



ST. MARTHA

Catholic School *Newsletter*



Principal: Karen Moran

Vice-Principal: Dianne LaFortune

June 2018 Newsletter

Prayer for Fathers

God our Father, We give you thanks and praise for fathers young and old.

We pray for young fathers, newly embracing their vocation; May they find courage and perseverance to balance work, family and faith in joy and sacrifice.

We pray for our own Fathers around the world whose children are lost or suffering; May they know that the God of compassion walks with them in their sorrow.

We pray for men who are not fathers but still mentor and guide us with fatherly love and advice.

We remember fathers, grandfathers, and great grandfathers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love.

Amen

Year End Reflection and Farewell

As we reflect on another school year at St. Martha Catholic School, we are reminded that each member of our school community is a gift from God, formed in the image and likeness of God. In our work together, we

are called to nurture each learner to become an effective communicator, reflective and creative thinker, and self-directed, responsible, life-long learner. We make this journey with God, respecting the unique and sacred nature of each person.

Faith, love and service are demonstrated each day as students, staff, parents and volunteers at St. Martha Catholic School contribute to our school community, using their gifts and talents to demonstrate our year-long theme of grace in a way that enriches our school community. We are grateful Lord, that Your Grace is enough!

Highlights from 2017-2018 include the continuing development of the Mavericks Room, I Care Week activities, ECO Schools program, Zumba lessons, Mini WE Day (shifting the focus from Me to We), and student participation in a variety of extra-curricular activities every day. All members of our school community are challenged to demonstrate our mission statement, which calls us to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.

Students should be proud of the good work they have done to meet the demands of curriculum expectations and to reach their full potential on meaningful assignments. In June we look forward to continued engaging instruction as well as field trips, graduation and year end celebrations, while maintaining consistent routines to manage the excitement.

Thank you to parents and caregivers who have worked closely with the classroom team to support your child's success at



school this year. Ongoing communication with the school is necessary for individual student success. We look forward to continued student success and well-being, celebrating student achievements well into June.

It has been a pleasure to serve the St. Martha Catholic School community during the past five years. I will miss the strong collaborative team and school spirit of the St. Martha Catholic School Community and the many positive home-school relationships we have developed together over the years. We wish all students and families well as they continue their learning journey at St. Martha with a very talented and dedicated staff. We will be thinking of you as we transition to new school communities over the summer and into September! Best wishes for a lovely summer break at the end of June!

Karen Moran and Dianne LaFortune

Staffing Update

We are currently in the process of finalizing staffing for 2018-2019. Thank you to families who have shared information about potential moves as well as new registrations. We anticipate that our staffing needs will continue to change throughout the summer. We say “Congratulations” and “Farewell” to Ms. Ranieri on her upcoming retirement. We thank Ms. Ranieri for her many contributions to the St. Martha Catholic School community over the years and we wish her much happiness and fulfillment as she takes on hobbies and activities in her retirement! Farewell to Ms. Overvelde who will be joining the staff of St. Thomas More in September. We thank her for her many years of contribution and we wish her well as she transfers to a new school community. We say best wishes to Mrs. Ryan and Mr. Coulter who are taking a planned leave during the next school year. As we welcome back Mrs. Harris as the Itinerant Arts Teacher, we say thank you to Mrs. Williams, who will be moving on to another assignment. Thank you and farewell is

extended to Mme Hetherington-Stinson who will be moving on to other assignments in our Board. We welcome back Mme. Sullivan as primary French as a Second Language Teacher.

As we do not yet know the number of Educational Assistance who will be returning to St. Martha in the fall, we wish to extend a big “Thank you” to the following EAs who have served the St. Martha community this year: Ms. Gottlieb, Mrs. Doyle, Mrs. Roberts, Ms. Clayton, Mrs. Marques, Mrs. Brill, Mrs. Buell and Ms. Swayze. We look forward to our paths crossing again!

June Mass

Our June Mass is scheduled to take place on Friday, June 15th, 2018 at 9:15 a.m. in the Gym. Everyone is welcome to attend.



School Council Meeting

Our last School Council Meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, June 19th, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Learning Commons. Everyone is welcome to attend. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all Parents/Guardians who come out to our monthly meetings in support of student achievement and well-being at St. Martha. It has been a real pleasure working with parents/guardians on projects that benefit all of our students. Thank you to the 2017-2018 St. Martha Catholic School Council Executive: Jocelyn Erb, Marsha Valente, Michelle Vieira, Stephanie Van Der Pryt and Tina Evans for their work, commitment and contributions to School Council this year in support of St. Martha students. It has been a pleasure working with you!

StopGap Fundraisers

Thank you to all families who have supported the StopGap Foundation through participation in the Little Caesar Pizza



Kit Orders and Milkshake Orders. Please note that Milkshake orders are due Friday, June 1st and will be delivered for lunch time every Tuesday in June. Please also note that pizza orders will be available for pick up at the school on June 12th from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. There are no provisions to keep the pizza frozen beyond the 6:00 p.m. pick up. Thank you in advance for making arrangements to pick up Pizza Orders on June 12th.



Me to We Talent Show

Thank you to all families and friends who came out to support our Me to We Talent Show! Staff and students should be very proud of their work and performances! It was a delight to watch the rich talent and efforts of our students as they performed to make our world a community of “We”. In total \$629.15 was raised through the sale of baked goods and seeds and was donated to United World Schools and Almost Home. Well done!

St. Martha Cross Country Results

St. Martha’s Cross Country Teams had an excellent day at the Board-wide meet on May 14th, capturing the trophy for overall winning school of the day again this year! Many of our students achieved their



personal best at the meet due to hard work and practice! Congratulations to the following students and teams who placed in the top ten in their division during the meet:

Tyke Boys: 1st Place- Jonah McCormick
Tyke Girls: 2nd Place- Erika Oleschuck
Pee Wee Boys: 2nd Place- Brett Van Der Pryt
Pee Wee Boys Team won 1st Place: Brett Van Der Pryt, Jake Hebert-Potter, Tanner Hawkins and Andrew Dowling
Pee Wee Girls: 6th Place- Taylor Stelter and 10th Place- Renee Schaule
Pee Wee Girls Team won 1st Place: Taylor Stelter, Renee Schaule, Jillian Mitchell and Lucy Meleschuk
Bantam Boys: 8th Place- Julian Gonzalez
Bantam Girls: 9th Place- Mauve Schaule
Thank you to parents who came out to cheer on our athletes and to all Staff who helped to train and support our athletes!

St. Martha Track and Field Day

Thank you to Mr. Couture for co-ordinating our upcoming Track and Field Day for students in Grades 3-8 on Friday, June 1st. The rain date is Wednesday, June 6th. Thank you to the staff for supervising and running



the events to prepare for our Board-wide meet on June 18th (Tyke and Pee Wee) and June 19th (Bantam) divisions. We look forward to a great day of school spirit and athletic competition. Parents are welcome to attend.

Volunteer Appreciation

We value the many contributions of our volunteers at St. Martha and are grateful for the experience they provide to our students every day! Volunteers are invited to a Volunteer Appreciation on Friday, June 15th, 2018 in the Learning Commons from 2:00-2:40 p.m. We are hopeful that you will be able to drop in to enjoy some refreshments and a social.



Spring Carnival: Thursday, June 14th from 4:00-7:00 p.m.

A big "Thank you" is extended to Rosalynn St. Germain and the organizing committee for co-ordinating the St. Martha Spring Carnival, which will be held on Thursday, June 14th from 4:00-7:00 p.m. A number of dedicated volunteers have worked collectively to bring the Spring Carnival forward again this year. Come out and enjoy BBQ hot dogs, hamburgers, baked goods, cold drinks and more for the whole family! Thank you in advance to families for their donation of baked goods for the Bake Table, cakes for the Cake Walk and items for the Silent Auction tables. Your generosity is much appreciated at this busy time of year! Baked goods must be nut free and can be dropped off at the school until 5:00 p.m. on June 13th or anytime on June 14th. Thank you for your contributions!

Again this year, all classes are invited to contribute items that will be used to make theme baskets which will be used for our silent auction. Donated items will be collected at any time, up until Monday, June 11th. Your support is greatly appreciated by School Council!

Basket Theme	Classes
"Books!"	Ms. Smallegange and Mrs. Stelter
"Summer Fun" (e.g. sand toys, towels, sunscreen, bug spray, bubbles, etc.)	Ms. Ranieri
"Movies Theme"	Mr. Couture, Mrs. Couture, and Mrs. Ryan
"Chocolate Lovers!"	Ms. Burns, Ms. Overvelde and Mrs. St-Jacques
"Gift Card Fun!"	Mr. Pitts
"Summer Fun ~ Beach"	Mr. Kenney, Mr. Coulter and Mrs. McLeod
"Lego!"	Mrs. Murphy and Mrs. Hepburn

If you are able to give just one hour of help during the Spring Carnival, please fill out and return the form that went home last week or call the school Office. Thank you! We are looking forward to a great evening of St. Martha spirit for the whole family!

Parenting in the Digital Age

Dr. Wendy Craig and Irene Hong of Queen's University invite **parents of students in Grades 6, 7, and 8** whose child participated in the *Relationships and Aggression in Youth Study (RAYS)* to participate in an online study about technology use and parenting in the digital age. This study will take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete and can be done from anywhere with an Internet connection. We would ask that you complete the survey once now, and once more in 6-7 months. To

thank you for your time and effort, we are offering parents a \$5 gift card of your choice to Starbucks or Amazon.ca at each time point for completing the survey.

If you are interested in participating, please visit the following link by copy-pasting it into a web browser:

bit.ly/digitalparent_SM

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about the study, feel free to contact the principal investigator, Irene Hong at i.hong@queensu.ca. Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,
Irene Hong, M.Sc. & Wendy Craig, Ph.D.

Hot Lunch and Milk Programs

Thank you again to Nancy Watters, Serra Russell and a committed group of volunteers who work each week to bring the hot lunch program to all children who order throughout the year. This is a big job and well appreciated by our families! Similarly, we say a big “Thank you” to Mrs. Jobin and Mrs. Leblancq for co-ordinating the Milk Program each day at St. Martha along with volunteers. Again, your services are greatly appreciated by many families who enjoy the benefits of milk each day at school! If you are able to volunteer with either the Hot Lunch or Milk Programs next year, please call the school. Training and materials will be provided. Thank you for your consideration of taking on these important services for our school community!



Kindergarten Open House- June 11th

Parents/Guardians and children who will be beginning school in September are invited to our Kindergarten Open House on June 11th from 3:15-5:15 p.m. A number of community



partners will be available to consult with regarding services they offer to young children (KFL&A Public Health, Pittsburgh Public Library, Ontario Early Years, Occupational Therapists from CCAC and CDC, and Tri Board Transportation (bus ride). Looking forward to seeing our newest students on June 11th!

Grade 8 Graduation

Our Grade 8 Graduation is scheduled to take place on Monday, June 25th, 2018. We are pleased to gather as a Catholic faith community for a Prayer Celebration at 5:30 p.m. in the Gym. Following the Prayer Celebration, there will be a Graduation Ceremony and refreshments before a boat cruise that sets sail from 8:00-10:00 p.m. In the coming days, all Grade 8 Parents/Guardians will receive an information letter with all of the exact details. If you do not receive this letter, please ask your son/daughter to bring one home or stop by the Office to pick one up. Looking forward to celebrating the fine accomplishments of our Grade 8 students after many years of hard work and school spirit at St. Martha!



June Provincial Report Cards

Please note that June Provincial Report Cards will be sent home with all Kindergarten-Grade 8 students on Thursday, June 28th. If for some reason your child is not able to attend school on June 28th, your child's report card will be mailed to the address we have on file. If you are moving, please provide us with a forwarding address so that you receive the report card. Thank you for your attention to this detail.



Class Lists for 2018/2019

Beginning shortly, we will begin to prepare “tentative” class lists for September. The lists are tentative because a number of current students leave in June, and also because new students register in late August for September. As families move during the summer months, we continue to juggle class groupings and class lists up to and including the first day of classes. Each year we encounter unexpected last minute changes. It is therefore impossible to provide class lists to anyone before the first day of school. Thank you for your understanding.

Class lists will be posted on the recess doors of the school the morning of Tuesday, September 4th, 2018 for Grades 1-8. The number of teachers on staff is determined by the number of students. There will continue to be straight and split grades again, but this will all be finalized only after we know how many students are actually here on the first day of classes.

With the above in mind, should any parent wish to share information with us that would assist in our class list deliberations, please send a letter to my attention noting the pertinent information (e.g., specific learning needs, current assessments, learning style or preference). Please remember that any information you provide will be considered in addition to other reasons at the school, such as gender balance, ability balance, class size, individual learning styles and peer dynamics. Our first priority is to ensure that we are fair to everyone. Please take note that requests for specific teachers or friendship groupings are not appropriate as the other considerations noted above must receive priority. Any written information from parents needs to be received no later than Friday, June 8th to the office. Thank you for your consideration of and attention to this matter.

The TD Summer Reading Club returns to your Public Library

The Kingston Frontenac Public Library is delighted to welcome back the TD Summer Reading Club (TDSRC)! This summer with the TDSRC, children are encouraged to dive into areas that already fascinate them, dabble in others for new inspiration and discover that their passions have the potential to transform them, their friends and their world.

All kids participating in the club will receive a special bilingual notebook to track their progress, a web access code for the virtual club on the TDSRC website, stickers, and the chance to win prizes. Kids 12 and younger can participate in the TDSRC anytime, anywhere – at the KFPL, at home, online, on the road where their summer takes them, or at any of the 2,000 participating public libraries in Canada. KFPL also provides materials in alternative formats, such as audio or Braille.



On June 23rd, join us for the club’s exciting launch at the Isabel Turner to catch a performance of *The Man Whose Mother Was a Pirate* by the Thousand Islands Playhouse. This performance is one of the many free activities that KFPL will provide over the course of the summer. This summer’s lineup includes: LEGO Club, Puppet Show Extravaganza tours, Stories in the Park and, of course, the very popular "Live @ the Library" series. "Live"

performers include: musicians, artists, live animals, and much more!

Including “Live @ the Library” shows, the Library will be offering over 200 *free* programs and events for children during June, July and August across the city and in Sydenham and Sharbot Lake. For more information about Live at the Library performers and other events, pick up the summer edition of *What’s Happening*, call your local branch, or visit the Programs and Events section of the Library’s website at www.kfpl.ca.

Learning French is Fun!

“I love my teacher because she teaches French.”

Charlotte, ALCDSB Grade 1 Student

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

