



The Cougar Column

ST. JOSEPH - NEWSLETTER

Dec. 1st, 2018

A Message from the Principal...

It is hard to believe that Christmas is almost upon us. Christmas can be a very spiritual time for parents and children to continue on their faith journey together. Please take this time to remember the true meaning of the Christmas season which is to rejoice in the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. The calendar for December can be found with this newsletter. It outlines the many activities we have planned for this month. Of particular importance is our Christmas Concert, which will be taking place on Thursday, December 13th at St. Joachim Church at 6 pm. Doors will open at 5:30. We wish to invite you to attend and enjoy the concert with us.

On the flip side of the Calendar is a "Reverse Advent Calendar." These activities are meant to support our community and are not a requirement. They are meant to help children to understand that Christmas is also about Love and Giving.

Finally, I hope you all have a wonderful and safe holiday season. Wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! See you at the Concert!



Mrs. Pichette



FOCUS ON FAITH

Our monthly mass will be celebrated on December 20th at 9:30 at St. Joachim Church.

Families are always welcome to attend with us.

Our virtue for December is: Justice.

The need to do justice stems from our obligation to respect the dignity of every human person. This dignity comes from being created in God's image. Failing to respect human dignity and to do justice, is a failure to respect the image of God in others. Justice means that we deal fairly with others, recognizing the equality and dignity of all. It requires that we work to ensure that all people, especially the poor have access to opportunities.



With this in mind, every year St. Anthony's delivers food hampers (including Turkeys and hams) and personalized Christmas gifts to families who could use some help enjoying the feast of Christmas.

If you know a family or are a family that could use some help at Christmas, you can phone St. Anthony's at 705-264-0587:
Thursday November 8, 3 to 5 pm
Wednesday Nov 14, 9 am to noon
Thursday, Nov 15, 3 to 5 pm
Thursday, Nov 22, 3 to 5 pm.

Families need to bring proof of residence (like a utility bill or receipt), proof of income, ID for themselves, their partner, and children who live in the dwelling.



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FIRE AT GOOD SAMARITAN INN

We will be working toward collecting items and money for the Good Samaritan Inn as we are made aware of the opening date of the new space.

FOCUS ON INSTRUCTION



"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

Dr. Seuss, 1978

I Can Read with My Eyes Shut!

Help your child "read with understanding" by trying out some of the following strategies:

⇒ **Asking questions** (i.e. What might happen next? Does this make sense? Why did this happen?) This helps them make connections between parts of a story.

⇒ **Inferring** or "reading between the lines." Children need to use information from both the story and their own knowledge and experience to find meaning that is not directly stated. They must find evidence in the text to justify their thinking (ie. Mary was sad because on pg. 2 it said she was crying).

⇒ **Summarizing** helps children sequence a story and talk about the most important points. Have them talk about what happens on each page (Primary) or in each chapter (Junior).

⇒ **Figuring out difficult words** using many strategies (not just trying to sound out phonetically as many of us learned to do). Some of these include:

- ☺ Looking at the pictures
- ☺ Breaking the word into smaller parts
- ☺ Reading on to the end of the sentence and seeing what makes sense, then
- ☺ Looking at the beginning sound and seeing what word makes sense in the sentence.
- ☺ Checking what looks and sounds right and checking if it makes sense.
- ☺ Does it look like another word they know? *If you can read **cat**, then you can read **bat**.*
- ☺ After trying several strategies that they know, they can ask a friend, brother/sister or an adult.
- ☺ Once they have read a word they struggled with – go back to it in the same story, or other stories and practice reading it reminding them "you know this!"

As they build confidence in their use of strategies, you will see their reading improve in leaps and bounds!

