



ST. MARTHA

Catholic School *Newsletter*



Principal: Karen Moran

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May 2018 Newsletter

Prayer for Mothers

All-loving God, we give you thanks and praise for mothers young and old.

We pray for young mothers, who give life and count toes and tend to our every need; May they be blessed with patience and tenderness to care for their families and themselves with great joy.

We pray for our own mothers who have nurtured and cared for us; May they continue to guide us in strong and gentle ways.

We remember mothers who are separated from their children because of war, poverty, or conflict; May they feel the loving embrace of our God who wipes every tear away.

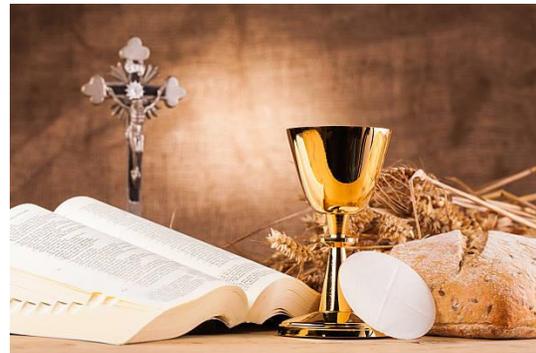
We pray for women who are not mothers but still love and shape us with motherly care and compassion.

We remember mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love. Amen.

Grade 2 Sacraments

Best wishes to our Grade 2 students who will make the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Thursday, May 3rd at 6:00 p.m. and the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on Sunday, May 6th at 1:30 p.m. (Ms. Ranieri)

and 3:00 p.m. (Mrs. Stelter, Mr. Pitts and Ms. Smallegange) at Holy Name Church with Fr. Wes. Thank you to families, Ms. Ranieri, Ms. Smallegange, Mrs. Stelter and Mr. Pitts for preparing the children for these important sacraments in the Catholic Church.



May Mass

Please note that our Mass for the month of May is scheduled to take place on Thursday, May 10th beginning at 9:15 in the Gym. All Parents/Guardians are welcome to attend!

St. Martha's ME to We Day- May 8th

St. Martha's ME to WE Day will take place on Tuesday, May 8th at 6:00 p.m. The show will be a combination of student talent, choir performances and inspirational messages to promote equity and inclusion in our own school, and in our global community. This donation based event will include a bake sale, and a wildflower seed sale to raise money for United World Schools. United World Schools provides free basic education to children living in remote and marginalized communities. Please click on the link below to see how. We hope you enjoy the show! Families who are unable to attend the ME to WE event are welcome to

send a donation with their child on May 8th.
<http://www.unitedworldschools.org/>.
Thank you for your support!

School Council Update

Our next School Council Meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, May 16th 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Learning Commons. All Parents/Guardians are welcome to attend. Thank you to Mrs. Valente and School Council for their successful application to KFL&A Public Health's *Healthy Kids Community Challenge KFL&A Region* grant to host family Zumba and Yoga lessons. We hope you can join us for a Family Zumba lesson at Spring Carnival!

StopGap Project

In addition, we are very pleased that School Council is supporting the work of our school's ME to We initiative. St. Martha Parent Council is excited to let you know about an opportunity that was presented to us at a council meeting called *StopGap*. The *StopGap* School Project involves education centered around disability, accessibility, and inclusion for the elementary school grades. Core lessons include the community accessibility audit, outreach to local businesses with single stepped entryways, and painting and delivering ramps! This learning adventure gets students out of the classroom and into their school's local neighborhood.



We are excited for the education components of the program and the continued teaching of Me to We thinking about equity and inclusion. School Council is pleased to support the school's efforts to fundraise this spring by way of a Little Caesars Pizza Order and Milkshake days in June. All money raised will go directly to

StopGap and their goals to educate about accessibility and help some Kingston businesses open their doors to everyone!

StopGap Project

During the 2018-19 school year, St. Martha will be working with the *StopGap* Foundation that aims to create a



world where every person can access every space. *StopGap*'s initiatives help inspire a shift in thinking about the importance of universal access and inclusion. St. Martha School Council and school community will be working with the Foundation to help the Kingston community learn more about the benefits of barrier-free spaces.

In the fall of 2018-19, classes will begin to learn more about disability, accessibility, and inclusion in our own community. Staff and students will be involved in completing a community accessibility audit, work with local businesses with single stepped entryways, and paint and deliver ramps by the end of the school year. St. Martha is the first school outside the GTA to commit to this targeted outreach, education, and painting and delivering of wooden ramps for businesses with one-step entrances. As leaders, the St.

Martha community will be educating business owners about the importance of a barrier-free environment. As community members, staff and students, we will deliver much-needed education regarding the importance of a storefront that everyone can access.



Through this project, students will be actively engaged in their community, demonstrating *Faith in Action* to those in need in the local community. This Social Justice initiative is in keeping with, and builds on, our work that recognizes St Martha as a "Me to WE" school. Thank you for supporting a wonderful learning and faith-based opportunity for the St Martha community! It is through our faith in God, love of others, and service to all that we make a difference in our community!

St. Martha Yearbook

Thank you to families who have pre-ordered a copy of our 2017-18 yearbook. The yearbook will be delivered on or before June 25th, 2018. If you have not already pre-ordered, there will be some yearbooks for sale at distribution time. A special "Thank You" is extended to Mrs. Levac, Mrs. Jobin, Mrs. Fanning as well as Student Leaders/Photographers including: Graham Jansen, Kayla Mitchell, Nathan Hiscock and Aurelie Riel-Proulx. We thank Life Touch Photography for all of their work to highlight memories and friendships from the past year. The cost of each yearbook remains \$15.00 a book.



Catholic Education Week 2018: "Renewing the Promise"

"For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." Acts 2:39

During the week of May 7st to May 11th, 2018 the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board will celebrate the significant contribution that Catholic

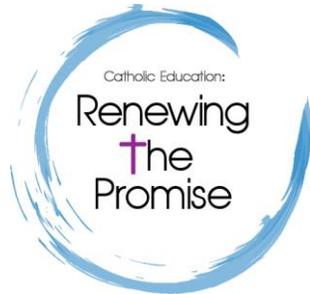
Education has made to the community, the province and to Canada. Our Catholic Graduate Expectations invite students to articulate in society those fundamental values that underpin Catholic education.

This year's Catholic Education Week theme is, ***"Renewing the Promise"***. The theme for CEW 2018 draws upon previous documents on Ontario Catholic education, namely, "This Moment of Promise" (1989), "Fulfilling the Promise" (1993) and "Our Catholic Schools" (2006-2007). These three documents, while several years apart from each other, all speak of the unique mission of Ontario Catholic education, the importance of its shared leadership by all those involved in Catholic education and the critical role of Catholic education in contemporary society.

Catholic Education Week 2018 combines the themes of reconciliation, solidarity, love, justice and ecology.

There are five sub-themes, one for each day of Catholic Education Week and they are aimed at helping staff and students to reflect more fully on what *Renewing the Promise* means to them. The five sub-themes are:

- Day 1: Remembering the Promise
 - Day 2: The Promise is Within You
 - Day 3: Praying the Promise
 - Day 4: Living the Promise
 - Day 5: Proclaiming the Promise
- Catholic Education Week is marked by special activities at all grade levels, including prayer celebrations and service activities.



**Catholic Education Week
Schedule**

~May 7-11, 2018~

Monday, Monday, May 7 th – <i>Jersey Day</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catholic Education Prayer Celebration at 9:00 a.m. in the Gym • Community Guest Readers in classes
Tuesday, May 8 th – <i>School spirit wear Day</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catholic Education Week Mass at St. Paul the Apostle-12 students from St. Martha attending • 1:00 p.m. Mini WE Day Show for School • 6:00 p.m. Mini WE Day Show for Parents and the Community
Wednesday, May 9 th – <i>Formal Dress Day</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebration of Dance Gr. 1-8
Thursday, May 10 th – <i>Rainbow Day</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:15 May Mass
Friday, May 11 th – <i>Crazy Hair Day</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:30-9:30 Kindergarten Mindfulness with Mom • ECO Club Plant Sale for Moms (youngest and only). Each plant is \$1.00, with a limit of 1-2 plants per family.

St. Martha Spring Carnival

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the St. Martha Spring Carnival on **Thursday, June 14th from 4:00-7:00 p.m.** The organizing committee has been meeting and working to plan an evening of St. Martha spirit and fun, rain or shine! Come



out to enjoy sun, food, fun and games, all in one spot! Please watch for additional information to come home soon. Thank you to Rosalynn St. Germain and her team of volunteers for their efforts in planning a great time for the whole family! If you can give just one hour of volunteer time during the event, please contact the school.

Creating and Indigenous Space

Teachers within the ALCDSB continue to bring Indigenous histories and perspectives into our classrooms so that students can see First Nation, Metis and Inuit histories, cultures and contemporary perspectives in their learning and learning environments. We have been given an opportunity to create an Indigenous space within the school community where First Nations, Metis and Inuit students can see themselves reflected in our school. St. Martha is pleased to begin planning for the creation of an Indigenous space within the school. The embedded space will be in keeping with the Ministry of Education's First Nations, Metis



and Inuit Education Policy Framework and subsequent implementation plans. We look forward to its continued development at St. Martha and we thank Mrs. McLeod for being the lead!

Hotel Dieu Art Gallery

Thank you to all students who submitted artwork to the Spring Hotel Dieu Art Gallery. Congratulations to the following students whose artwork was submitted for the spring display at Hotel Dieu Hospital:



Berlyn Caldeira
Sienna Turner
Kaitlyn Ritchie
Jackson Stearns
Elsie-Taguchi-Medd
Camden Szumlanski
Connor McLeod
Kim Patriarca
Chayse Davey
Jeremy Daigle
Emily Clark
Jenny Dowling
Nathan McDonald
Kayla Mitchell
Natalie Manryk
Rowan Sorensen

ECO News

Our St. Martha ECO Team has been working diligently all year to promote ECO friendly best practices and to raise awareness about the need to preserve our gift, the earth, and all of God's creation within it. Work taken on by staff and students this year has been a real labor of love and commitment to being stewards of the earth. Some of this work has included:

- Weekly Class ECO Rep meetings

- Announcements highlighting eco-initiatives
- Monthly lighting and waste audits of each classroom (results are posted outside the Learning Commons)
- Christmas Market – resale of gently used items. Our community raised \$500.00 for Almost Home.
- Full Classroom Compost Program
- Earth Day prayers and reflections, as well as a school-wide garbage pick-up
- Planting the gardens and school yard greening
- Partnership with Staples to repurpose school supplies (collected 319 pens and markers) and keep them out of landfill sites.



A special “Thank You” is extended to our ECO Student Class Reps, Recycling and Compost Teams as well as Mrs. Clayton, Mme. Fil and Mr. Kilminster for all of their work to highlight, promote and prepare ECO Schools initiatives!

PA Day- May 18th, 2018

Please note that Friday, May 18th, 2018 is a Professional Activity day. As a result, there are no classes for students.

Cross Country Meet- May 14, 2018

Best wishes to all students who have been training to participate in the ALCDSB's annual Cross Country Meet scheduled to take place on May 14th at Fort Henry Hill.



We have a large number of students have been running at noon hour (Primary and Junior) and after school (Intermediate) to prepare for the meet. Thank you to the following staff who have been volunteering their time to coach students for the meet: Mrs. Stelter, Mrs. Ryan, Ms. Smallegange, Ms. Burns, Mrs. McLeod, Mr. Coulter, Mr. Kenney, Ms. Overvelde, Mme Fil and Mrs. Levac.

IPRC (Identification, Placement and Review Committee) Meetings

Thank you to all parents who have returned the invitation to waive or hold an annual meeting to review your child's identification and placement in our special education program at St. Martha. IPRC Meetings will take place on May 15th, 2018. Please note that parents can meet with staff at any time during the school year to discuss their child's program and progress by contacting your child's classroom teacher or SERT to make an appointment.

EQAO Assessment of Reading, Writing and Math (Grade 3 and 6)

Education Quality and
Accountability Office



Preparations are well underway for all Grade 3 and 6 students to participate to their fullest potential in the upcoming provincial assessments of Reading, Writing and Math. Please note that our Grade 6 students will be writing the assessment during the mornings on May 23, 24 and 25th. Our Grade 3 students will be writing the assessment during the mornings of May 29, 30 and 31st. We ask that parents please not book appointments or trips for the children on these dates so as to avoid students missing part of the assessment and to ensure that all students perform to the best of their ability during the assessments. EQAO assessments are an opportunity for students to "show what they know" and to celebrate the hard work they have been doing throughout their

division. Thank you for your co-operation regarding the scheduling of appointments for your children. Also, we wish to thank the following teachers who have been running the OFIP Tutoring Program after school this spring: Mrs. Ryan and Mrs. Williams.

Kindergarten Registration and Open House



We are now accepting registrations for our Kindergarten Program for September 2018. Your child is eligible to enroll in Junior Kindergarten if he or she will be 4 years of age by December 31st, 2018. You can access registration forms by coming into the Office or some of the forms online through the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board's website. Please also include your child's Baptismal Certificate, Birth Certificate and Immunization Record.

Did you know that...

*Early childhood sets the foundation for life-long learning, behavior, health and well-being? (Ontario Early Years Policy Framework).

*Stacking blocks and mixing sand and water encourages logical mathematical thinking, scientific reasoning and cognitive problem solving...the learning that occurs is a by-product of play (Paul Cappon, Canadian Council on Learning).

*Play is thinking time for young children. It is language time. Problem solving time. It

is memory time, planning time and investigating time. It is the organization of ideas time when the young child uses his mind and body and social skills and all his powers in response to the stimuli he has just met (James L. Hymes: Child Development and Research Specialist).

Parents/Guardians and children who will be beginning school in September are invited to our FDELK Open House on Monday, June 11th from 3:15-5:15 p.m. Looking forward to meeting our youngest students then!

Grade 8 Graduation Date

Our Grade 8 Graduation date is set for **Monday, June 25th** 4:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. More specific times and details will follow.



School and Board-wide Track and Field Dates

Our St. Martha school Track and Field Day is scheduled to take place on Friday, June 1st, 2018 at St. Martha. The Board meets are schedule for June 18 (Tyke and Pee Wee) and June 19th (Bantam).



Learning French is Fun!

“It’s like a secret language that everyone in my class can speak. I like it.”

Ethan, ALCDSB Grade 3 Student

Encourage your child to be a lifelong learner of French!

Power Off and Play!



HEALTHY KIDS
COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

**Build a balanced day!
Take time to play without electronic devices.**



Power Off and Play!



HEALTHY KIDS
COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

We would like to thank the Healthy Kids Community Challenge KFL&A Region for the funding that has allowed us to bring you *(Insert your event information here)*.

Power Off and Play! is about helping children and families build a balanced day that is not filled with screen time. For children to be healthy and ready to learn, it is important to follow the recommended daily screen time limits and to put screens away during meal times and at bed time. Remember to replace some screen time with other activities so that a balanced day is filled with learning, physical activity, social interaction, and fun.

Thank you.

