



# ST. MARTHA

## Catholic School *Newsletter*



**Principal: Karen Moran**

**Vice-Principal: Dianne LaFortune**



## December 2017 Newsletter

### Advent

Advent is about waiting for the birth of Jesus Christ. The gospel readings of Advent make us mindful of the three ways we await Jesus Christ- past, present and future. First, we remember and accompany Mary, Joseph and the newborn, Jesus. Second, we prepare for the celebration of his birth this Christmas so that the day does not pass us by but is instead celebrated with joy. Third, we anticipate the second coming of Jesus Christ, who will come in power and glory for everyone to see and establish the kingdom of power and justice on earth. *(Excerpt from Sacred Readings for Advent and Christmas 2017-2018, Ave Maria Press). Pic of book here*

*On behalf of all staff, we would like to take this opportunity to extend our best wishes to you and your family throughout the blessed season of Advent and Christmas.*

### Faith in Action at St. Martha

*“I by my works, will show you my faith”  
(James 2:18).*

In our Catholic schools we accept the call to be imitators of Christ. Please see below how the students at St. Martha Catholic School are responding to our local community members during the Advent season, demonstrating our ***Faith in Action***. Indeed, we are blessed and have much to be thankful

for, and we look to support those who have less. Thank you to our student-led Social Justice Team and ECO Savers who are taking a leadership role in the collection of goods this Advent Season.

*Friday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017*



*Collection of food during  
Advent until December 20<sup>th</sup>*

**Jingle Bell Walk** in the St. Martha Catholic School neighborhood. The donation of a non-perishable (canned or boxed) food item for St. Vincent de Paul will be collected during Advent in the front foyer until December 20<sup>th</sup>. Please dress warmly for our walk on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Operation Winter Warmth** in support of local homeless shelters by donating socks, toothbrushes and travel size tooth paste during Advent.

*December 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017*



*Christmas crafts prepared by  
Eco Savers and Social Justice  
Team for sale at Christmas  
Market*

**St. Martha Christmas Market** will be open on December 12-13<sup>th</sup> for students to purchase items for members of their family (maximum of 4 purchased items per child). Prices will range from \$0.25 to \$1.00. Proceeds will go to Kingston’s Almost Home. Thank you for your support of this ECO and Social Justice initiative!

*Thank you to the St. Martha Catholic School Community for responding generously during Advent!*

### **Family Advent Mass and Weekday Mass**



In preparation for celebrating the birth of Jesus at Christmas, each class will attend one weekday parish Mass at Holy Name of Jesus Church over the course of December 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. with Father Wes. Students will travel by school bus to the Church to celebrate our faith with members of the community. **Additionally, families are invited to attend our Advent Evening Family Mass, which is scheduled to take place on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Gym.** Please join us for refreshments after Mass in the Performing Arts Room. This Mass is for families and presents a great opportunity for families to gather during the Advent season. We hope you can attend! Thank you to School Council for providing refreshment after Mass.

### **Local Artist's book for Sale**

Mr. Ryan Wade, a member of the St. Martha Catholic School parent community is the illustrator of a children's book called *Sing Me to Sleep Mother Sheep*. The book is suitable for students in Kindergarten to



Grade 3. Mr. Wade will be on hand to sign the book he illustrated before and after our Advent Family Mass on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at St. Martha in the front foyer. The cost of the book is

\$10.00 each. Mr. Wade will generously donate 75% of the profits from St. Martha book sales to our School Council. We wish to thank Mr. Wade for his generosity and we hope that families will consider purchasing his book on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your support!

### **Poinsettia Delivery**

Thank you to all families who purchased poinsettias during the Grade 7-8 fundraising campaign to support year-end activities

**Please note that Poinsettia Orders will be available for pick up from the school on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 2:40-8:00**

**p.m. (Advent Evening Family Mass) and again on Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup> during school hours.** Please

also note that no provisions have been made to keep the poinsettia orders over the weekend. Your

diligence in picking up the poinsettia orders on December 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> is most appreciated. Thank you for your support of the poinsettia fundraising campaign!



### **St. Martha Primary Christmas Concert**

It is that time of year when children love to sing and perform traditional Christmas songs and plays to celebrate the birth of Jesus! Parents and Guardians are invited to the Primary Christmas Concert (Kindergarten to Grade 3-4) on **Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.** in the Gym. Thank you to Mrs. Williams and Classroom Teachers for preparing the children for the concert.

### **School Council Meetings**

Thank you to all parents who come to our monthly meetings in support of student learning and achievement at St. Martha Catholic School. In particular, we wish to thank School Council for their financial

support to repair the floating stones portion of the play structure on the Junior-Intermediate yard. This piece of playground equipment is well used and enjoyed by our students each day! Additionally, thank you to School Council for sponsoring art lessons by Mr. Peirbauer for all classes once throughout the school year. The lessons allow each of our students to complete a challenging art project, with professional materials and expertise. Our next School Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Learning Commons. Everyone is welcome to attend! We wish to thank all families for their support of the Hot Lunch Program, Movie events and other School Council fundraisers that make special purchases possible for our children!

### School Cash Online

Thank you to all families who have made the switch to School Cash Online for payments related to school purchases and events. Please note that all purchases related to School Council events will continue to be collected using cash and paper registration in order to simplify the collection process for this school year. Thank you for your patience as we transition to a cashless system of collection.

### Raising Kids in a Digital Age

Thank you to all families who came out to our Parents Reaching Out evening for the viewing of SCREENAGERS, a documentary that examined the impact of technology on children and families. We had a great turn out of parents and children! Click the link below to register for Tech Talk Tuesdays, a resource to assist families manage technology limits and boundaries time at home. By registering at <https://www.screenagersmovie.com>, you will receive an email each Tuesday with tips for managing tech time. Thank you to Rosalynn St. Germain and members of School Council for hosting the evening. Your support is greatly appreciated.

### Supporting the Mathematics Program at Home

Parents often ask how they can support and strengthen their children's math readiness skills at home. *Mathies* is an interactive home support that provides hands-on activities so that parents, guardians, caregivers and other family members can help support the development of

mathematics knowledge and skills for Kindergarten to Grade 6 learners. It includes tips as well as practical activities that can be used at home and in your local community. Enjoy learning together to help strengthen your child's mathematics knowledge and skills at

<http://mathies.ca/activitiesTogether.html> .

Thank you for your continued support of developing life-long learners in math!

### Zones of Regulation

All staff and students at St. Martha have been introduced to and are using a resource called "Zones of Regulation" to identify and recognize a variety of emotions that children experience. Zones range from Red, Yellow, Green and Blue, each with different feelings.

It is



important to reinforce that all emotions are OK. The lessons are designed to help students identify when they are in a different zone (state of alertness, mood or feeling) as well as learn about how to use tools (calming techniques or thinking strategies) to regulate the zone they are in. In addition, parents and caregivers might be interested to know that you can purchase an app from the Zones of Regulation website to access an interactive tool to assist in developing real life self-regulation skills. Check out the Zones of Regulation program at: <http://www.zonesofregulation.com/index.html>.

Please ask your son or daughter to tell you what they know about their emotions and how to regulate them for calm, alert learning in school. If you have any questions, please contact the school to learn more.

### **FreshGrade Digital Portfolio Consent Forms**

Students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 have begun to create a digital portfolio using [FreshGrade](#), an online portfolio application that students and staff will use to upload learning artifacts to share with families. The artifacts will serve to start a conversation with families about their child's learning at school and help children to identify their learning interests and preferences. Throughout this year, we will explore using this tool to share student learning with families. We look forward to learning and sharing together. Thank you to all families for returning the Consent Form to your child's teacher. If you have any questions and concerns, please contact the school.

### **Every School Day Counts!**



fact, missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.

Did you know that starting in Kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school? In

Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks. Being late to school may lead to poor attendance. Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so that children learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and at work. For more information and tips for families, visit [www.attendanceworks.org](http://www.attendanceworks.org).

### **Family Movie Night –December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.**

Get set for a Family Movie Night on Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Gym. Thank you to Stephanie Van Der Prys and School Council for hosting this popular community builder. Please note that admission is \$3.00 each or \$10.00 per family. A canteen will be available to purchase food. All families are invited to attend!



### **Accessible Parking Spaces**

Please note that our school has accessible parking spaces on the right side of school and in the rear parking lot of the school. These spaces are reserved for drivers or passengers who require accessible parking spaces. Please note that only vehicles with an accessible parking permit are permitted to use these spaces. As such, we remind parents/caregivers to please respect the accessible parking signage on these spaces so that they are always available to those who require these designated spaces. Thank you for your attention to this reminder.



### **Social Justice Update**

The Social Justice Committee (SJC) has had a very positive turnout this year! On

Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, nineteen of our students accepted the opportunity to participate in WE day in Ottawa. Students were able to listen to powerful messages about self-acceptance, anti-bullying, and being leaders of today. They have come back with energy and enthusiasm to bring positive change to the world around them in small and large capacities. Thank you to Mrs. Rowe-Ovens for co-ordinating this opportunity for our students.

### **SNOW DAYS!**



On snow days, please listen to the local radio stations or check the Tri Board website to know about bus cancellations. We will also post any cancellations on our school website and the answering machine. If buses do not run in the morning, this means that they **will NOT run** at the end of the day. As the school is very busy on these mornings we may not be able to call you back.

**IMPORTANT:** If your child takes a bus, you do not need to call. If your child does not take a bus to school and is staying home, we DO NEED a phone call regarding their absence on a snow day.

**REMINDER:** Even though buses may be cancelled, schools remain open and instruction continues.

You can also go onto the Triboard Website, <https://triboard.ca> and request to be notified by email of any bus cancellations to our school on the exact day.

### **Hot Lunches & Cancelled Buses**

Please be reminded that if buses are cancelled on a scheduled Hot Lunch day, the hot lunch program will go ahead as the

school is still open. If your child is ever absent on a lunch day, you can pick your child's lunch up on that day, as we have limited resources to store leftovers for the next day. The only time hot lunch will be cancelled is if the school is closed – a decision made by the Algonquin & Lakeshore Catholic District School Board. Please check our website for posted notices.

## **Learning French is fun!**

*“I really enjoyed the French trip because we got to use our French skills in a restaurant. I also thought the dialogues were fun because they got you talking to other people so that you could build up those skills.”*

-Emma, ALCDSB Grade 9 Student

*Encourage your child to be a lifelong learner of French!*

