



ST. MARTHA

Catholic School *Newsletter*



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March 2018 Newsletter

A Lenten Message from Pope Francis

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Once again, the Pasch of the Lord draws near! In our preparation for Easter, God in his providence offers us each year the season of Lent as a “sacramental sign of our conversion”. Lent summons us, and enables us, to come back to the Lord wholeheartedly and in every aspect of our life. With this message, I would like again this year to help the entire Church experience this time of grace anew, with joy and in truth. *Excerpt from Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for Lent 2018*

Lent is a time lasting 40 days, during which we prepare for the greatest mysteries of our faith: the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. It is a time to think and pray, make sacrifices, share ourselves generously with others, do good deeds and think more about Jesus and His invitation to follow him more closely. May Jesus be our guide on our Lenten journey toward Easter.

March Mass

During the season of Lent, all classes are scheduled to attend the 9:00 a.m. weekday Mass at Holy Name Church on March 6, 7 or 8th. Thank you to Fr. Wes for hosting us at our parish Church during Lent. In addition, students will have the opportunity to attend confession with Fr. Wes at school after the weekday Masses next week as well.



As usual, students will prepare for the sacrament of reconciliation in class at school.

Grade 8 Confirmation Retreat and Graduation Dates

As our Grade 8 students prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on April 12th, Confirmation candidates will participate in a Confirmation Retreat Day on Tuesday, March 27th, 2018. Students will travel by bus to Holy Name Church to attend Mass and receive the sacrament of reconciliation before heading over to Rideau Acres for the retreat. Thank you to our Intermediate Teachers for preparing special faith based and reflective activities that provide meaningful preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Looking ahead to June, our Grade 8 Graduation is scheduled to take place on Monday, June 25th at approximately 5:30 p.m. More information will be forthcoming closer to the date.

School Council Meetings

Thank you to all parents who come out to our School Council meetings in support of student achievement and well-being. This month, School Council is hosting a Family Movie Night on Thursday, March 8th at 6:00 p.m. featuring *The Secret World of Arrietty*. All families are welcome to attend!

Our next 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!

Social Justice Committee Lenten Campaign in support of United World Schools

As part of St. Martha's commitment to being a "Me to We" school, our Social Justice Team we will be focusing on a global charity called United World Schools during Lent. Through United World Schools, we have been paired with a high school in the UK to support a school in Myanmar (also known as Burma, located in Southeast Asia) through financial contributions to build resources to help educate children there. As our Lenten almsgiving project, St. Martha students will be focusing on the collection funds for our school in Myanmar through a mini WE Day in the spring. Our mini WE Day will highlight the students' talents and inspirational stories. WE look forward to showcasing some of St. Martha's finest – stay tuned for more information.

Term One Provincial Report Cards



Term One Report Cards were issued on Tuesday, February 20th, 2018. If you have not already done so, please sign and return the last page as well as the

Report Card envelope for use again in June. As always, if you would like to meet with your child's teacher to discuss the Report Card, please call the school or use the Agenda to make an appointment.

Doing My Best Work

As we head into Term Two of learning at St. Martha, students are encouraged to use all available resources at school to be successful life-long learners. Students are invited to reflect on the following strategies.

I can:

- ✓ Use Learning Goals to help me to know what I am learning about
- ✓ Include all the Success Criteria in my work

- ✓ Notice what counts in good quality work
- ✓ Use my inquiry skills to learn more about something
- ✓ Share my math thinking and reasoning with others in a variety of ways (proportional, spatial and algebraic thinking and reasoning)
- ✓ Accept that there could be more than one answer when I collaborate with other learners
- ✓ Choose a way to show my learning based on my strengths (poster, drama, report, brochure, film)
- ✓ Use technology to practice and showcase my learning so that others can learn too
- ✓ Use feedback from teachers, peers and myself to bump up my work and improve my learning
- ✓ Notice the work of others and celebrate their accomplishments
- ✓ Take pride in my learning and achievements

Public Speaking

Well done to all students who participated in the Public Speaking event in the Gym on February 14th. A wide variety of topics were



researched and presented with passion, confidence and humor. Congratulations to the following students who were invited to attend the Royal Canadian Legion Public Speaking Contest: Xavier Thiele, Emily Clarke, Nathan Hiscock, Abby Ows and Mauve Schaule. Well done!

OFIP After-School Tutoring for Grade 3 and 6 Students

All students in Grades 3 and 6 are invited to take part in a free after school tutoring program aimed at reinforcing skills in reading, writing and math with focused

intervention strategies. Thank you to instructors Mrs. Ryan and Mrs. Williams, for offering the program. If you are interested in having your son or daughter participate in the tutoring program, please call the school for more information. Funding for the tutoring program is made possible by the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat.

Our Learning Journey

As we prepare our students to demonstrate their best work and thinking during daily reading response activities at school and at home, please know that our students will be showing what they know. Students will practice:

- ✓ Understanding explicitly stated information and ideas (use information from the text to support your answer)
- ✓ Understanding implicitly stated information and ideas (use information from the text and your own ideas to support your answer)
- ✓ Making connections between information and ideas in the reading selection and personal knowledge and experience in your answer

Parents can practice at home too. After reading a story, ask your son or daughter to retell the story in his or her own words. Then ask your son or daughter to determine what the author's message is. In other words, why do you think the author wrote the story? What does the author want us to learn or think more about? Whose voice or perspective is presented? Whose voice or perspective is not presented? How has the author used words or images to communicate the message? Does what you read change what you think about a topic? Create a daily time to read together. Children respond well to routine, so if possible, make reading together something that you and your child look forward to every day. Here are some ideas about how to make the most of your time together:

- Set aside a special time each day when you can give your full attention to reading with your child
 - Find out what your child is passionate about and learn as much as possible about this topic
 - Go to the public library together or browse on line together
 - Use books featuring your child's favorite character from a specific T.V. show
 - Make use of websites from home or the public library
 - Include a spot for games, puzzles, comics or software
- (Tips from Reading and Writing with Your Child, Kindergarten to Grade 6; A Parent Guild; Ministry of Education)

You can motivate your child's math learning too by supporting math homework. The following simple steps convey an important message that math is important and math homework is valuable: have a math homework routine, be available to help, be relaxed and positive, keep homework time free of distractions, learn from mistakes and learn from each other as you continue to work on math together!

Early Learning Kindergarten Program

It is not too early to begin to think about registering your child for Kindergarten in September 2018! We are now accepting Kindergarten registrations. Your child is eligible to enroll in the Early Learning Kindergarten program if he or she will be 4 years of age by December 31st, 2018. Registration forms are now available at our office.

The importance of play-based learning in the early years

- Children make sense of the world around them through play. As

Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program



children investigate and experiment with materials and interact with one another through play, they establish skills in problem solving, social competence, self-regulation and communication (Ontario's Early Year's Framework).

- Play expands intelligence, stimulates the imagination, encourages creative problem solving, and helps develop confidence, self-esteem and a

Archdiocese of Kingston: Totus Tuus Summer Camp & Steubenville Toronto Youth Conference

The Archdiocese of Kingston is offering two exciting events this summer: Totus Tuus summer camp and the Steubenville Toronto Youth Conference.

Totus Tuus:

The second annual Totus Tuus Catholic summer camp will include skits, songs, games, and inspiring teaching. The camp will operate out of three locations within the Archdiocese and will offer programs for both elementary and secondary students. The following camps will be available to students in the ALCDSB:

July 8th -13th St. Paul the Apostle Church, Kingston

July 15th - 20th St. Paul the Apostle Church, Kingston

July 29th – Aug. 3rd St. Michael the Archangel Church, Belleville

The day camp will be offered to students entering grades 1 to 6 in the fall of 2018 and will run from 9 am – 2:30 pm. There will also be an opportunity for extended care, if required. The evening program is offered to students who will be entering grades 7 to 12 in the fall of 2018 and will run from 7 pm – 9 pm. Visit

www.kingstonvocations.com/totus-tuus for additional information.

Steubenville Toronto:

The Steubenville Toronto Catholic Youth Conference will take place on July 13-15, 2018 at the UOIT campus in Oshawa, and is open to students currently in grades 8-12. Bus transportation will be provided by the Archdiocese. Registration can be completed at

<https://goo.gl/forms/FGfHcac5LzQ9lwVo2>.

In addition to the weekend conference, LEAD, the Steubenville leadership program, will be offered to students the week before the conference. Students interested in LEAD can visit www.steubenvilletoronto.com for more information.

Easter Liturgies and Masses at Holy Name Church

Holy Thursday - 29 March 2018:

7:00 pm, Mass

Good Friday - 30 March 2018:

2:30 pm, Stations of the Cross

3 pm, Passion of Christ (Readings - Polish, Passion - English)

Holy Saturday, 31 March:

11 and 11:30 am - Blessing of the Food

8 pm - Easter Vigil (English and Polish)

Easter Sunday, 1 April:

7 am - Easter Procession (Polish)

10 am - Mass (English)

Why Learn French?

“I think it’s important to continue studying French because it gives us more opportunities. It looks good on job applications and post-secondary school applications. When we travel to French speaking places, we can converse with others and ask for help if needed.”

-Chloé, ALCDSB Grade 11 Student

Encourage your child to be a lifelong learner of French!

