

St. Martin of Tours Catholic School

Newsletter

March 2, 2021



Superintendent of School Effectiveness: Mr. David Giroux
Principal: Mrs. Patricia Flagler Edwards
Vice Principal: Ms. Tara McEnery
Custodian: Mr. Adam Wannamaker
Administrative Assistant: Ms. Marta Walczak

Trustee: Dr. Peter McEnery
School Council Chair: Kelli Nicholas
Pastor: Father Malachy
School Phone: 613-637-2720
School Fax: 613-637-2873

Storm Chasers

TORNADO HUNTERS

Students took part in a presentation by Chris Chittick, a "storm hunter" from the Discovery Channel's show called "Tornado Hunter". The presentation was amazing! We learned about the different types of tornadoes, what causes tornadoes, and the scientific meaning of "the perfect storm" (what has to happen for a tornado to evolve).

Mr. Chittick showed us some videos of his adventures chasing storms, as well as some footage of some serious tornadoes that caused a lot of damage and looked really scary!

Although the restrictions of COVID-19 have limited travelling, we are blessed to have virtual opportunities like this one to explore! Thanks, Mr. Chittick!



Mental Health Day

We are continuing to provide the children with a mental health and wellness hour on the last Thursday of each month. We are trying to encourage activities that have a positive educational benefit and/or which tap into creative, innovative brain development. Video games, apps and other activities need to be chosen and approved in advance.

Ash Wednesday Mass

Students and staff observed a beautiful virtual Ash Wednesday Mass. It marked the **first day of Lent**. The ashes symbolize penance and the dust from which God made people. When priests mark our forehead with the ashes they often say, "Repent and believe in the Gospel," or "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." We were not able to get ashes on our foreheads this year due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Monarch Butterfly & Polar Bear



This month, students will be taking part in a virtual program with the Cambridge Butterfly Conservatory. The focus is on endangered species in Canada, focusing specifically on the Monarch Butterfly. Students will also take part in The National Wildlife Federation's "Nature Witness Virtual Exhibit" tomorrow for World Wildlife Day and World Wildlife Fund's "Conservation in the Classroom" with Jeff Opperman.



Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board
151 Dairy Avenue, Napanee, Ontario K7R 4B2 (613) 354-2255 / 1-800-581-1116 Fax: (613) 354-4772

Career Day

We have been discussing grit, resilience, and goal setting -all skills necessary to be successful at school and in the workplace. Staff at St. Martin of Tours have generated lists of all the jobs and careers that they have had to generate meaningful conversations. The students have set some career goals and will research the skills needed to pursue their dreams. This is a great opportunity to have open and honest communication with your child about the jobs and careers that you have had over the years and the life skills that each job has given you and/or the obstacles that you had to overcome.

Fully Alive

We have started our “Fully Alive,” Family Life Program. The children have been engaged in discussions about values, morals, and spiritual fulfilment. The children will be exploring topics specific to their age. There will be letters sent home before each theme and students may need help with some of the activities. It is suggested that you ask your child to bring home their textbook so you can explore what is taught in each grade. Theme Three has very sensitive topics and your child might not have the comfort level to ask questions in class. Reading the textbook with your child will provide a good opportunity to open conversation at home and use a resource that follows our Catholic values and beliefs. (They need the textbook in class so please send back daily).

History Presentations

The grade 7/8 students have been researching for their historical inquiry. We are looking forward to their presentations on March 16th. Speaking in front of an audience, especially peers, is a very common source of anxiety. Please give your child the opportunity to practice at home so they feel more confident and are likely to be successful at school.

Pink Shirt Day



February is recognized as Anti-Bullying Month. We support the anti-bullying campaign by wearing PINK to help foster the healthy self-esteem of children across Canada and around the world! Pink is for everyone.

New FSL Program



We have been working with ALCDSB's Special Assignment Teacher of French Language Instruction, Kimberly D'Anna. Ms. D'Anna has begun facilitating instruction for our Intermediate students through Teams. She has been providing additional French resources to support and enrich their French program that can be used in the classroom.



Bird Feeders

This time of year, food is very sparse for our little feathered friends, the birds. Winter feeding should offer food that is higher in fat because birds need to move more in order to stay warm and survive the cold. St. Martin of Tours students made bird feeders so that we can help to feed them, and for us to be able to admire them while they eat. The bird feeders turned out wonderful! We would like to extend a special thank you to all those who brought in items and especially to Jerome and Gloria Leveque for their donation of bird seed and pie plates for this project!

