



Shamrock Times



St. Patrick Catholic School

March 2016

Remembering our Lenten Promises!

St. Patrick Students Continue their Lenten Journey!

As we continue the season of Lent, we are reminded that this special season provides all of us with a time to prepare for the essence of our faith - **the death and resurrection of Jesus**. As in previous years, our school community began the Liturgical Season of Lent with the distribution of ashes on **Ash Wednesday** and our Lenten promises. These promises will be our focus for the forty days of Lent and will be a reminder that Lent is a time to change the things in our lives which separate us from Jesus. Some of us have chosen to give-up something like candy or TV, remembering each time we deny ourselves the huge sacrifice that Jesus made for our sins. Others have chosen to add something to our daily lives that will bring us closer to Jesus, like extra time given over to prayer or volunteering extra time in the community. Whatever the case, we know that keeping our promises is difficult and that sometimes we may slip, but it is a good lesson for us and for our students to keep on trying and **not to give up!**



How timely is it then that this month's virtue of the month is **Hope**. Not only because we have entered the season of Lent and begin the journey towards Easter, but also because Hope is God's gift to us and unites us with the risen Christ. At St. Patrick Catholic School we continue to work towards becoming a hopeful people who work for peace and justice on earth despite facing many obstacles!

As part of our continuing efforts to work towards peace, on Monday, March 21st, St. Pats will once again have a **Bubble Gum License Day!** Students will be able to purchase a license for \$1.00 and then they can chew gum for the entire day! The



proceeds this time from this event will go towards **Development and Peace** - an organization which helps the world's poor by promoting alternatives for unfair social, political and economic structures. For more information, check out www.devp.org

Listed below are a number of informational items. Please see the calendar for additional details!

- **First Term Report Cards** were sent home on February 17th. Please note that while there are no formal interviews scheduled, you may arrange a meeting with your child's teacher at any time!



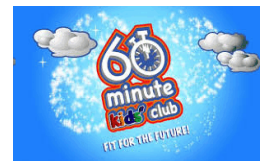
- If you have not already done so, please return your child's **assessment folder** so that the student work can be placed in your child's learning portfolio!

We are on the web @ <http://www.ncdsb.on.ca>
Click on "Our Catholic Schools" and then select St. Patrick Catholic School



- Our next **Parent Council meeting** will take place on Tuesday, March 8th at 6:00 p.m. in the Library!

- Who knew keeping active could be so much fun! Congratulations to all the students who took part in the **60 Minute Kids Club Winter Challenge!** A number of students faithfully walked the stairs or in the gym or took part in the circuit training that was offered at the short recesses each day. In addition, students drank more water, were mindful of their screen time and their intake of fruits and vegetables. Later on this month ... 60 Minute Kid Club medals will be awarded to the most active students! A special thank you to the Healthy Kids Community Challenge Organization for their generous donation!



The criteria for this month's

Student of the Month is as follows:

A student who is an effective communicator as demonstrated through writing and oral presentations and who speaks, writes and listens honestly and sensitively and responds critically in light of gospel values.

PALS Coming Soon to St. Patrick School!

On Wednesday, February 24th, representatives from the Timiskaming Health Unit spent the entire morning at St. Pats to train Mrs. Bosak's Grade 3\4 class so that they could become **PALS – Playground**

Activity Leaders in the School. Students spent the morning learning about leadership, communication styles and conflict resolution and then moved into the gym and were introduced to new games that they could help younger students play in the school yard! With just a few training modules left ... the students will then create a recess schedule and they hope to launch the program after the March Break!



- Our next school-wide fundraiser begins this month! St. Patrick School has partnered with **Little Caesars Pizza!** While we do not encourage door to door sales for our younger students, we do hope that students will sell to family and

friends over the March and Easter Break! The forms will be sent home shortly and they are due back to school on **March 29th**! The funds raised will go towards classroom excursions and student activities! More information is to follow!

March is Nutrition Month! Consequently, the Timiskaming Health Unit has donated special prizes to help host **Freggie Fridays** here at St. Patrick School. Each Friday at snack or lunch recess, special tokens will be given to students when they eat a healthy snack of fruits or vegetables! Students can also choose from the classroom snack bin. The draws will take place at the end of the day and the prizes will be delivered to the classrooms!

March Birthdays!

Erin B. March 3rd
William S. March 5th
Tyrin W. March 6th



Dawson M. March 13th
Taylor G. March 17th
Tomas O. March 28th

MARCH CURRICULUM FOCUS

In Mathematics, students will begin focusing on Number Sense and Numeration (money, fractions, decimal numbers, percents). In Reading, students will continue to focus on analyzing texts and in Writing students will focus on the Narrative writing form (adventure story, newspaper report legends, poetry, mystery).

- Want to raise awareness about concern for the Environment? On Saturday, March 19th, students around the globe are encouraged to participate in **Earth Hour** at 8:30 p.m. Students are asked to **power down for an hour for the planet**, and to stand up and get involved and help lead the global journey to a sustainable future. For more information, see www.earthhour.org

A Spring Prayer

Dear God,

Spring is a metaphor for change. Some changes we eagerly await, and some we abhor. Some changes we plan and others arrive uninvited. To all these changes we ask the gift of Your perspective beckoning us to expectation, hope, and rebirth.

May the sunlight and the rain be reminders that You are at work renewing the earth. As a God of renewal, You are ever at work in our lives, too.

Open our eyes and lives to the needed changes in our lives this Spring. Awaken us to new life and perspective, for we pray in Jesus' name.

Amen.

L. Hurtubise, Principal

