

MAVERICK MONTHLY



SEPTEMBER 2018

Principal's Message

I always enjoy the first day of school. It never fails to make me feel young again. This year at St. Martha was no exception. It has been wonderful to meet so many of you already and to begin to get to know your kids. Thank you for being so welcoming to me, and to all of the new staff at St. Martha.

This year, my focus is going to be on community. As a Catholic school leader, I believe in a welcoming and inclusive environment that is built on the foundation of school, home, and church. I want all students at St. Martha, regardless of needs, interests, or abilities to feel that this is a place that allows them to shine in their own special way.

I hope to, with the help of staff, open up new ways for students to express themselves, new spaces for them to work and for community to gather, and new opportunities for everyone to contribute to the amazing place that is St. Martha Catholic School!

I look forward to the days and weeks to come and the amazing journey we will share. God bless.

Board News

Provincial EQAO results will become public on September 19th, and St. Martha's results will be shared with the Parent Council at their first meeting on the 25th. Parents who had children in Grades 3 and 6 during the 2017-2018 school year will receive a copy of their child's individual results during the week of September 24th-28th.

As many of you will already know, Mr. DiRocco, our Director of Education for the past 8 years, and a former principal of St. Martha, has announced his retirement in the new year. We thank Mr. DiRocco for his service to this community and to the system of Algonquin Lakeshore.

Parent Council

Parent Council would like to invite all families to our Welcome Back BBQ on Thursday, September 20th starting at 5:30. At 6:30 the doors will open and families are invited to visit their child's classroom and teacher until 7:30.

This year Parent Council will be selling a T-shirts with the St. Martha's Maverick Logo. They are \$10 each and will be available in youth and adult sizes. Shirts can be ordered at the BBQ and there will be samples for sizing. Orders will also be accepted up until the 27th.

On Friday September 21st all students will be participating in a Zumba class as a part of a grant to promote Healthy Kids and Healthy Communities. Parents are welcome to join their child during their class' session. Please sign-in first at the Office.

Our first Parent Council Meeting will be Tuesday, September 25th at 6:15 in the Learning Commons. There will also be a chance to meet our Trustee candidates.

Upcoming Events

- Sept. 20th – Open House/BBQ*
- Sept. 21st – School Mass*
- Sept. 24th – Jr. Girls Soccer*
- Sept. 25th – Jr. Boys Soccer*
- Sept. 25th – Parent Council*
- Sept. 26th – Sr. Girls Soccer*
- Sept. 26th – Immunizations*
- Sept. 27th – Sr. Boys Soccer*
- Sept. 27th – Terry Fox Walk*
- Sept. 27th – Deadline for Maverick T-Shirt Orders*
- Sept. 28th – PA Day*
- Oct. 2nd – Photo Day*
- Oct. 8th – Thanksgiving*
- Oct. 17th – Bus Patroller Day*
- Oct. 19th – School Mass*

Reminders from the Office

Please make sure to call the school to report an absence if your child is away or going to be late.

Parents are asked to return updated Family Information Forms ASAP.

Please remember to sign your child in and out in the office when you are dropping-off or picking-up.

STAFF LIST 18-19

Principal: Mr. M. Sonnemann
Secretary: Mrs. P. Jobin
Secretary: Mrs. N. Norwood

JK/SK: Mrs. J. Murphy
ECB: Mrs. N. Cabral
JK/SK: Mrs. N. Hepburn
ECE: Mrs. S. Greens

Gr. 1-2: Mrs. M. Stelter
Gr. 1-2: Mr. C. Pitts
Gr. 2-3: Mrs. J. Burns
Gr. 3-4: Mrs. C. St. Jacques
Gr. 3-4: Mrs. S. Smallegange
Gr. 4-5: Mr. P. Couture
Gr. 5-6: Mrs. J. Couture
Gr. 5-6: Mrs. G. Ows
Gr. 5-6: Mrs. S. White

Gr. 7-8: Mr. P. Kenney
Mrs. C. Baker
Gr. 7-8: Mr. D. Hutton
Gr. 7-8: Mrs. R. Deren

ESL: Mrs. M. Fit
ESL: Ms. C. Prior
ESL: Mrs. J. Charpentier
IAT: Mrs. Lucy Harris

SERT: Mrs. M. Levar
SERT: Mrs. R. McLeod
CYW: Ms. D. Rowe
LRA: Ms. S. Fanning

EA: Mr. C. Turcotte
EA: Mrs. A. Marques
EA: Mrs. C. Utom
EA: Mrs. L. Mckeown
EA: Mrs. P. Clayton
EA: Ms. A. Doyle
EA: Mrs. K. Burell
EA: Mrs. S. Roberts

Custodian: Mr. R. Kilminster
Custodian: Mr. E. Teal
Custodian: Mr. M. Ashie

Kinder:

Thank you for your support and enthusiasm during our first few weeks of school. Thank you for your generous donations of school supplies. We are establishing our classroom routines and exploring our school environment. We are working on learning the names of our classmates. Some of the first words children learn to read and print are the names of their classmates. We will continue to focus on safety in the classroom, playground, on the bus, and fire safety.

We are wondering how tall Mr. Sonnemann is. We look forward to using non-standard units of measurement to determine this and reporting our results to you in the next school newsletter.

Primary:

Primary students have enjoyed sharing and learning about each other through surveying, graphing and art activities as they establish kind, caring and respectful classroom communities. Over the next month students will be exploring similarities and differences among different kinds of animals. Gr. 2/3s have begun researching facts about animals and Gr. 1/2s will be going to Little Cat. Conservation Area to learn about living things through puppet shows and live capture of insects.

Junior:

We encourage you to check out our "Kindness is Contagious" board when you are in the school. We have been working on the "Zones of Regulation" and finding personal strategies. Having a positive mindset and changing our thinking has been another goal in our classrooms this month. We have also welcomed new students to St. Martha's. Our students are learning how to choose flexible seating options so they can be at their best. Our Gr. 6 students have started their unit on Biodiversity and plan to visit the Frink Centre this Fall. We have started to talk about Government and Citizenship with our grade 5 students and hope to learn much from the municipal election. Our three grade 5/6 classes have accepted the 40 Book Challenge and their teachers are proud of the reading virus that is spreading through the junior hall! We also continue to pray for the Couture family.

Intermediate:

To start the 2018/2019 school year, we have placed a large focus on creating a Growth Mindset in each our classroom communities. We are teaching students to develop a belief in their own unique abilities, to take risks, and learn from their mistakes in a safe environment.

Each morning, all three classes take part in Writer's Workshop, which allows students to engage in meaningful discussion/reflection and promotes everyday writing. In Mathematics, we are wrapping up our first Number Sense and Numeration unit and will be moving on to Patterning and Algebra in October. We will also be welcoming the Queen's University Tech N' Tinker Trailer to St. Martha in early October. They will be leading our students through workshops on robotics and engineering. Good luck to both our boys and girls intermediate soccer teams! We are all cheering you on as you practice and prepare for your tournaments in the next few weeks.