

# OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL *Newsletter*

**Principal: Karen Moran**

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## *March 2019 Newsletter*

### A Lenten Message from Pope Francis

Dear Friends,

Lent is the favourable season for renewing our encounter with Christ, living in his word, in the sacraments and in our neighbour. The Lord, who overcame the deceptions of the Tempter during the forty days in the desert, shows us the path we must take. May the Holy Spirit lead us on a true journey of conversion, so that we can rediscover the gift of God's word, be purified of the sin that blinds us, and serve Christ present in our brothers and sisters in need. I encourage all the faithful to express this spiritual renewal also by sharing in the Lenten Campaigns promoted by many Church organizations in different parts of the world, and thus to favour the culture of encounter in our one human family. Let us pray for one another so that, by sharing in the victory of Christ, we may open our doors to the weak and poor. Then we will be able to experience and share to the full the joy of Easter.



### Ash Wednesday and March Mass

Please join us for Mass and distribution of ashes on Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 9:30 at Blessed Sacrament Church.

### Grade 7 Confirmation Parent Meeting

Parents of students preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at Blessed Sacrament Parish are invited to a Parent and Student Meeting on Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at the Church. The meeting will be facilitated by Fr. Shea. Please call Father Shea if you are unable to attend at 613-389-2009.



### School Council Meetings

Thank you to all parents who come out to our School Council meetings in support of student achievement and well-being at OLMC. Our next meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Learning Commons. All Parents/Guardians are welcome to attend! A big "Thank you" is extended to School Council, parent volunteers, Blessed Sacrament Church and Papa's Pizzeria for co-ordinating the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast for all students and staff on Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>! Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

### Parent/Guardian and Visitor Sign-in

Thank you to all Parents/Guardians and Visitors to our school who are signing in at the Office upon their arrival at school and then waiting in the Office area to meet with students and staff. We respectfully ask that all visitors to the school not walk directly in the hallways to go classrooms as often students who are in hallways will interpret visitors as strangers may and become

uncomfortable with their presence. In addition, parents who come to classrooms unannounced may interrupt instructional time. Thank you for your assistance and attention to this request. As always, if you would like to speak to staff, please call the school and make an appointment to meet with educators at a time that can be established. Thank you!

### **Social Justice Committee Lenten Campaign**

This year our school's Social Justice Committee will be sponsoring the Lake Victoria Children's Organization as our almsgiving project during Lent. Please see [http://envaya.org/lakevictoriachildren\\_lvc](http://envaya.org/lakevictoriachildren_lvc). Specifically, we will be raising funds to assist the community of Nansio, Ukerewe Island in Tanzania. As the fundraising plans unfold, more information will be shared with you. Thank you in advance for your support!



### **Smooth Traffic Flow**

In order to facilitate a smooth and continuous flow of traffic in our drop off and pick up zone, drivers are reminded not to park and wait in the drop off zone as it blocks other traffic wishing to proceed through and causes unnecessary delays in drop off procedures at the school. Drivers are asked to please use all available parking spaces on side streets around the school for longer stays. In addition, out of respect for residents in our school's immediate neighborhood, we respectfully ask that parents and guardians who are dropping off and picking up children or attending a school event not park on the north side of Briscoe Street from Park Crescent to Sherwood Ave. Parking on the north side of Briscoe can often block residents' private driveways, make it difficult for residents to access their driveways and compromises sight lines when trying to access the street. The safety of our students walking on Briscoe as well as the needs of the residents who live on the street are of particular concern. Thank you for your cooperation to ensure everyone's safety.

### **Term One Provincial Report Cards**

Term One Report Cards were issued on Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019. 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 during Term 2**

As we head into Term Two of learning at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School, 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

### **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 Mr. Gibson, Mme. Martinez, Mme. Compeau, Mrs. Corcoran, Mme Reinhardt, Mrs. Miles and Mrs. Pearson for offering the program. Permission Forms have gone home with grade 3 and 6 students. Please contact your classroom teacher if you did not receive one. 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 in 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 and Open House**

It is not too early to begin to think about registering your child for Kindergarten in September 2019! 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 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019. New

this year is a Pre-Registration Online Form and Family Questionnaire that you can access by using the Welcome to Kindergarten button on our school's website at:

<http://www.alcdsb.on.ca/school/olmc/Pages/default.aspx> .

Our Kindergarten Open House is scheduled on Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-6:30 pm. All children and parents are welcome to attend.

### **The importance of play-based learning in the early years**

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

child-rearing context and the powerful forces that pull us to become over-involved in our children's lives. Stop doing all the worrying—and let your kids do some for a change!

Russell helps parents achieve this balance by providing essential perspective on today's child-rearing context and the powerful forces that pull us to become over-involved in our children's lives. Stop doing all the worrying—and let your kids do some for a change! This workshop for parents is made possible through the Ministry of Education's Parents Reaching Out Grant.



### **Raising Resilient Children Parent Information Night on Wednesday,**

**April 3, 2019 at Holy Cross, beginning at 6:30 p.m.**

Is it really a good thing to give children everything they need, all the time? In this keynote, Dr. Alex Russell addresses common challenges children and youth face, including dealing with troublesome behaviours, supporting children at school, and controlling or monitoring children's access to computers, cell phones and other forms of digital technology. A perspective is offered that helps parents take a positive and emotionally rewarding role in their children's lives, while allowing them to have the opportunity to make their own decisions—and mistakes—during the complicated business of growing up. In an enlightening and refreshing talk, Dr. Russell helps parents achieve this balance by providing essential perspective on today's