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|  **ST. MARTHA** **Catholic School** *Newsletter* |

**Principal: Karen Moran Vice-Principal: Dianne LaFortune**

**November 2017 Newsletter**



*Dear God,*

*Help us to devote our whole life and thought and energy to the task of making peace, praying always for the inspiration and the power to fulfill the destiny for which we were created.*

*What did Jesus say about Peace?*

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God (Matthew 5:9)*

*Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you (John 20:19)*

*Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you*

*(2 Corinthians 13:11)*

*And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. (Colossians 3:15)*

**Liturgical Celebration**

Please join us for the November

Mass scheduled for Friday, November 17th  at 9:15 a.m. in the Gym. All are welcome!

**Family Mass**

Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend our Advent Family Mass which will take place on Thursday, December 14th

at 6:00 p.m. in the school gymnasium. Let us together celebrate the true meaning of Christmas as a school community.

**We Remember**

Our Remembrance Day Ceremony is scheduled for Friday, November 10th, 2017. Our thoughts and prayers will recognize the brave men and women who serve our country in areas of conflict and in peace-keeping missions, both past and present. We would like to make a commemorative display in the front foyer. Students are invited to bring in a photo of any family member who has or is serving in the military. Please write the student’s first and last name on the back so that it can be returned. Photos should be brought into the office by November 8th. Our students will be attending a Remembrance Day Ceremony at 10:40 a.m. in the Gym on November 10th. Please join us if you can.

**School Council Meeting**

Please join us for our next St. Martha Catholic School Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 28th, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the Learning Commons. All are welcome to attend! A special *Thank You* is extended to Mrs. Ellen Tseng-Farr and members of School Council for hosting a fun-filled Halloween Dance for our students on October 31st. Thank you for your ongoing support of our students!

**School Cash Online**

Thank you to all families who have made the switch to School Cash Online for making school related purchases. School Cash Online remains the preferred ALCDSB’s method of payment for all school fees. If you have not done so already, please visit <https://alcdsb.schoolcashonline.com/> to set up a profile so that purchases can be made easily when the time comes. Thank you for making the switch to School Cash Online!

**Your Child’s Digital Portfolio (Kindergarten to Grade 6)**

As you are aware, regular and ongoing use of the Fresh Grade app remains our Board and school’s commitment to fulfilling Ontario’s Ministry of Education mandate to create pathways to success for all students. Maintaining a digital portfolio is designed to help students achieve their personal goals, and become competent, successful, and contributing members of society using an evolving and contemporary means of communication with Parents/Guardians.

As part of a student centered approach to growing and learning, the goal of using digital portfolios with our students is for students to reflect on the following four areas of their learning as they design personal pathways to success:

* Knowing Yourself
* Exploring Opportunities
* Making Decisions and Setting Goals
* Achieving Goals and Making Transitions

In the coming weeks, students will begin to share some of their work and learning from class with you using the Fresh Grade app. If you have not done so already (we are using Consents signed last year), please sign the Fresh Grade Consent Form and provide your email address so that you will be notified when your child or your child’s Teacher has posted work and learning to share with you. You may request a Consent Form from your child(ren)’s Teacher. Parents/Guardians may wish to make a supportive comment to their children, recognizing effort and accomplishments at school. Please note that while the email component is a necessary feature to make the Fresh Grade app function, Teachers may not respond by email, preferring to use the Agenda, telephone or meeting for communication with Parents/Guardians. Thank you for your continued interest in your child(ren)’s work and learning at St. Martha!

**School Safety Drill**

In addition to annual Fire and Lock Down Drills, all schools in ALCDSB are now required to have evacuation procedures in place in the event that a bomb threat is made to the school or to the immediate area surrounding the school.  The Bomb Threat Protocol would be initiated when the safety of the school population is threatened by circumstance, the safety of the school is in jeopardy because of a threat to the surrounding area or the Board executes the steps of its Response Guide because of a local or Board implicated threat.  At St. Martha Catholic School, our procedure would include classes leaving the school building through fire line procedures and waiting for further instructions from Kingston Police.  Bus transportation may be arranged for accessing shelter furthest from the school.  From there, Parents/Guardians would be notified by phone, radio and/or social media to pick up their children.  Each year, we are required to practice this drill.  Our first Bomb Threat Protocol practice will take place on Tuesday, November 21st at approximately 1:00 p.m. with our School Community Officer, Constable Carolyn Gauthier of Kingston Police.  Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

**St. Martha ECO Savers News**

Below is a picture of all the vegetables collected from the St. Martha vegetable garden and donated to Martha’s Table this fall! Thank you Ms. Clayton and the ECO Saver students for helping to harvest it!



OurEco Savers Team is looking for donations of bulbs to plant in the front garden. The added flowers will greatly enhance the look of the garden. The Eco Savers Team will plant the bulbs this fall and wait in anticipation for the beauty of the flowers in the spring. All donations welcome!

**St. Martha Christmas Market**

Again this year, the ECO Savers and the Social Justice student groups will be bringing forward the St. Martha Christmas Market on December 12th & 13th. We will be collecting donations of gently used items that could be used as gifts for students to purchase for family members for Christmas. All donations can be dropped off between November 22nd-28th. Items will be for sale, ranging in price for $0.25 to $1.00. In addition, we are also looking for donations of paper bags, name tags, newspaper and wrapping paper for Christmas gift wrapping. Thank you in advance for your donations of gently used items for sale at the Christmas Market as well as wrapping supplies. We look forward to a great Market! Please watch for a separate letter to come home shortly.

**Raising Kids in a Digital World**

Get set for an evening where the spotlight is on raising children in a digital world while promoting health and well-being among our youth with the screening of SCREENAGERS.

Award-winning SCREENAGERS probes into the vulnerable corners of family life, including the director's own, and depicts the struggles over social media, video games, academics and internet addiction. Through surprising insights from authors and brain scientists, solutions emerge on how we can empower kids to best navigate the digital world.

This documentary is suitable viewing for ages 10 and up. However, all school age children can attend! Our Queen’s University Teacher Candidates will host math games for younger school age children in the Performing Arts Room. Light refreshments will be served upon arrival.

Thank you in advance to Mrs. Rosalynn St. Germain for co-ordinate the evening. Funding for this event is made possible through the Ministry of Education *Parents’ Reaching Out* Grant and is hosted by St. Martha School Council. Please RSVP to the event by returning the tear off portion of the flyer or by calling the school. We are looking forward to a great night of learning together on November 15th!

**Tech Fest 2017**

Please see the attached flyer highlighting a conference on how technology promotes student learning in K-12 on November 4th, 2017 at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School. The conference is sponsored by Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board and runs from 9:00-3:00 p.m., beginning with registration and breakfast at 8:00 a.m. Parents, Students and Staff are welcome to attend!

**Grade 7-8 Poinsettia Fundraiser**

In an effort to assist is raising funds to reduce costs associated with year-end activities in the Intermediate Division, a fundraiser has been organized to sell poinsettias in time for a Christmas delivery.

The poinsettias will be delivered to the school for pick up on December 14th from 2:40-7:45 p.m. Our Advent Evening Family Mass takes place on December 14th at 6:00 p.m. in the Gym. Additionally, you may pick up poinsettia orders on December 15th during school hours. Please note that there is no provision to keep the poinsettia orders over the weekend, as they may need to be watered. If you would like to support the intermediate fundraiser by purchasing poinsettias, please call the school and an order form will be sent home with your child. Thank you to Mrs. McGriskin for co-ordinating the fundraiser. As well we thank families for participating in the Grade 7-8 Poinsettia Fundraiser and for your ongoing support of students at St. Martha.

**Volleyball Tournaments**



 Good luck to students currently participating on school teams. System-wide volleyball tournaments will be held as follows:

Junior Boys: Nov. 8th - Mrs. St-Jacques

Junior Girls: Nov. 9th – Mrs. Levac

Senior Girls: Nov. 14th – Mr. Couture

Senior Boys: Nov. 16th- Mr. Coulter

**Social Justice Update**

A very dedicated and compassionate group of students from Grades 5-8 along with staff supervisors Mrs. Rowe-Ovens will be traveling to Ottawa on November 15th to participate in WE Day. WE Day combines the energy of a live concert with the inspiration of incredible stories of leadership and change. This stadium-sized event—held in 14 cities in the US, Canada and the UK—brings together world-renowned speakers and performers with tens of thousands of youth to celebrate the power of service.  Tickets to WE Day cannot be purchased. They are earned through social action for change. We are proud of the work done by our Social Justice Committee during the 2017-2018 school year and we look forward to their continued leadership in helping our local and global community! Wishing you a great experience at WE Day! Thank you to all families who supported our “WE Scare Hunger Campaign”. We completely filled a Food Bank bin with non perishable food. Well done St. Martha!

**St. Martha Catholic School Artists** Congratulations to the following students, whose artwork was selected for the Hotel Dieu Art Gallery Fall

Display!

Graceanne Shayo

Mia Rodrigues

Tiago Martins

Taisei Allard

Taylor Dennis

Cameron Caverson

Benjamin Berube

Darya Stroughtenger

Grace Woodman

Katryna Briscoe

Clair MacCullough

Thank you to all who submitted art work!

**Kindergarten Initial Observations and Elementary Progress Report Cards (Grades 1-8)**

The Kindergarten Initial Observations Report will be sent home on Tuesday, November 7th. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of observations of your child’s learning since the start of the school year and early evidence of growth in learning in relation to the overall expectations of The Kindergarten Program. As well, The Provincial Progress Report for Grades 1-8, will also be sent home on Tuesday, November 7th. The Provincial Progress Report places significant focus on the Learning Skills and Work Habits necessary for success in school and in life. The Learning Skills and Work Habits that will be assessed include:

Responsibility Collaboration

Organization Initiative

Independent Work Self-Regulation

You will receive personalized feedback on student performance in these areas, which

will serve to recognize their strengths and identify next steps which may enhance

performance. Similarly, you will receive general feedback on their performance in subject areas as well. Again, the comments will recognize strengths and identify next steps for learning and achievement. Please note the traditional mark or percent will not be given on the Elementary Progress Report Card. Rather the Progress Report will tell you how well your child is progressing:

“very well”, “well”, or “with difficulty”. Parent – Teacher conferences for students in Kindergarten to Grade 8 will be held on Wednesday, November 8th (3:00 – 5:00 p.m.) and Thursday, November 9th (3:00 – 8:00 p.m.) by request**.** Please note that student attendance at the conference is encouraged. The Conference Request Forms have been sent home. Conference times will be set as close to your request as possible. You can also expect to receive two provincial report cards, one in the winter and one at the end of the school year.

**Seeking Paid Lunch Time Supervisors**

St. Martha is seeking Paid Lunch Time Supervisors to work one hour each day from 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.  As a Lunch Time Supervisor, you are responsible for the supervision of students while they are eating lunch or playing on the yard.  If you enjoy working with children and have good problem solving skills, please call Mrs. LaFortune at 613-544-4050 or email at lafortun@alcdsb.on.ca.   This position requires that you have or be willing to get a Criminal Background Check.

**Clothes for Kids Campaign**

*Clothes for Kids* provides essential winter outerwear for families struggling and in need throughout our community at no cost.

Requests need to be submitted to our Youth Worker no later than Friday, November 10th. If you have a request or any questions, you can contact our Youth Worker, Olivia Rowe Ovens at the School. For anyone interested in sponsoring a child, you can make your donation by calling Clothes for Kids Phone Line at: 613-546-1-KID (1543). Olivia Rowe Ovens, Youth Worker, ALCDSB

**Dismissal Procedures**

Again a big thank you to Parents / Caregivers who are collecting children outside their designated dismissal doors. By now, arrangements for routine dismissal are well established and going very smoothly. Thank you!

**Lost & Found Items**

Parents are asked to please check the Lost and Found box while visiting the school to pick up items belonging to their children, and to encourage children to do the same while at school. At the end of each month, clothes are collected and donated to charity. Therefore, please remind your children to check for items you know are missing at school.

**Why learn French?**

***"French is important because you learn to speak a new language and if you’re lost you can talk to people who speak French."***

***-Kelsey, ALCDSB Grade 7 Student***

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