

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Catholic School *Newsletter*

Principal: Karen Moran

Vice-Principal: Sandra Fragoso

April 2019 Newsletter



Happy Easter!

The Easter season calls us to celebrate the Risen Life of Jesus. It is also an invitation to welcome life in a springtime world, to see the stirrings and marvels of death being overtaken by life. It is a time to taste the wonders of God's goodness in the seasonal cycle of life overturning death.

It is all too easy to be preoccupied with work and worries and forget to "taste and see." What will we "taste and see" today? How will we enjoy God's goodness? How will we resist our culture's call to move quickly to attend to the "next important matter?"

Loving God,

Our Easter world is filled with so many gifts! Slow us down today and guide us to taste more fully the alleluia wonders of your goodness. By listening to God's word and drawing nourishment from the table of the Eucharist, may our hearts be ever more ardent in faith, hope and love.

We ask this through your son, the Risen Christ. Amen

April Mass and School Confessions

Please join us for our April school Mass on Thursday, April 4th, 2019 at 9:30 at Blessed

Sacrament Church. Everyone is welcome to attend! Then Father Shea and visiting priests will be at OLMC to hear confessions on Tuesday, April 9th in preparation for Easter.



Stations of the Cross

Please note that staff and students will have the opportunity to attend the Stations of the Cross presented as a tableau on Thursday, April 18th in the morning for all students. Thank you to Mrs. Lake and Mme Davey and their classes for leading the way.



Social Justice Committee

Lenten Campaign

This year our school's Social Justice Committee, Action Helpers, will be sponsoring the Lake Victoria Children's Organization as our almsgiving project during Lent. Please see http://envaya.org/lakevictoriachildren_lvc. Specifically, we will be raising funds to assist the community of Nansio, Ukerewe Island in Tanzania. The Action Helpers will be holding a Bake Sale at Mass at Blessed Sacrament Parish on Sunday, March 31st. In addition, the Action Helpers will also be selling raffle tickets at school for two Easter Baskets (3 tickets for a \$1.00). The raffle draw will take place on April 10th. All proceeds will be in support of the community of Nansio, Ukerewe Island in Tanzania. Thank you in advance for your support!

PA Day April 5, 2019

Please note that Friday, April 5th is a Professional Activity Day. As such, staff will be engaged in activities related to Universal Design for Learning (reducing

barriers for learning) and the use of learning embedded technology at Holy Cross. As a result, there are no classes for students.



OLMC Presents A Night on Broadway

Staff and a cast of over 50 students at OLMC have been practicing hard and are very pleased to present a musical evening called A Night on Broadway. The evening will showcase musical numbers from various Broadway musicals. The show runs May 14th and 15th at 7:00 p.m. If there is enough demand, we may add April 16th at 7:00 p.m. Looking forward to a great night of student talent. Thank you to Mrs. Latham, Mrs. Williams and Mme Bacile for leading the way!

School Council Meeting

Our next School Council Meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, April 15, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Learning Commons. All Parents/Guardians are welcome to attend! We would like to extend a great big "Thank you" to School Council volunteers, Papa's Pizzeria and Father Shea for hosting a most delicious Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast for all students and staff on March 5th in the Parish Hall. Our students and staff are grateful for your generosity!



OLMC Cheesecake Fundraiser

Our Lady of Mount Carmel School Council is teaming up with the sweetest cheesecakes around, The Cheesecakeery. Steph & her crew are a local company who specialize in cheesecakes in a jar & cheesecake bars. These sweet treats are available to order now & will arrive just before Easter. There are six Easy Steps to selling Cheesecakes.

Ask anyone you know what flavour they would like to order (family, friends, co-workers, neighbours, coaches). Collect cash from your customers: \$10 for jars (\$11 for Gluten Free jars) and \$14 for bars (\$15 for Gluten Free bars). Please complete the form on the back with customer name and

flavours. Return your form & cash to your teacher by Mon April 1, 2019. No later orders will be accepted. Please note that this is a CASH ONLY fundraiser, no cheques & no cash online. Patiently wait for your yummy cheesecakes to arrive. Cheesecakes will arrive at OLMC Tuesday, April 16th. ALL ORDERS MUST BE PICKED UP from 4:30pm-6:00pm. As the cheesecakes come in glass jars, no orders will be sent home with students.

Any student who sells a minimum of 4 jars will be entered into a draw to win a \$10 Chapters gift card.

The student who sells the most cheesecakes will win a \$20 Chapters gift card.

Thank-you for supporting local and the OLMC Parent Council.



Parent Evening- Raising Resilient Children

On Wednesday, April 3, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at Holy

Cross C.S.S., Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School Council along with 6 other School Councils in our Board will be presenting Dr. Alex Russell, author & keynote speaker. Dr. Russell, a child psychologist, will be speaking on the topic of how to raise resilient children. He is an engaging speaker and will discuss the balance between taking a positive and emotionally supportive roll in your children's lives, while still affording them the opportunity to make their own decisions - and mistakes. Dr. Russell has been featured in Ted Talks, and is the co-author of the parenting book "Drop the Worry Ball". Please see the school website for further details.

OLMC Yearbook Orders

We are excited to be working on this year's yearbook! Our yearbook will feature individual student portraits and Grade 8 graduation photos, team and club photos as well as candid photos of events and people who make up the OLMC School community. Please watch for the Yearbook Order Forms to come home soon. The

yearbook will be delivered in later June. We wish to thank Mrs. Corcoran and the Gr. 7/8 students who are leading the way with this year's edition!

Primary and Junior EQAO Assessments



Each year, Ontario students in Grade 3 and Grade 6 write province-wide assessments of their literacy and mathematics skills. EQAO's Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, Primary Division (Grades 1–3) and Junior Division (Grades 4–6) are based on the same reading, writing and mathematics curriculum expectations that teachers use to structure students' daily classroom experiences.

Each student who writes an assessment receives an Individual Student Report that describes his or her achievement on the assessment. The results are reported according to the province's four achievement levels. These are the same levels teachers use in the classroom and on report cards to evaluate students' progress. The provincial standard is Level 3, which corresponds to a B– to B+.

Your child's EQAO results are an important, objective indicator of his or her reading, writing and mathematics achievement in relation to the provincial standard. Staff and students at OLMC have been working hard all year to prepare for the provincial assessments of reading, writing and math. EQAO assessments will take place province-wide during the weeks of **May 21–June 3, 2019**. Shortly, Grade 3 and 6 Parents/Guardians will receive more information regarding specific dates of the assessments at OLMC.



While all of the teachers at OLMC Catholic School have been working really hard to advantage our students by having students respond to reading at high level, parents also play a key role in ensuring the academic success of their children to increase the

number of students achieving Level 3 and 4 on all types of assessments. The following tips for success are provided for all students and will be of particular assistance to parents of Grade 3 and 6 students in the lead up to the EQAO Assessments in May and June.



Know your child's reading stage:

The Early Reader:

- Develops more confidence and uses a variety of methods, such as relying on visual cues, to identify words in texts
- Adapts his or her reading to different kinds of texts
- Recognizes many words, knows a lot about reading, and is willing to try new texts.

The Fluent Reader:

- Thinks of reading as a good thing and does it automatically
- Uses a variety of methods to identify words and their meanings
- Can read various kinds of texts and predicts events in a story
- Relates the meaning of books to his or her own experiences and knowledge, and understands what is new

Read Every Day:

- Children love routine, and reading is something that you and your child can look forward to every day. By taking the time to read with your child, you show him or her that reading is important and fun to do.
- Try reading with your child every day. It's the best thing you can do to help him or her learn at school! It also allows you to spend time together in an enjoyable way and to build a strong and healthy relationship.

- Read all kinds of material - stories, poems, information books, magazines and newspaper articles, and comics.
- Set aside a special time each day when you can give your full attention to reading with your child.
- Choose a comfortable spot to read, where you can be close to your child. Make it your "reading place"! Set aside a special shelf in that area for your child's books.
- Vary the length of reading time according to your child's age and interests. For young children, several short sessions (of 10 minutes each) may be better than one long session (of 30 minutes).
- Read slowly so that your child can form a mental picture of what is happening in the story.
- Praise your child for his or her ideas and participation!
- When you and your child are away from home, take along books, magazines, and books-on-tape for your child to read and listen to.
- Keep reading to your child even after he or she has learned to read. By reading stories that will interest your child but that are above his or her reading level, you can stretch your child's understanding and keep alive the magic of shared reading.

Set an Example:

- As a parent, you are your child's most important role model. If your child sees you reading, especially for pleasure or information, he or she will understand that reading is a worthwhile activity.
- You can also share many daily reading activities with your child. Here are some ideas:
Read recipes, food labels, schedules, maps, instructions, and brochures.

Read traffic signs and signs in stores and restaurants.

Look up information in cookbooks, manuals, phone books, atlases, and dictionaries.

Read greeting cards, letters, and e-mail messages to and from relatives and friends.

Praise your child so that your child knows what he or she is doing well.

(Source: Ontario Early Reading Strategy: A Parent's Guide 20011)

At school we have been working on creating a Level 3-4 response to what students read (comprehension activities) in the form of an open response. Here, students are expected to answer the question asked using information from the text and their own ideas to explain their thinking, much like the questions on EQAO. You may wish to do the same at home. The students will know how to do this and can show you how. Grade 3 and 6 parents will receive additional information and tips to support their children in the weeks ahead. We ask that you continue to support your children with all areas of the academic program so that they will experience success on all assessments, including our province's standardized assessments.

Thank you for your continued support!



**“Brush Up on the Facts”
campaign urges parents to keep
kids’ teeth healthy**

Good oral health is important for children’s self-esteem, sense of well-being and overall health. Dental cavities can cause missed school and may lead to problems with chewing, sleeping, concentrating and learning.

KFL&A Public Health has partnered with the Ontario Association of Public Health Dentistry (OAPHD) and Public Health Units across Ontario to launch an awareness campaign for Oral Health Month. The

“Brush Up on the Facts: Keep Kids’ Teeth Healthy” campaign is geared to parents and focuses on the impact dental health has on kids’ growth and development and the free dental programs and services that are available for eligible kids 0-17. Please visit <http://www.oaphd.on.ca/> or <https://www.kflaph.ca/en/healthy-living/Dental.aspx/> for more information or you can call KFL&A Public Health’s Dental Team at 613-549-1232, ext. 1218.

“Beacon of Hope” Breakfast

Each year the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board hosts a “Beacon of Hope” Breakfast to celebrate one student from each school who has made significant contributions to the life of his/her school through lived experiences. These students come to school each day, give it their best and add to the positive climate of our school, while giving witness to our Catholic virtues. This year we are very pleased to recognize Ethan Larsen, a Grade 8 student, who regularly contributes a positive energy to OLMC! Ethan and his family were invited to a breakfast hosted by our Board on March 20th, 2019, when he received recognition for his positive contributions to OLMC. Congratulations, Ethan! We are very proud of you!



Early Learning Kindergarten Registrations

We are now accepting registrations for our Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program for September 2019. Your child is eligible to enroll in the Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten program if he or she will be 4 years of age by December 31, 2019. You can access Pre-registration forms by going online through the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board’s website. To complete registration, please also visit our office and bring with you your child’s Baptismal Certificate, Birth Certificate and Immunization Record. Parents/Guardians and children who will be beginning school in September are invited to

our Kindergarten Open House on Monday, June 10th from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Did you know the importance of *play-based learning* in the early years?

Play lies at the core of innovation and creativity. It provides opportunities for learning in a context in which children are at their most receptive. Play and academic work are not distinct categories for young children, and learning and doing are also inextricably linked for them (Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program, 2010).

In play, children represent and transform the world around them, providing other children and adults with a window into their thoughts and perceptions, and often helping adults see the world in new ways (BC Early Learning Framework, 2008).

Play expands intelligence, stimulates the imagination, encourages creative problem solving and helps develop confidence, self-esteem, and a positive attitude toward learning (Dr. Fraser Mustard).

School Lockdown Drill and Practice

It is a requirement of all schools to practice emergency lockdown drills twice a year. This procedure enables all students and staff to respond to an emergency situation. During a lockdown drill, steps are taken to isolate students and staff from danger by requiring everyone to remain inside the building. We will have our second practice on April 29th, 2019 in the morning. A letter will be sent home with additional information regarding the practice lockdown.

FUN FRENCH FACTS - DID YOU

KNOW? 2019 marks the 50th anniversary of the *Official Languages Act* ? #50yearsOLA
Encourage your child to be a lifelong learner of French!

