



The Wednesday File

January 6, 2016



Looking Back to Look Ahead

Happy New Year to everyone and welcome back to the 2015/16 school year. I hope that everyone enjoyed the holidays and found an opportunity to unwind, relax and spend time with family. As we begin our next phase of the school year, I want to take a moment and remind our students and their families of our school motto “Libertas in Veritate” or “Freedom in Truth”. This simple yet profound statement reminds us all that, at its very essence, life is about seeking Truth and truth. When we remove all of the material possessions that may bring pleasure, our pursuit of happiness ultimately comes from our journey to find God and the truly beautiful things in this world such as love and family. As a Catholic community and Northmount Family, this journey to seek Truth and truth transcends our everyday lives. It helps us come to the realization that we need to strive to help those in need, to be strong role models, and to live closer to God to find happiness. These same things also help Northmount students and community members to develop character. Over the next few months I ask that all of the students and community members look for opportunities to perform an act of kindness, to help someone out, and to make a positive difference where it is needed.

Reflecting back on the first part of the year, it seems to have passed in the blink of an eye. Several new and continuing initiatives this past Fall embody the wonderful things we do here at Northmount. These include our ongoing Masses and sacramental observations, the House Induction Ceremony for our new faculty and students, the grade seven and eight outdoor education trip to the Bruce Peninsula, the forming of our Parent Association, updating our technology infrastructure, and our Christmas concert. The first part of the year also witnessed a focus on curriculum development with our faculty and staff and the continued success of our co-curricular program, highlighted by semi-finalist finishes in soccer and volleyball, strong individual and overall placings in cross-country and our first ever golf tournament. These athletic showings were equaled by our robotics program, the beautiful art work adorning our hallways and our Wednesday Clubs Program. I am very proud of our Northmount boys and also of the faculty and staff who continue to dedicate their time and energy into all facets of our program.

As we look forward to the rest of the school year, the mini iPads and new robots purchased through the Annual Fund and the Giving Tree will make their appearances in the classroom to help foster 21st Century learning and appeal to the hands-on nature of young men. Further to this, a choirmaster will be helping our young men develop their vocal skills and talents. Behind the scenes, new desks, art chairs and other tangible pieces of classroom infrastructure will find their way into specific classrooms and a new line of school athletic wear will be available in the Spring. Last but not least, teachers will be piloting the Edbsy platform over the coming months with the hopes of rolling out it to our parent community sometime after the March Break.

On behalf of Northmount School for Boys, I would like to thank the community for your support, whether it be moral, volunteer, or financial. Through our collective efforts we are able to provide a unique community and a first-rate educational opportunity for your son. I look forward to a successful second term at Northmount and the development of our young men spiritually, academically, and co-curricularly.

Dr. Sheridan
Headmaster



Character Corner

The Corporal Works of Mommy (and Daddy)! –Living the Year of Mercy at Home.

Pope Francis has declared this to be a Year of Mercy but...so what? What does it mean to be merciful? And what difference does this year make to families?

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/faithonthecouch/2015/12/the-corporal-works-of-mommy-and-daddy-living-the-year-of-mercy-at-home/>

Mass Schedule

Friday, January 8, 11:25am

Celebrant: Fr. Henry Alva, O.F.M. Cap. (in residence St. Philip Neri Parish)
Altar Servers: Team St. Michael (Nikolas H., Miguel M., Christopher D.)

Tuesday, January 12, 11:25am

Celebrant: Fr. John Agundez (Assistant Chaplain, Ernescliff College)
Altar Servers: Team Frassati (Braeden M., Mathieu P., Lucas U.)

Parents, families, and friends welcome

A Request From the Art Department

January is a great time to clean out our closets after the Christmas season. Please donate to the Art room any extra long sleeve men's size small, medium, and large dress shirts or casual shirts. There will be a drop off box set up at the front of the school by Mrs. Withers' desk. These shirts will be used for grades 5 - 8 students when they are painting or creating sculpture. A new set of art smocks have been purchased for grades Kindergarten - 4 to use in Art classes.

Exciting Choir News!

We are excited to announce the arrival of our guest choirmaster, Mr. Goody Cabral! Over the next two months, Mr. Cabral will help our students in the development of their vocal skills and prepare our choir for the upcoming Kiwanis Choir Festival. He brings a depth of knowledge of choir and choral performance that will certainly benefit and enrich our whole community. Originally from the Philippines, he has been singing at high level from a very young age. After years of training, Mr. Cabral now directs the St. Anselm Parish choir in Toronto and is cantor at Blessed Trinity Parish. We are very grateful for the support of our Annual Fund which has made this wonderful opportunity for our students possible.

New Drop Off Guidelines

As outlined in an email earlier this week, there will be some changes to the morning drop off routine. These changes come as a result of internal dialogue and external feedback/ discussion with the classroom representatives and the Parent Association looking to improve safety when dropping off and picking our young men. Moving forward, we kindly ask that you follow the “rules of the road” for the drop off area in front of the school listed below. The drop-off zone will begin at 8:00 a.m. and conclude at 8:20 a.m.

- a. There will be orange cones separating the lanes in front of the school
- b. The lane closest to the school will be used for the drop off
- c. The lane furthest from the school will be for regular traffic flow (NO DROP OFFS)

Should a parent(s) decide to use the drop off lane:

- i. There will be a faculty member and/or volunteer parent and/or student at the gate as an usher
- ii. The parent/ driver is to stay in the vehicle and remain in queue until the vehicle arrives at the school gate
- iii. The usher will open the door of the vehicle when it stops and assist the student in exiting the vehicle quickly and entering the school grounds safely
- iv. Once the student has exited the vehicle safely, the parent/ driver is expected to slowly merge back into the regular traffic flow that may be present

Should a parent(s) choose to walk in with their son to Northmount, please feel most welcome as always. You are welcome to park along the side of the school (space is limited) or in the back of the LA Fitness parking lot and use the sidewalk to arrive at the school. Should you be using the school parking lot, please understand that legally you must drive around the circular road and enter the school by turning right. As such, please be alert to parents who are using the drop off and are merging back in to the flow of traffic.

As with any new initiative, there will be some growing pains and we thank you for your patience in advance. Please pass along any constructive feedback that will help make this initiative more efficient.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, January 19, 2016	Grades 7-8 Exams
Wednesday, January 20, 2016	Grades 6-8 Exams Clubs Begin
Thursday, January 21, 2016	Grades 6-8 Exams
Friday, January 22, 2016	Grades 6-8 Exams
Monday, January 25, 2016	Spirit Week—Hot Chocolate Day
Tuesday, January 26, 2016	Spirit Week—Crazy Hat Day
Wednesday, January 27, 2016	Spirit Week—Crazy Hair Day Pizza Lunch and Dress Down Day
Thursday, January 28, 2016	Spirit Week—Crazy Tie Day Grades 7-8 Camping Trip
Friday, January 29, 2016	Spirit Week— House Colours Day K-6 Trip (AM) and Talent Show (PM) Grades 7-8 Camping Trip