

St. Peter Canisius Catholic School March 2018 Newsletter



Director: D. Crawford
Superintendent: S. Johnson

Principal: C. Lambert

Board Chair: J. VanHeck
Trustee: M. Roop



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that March has arrived ... this year has flown by. This month will hopefully bring us more signs of spring as we journey through Lent.

We will focus on the season of Lent during our Religion classes and through special events and liturgies that will take place at the school. During Lent, we prepare for Easter. This is a time of prayer, restraint and questioning of what is really important in our lives. We will encourage our children to think about how they might want to live Lent ... this might include giving up some things that they like to help them appreciate their blessings or it could include extra acts of kindness and compassion during the season of Lent.

March Break will take place from March 12 until March 16. Please note that there will be no school during that time. We hope that you enjoy the break with your children.

As always, I thank you for your support. Please feel free to call at any time if you have questions or concerns.

MESSAGE FROM DEACON JOHN

Our Lenten journey continues; it's truly a journey, a journey to healing. To receive healing we first need to recognize and seek out the areas of our life that have drifted away from God's Grace. By Fasting, almsgiving and prayer we can arouse that inner hunger or thirst for healing. Jesus often says "Follow me"... by taking the opportunity this Lent to follow His journey of 40 days in the desert we open our hearts, minds and soul for his loving Grace and healing. As you journey through this lent, may God Bless you with His healing Grace.

Brother in Christ Deacon John Lammers



VIRTUE WINNERS

Congratulations to the following students who were selected by their teachers as having demonstrated the virtue of **LOVE** during the month of February.

**Love: Avery M. Taylor V. Coy M. Aiden T.
Avery J. Jenna M. Rochelle L. Mea P. Paige L.**



ASH WEDNESDAY

On February 14, we participated in a beautiful and meaningful school Mass to celebrate Ash Wednesday. Special thanks to Mrs. Brown's class for leading us in prayer. We encourage our students to pray more, to give to those in need, and to give up the things that are not good for us during the season of Lent.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY

May the luck of the Irish be with you!
Happy St. Patrick's Day on Saturday,
March 17.



ELMIRA MEAT SALE

Thanks to all who supported our recent meat sale. Special thanks to Mrs. Irwin for organizing the event for us. Monies raised will help to support the Grade 8 class trip and the Muskoka trip for our Grade 7 students. The remaining funds will be placed in our student activity fund. The meat orders will be available for pick-up on March 8 between 3:30 and 5:00 pm. Thanks very much for your support.

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Next Catholic School Advisory Council is on April 9th at 6:30 p.m. in the school library. All are welcome to attend.



TIME CHANGE



Sunday, March 11th begins Daylight Saving Time @ 2 a.m. Spring clocks 1 hour ahead.



FIRST RECONCILIATION

Congratulations to our Grade 2 students who will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on March 6 at 7:00 pm. After the ceremony, we will have a short celebration in the Church hall. If you are able and willing to bring treats it would be appreciated. Thanks to Mrs. Timmermans for all her work to prepare our students for this sacrament and also for First Holy Communion.



FIRST COMMUNION

Students will receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion during weekend masses in April and May. We are preparing for the Sacrament during our Religion classes for the next several weeks. If you have not yet booked a date to receive the sacrament, please call Martha Moons at the church as soon as possible.



GRADE 2 RETREAT

Our Grade 2 Retreat for students receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion will take place at OLHC Church on April 11, 2018. Details to follow.



OPTIMIST DONATION

On behalf of the staff and students of SPC, we would like to extend a sincere thank you to the Watford Optimist Club for their very generous donation of \$1500.00 to the school. The money will be used to purchase new uniforms for our sports teams. This very kind gift will be appreciated for many years to come.

ALVINSTON MINOR BALL REGISTRATION

Alvinston Minor Ball registration is quickly approaching for the 2018 season! Become an Alvinston Riverhawk and play fastball or hardball this summer! For boys and girls ages 4 – 19. Register at the Alvinston Arena on:

Saturday, March 3 – from 9am until 3pm
Saturday, March 10 – from 9am until 3pm
Saturday, March 24 – from 12pm until 3pm



Sign up early to ensure you secure a roster position on your desired team. Registration form and info is available at www.facebook.com/alvinstonplayball or by contacting Andy Triest at 519-381-8914.

CHESS TOURNAMENT

The SCCDSB annual chess tournament is on Mar. 7th at St. Matthew's School in Sarnia. We thank Mr. Symeonakis for his hard work with the team and wish our students good luck at the tournament.



BASKETBALL

The Senior students have completed this year's basketball season. Congratulations on a fine effort from all of our team members. Special thanks to Mr. Ross and Mr. Symeonakis who coached the boy's team and to Ms. Wright and Ms. Varsava for supporting the girl's team.



CONFESSIONS

Lenten Confessions for grades 3 to 8 will take place on Tuesday March 6th.

The students will walk over to the church with their classroom teacher at a previously scheduled time.



SKATING DAY

On Thursday, March 8th, St. Peter Canisius students in Grade 1 to 8 will enjoy a skating day at the arena. Students in Grade 1 to 4 will skate from 11:00 to 12:00. A student/teacher hockey game will take place between 12:00 and 1:00. Students in Grade 5 - 8 will skate from 1:00 to 2:00.



KINDERSTART

Thank you to all who registered their children for the 2018/2019 school year and those who were able to attend our Kinderstart event on February 28. It was a fun and informative day for all. We are very excited to welcome our new JK students to the St. Peter Canisius School Community!

If you know of any people in the community who are planning to register their child for school and have not yet done so, please invite them to call the school for information about registration.



EQAO TESTING

The Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) testing for students in grades 3 and 6 will be administered sometime between May 22nd to June 4th 2018. This provincial testing assesses Reading, Writing and Mathematics for all students at the end of grades 3 and 6. More information will follow with specific dates BUT... please try to keep these dates clear and avoid scheduling appointments or events during this time. For further information about EQAO Testing, please visit EQAO's website at www.eqao.com and check out the Parent Resources section.



UNPLUG AND PLAY



Healthy Kids winter schoolyard program sponsored by the St. Clair Conservation Area will be at our school on March 9. Students in FDK – Grade 4 will enjoy 40 minutes of outdoor activities with connections to the Science Curriculum. We thank the SCCA for making this opportunity available for our students.



March Dates to Remember

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|----------------|--|
| March 2 | Gr. 6/7 and 7/8 to see Footloose at Imperial Theatre |
| March 6 | Mass at 9:00 am |
| March 6 | Confessions |
| March 6 | First Reconciliation for Grade 2 students |
| March 7 | Chess tournament at St. Matthew |
| March 8 | Meat delivery 3:30 – 5:00 pm |
| March 8 | Skating Day |
| March 8/ | Pizza Day |
| March 9 | Unplug & Play |
| March 12 to 16 | March Break |
| March 23 | Grade 8 Graduation picture retakes |

Focus On Faith – March 2018

Praised be Jesus Christ!

So we are off and running in the season of Lent. This year, Lent began with an apparent paradox. Ash Wednesday fell on the same day as Valentine's Day. Some may have thought that these two things – Love and Lent – are incompatible. Our school community, however, took another approach. I would like to share it with you.

As we saw it, Lent and Love go hand in hand. You see Lent is a time when we turn our focus on ourselves to look for things in our lives that keep us from loving God, ourselves and others better. When we identify these things we then take concrete steps to remove them from our lives so that we can love God, ourselves and others as best we can. In a very real sense, then, Lent is all about Love – it's about rededicating ourselves to the very hard work of becoming the best lovers we can be.

So what do we do when we identify things in our lives limit our ability to love? Well, the Church has typically given three answers. First, we pray. It is in prayer that we receive the grace we need to become better lovers. Second, we fast. When we unite our prayer to personal sacrifice – i.e. giving up food and drink - the grace of prayer is exponentially more abundant. And third, we give alms. We concretely practice love by providing for the needs of others.

This year, our community would like to invite you to see Lent a little bit differently. See it in terms of its invitation to become the best lover you can be. Seen in these terms, we ourselves have found that Lent isn't so much a dark and gloomy time but an exciting and uplifting one.

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Joseph Palko

Chaplaincy Leader – St. Patrick's Catholic High School



SPC SKATING DAY

Thursday
March 8, 2018

FDK students will be joining us for pizza lunch and to watch the game at the arena. They will not be skating on this day.

Helmets are mandatory for all skaters.

11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Grades 1-4

12:00 – 1:00 pm
Grade 8 vs. Teachers Hockey Game/
Lunch in the stands

1:00 – 2:00 pm
Grades 5-8

Please note – in order for the students to enjoy a pizza lunch on skating day, the pizza day originally scheduled for Wednesday, March 7 has been moved to Thursday, March 8.

The option to purchase pizza is still available using school cash online.