

Sacred Heart Batawa Catholic School

February 2018



31 Thomas Bata Blvd., P.O. Box 135, Batawa, ON, K0K 1E0 | Office: 613-398-6393 |

It is very difficult to believe that we are already at the conclusion of the first term of the school year. Time has certainly flown by and we have accomplished a lot of great things at Sacred Heart; we celebrated an amazing Christmas Mass, participated in the Terry Fox Walk, hosted a canned food drive for Trenton Food Bank and celebrated the beginning of the school year with a great family social, just to name a few. Our second term promises to be just as exciting with our participation in an inquiry around Maple Syrop, the creation of our Sacred Heart yearbook, and the preparations for school track and field. We are also set to enter the season of Lent which culminates with Easter. Lent is a time where we look at ourselves and reflect on the things we do to get closer to God. During lent we are encouraged by our Faith to take the time to do something nice for others, do something to bring ourselves closer to God, and do something to improve our participation in Catholic rituals. At Sacred Heart we will begin our Lenten journey with an Ash Wednesday Mass on February 14th. Families are more than welcome to join us at 11am for the start of our Lenten journey towards the second most important time in our church calendar, Easter.



A Prayer for Hope

Dear Lord,

Strengthen my faith. Give me hope that all things will turn outright; the way you intend it to be.

And while I am doing my very

best to be strong, optimistic and true to your teachings, surround me with love.

Amen



Upcoming Dates to Remember:

Feb. 8th– Ski Trip

Feb. 13th– Shrove Tuesday
(Pancakes for whole school)

Feb. 14th– Ash Wednesday
(Mass 11am)

Feb. 16th– Valentines Day @
Sacred Heart (Hot dogs for lunch)

Mar. 1st– Comic Workshop Gr.
3-8

March Break– Mar. 10-18

Our School Schedule

9:00 Yard Supervision Begins

9:15 Instructional Time

10:35– Recess

10:50– Instructional Time

12:10– 1:10– Recess and Lunch

1:10-2:10 School Wide Math

2:10-3:30– Instructional Time

3:30– Dismissal



All Sales Available Online!

We will be using our School Cash Online payment system with more regularity and has become our preferred method of payment. In March we will be hosting a series of “Sub Days” from Subway. The only method of payment that will be used for these purchases will be through School cash Online. If you require assistance with setting up an account in order to participate in Sub Days, please contact Mrs. Shangraw.



Safe Entry Procedures

At Sacred Heart Catholic School we endeavour to be a safe and welcoming environment for all of our students, staff and families. We have a safe entry system that is in operation from 9am until 3:30pm each day to ensure that all visitors who come to the school check in at the office and be screened appropriately. We do from time to time have members of the community who enter the school before or after hours and do not check in at the office. The office must be your first stop every time you enter the school, and the secretary or Principal will make a call to the teacher you wish to see, before heading to their classrooms. Teachers, EA's and school staff could be meeting with other parents, each other, or on the phone discussing confidential information and it could be embarrassing for any of the parties should this information be overheard. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter, as we try to ensure the safety and confidentiality of all of our students, staff and families.

Safe Arrival Program

Parents/guardians are asked to call the school at 613-398-6393 whenever your child will be late or absent. A message may be left at any time on the answering machine. Please indicate your child's name, grade, teacher and reason for the child's absence. If no call is received, office staff will use the contact information provided to locate the child or the parent regarding the absence.



Reading Program off and Running!

In recent weeks we have managed to train some volunteers from our community to help our students from Grade 1 to 3 work on their reading fluency and comprehension skills. Volunteers come to the school at various times throughout the week and pick students from the class to read with. Students read to the volunteer and work on some word attack strategies and discuss what they have read with their volunteer. It is our hope that students will be read to by a volunteer at least once per week, and once by their teacher. If parents could do at least two more times through the week, we would see students ability level increase immensely. If you have time and are able to volunteer, please contact Mrs. Shangraw.



Numeracy Quick Tip:# 4

Encourage children to solve problems. Provide assistance, but let them figure it out themselves. Problem solving is a lifetime skill.

Parking Issues

We currently seem to be having many issues around parking at Sacred Heart. Bus Drivers have become concerned with the number of vehicles moving in and out while buses are attempting to load children. We need to ensure that vehicles are parked further east of the school, in front of the bus loading zone. This is especially difficult during ski season where there is an increase in traffic, and safety concerns arise. Parents are asked to park only on the south side of Thomas Bata Blvd.



Literacy Quick Tip:# 4

Use a wide variety of formats

If your child really enjoys using an e-reader or computer, allow him to do this for some of his daily reading time. New technologies can be quite educational as long as they don't completely replace more traditional methods and formats.

Valentines Day/Ash Wednesday

This year St. Valentine's Day falls on the same day as our Holy Day Ash Wednesday. As a result of these two dates aligning, we will be pushing all Valentines day celebrations to Friday February 16th. If students bring Valentines or any items for celebrating Valentines day on the 14th, it will be held by the teacher until Friday the 16th.

Our Catholic School Council will be hosting a dance for all of our students on the 16th, with a hot dog lunch. We understand that Catholic Tradition is to not eat meat on Friday's during Lent. However, according to Catholic Canon Law, this applies only to students under the age of 14. If you wish for your child not to receive a hot dog, please send them with an alternative lunch.

Report Cards and Parent Teacher Interviews

In recent weeks teachers have been working hard on completing Provincial Report Cards for the students in their care. Time and effort has been put in to ensure that the report card is an accurate portrait of the things your child has learned since September. These report cards take into account all of the various different assessments that have been completed and shared with you over the course of the term; either through your child's digital portfolio in Fresh Grade (k-6), or sent home as the teachers marked them.

Interviews for these reports will be completed on a request only basis. Either the teacher will request an interview, or the parents may request the interview to discuss concerns.

As a reminder, concerns must be shared with the teacher first, and if either the parent or teacher don't feel the concern has been addressed adequately, the Principal may become involved.

Interviews will take place on February 21st, and forms have been sent home with children already.

First Communion

Families interested in having their Grade 2 child receive their First Reconciliation and First Communion are asked to contact the school if they have not received the forms. The forms were due February 4th.

Council Looking for Volunteers

Catholic School Council is looking for volunteers to help cook and serve pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. If you are available to help out, please let Mrs. Shangraw know, and she will forward on your information to the organizing committee.

They also require some help on Feb. 16th for our Valentine's Day Dance and Hot Dog day!

Inclement Weather and Bus Cancelations

The winter months are upon us. During this cold time of year parents and guardians should be aware of how to determine if their child's bus has been canceled. Please note that the decision to cancel busses rests with Tri-Board Bussing services. Bus routes cancelled due to inclement weather are cancelled for the entire day. **If you choose to bring your child to school please note that you will be required to pick them up at the end of the day.** In order to access information regarding bus cancellations please visit www.triboard.on.ca On this site you will be able to determine if your child's bus is running, delayed or canceled. In addition, information is available on all local radio stations early in the morning., Twitter and our school website.

In the last few years we have seen our schools close formally only twice. Bus cancellations do not mean that schools will be closed. The decision to close schools can only be made by the Director of Education. If schools are closed however, we will make every effort to send out a Synervoice message to your homes letting you know that Sacred Heart has been closed for the day. In the event that the schools are closed part way through the day, again a Synervoice will be sent out, and in the event parents can not be reached we will call Emergency Contacts. Please call Mrs. Shangraw to ensure that you Emergency Contact information is up to date.



Students Participate in Skills Ontario Challenge

On January 31st, 8 students from Sacred Heart participated in the annual cardboard boat race challenge. Students spent weeks planning the design for their boat, putting together a prototype boat and researching best boat designs. The students then built their boat from scratch and participated in a race from one end of the pool to the other. Students were judged on their plan, the decoration of their boat, it's speed, and finally it's weight capacity. The winning boat completed the race in 20 seconds and held 500lbs. for more than 60 seconds. Congratulations on a job well done!

