

The Pandemic Review

February 2021 - Mia Abate

Student life, both physical and virtual



A Time For Love

The month of February has seen the end of remote learning at St. Patrick's and the staff and students couldn't be happier to be back together. February also marks the beginning of Lent, a time for reflection, repentance and renewal. A time to remember that the Father who loves us sent his only Son into the world and that through his ultimate sacrifice, we may be with him forever in heaven.

Virtual Open House

This month, St. Patrick's has debuted a virtual open house. The tour was created by Mr. Walicki with the help of the staff and students of St. Patrick's. Additionally, it was written and voiced by grade 10 student, Madeline Aitken. The tour allows next year's grade 9s (as well as any other students) to visit the school and become acquainted with the building. The tour does more than just acquaint students with the building, however, it also gives students a chance to learn more about all of the amazing teams, clubs, experiences and extracurricular activities offered at St. Patrick's. Be it homecoming, Irish Miracle, Reach for the Top, Knitting

St. Patrick's Virtual Open House

Monday, February 8 7:00 pm

TO ENTER CLICK HERE ➔

Parents can access our virtual website beginning Monday evening at 7:00 pm to explore the following:

- Meet the Principal and administrative team
- 3D virtual tour of the facility and amenities
- Academic Departments – programming and staff
- Learn about programs, opportunities, possibilities that St. Patrick's offers grade 9 students
- Fighting Irish Teams and Clubs
- Opportunity for feedback and inquiries

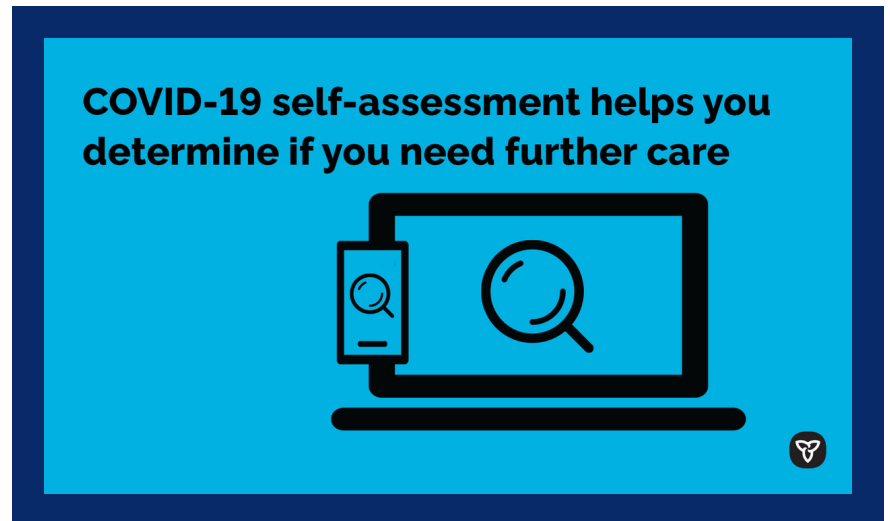
Access to the website is available on our school web page at:
<https://www.st-clair.net/sph>

Club or Muskoka Woods, the video does a great job of outlining all of the opportunities St. Pat's has to offer. The tour even goes a step further, answering some common questions asked by grade 9s like "Is the transition scary?", "Are lockers hard to open?", "What are the rules of the hall?" and "Are uniforms really as bad as they sound?" Beyond that, the tour also offers an introduction to some of the administrative staff: Mr. Kehoe, Mrs. Lobsinger, Mrs. Johnson, and Mrs. Moffat-Sharpe as well as the Director of Education, Mrs. Crawford and the Chair of the Board, Mr. Van Heck. The guided tour does an amazing job highlighting everything that St. Pat's has to offer! [Click here](#) to visit the virtual open house.

Covid Self Assessment

With in-person learning beginning once more, staff and students alike could not be more thrilled to see each other again. In order to keep everyone safe against Covid-19 a new measure has been put into place. Staff and students are now asked to complete a virtual self

assessment in the morning before going to school; the assessment walks the user through a few important screening questions such as "Have you traveled outside of Canada in the past 14 days?", "In the last 14 days, have you been identified as a close contact of someone who currently has COVID-19?" and asks them to verify that they have none of the known symptoms. The assessment, which takes under 5 minutes to complete, advises whether one should attend school or should remain at home. To access the school screening assessment, you can [click here](#).



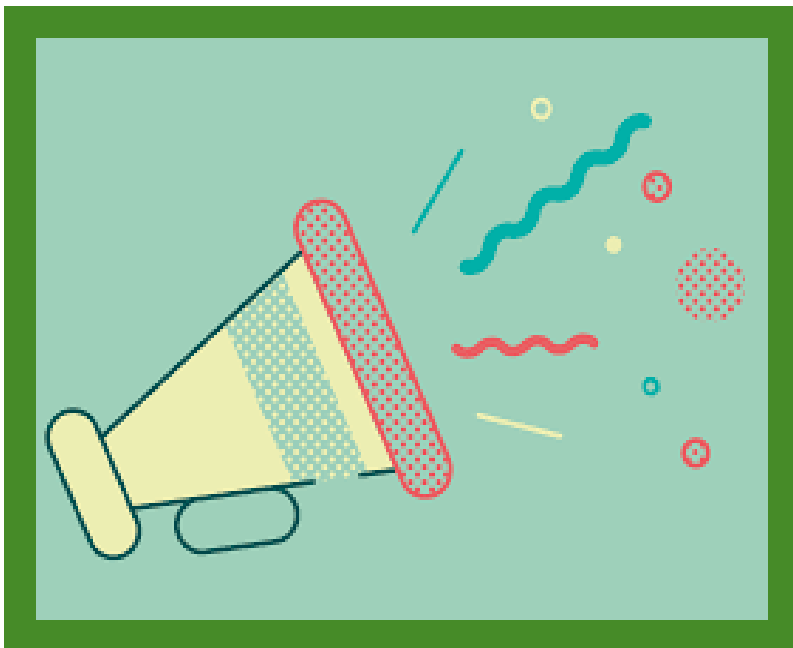
Sweater Day

On Thursday, February 4th, the students of St. Patrick's and the Virtual School took part in Sweater Day. Sweater Day is sponsored by the World Wildlife Federation and is meant to draw attention to climate change and energy conservation.

Wildlife populations have dropped by up to 60% in the last 4 decades and 1 in every 4 species is moving closer to becoming extinct. Both of the facts are believed to be due, at least partly, to climate change. By turning down our thermostats and putting on a sweater instead, we are helping to combat climate change. Students were encouraged to take a photo of themselves wearing a sweater that day and upload it to a shared google folder including their name and a fact about energy conservation. The best entries will be featured in the yearbook and a winner received a school hoodie.

Dance Extravaganza

The St. Patrick's Special Education staff and students, the People Program, put on a dance extravaganza on Friday, February the 5th. The show featured incredible costumes, outstanding dance moves and a fun musical soundtrack. The participants performed so well that the judges just couldn't pick a winner. It was deemed a draw and all contestants were awarded a prize. Great job, everyone!



New News

In other news, with Quad 2 having wrapped up on Thursday, February 4th, Quad 3 is now underway. This new month has seen Mr. Ed Freeburn join the Virtual Secondary School as Vice Principal. Additionally, a pre-recorded Ash Wednesday prayer service will be made available to the staff and students of St. Patrick's and the Virtual Secondary school on Wednesday, February 17th. While we may not be able to partake in the

physical distribution of ashes as we would in a normal year, the prayer service still gives us the opportunity to spiritually mark ourselves and to gather as a school community as we prepare ourselves for our Lenten journey.

Closing Thoughts

The month of February is a month of love, not just the love we celebrate on Valentine's day, but the love that the Creator, God, has for us, his children. It is important to love one another as God loves us. In these uncertain and scary times, we should heed the words of 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 "Love is patient, love is kind. It

does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." This verse helps to remind us what God's love for us looks like, the kind of love we should show to everyone around us. So this Lenten season, keep in mind 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and ask yourself, how can I show God's love to everyone I meet?

