

# February Newsletter

St. Patrick School

February 2011

## Virtue

**O**ur January virtue was courage. During the month students were learning how to show courage and who are courageous people. The grade 4 class lead our spirit assembly and showed us how the carp is a symbol of courage in Japanese culture. Our February virtue for the board is temperance (self-control) and we will focus on love at the school as well.

## Religion

**F**our of our grade 3 students received the sacrament of Reconciliation before Christmas and have now begun preparation for First Communion which will take place during the Easter Season. Seven of our grade 7 and 8 students have begun preparation with Mr. Collins to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. The bishop, Bishop Marchand, will bestow this sacrament on them in June. For those who may be interested, weekly mass is at 5:00 p.m. every Saturday at St. Patrick Church in Cobalt. There is Children's Time during the mass where the children learn more about Jesus and the Church through activities.



## SNAC

**T**he SNAC (School Nutrition Action Committee) is working with the Health Unit to improve our healthy eating and activities at the school. As many have noticed, our hot lunches this year have been much healthier and students are making healthier choices for their lunches and snacks. Please be mindful of the food choices for lunches and snacks. The children are getting very good at reading labels for levels of salt and sugar in their food and drinks.

## Speeches

**D**uring the month of February we have our school level speech contest (February 15<sup>th</sup>) and Legion level contest (February 20<sup>th</sup>). Your child's teacher will inform you if your son or daughter has advanced to either of these contest levels.

## Report Cards

**O**n February 16<sup>th</sup> the First Term report cards will be sent home. Interviews will be scheduled for the next night from 4:00-7:00 p.m. The report card is a great tool for communication between parents and children. Parents can discuss the level of achievement in each of the subject areas and set goals for improvement for the rest of the year with their children.

## Survey

This month we will be conducting an online survey with parents, students and staff. The results of the survey will be used to help make our school an even better place for learning. Please watch for the letter home with your login and password to access the survey.

## Lock Down

This week we will also be practicing our school lock down procedures. Each year we must conduct 6 fire drills and 2 lock down practices. The students have already begun talking about it.

## Events

There are a number of activities and events happening in February. Please refer to the monthly calendar for the dates of the events.

## Website

Often the school board website has updates for our school. I encourage you to go to [www.ncdsb.on.ca](http://www.ncdsb.on.ca) and follow the link to our school for pictures and news.

*“Education is when you read the fine print. Experience is what you get if you don’t.”*

*Pete Seeger*

## One Big Family

A bulletin board has been designated for pictures of our students with their families. We were able to photograph a number of families at our open house in the fall but we need many more! If you have a 5x7 picture of your family please send it to us to be included on our display.

## Reading for a Purpose

When reading with your child at night this month have them express their opinion about a character or event in the story.



## Math Tip

One of the best ways to remember a concept is to explain your thinking to someone else. When working with your child in math have them explain to you the strategy or method used to solve a problem then try a similar problem yourself!