly displayed in the front foyer, while another with doors that opened onto the works was displayed in the back foyer.

What a night! Students had a chance during the evening to fill up their passports for chances to win a limo ride and mini-golf, or one of many donated door prizes.

No need for lightsabers to be drawn. The 'force' of the light side shone through. We hope Chewie didn't get you!