

**ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**  
**ST. Vincent CATHOLIC SCHOOL**  
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ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC  
 DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
*Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey*

SCHOOL	BOARD	PARISH
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**MARCH 2018 NEWSLETTER**

**PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

How timely it is that the virtue for this month is Generosity, not only because we have just started the season of Lent, but also because it is an important cornerstone of our faith. Generosity is willingness to share time, talent and resources with others. Lent is also a time of preparation and self-sacrifice through fasting, giving up worldly desires and activities. It is an excellent time for us to reflect on our lives on how to become closer to God and a time of renewal. An emphasis is placed on performing spiritual works, like attending the Stations of the Cross and Mass, taking the time for personal prayer and spiritual reading, going to confession, and offering gifts of time and love to others.

March 17th also marks the time of year that the Irish and Irish-at-heart, celebrate St. Patrick's Day. What began as a religious feast day for the Patron Saint of Ireland, has become a day of celebration around the world.

N. Stevens      [nicole.stevens@st-clair.net](mailto:nicole.stevens@st-clair.net)

**Virtue of the Month— Generosity**

Generosity: You glorify God ... by the generosity of your sharing. 2 Corinthians 9:13b (NRSV):

**Subject of the Month- Reading** Classroom teachers will look at student reading. How are students doing with fluency? Comprehension? Inferencing?

# School Council

Next School Council meeting Wednesday, March 7th, 2018, 5:30 – 7:00

A review of the new school plans on the website will be discussed. Please visit [www.st-clair.net](http://www.st-clair.net) for highlights

**GRADE 7 Muskoka meeting will be held at 7:00 pm. for Parents.**

*Happy St. Patricks Day from the staff of St. Vincent Catholic School*



## Lenten Activities for Children

Looking for Lenten Activities to share with your family? Check out:  
<http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.ca/p/family-lent-ideas.html>





## **Congratulations to the senior girls and boys basketball teams for their awesome season, skill development and sportsmanship.**

**Boys team includes:** Zachary P., Nathan A., Gabe H., Xavier H., Brayden T. , Brenden M., Harrison O., Jared G. and Jake L.

**Girls Team includes:** Kate H., Delani B., Regan V., Chloe H., Kylie B., Campbell P., Madison D., Alyssa M., Megan D., Irish O., and Livia K.

THANK YOU TO COACHES Pam Ennett, Michael and Joe Ennett, and Lisa Matteis.

## **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. Just a reminder that it is the parent responsibility to call if their child(ren) will be late or away.

Working together makes a difference for student learning.

## **Mental Health Moment**

Mindfulness and meditation practices have deep roots in many religious traditions, including Catholic contemplation. While the benefits of these practices have been intuitively understood by many faith traditions for ages, science is now confirming the benefits that daily practice of mindfulness and meditation has for mental health and well-being. Meditating allows us to put ourselves into the presence of God and to hear Him speak to us. Through meditation, we come to know, love, and respect ourselves more fully. In addition to the spiritual benefits of daily meditation, there are many physical and mental health benefits as well.

Please ask your child about the Christian mediation happening in our school.



## EARTH HOUR

A world-wide environmental initiative will take place on Saturday, March 24th, from 8:30-9:30 p.m. called 'Earth Hour'. This initiative has grown in participation each year. In order to participate residents are asked to consider turning off/unplugging unnecessary items that use electricity especially lights for the hour. You can register your participation and total results will be calculated and promoted. Please consider becoming involved in order to provide an example for our children who will have to carry on the search for alternate means of powering our world. More information on this initiative is available at [www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org).



## WASH YOUR HANDS

Did you know one of the most important things you can do to keep from getting sick is to wash your hands? During flu season it is even more important to wash your hands to prevent the spread of germs that would result in sickness.



## SHOES AND SHOE LACES

A leading cause of trips is shoes. Parents please remind your child every day to wear their footwear correctly and always do up their laces. Students should only have laces if they are able to do them up independently. Staff here at school remind students on a regular basis and proper shoes are an expectation.



## OUR GREAT CANADIAN WINTER

Yikes – did we have one? We are truly blessed to be Canadian – but these days we are truly unsure of what our March weather will bring us. Please remind your children that they need to dress for the weather! Hats, mittens, snow pants, scarves and warm winter boots all help to beat the cold! We are outside on most days for full recesses. But also if the weather is wet and warmer and your child likes to roll around please send an extra pair of pants or shorts. We love when they are outside getting exercise! We do check Environment Canada for the temperature and wind-chill in order to determine shortened or inside recess breaks, however, **students need to ALWAYS be prepared to be outside.**

## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

Sunday March 11<sup>th</sup> please spring ahead your clocks at 2:00 am.



## ***Focus on Faith***

“Pastoral Care of Our Catholic School.” Is a document, commissioned and endorsed by Bishop Fabbro, was written collaboratively by parents, students, representatives from the six Catholic school boards within our diocesan area, and representatives from the diocese and our deaneries. In addition to the new curriculum explained in the January Newsletter, this will be the topic discussed among principals, parents, parish personnel and partners in Catholic Education during our Annual Great Family of our Church gathering when we gather together in prayer and discussion about Catholic Education.

To access the document, please choose one of the links below

English

<http://www.forums.dionet.ca/parishbriefings/Shared%20Documents/2018-01-January/Pastoral%20Care%20of%20Catholic%20Schools%20October%202016.pdf>

French

<http://www.forums.dionet.ca/parishbriefings/Shared%20Documents/2018-01-January/La%20pastorales%20des%20%C3%A9coles%20catholiques%202017.pdf>

Blessings,

Margaret Palmer

System Chaplaincy Leader

p.s. Have you visited our website lately for help raising your children in the faith?

Check out Living Our Faith portion of our website here <http://www.st-clair.net/living-our-faith.aspx>

Check out the section of our website that aims to equip Catholic parents as the primary faith teachers of the children they entrust in our care for their educational needs. <http://www.st-clair.net/parents-and-community-partners.aspx>