



St. Patrick's Elementary School

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

February 2019

Dear Parents,

Will the groundhog be able to see his shadow this year? We'll find out on February 2nd.

There's a humorous story of a little boy in catechism class who confuses Easter with Groundhog Day; and asks his teacher if there will be six more weeks of Lent if Jesus sees his shadow when he comes out of the tomb on Easter Sunday.

The Church celebrates the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd. It is the 4th Joyful Mystery of the Rosary.

St. Valentine's Day is perhaps the most famous date in February. A day given over to letting others know that we care. There are various legends of St. Valentine, and stories of more than one Valentine being martyred for his faith. Today's practice of sending cards, flowers and chocolates to loved ones is probably connected more to the romantic 14th century tales of Geoffery Chaucer than to any of the saints named Valentine.

The Church calendar marks February 14th as the Memorial of Saints Cyril and Methodius; and we will celebrate the feasts of at least 41 other saints during the month of February. We also celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on February 11th. This is a wonderful month to celebrate our faith.

We are blessed to be people of faith. As children of God and followers of Christ, we hear His voice calling us closer every day. "All you who are thirsty come to the water! ...come..." (Is. 55:1)

The question for each of us concerns how we will share the water with each other. Looking forward to sharing our love with others on Valentine's Day should also remind us of how important it is to love God and each other every day. Are we *thirsty* enough to listen to the Word of God and follow Christ every day? The lives of the saints are wonderful examples of faith for us.

May God bless you always in the love you share through your good words and works.

REGISTRATION

Registration for new families began on January 7th, 2019

If you have family or friends wishing to register their children in St. Patrick's School (including Preschool) for the 2019/2020 school year, please encourage them to contact the school office as soon as possible. Children born in 2014 are old enough to begin Kindergarten in September. Younger children (2015 and 2016) may be eligible for preschool enrolment. Interviews for new families will begin this month! If you need a registration package, they are available in the school office or online at www.spev.ca.

Re-registration for Grades One through Seven should now be complete. We will begin interviewing new families after the Catholic Educators' Conference in the middle of February.

If you have a child entering Kindergarten, please submit an application as soon as possible to ensure a spot for him/her.

The CISVA Board of Directors has confirmed the 2019/2020 tuition schedule for Catholic schools in the Archdiocese. Our PEC will be reviewing the CISVA recommendation; and will confirm the tuition fees for St. Patrick's School when that is complete. We do anticipate an increase and will inform you once we receive confirmation.

IMPORTANT DATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 13, 2019 - Pyjama Day...

Pyjama Day is intended as a celebration of Catholic Schools and Reading Literacy...various activities are scheduled throughout February, but our focus is always on celebrating the wonderful gift of Catholic Education.

The highlight of Pyjama Day...In some way or another we're going to spend the whole day in our pyjamas curled up with books...It all begins with a book swap...everyone is invited to bring a gently read book that they would like to trade for another...It's like the now historic penny tray near the cash register that read; 'Leave a penny; Take a penny'...we're going to bring a book we've enjoyed and trade it for a book that someone else has enjoyed...Everyone will be able to go home with a '*new to them*' book at the end of the day!

February 14 & 15, 2019 – Annual Catholic Educators' Conference...School Closed

February 18, 2019 – BC Family Day Holiday... School Closed.

February 25, 2019 – Class Photos

2019 – 2020 STAFF CHANGES:

We anticipate some changes for the coming school year and will advise you when they take place.

For now, I can tell you that I have resigned my position as Principal effective June 30, 2019. I have been a teacher for 41 years, and a Principal for 38 years. Now, I am looking forward to whatever work the Holy Spirit and Archbishop Miller are calling me to as a Permanent Deacon. Please be assured of my very best wishes and my prayers for all of you and your children. It has been wonderful to be their Principal; and most especially their coach.

The School has begun the process of hiring a new principal and will advise you of their appointment as soon as a decision has been made.

STUDENT ABSENCE:

Flu season is always a problem for schools as well as families. If your child is experiencing flu like symptoms, please do not send them to school until you know that it really isn't the flu. Frequent hand washing (at home and school) continues to be the most effective way we can avoid the flu. Please call the school before 9am to report your child's absence or send a message on Remind101. When your child is able to return to school, please remember to send a note for their absence.

LEAVING SCHOOL GROUNDS:

Students are not permitted to leave the school grounds during the school day. From the time they are dropped off in the morning; until they are picked up after school, they need to be supervised by parent supervisors and/or school staff.

Leaving the school grounds without written permission is not permitted. Even with written permission, it is not safe without competent adult supervision. If your child is leaving the school grounds with another parent, they need your written permission first.

CELLULAR PHONES:

The use of Cell phones is not permitted during school hours without permission of teachers and support staff. The students have been advised of our school's acceptable use policies for cellular phones and computers (PEDs). If phones have to be confiscated, parents will have to pick them up from the office at their convenience. They will not be returned to the students and will not be permitted unless students understand and follow the acceptable use policies.

UNIFORMS:

Students must be in complete school uniform at all times; this includes proper socks and shoes. Girls are to refrain from wearing large or colourful hair pieces. They should be small and in uniform colours. Running type shoes are for PE; and are not part of our school uniform. Boys hair cuts must be above their uniform shirt collars.

LUNCHES:

Students should bring a healthy snack and lunch to school every day. For medical and health reasons students will not be allowed to share lunches any longer. If your child does not bring their own lunch, unfortunately they will have to wait to eat until they get home. We are also having a large number of lunches dropped off at the office. Please make an effort to send a lunch with your child in the morning. One final reminder.... students are not to bring fast food snacks or lunches to school.

Last year we began to implement some new practices with respect to organic waste. Organic waste must be kept out of the disposal container in the parking area. The children will be practicing disposing of organic waste in separate classroom waste containers for 'green' garbage, or bringing it home in their lunch containers and disposing of it in your green waste containers at home.

BIRTHDAYS:

In our efforts to ensure more nutritional diets and lunches, we can no longer allow elaborate birthday celebrations in the classrooms. If you like, you may drop off cupcakes or cookies only (no cakes or other food (not even pizza)). The teachers will give them out during lunch. Keep in mind that a number of our students have **NUT ALLERGIES** so please ensure that all cupcakes or cookies are nut free; and please remember to make arrangements with your child's teacher in advance.

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS: STAY INFORMED - Get up to the minute info sent directly to your phone. We have had some complications with our Remind service. If you are not receiving messages from the school please sign up again at the number below or call the office and we can do it for you.

Text: 778-653-6277. Type Message: @celtic2850. Press Send.

Download the app REMIND101 to ensure you do not lose service or miss messages.

2018 TUITION TAX RECEIPTS:

Please remember that receipts can only be made out for the actual amount of tuition paid, and in the name of the person who made the payment. When they are ready, you may pick them up at the front office or send a signed note with your child asking us to send it home with them. **Only ONE receipt per family can be issued.** We are pleased to advise that our auditors have confirmed that we are able to issue tax receipts for almost 99% of your 2018 tuition payments. This is the result of our ongoing commitment to Catholic education in all aspects of school life.

*******NEW INFO*********PARENT PARTICIPATION PROGRAM...IMPORTANT UPDATE AND REMINDER:**

Our Parish Education Committee (PEC) has asked that we remind parents of their responsibilities with respect to the parent participation program. Participation is mandatory and is a condition of enrolment. The participation program assists the school and parish in a variety of ways; and helps keep tuition rates as affordable as possible.

There are changes coming to the Parent Participation Program that will help everyone keep track of their hours. A computerized management program is being implemented, and parents will be guided in signing in and out of their participation account.

Parents must keep track of their participation. If you are scheduled to participate in some way or another, it is your responsibility to arrive on time, complete the designated participation as scheduled and sign-out with the authorized participation supervisor or their designate. If you do not follow these guidelines, you may be billed for non-participation. If unforeseen circumstances (such as illness) make it impossible to complete your assigned participation as scheduled, please make arrangements with other 'qualified' parents to take your place. Perhaps you could trade and do their participation for them next time.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE PROGRAM UPDATE:

Our After School Care Program is now available. If you need after school care for your child please contact the office to arrange to meet with Mrs. Cabantang. Space is limited so priority will be given to families who need to make arrangements for everyday, after school care. The Program is available on school days only from dismissal until 5:30pm. If space permits, children may attend even for one or two days a week, but registration is necessary in advance.

LATE PICK UP FEES:

Our PEC has approved a fee of \$1/minute when parents are late picking up their children. Parents will be assessed a late pick up fee beginning at 3:30pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays; and at 3:00pm on Wednesdays. Late Fees will be assessed beginning February 1, 2019.

Please pick up your children on time.