



ST. MARTHA

Catholic School *Newsletter*



Principal: Karen Moran

Vice-Principal: Dianne LaFortune

April 2018 Newsletter

Happy Easter!

The Easter season calls us to celebrate the Risen Life of Jesus. It is also an invitation to welcome life in a springtime world, to see the stirrings and marvels of death being overtaken by life. It is a time to taste the wonders of God's goodness in the seasonal cycle of life overturning death.

It is all too easy to be preoccupied with work and worries and forget to "taste and see." What will we "taste and see" today? How will we enjoy God's goodness? How will we resist our culture's call to move quickly to attend to the "next important matter?"

Loving God,

Our Easter world is filled with so many gifts! Slow us down today and guide us to taste more fully the alleluia wonders of your goodness. By listening to God's word and drawing nourishment from the table of the Eucharist, may our hearts be ever more ardent in faith, hope and love.

We ask this through your son, the Risen Christ. Amen

Stations of the Cross

Please note that staff and students will have an opportunity to attend the Stations of the Cross presented as a tableau by our Grade 6 Classes on Thursday,



March 29th at 9:40 for Kindergarten to Grade 3-4 and at 10:40 for Grades 4-5 to 8 in the Gym. Thank you to Mrs. Ryan and Mrs. Couture for preparing students to lead this important time of reflection in preparation to celebrate Easter.

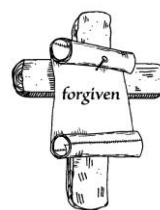
April Mass

Please join us for our Easter school Mass on Friday, April 20th, 2018 at 9:15 in the Gym. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Sacrament of Confirmation

Best wishes to our Grade 8 students who have been preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at Holy Name Church on Wednesday, April 12th at 6:00 p.m. with Archbishop O'Brien and Fr. Wes. Thank you to families and teachers Mr. Coulter, Mr. Kenney, and Mrs. McLeod for preparing students to receive the sacrament. Thank you to our intermediate staff for planning the Grade 8 Confirmation Retreat Day for Confirmation candidates on March 27th. This is always a meaningful day for students.

Sacrament of Reconciliation



Best wishes to our Grade 2 students who have been preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which will take place on Thursday, May 3rd, 2018 at Holy Name Church at 6:00 p.m. Then on Sunday, May 6th, our Grade 2s will also receive the Sacrament of First Communion beginning at 1:30 p.m. for Ms. Ranieri's students. Then, Mrs. Stelter, Mr. Pitts and Ms. Smallegange's students will receive the Sacrament at 3:00 p.m. Thank

you to Fr. Wes, Ms. Ranieri, Mrs. Smallegange, Mrs. Stelter, Mr. Pitts and families for their preparation of the children to receive the Sacraments in our Catholic church.

School Council Meeting

Our next School Council Meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, April 17th, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Learning Commons. All Parents/Guardians are welcome to attend!

PA Day April 13th, 2018

Please note that Friday, April 13th is a Professional Activity Day. As such, staff will be engaged in activities related to Universal Design for Learning (reducing barriers for learning). As a result, there are no classes for students.

Family Movie Night

Thank you to all families who came out to see *The Secret World of Arrietty* on Thursday, March 8th. We had a great turnout as families settled in to watch the movie and enjoy refreshments before the March Break. Thank you to Mrs. Stephanie Van Der Pryt and her team of volunteers who organized the fundraising event. Over \$ 527.00 was raised. Thank you!



Team and Club Photos for the Yearbook on April 3rd, 2018

We are excited to be working on this year's yearbook! As we continue to prepare the 2017-18 St. Martha Catholic School Yearbook, please note that **Life Touch Photography will be at St. Martha Catholic School to take Team and Club photos on Tuesday, April 3, 2018.** Our yearbook will feature individual student portraits, SK and Grade 8 graduation photos, team and club photos as well as candid photos of events and people who make up the St. Martha Catholic School community.

Please complete the Yearbook Order Form and return it to school by **April 19th**. The yearbook will be delivered in later June. We wish to thank Mrs. Levac, Mrs. Jobin and the Gr. 7/8 students who are leading the way with this year's edition!

St. Martha Catholic School Mini WE Day on May 8th

Our Social Justice Committee is excited to announce that we will be holding auditions for the St. Martha Catholic School Mini WE Day, which will be held on May 8th, 2018! Auditions will be held during the day on April 9th and potentially April 10th if necessary in preparation for St. Martha's Mini WE Day. As in previous years, we are looking for students to share their talents. However, in addition this year, we are looking for students to share inspirational stories about how we can move *from a culture of "me" to a culture of "we"*. Our Learning Goal is quite simple: to teach children that we are all created in the image and likeness of God. In keeping with our Catholic Social Teaching for children, *God made everyone, so we are all brothers and sisters in God's family, wherever we live.* As we shift the focus from me to we, St. Martha staff and students will participate in activities during the month of April that support our understanding of *we*, in community with one another locally and globally as members of God's family. Please note that each audition will be no more than two (2) minutes in length. We are looking forward to this year's display of talent and inspirational stories, reflections and experiences that move us to a greater understanding of our global connections and similarities as brothers and sisters within God's family! All proceeds from our Mini WE Day show will be donated to United World Schools, as we fulfil our commitment to supporting a global need and our Lenten promise to the *Me to WE* Foundation. We wish to thank Ms. Rowe-Ovens, Mrs. Stelter and Mrs. Williams for leading the way as well as all staff and students for their contributions to the **Mini WE Day show on May 8th!**

St Martha Grace Logo Contest

Attention all St Martha's Grade 4-8 students! There is an opportunity for you to use your talents to create St. Martha's very own Grace logo. The winning logo will be featured on the St. Martha web-site, and be framed and displayed in the school. Make sure to enter this contest!

Contest rules:

- Contest is open to all Grade 4-8 students.
- All entries are due on Wednesday April 4th. Classroom teachers will submit all entries with their attendance.
- The word "Grace" must be part of the logo.
- The logo may be in black and white, or in colour.
- The logo must be on an 8.5 x 11 paper.
- Write your name, grade and name of your classroom teacher on the back of your entry.



The winner will be announced at our Mass in April. Good luck everyone!

Raising Resilient Children

Resilience is being able to bounce back from difficult times, setbacks and other significant challenges. It includes being able to deal effectively with pressures, and get through tough times with good outcomes. When your child is faced with a problem, listen to your child. When he/she feels understood, ask the question: What do you think we should do? In this way, we can support and guide our children to make good decisions by thinking through various possibilities and choosing the one that makes good sense to solve the problem.

Primary and Junior EQAO Assessments



Each year, Ontario students in Grade 3 and Grade 6 write province-wide assessments of their literacy and mathematics skills. EQAO's Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, Primary Division (Grades 1-3) and Junior Division (Grades 4-6) are based on the same reading, writing and mathematics curriculum expectations that teachers use to structure students' daily classroom experiences.

Each student who writes an assessment receives an Individual Student Report that describes his or her achievement on the assessment. The results are reported according to the province's four achievement levels. These are the same levels teachers use in the classroom and on report cards to evaluate students' progress. The provincial standard is Level 3, which corresponds to a B- to B+.

Your child's EQAO results are an important, objective indicator of his or her reading, writing and mathematics achievement in relation to the provincial standard. Staff and students at St. Martha have been working hard all year to prepare for the provincial assessments of reading, writing and math. EQAO assessments will take place province-wide during the weeks of **May 22-June 4th, 2018**. Shortly, Grade 3 and 6 Parents/Guardians will receive more information regarding specific dates of the assessments at St. Martha.

Homework Hygiene

As a follow up to our presentation of SCREENAGERS, please note that parents may subscribe to receive tips every



Tuesday to help families manage screen time at home. The following is taken from a SCREENAGER/ Tech Talk Tuesday with

homework tips they call *Homework Hygiene*.

- Do homework after physical activity because the body is physiologically primed to learn more efficiently in this state.
- Start with the task that they least want to do and set the alarm for 10 minutes. That helps get over the hurdle of doing it. Then, after the 10 minutes, coming back to it will be much easier.
- Have a rule that all tech is off by a certain time so homework cannot be done late at night.
- Put phones out of sight and decide when it is reasonable for a tech or phone break.
- Put in place other breaks, not just checking phone, such as playing with a pet, or doing part of a crossword puzzle with them.

Beyond Classrooms Program

We are pleased to announce that Mrs. Couture's Class will be participating in a program called Beyond Classrooms Kingston. This curriculum focused program moves teachers and their classrooms into community museums, art galleries and community sites for an entire week. The host site becomes an extension of the teacher's classroom, where he or she can help students enhance their literacy, critical thinking and problem solving skills, in an authentic environment. During the week of April 23-27th, 2018, Mrs. Couture and her Grade 5-6 Class will be taking the City Bus to the Miller Museum of Geology on Queen's University campus to study and learn for the week. Best wishes for a great week of learning!

"Brush Up on the Facts" campaign urges parents to keep kids' teeth healthy

Good oral health is important for children's self-esteem, sense of well-being and overall health. Dental cavities can cause missed school and may lead to problems with chewing, sleeping, concentrating and learning.



KFL&A Public Health has partnered with the Ontario Association of Public Health Dentistry (OAPHD) and Public Health Units across Ontario to launch an awareness campaign for Oral Health Month. The "Brush Up on the Facts: Keep Kids' Teeth Healthy" campaign is geared to parents and focuses on the impact dental health has on kids' growth and development and the free dental programs and services that are available for eligible kids 0-17. Please visit <http://www.oaphd.on.ca/> or <https://www.kflaph.ca/en/healthy-living/Dental.aspx/> for more information or you can call KFL&A Public Health's Dental Team at 613-549-1232, ext. 1218.

KFL&A Public Health will be at St. Martha for dental screening on April 11th, 2018 for students in Kindergarten and Grade 2.

"Beacon of Hope" Breakfast

Each year the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board hosts a "Beacon of Hope" Breakfast to



celebrate one student from each school who has made significant contributions to the life of his/her school through lived experiences.

These students come to school each day, give it their best and add to the positive climate of our school, while giving witness to our Catholic virtues. This year we are very pleased to recognize Kim Patriarca, a Grade 8 student, who regularly contributes a positive energy to St. Martha! Kim and his family were invited to a breakfast hosted by our Board on March 20th, 2018, when he received recognition for his positive contributions to St. Martha Catholic School. Congratulations, Kim! We are very proud of you!

MSAC: Tenth Year Anniversary

By Emily Clark, Grade 8 student

Do you ever wonder how to make your voice heard about your education? Well, as of 2018, the Minister's Student Advisory Council (MSAC) has reached its tenth year as an operating council. For the most part, not many people know about the council and what happens there. MSAC is a group that is formed every May and is composed of sixty students from every corner of Ontario to talk about student issues and student voice because it's the student's education in the end. Students from grades seven to twelve apply each year to be able to share their stories of speaking up for what they believe is right. This year 400 students applied to be part of MSAC. Since 2008, MSAC has been a platform for many to share their voices and insights at a provincial level. Students share their ideas with their fellow peers and can combine other ideas to build stronger and better ones.

There is a wide spectrum of voices including Indigenous, people who struggle with inclusivity, victims of bullying, military kids, and many more. MSAC also wants to hear from everyone and that includes you. Some achievements that MSAC has achieved

include that grade eight students can start their volunteer hours in the summer before they start grade nine, the start of School Mental Health ASSIST which provides resources to promote student mental health across Ontario, and the start of the Education Equity Action Plan which will help all Ontario students reach their full potential.

In honour of the tenth anniversary, MSAC invited past and present members to a celebration for MSAC's impact on Ontario. This was the first of three events that the new cohort attends. For me, I was finally able to meet my future peers and also meet past members for advice. There was someone from every region of Ontario and it was interesting to hear about other student's stories about speaking up. Besides meeting other students, we all got to meet the Minister of Education Indira Naidoo-Harris, Olympic hurdler Sekou Kaba, and the Premier of Ontario Kathleen Wynne. Kathleen Wynne let us ask her questions about student voice and about student opinions about issues in school system.



There was a panel of past members as well where we got to ask them about their favourite moments when they were in MSAC and how they brought student voice with them in their post-secondary schooling. We did a lot of group collaboration and talked a lot about the future of student voice. We bounced

ideas off of each other and we wrote them down on sticky notes. The sticky notes were then given to the on-site graphic designer who then made a poster with our ideas. This year's theme is student well-being, and we would like to hear your thoughts. As a member of the new MSAC cohort this was a great experience!

Early Learning Kindergarten Registrations

We are now accepting registrations for our Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program for September 2018. Your child is eligible to enroll in the Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten program if he or she will be 4 years of age by December 31, 2018. You can access registration forms by coming into the Office or 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. Parents/Guardians and children who will be beginning school in September are invited to our Kindergarten Open House on Monday, June 11th from 3:15-4:45 p.m. More information will follow.

Did you know the importance of *play-based learning* in the early years?

Play lies at the core of innovation and creativity. It provides opportunities for learning in a context in which children are at their most receptive. Play and academic work are not distinct categories for young children, and learning and doing are also inextricably linked for them (Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program, 2010).

In play, children represent and transform the world around them, providing other children and adults with a window into their thoughts and perceptions, and often helping adults see the world in new ways (BC Early Learning Framework, 2008).

Play expands intelligence, stimulates the imagination, encourages creative problem solving and helps develop confidence, self-esteem, and a positive attitude toward learning (Dr. Fraser Mustard).

Promoting our Mathematical Thinking

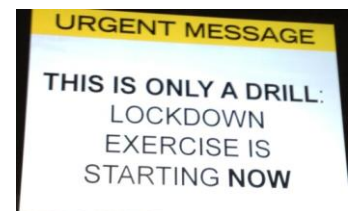
At school, we have been working in all classes to promote each child's mathematical thinking. The ability of students to explain what they know about a math concept and how they know it will enhance a deeper understanding of math concepts.

Further, when students engage in problem solving and communication, they are developing strong links to other learning processes. A problem-solving approach encourages students to reason their way to a solution or a new understanding. As students engage in reasoning, teachers further encourage them to make conjectures and justify solutions, orally and in writing. The communication and reflection that occur during and after the process of problem solving help students not only to articulate and refine their thinking but also to see the problem they are solving from different perspectives. This opens the door to recognizing the range of strategies that can be used to arrive at a solution. By seeing how others solve a problem, students can begin to reflect on their own thinking (a process known as "metacognition") and the thinking of others, and to consciously adjust their own strategies in order to make their solutions as efficient and accurate as possible.

School Lockdown Drill and Practice

It is a requirement of all schools to practice emergency lockdown drills twice a year. This procedure enables all students and staff to respond to an

emergency situation. During a lockdown drill, steps are taken to isolate students and staff from danger by requiring everyone to remain inside the building. We will have



our second practice on April 25th, 2018 in the morning. A letter will be sent home with additional information regarding the practice lockdown.

Easter Liturgies and Masses at Holy Name Church

Holy Thursday - 29 March 2018:

7:00 p.m. Mass

Good Friday - 30 March 2018:

2:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross

3 p.m. Passion of Christ (Readings - Polish, Passion - English)

Holy Saturday, 31 March:

11 and 11:30 a.m. - Blessing of the Food

8 p.m. - Easter Vigil (English and Polish)

Easter Sunday, 1 April:

7 a.m. - Easter Procession (Polish)

10 a.m. - Mass (English)

April is Oral Health Month

Brush upon the facts:
Keep kids' teeth healthy.

Please visit
OAPHD.on.ca or
kflaph.ca/dental for
more information and
answers to your
dental questions,
KFL&A Public
Health's Dental Team at 613-549-1232,
ext. 1218.



KFL&A Public Health's Dental Team at 613-549-1232, ext. 1218

Why Learn French?

“To challenge my brain every day.”

-Darren, ALCDSB Grade 10 Student

Encourage your child to be a lifelong learner of French!

