



Home of the **CARDINALS!**

April 2019 Newsletter

Principal's Message



In two weeks, the most incredible week of the year for Catholics all around the world, is Holy Week! What a sacrifice Jesus made for us, beginning with the preparation of Holy Thursday, the deep despair of Good Friday, the moments of waiting through Saturday and the joyous explosion of Easter Sunday. We learn from Jesus' passion, death and resurrection that new life can spring forth from death and we can find meaning in tough times through the light of Jesus.

Over the 40 days, our school community will be collecting non perishable food items and hygiene items. All of these items will be presented to Father John and the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish food bank at our monthly school mass. Families are always welcome to join us at mass. Thank you to our parent community for your continued support and generosity during Lent.

With three months left in our school year, I want to make every effort to invite you, our school community, to visit our school for our upcoming events, including our Catholic Parent Council, Catholic Education Week open house (May 5th to May 10th), and the Grade 5 orientation night. Kindly watch for more information through your child's communication book, the school's facebook page and e-mails from the school for additional events.

As we celebrate Easter in our schools and parishes I will end with an Easter Prayer:

"May the light of Jesus shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find his light ever burning in our hearts - He who gives His light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen (Adapted from the Book of Common Prayer - 1979)

Take time to enjoy celebrating with your family and friends, and renew and refresh yourself.

Yours in faith and education,

Mr. Berthier
Principal

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

School Updates

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 go online or contact the school to complete registration package.

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. Cheff is 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 11:35. Your understanding will be appreciated.

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

Building Understanding – EQAO is around the corner.

The primary division assessment tests the reading, writing and mathematics skills students are expected to have learned by the end of Grade 3. The junior division assessment tests the reading, writing and mathematics skills students are expected to have learned by the end of Grade 6. Both assessments are based on the *Ontario Curriculum*. The dates for these assessments will take place from May 21st to June 3rd. Students are expected to be at school on these dates. Please plan trips, etc. outside of these times. 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.



EASTER BREAK:

The school will be closed for Good Friday, April 19th and Easter Monday, April 22nd. May you experience the joys of God's love over the Easter Season.

Monthly Virtue: Fortitude

Importance of Fortitude

Fortitude is one of the four cardinal virtues. It is commonly called courage; however, it is different from what we often think of. Fortitude is always reasoned and reasonable. The cardinal virtue of fortitude involves practicing what is good and just when it is difficult or even dangerous. A person of fortitude practices patience when meeting obstacles. They do what is right, even when others criticize them.

Fortitude allows us to overcome our fear and remain resilient in the face of obstacles. Prudence and justice are the virtues through which we decide what needs to be done; fortitude gives us the strength to do it.

As Catholics we look to Jesus as our model. He always did what was right, even when it cost Him his life. Practicing fortitude is challenging, but it brings deep peace that comes from knowing we have done the right thing.

Fortitude is visible in our Catholic schools when we witness people defending truth and kindness especially during challenging situations. Students who do not cheat when the opportunity presents itself, who are capable of saying no to their friends who pressure them and students who stand up for others and do not participate in teasing or bullying are students who are displaying the virtue of fortitude.

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.

Catholic School Council

Our next meeting will take place April 17th, 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 (begin to draft a letter to the Director), budget consultation, fundraising (pizza kits, receipt books), welcoming environment, mental health and parent engagement.

For our next meeting, we will continue to discuss items from the last meeting and bring up the following items; Self-regulation/Skillstreaming, Catholic Education Week, Ministry announcement (How it will affect PFES?), spirit wear, "People Who Make the Difference", Naming of school wings.

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.

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

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



**POPE FRANCIS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**