



Home of the CARDINALS!

May 2019 Newsletter



Principal's Message

Dear Parents,
Catholic Education Week is a special week in our schools as we continue to celebrate not only the gifts that God has given us, but the Gift of Catholic Education.

The theme for Catholic Education Week 2019, *"Living as Joyful Disciples,"* reminds us that publicly funded Catholic education is a call to service. Regardless of our position or our responsibilities within Catholic education, our role is a call, birthed in our Baptism, to bring the saving message of Jesus Christ into the lives of those students and their families whom it is our privilege to serve.

Each year, the Catholic community of Ontario engages in a week-long celebration of the unique identity and distinctive contributions of Catholic education during Catholic Education Week. This year's celebration is entitled, *"Catholic Education: Living as Joyful Disciples"* and will be celebrated during the week of May 5 – May 10. The theme for CEW 2019 was inspired by three sources: *Renewing the Promise*, The Pastoral Letter on Catholic Education from the Bishops of Ontario; *Gaudete et exsultate*, the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis on the Call to Holiness; and *Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment*, the October 2018 Synod of Bishops. Mindful of the Synod on Youth, the theme and sub-themes are very much directed to the young people in our schools, especially in their growth in holiness and their formation as disciples of Christ through the discernment of their vocational pathways. In the section of *Renewing the Promise* entitled, *"A Community that Forms Joyful Disciples,"* we read, *"Our Catholic schools help to form joyful disciples as hearts and minds are opened to the transforming love of God and to the flame of faith in action. On a daily basis, Catholic schools demonstrate the joy of believing and witness the Good News to the communities that they serve."*

There are five sub-themes for each day of Catholic Education Week, which we as a school will be celebrating through a number of activities and events during the week:

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| Day 1: | Rooted in Prayer/Enracinés dans la prière |
| Day 2: | Living in Community/Vivre au cœur de la communauté |
| Day 3: | Doing Justice & Creating Hope/Semer la justice et inspirer l'espérance |
| Day 4: | Journeying Together in Faith/Cheminer ensemble dans la foi |
| Day 5: | Sharing the Good News/Partager la bonne nouvelle |

As a Catholic Community, one thing we need to rely on for support and strength - is the triad of Home, School and Parish. Building community is at the heart of our Christian faith. With these pillars working together, your child has the best opportunity to be prepared to meet the challenges of life.

In closing, it is my hope and prayer that the Pope Francis Elementary School community will invite the Holy Spirit to strengthen our pillars of Home, School and Church. With your prayers and participation, we are sure to succeed together in instilling Catholic Gospel Values in our children. They are the future ambassadors of Christ in the world. We should not understate the importance of this and of Catholic Education in Ontario.

Yours in faith and education,

Mr. Berthier

Principal

Our spiritual theme: "By Our Works, We Show Our Faith," (James 2: 16 - 18).



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School Updates

Transportation: If your child receives a bus, it is important that they take the bus to and from school each and every day. If you have to pick up your child, please ensure that they are aware of this prior to them getting on the bus in the morning and then contact the school with this information. This will eliminate confusion at the end of the day.

As a friendly reminder, Mrs. Belisle and Mrs. Cheff are at lunch from 11:35 to 12:35. During this time the office is closed, therefore the phones and door are not monitored regularly. If you need to drop something off or you have to pick up your child, please do so before 11: 20. Your understanding will be appreciated.



Registrations for our Full Day Junior/Senior Kindergarten are ongoing. If you have a child that is eligible for JK (must be 4 years old by December 31, 2019), please come by the office to pick up a registration package. Tours will be provided to parents every Tuesday and Thursday.

Reminders:



VICTORIA DAY HOLIDAY:

Please remember that Monday, May 20th is Victoria Day. Schools will be closed. May you enjoy a wonderfully warm, relaxing, fun-filled day with family and friends.



MOTHER'S DAY:

The students and staff of Pope Francis Elementary School wish all moms and grandmothers a very "Happy Mother's Day" on May 12th. May God bless you and keep you safe.

Please do not send toys to school with your child. There has been an increased number of issues as a result of students trading or losing them. Your continued support on this will be appreciated.

HOME AND SCHOOL - WORKING TOGETHER FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS

Education Quality and Accountability Office



Building Understanding – EQAO is around the corner.

EQAO TESTING:

Grade 3 students will be participating in EQAO testing beginning May 21st and ending June 3rd. We ask for your co-operation in ensuring that all children are present and on time on the testing days.

Please try to schedule any appointments accordingly, as it becomes very difficult for the children to catch up if they miss a testing day. Be sure to encourage an early night's sleep and a healthy breakfast, lunch and snack to put the children in top form.

The assessments provide opportunities for all Grade 3 students to demonstrate their achievement in reading, writing and mathematics, as outlined in The Ontario Curriculum. The assessments provide high-quality metrics to educators, students, and parents on academic achievement in these subject areas. The assessments augment the information teachers gather about individual students throughout the year and will help teachers to adapt curriculum and instruction for their students. Assessments provide important additional input for improving student learning. Aggregated information for schools, boards and the province will identify areas for program improvement.

Parent and student resources are available at the EQAO website. These resources include information about this year's test; sample tests from previous years; and tips on how to prepare for the test. To access the website, go to <http://www.eqao.com> and click on "Student Resources" or "Parent Resources" at the top of the page.

Monthly Virtue: Temperance

The Importance of Temperance:

The cardinal virtue of temperance or moderation is the practice of enjoying life's pleasures in keeping with the call of the Gospel. A temperate person practices refraining from excesses. Practicing temperance frees us from unhealthy habits so we can live a fully human life as God intended. The virtue of temperance is visible in our Catholic schools whenever moderation, chastity, balance, self control and humble attitudes are practiced.

Student Attendance

Regular attendance is crucial to success at school. When students are habitually late or leave habitually early, they miss critical class time, feel disorganized and may miss important information. Punctuality is an important life skill that students learn and helps them establish good work habits for their future. Encourage your child(ren) to take responsibility for themselves to prepare and plan ahead in order to be ready and on time for school. Working together makes a difference for student learning.

Lateness: School Arrival

Lateness continues to be a concern at Pope Francis. Many students miss the initial part of their instructional school day due to this late arrival. **Valuable learning time is lost.** Chronic lateness is reported to the school's attendance counsellor. Please ensure that these inappropriate patterns of behaviour are not established with your children. Students should arrive at school no later than 8:45 a.m.

PRIDE Basketball Camp



The annual P.R.I.D.E. basketball camp will take place this summer from July 9 to July 26.

The three weeks will consist of the following;

Week 1 – July 9 -12 Competitive Boys ages 12 to 17

Week 2 – July 15 – 18 Competitive Girls ages 12 to 17

Week 3 – July 22 – 26 Novice Girls and Boys ages 6 to 12

Shortly, you will be receiving an e-mail brochure with all of the details. This is a great opportunity for your child to continue to develop their individual and team skills. For more information, please contact Mr. Weltz at 705-268-4501.

Kids and Mental Health

One in five children in Ontario has a mental health problem. Changes to your child's mental health may not be obvious.

Warning signs to look for:

- Mood swings and changes in eating habits.
- Headaches and sore stomach.
- Low energy and not sleeping well.
- Missing school and/or having trouble at school.
- Spending less time with friends and family.
- Wanting to be left alone.
- Feelings of anger and rage.

Remember:

- Listen to your child and trust your judgment.
- You are the best person to notice changes.
- Talk to your child's teacher, he or she may have seen some changes too.

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- It's okay to ask for help and talk to your family doctor.

For more information on kids and mental health, please visit www.kidsmentalhealth.ca.

Catholic School Council

Our next meeting will take place May 23rd, at 6:30. Please use the Balsam Street entrance. Our co-chairs, Mrs. Courchesne and Mr. Fernandez will be taking any agenda items for our next meeting. At our last meeting, items that were discussed include, signage in and out of the school, construction timelines/update, budget update and funding approval for welcoming environment, listening skills key chains for parents, Ministry announcements, spirit wear, "People who make a difference", naming of the school wings, and parent engagement for Catholic Education week.

For our next meeting, we will review the items from the last meeting and bring up the following items; Catholic Education Week update, Ministry announcements (How it will affect PFES?), welcoming environment and Chair's letter to the Board for 2018-19 school year.

Breakfast Snack Program

Just as a friendly reminder, the Breakfast Snack Program runs from 8:30 to 8:45 every morning in the Breakfast room.

OUR SCHOOL DAY

8:50 - Entry & Opening Exercises
10:00-10:15 - Morning Recess
11:35-12:05 - Lunch Recess
12:05-12:35 - Lunch Inside
1:55-2:10 - Afternoon Recess
3:20 – Dismissal

As a safety issue, we would like to remind you that the supervision of the school yard does not begin until 8:30 a.m. It would be best if students who walk or are dropped off at school do not arrive to school before then.

If you are coming into the school, you are reminded that you must report to the office and not go to your child's classroom or locker. We appreciate your support on this.

OFFICE HOURS

Open from 8:00 am to 11:35 am
Closed from 11:35 am to 12:35 pm
Open from 12:35 pm to 4:00 pm

Closing Message:

"Everything is God's to give and to take away, so share what you've been given, and that includes yourself." Mother Teresa

Contact Information

Principal: Mr. Berthier (705) 264-5869
Superintendent: Mrs. Brumwell (705) 268-7443
Board website: www.ncdsb.on.ca

