

St. Patrick Catholic School

3889 Wilton Rd., Harrowsmith, Ontario K0H 1V0
Tel: 1 (613) 372.2251 Fax: 1 (613) 372.2726
flhpstph@alcdsb.on.ca www.alcdsb.on.ca/school/stph



March Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians

Loving God,

You see us and love us as we are, beautifully and wonderfully made. Help us to see ourselves and others with your same loving eyes. Help us to fully understand that you are always with us, even when we feel alone. Help us to accept your unconditional love, even on the days when we feel unloved. Help us to joyously and freely live like we're loved. Guided by the Holy Spirit, may we be a community that lifts each other up and instills hope with our words and actions so we may share God's unconditional love with everyone we meet. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Valentine's Day Celebrations

Ms. Hurley's Gr. 7 class cut out hundreds of pink, red, and purple hearts for all our classrooms. Staff and students wrote kind words on them to place on classroom doors and around the school to display all the nice things people have seen saying and doing for others. There were also lots of classroom activities for Valentine's Day to go along with our theme of Red, White, and Pink Day.

Pink Shirt Day

On Wednesday, February 23rd, St. Pats marked Pink Shirt Day as a reminder to all of us to be our best person everyday. Our focus was on being kind to one another and to treat others the way you would like to be treated. It fits in with our board theme "Beloved Children of God".

Shrove Tuesday

Tuesday, March 1st is Shrove Tuesday, also referred as Pancake Tuesday, which marks the final day before the beginning of Ash Wednesday and Lent. As is tradition on Shrove Tuesday, we will be providing each student with a pancake and syrup in their classroom. Please let the school know if there are any new allergy concerns that we should be aware of.

Each student is invited to bring in a toonie on Shrove Tuesday. Fr. Bill, our long-time Parish Priest at St. Patrick (Railton) has retired and the Parish is collecting a cash donation to support his retirement. All money that is collected will be donated to the Parish in support of Fr. Bill's retirement. Please note that all students will receive a pancake regardless of whether or not they bring in a toonie (You are welcome to donate more, if you like!).

Lenten Activities

Lent is a 40-day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday (March 2nd) and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter (April 17th). Ms. Forster's Kindergarten class will lead the school in a virtual prayer service on Ash Wednesday. Fr. Amato, our new Parish Priest at St. Pats, has provided the school with a prayer service and ashes that can be used for distribution on Ash Wednesday in classrooms as well. Each Monday, either Ms. Hurley's Gr. 7 class or Ms. Williams/Mr. Nadeau's Gr. 8 class will lead us in a virtual prayer service to start each week in Lent until Easter. We will also set up a Lenten display in our front foyer and consider the Stations of the Cross once we get closer to Easter.

Beacon of Hope Award

On behalf of the St. Patrick School Community, we would like to congratulate Jack Gibson for being selected our "Beacon of Hope" Award recipient for the 2021-2022 school year. This award is presented to a student who is known to be an unsung hero and has made a significant contribution to the life of the school through his lived experiences. The recipient comes to school each day to give his best to add to the positive climate of our school while giving witness to the virtues.

Parish News

As some of you may have heard, Fr. Bill Steacy, our long-time pastor at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Railton, has retired. Our new pastor associated with our school is Fr. Sebastian Amato. To celebrate Fr. Bill's retirement, our school is putting together a gift, blessings jar, and a series of student-created posters that reflect some of the key messages in Fr. Bill's homilies at our School Masses over the years. We will also donate the toonies we collect on Shrove Tuesday to his retirement fund as well as staff money that is collected during "Jeans for Jesus" dress-down Fridays. Congratulations Fr. Bill and welcome Fr. Amato!

Board Virtual Speaker Series

ALCDSB families, staff and students are invited to join us for the *Spring 2022 Evening Virtual Speaker Series: Helping Our Kids Thrive*. Save the dates! Details for each event will be shared in advance via SchoolMessenger and Board social media accounts.

March 10 & 21 | 6:00-7:00 p.m. | Dr. Andrew B. Campbell | Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

April 7 | 6:00-7:00 p.m. | Dr. Alex Russell | Supporting Children's Emotional Growth During the Pandemic

May 11 | 6:00-7:00 p.m. | Dr. Jean Clinton | The Power of Play - Building Relationships and Resilience Through Play

School Website and Twitter

For up-to-date info about what's happening at St. Pats, school calendar, and notes home, feel free to visit our school website anytime at [St. Patrick Catholic School - St. Patrick Catholic School \(alcdsb.on.ca\)](http://St.PatrickCatholicSchool-st.PatrickCatholicSchool.alcdsb.on.ca) . Follow us on Twitter at @alcdsb_stph .

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Milk Cards

Milk cards are purchased in \$10.00 or \$20.00 increments with this CashOnline link quantity, so you don't have to keep track) with this link

<https://alcdsb.schoolcashonline.com/Fee/Details/23885/187/False/True>

Winter Games

Our Gr. 7 and 8 students are currently busy organizing and preparing a Winter Games afternoon for our younger students on Friday, March 4th. It will serve as a winter fun day where we can get outside, enjoy some physical activity, and celebrate the last bit of winter. More info to come.

Upcoming Dates:

Shrove Tuesday	Tuesday, March 1
Ash Wednesday	Wednesday, March 2
Distribution of Ashes	Wednesday, March 2
Lent	March 2 – April 14
Lenten Prayer Services	Each Monday During Lent
Winter Games	Friday, March 4
March Break	March 14 – 18
Gr. 8 Graduation Photos	Monday, March 21
KFLA Dental Screening	Tuesday, March 22

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