

BLESSED JOHN XXIII CATHOLIC SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



ISSUE 6

FEBRUARY 2012

A Prayer For The Virtue Of Respect

Dear God,

You have done such a marvelous job of creating us and the world around us. Among your greatest gifts are our friends and acquaintances.

They are the yeast in the dough of life –they make life lively and interesting.

We come to You now asking for the grace and strength to keep a sense of respect. We hope that by recognizing and honoring the shared Spirit in everyone we meet, we can contribute to making our school a safer, more caring, more inclusive community.

May Your gift of respect help us to live each day with the confidence that we are in the company of people who are not strangers but who are our spiritual brothers and sisters.

We ask this in the name of Jesus our Brother, who lived to show us your way.

Amen



PRINCIPALS MESSAGE:

Typically February is the month that we acknowledge and celebrate our differences as people of God. We are all truly special human beings created by God and put on this earth to do wonderful things. We all bring special talents and gifts to our community. Without the uniqueness of each individual here, our school would not be the same. Let's celebrate our differences, recognizing our brothers and sisters as special gifts from God to us.

Lent will soon be upon us. In this season, we pay special attention to turning away from sin to cleanse our hearts and prepare for the joyous feast of Easter. It is a time for prayer, penance, and works of charity for others.

Classroom discussions and activities are designed to enhance understanding of the Holy Season of Lent. All of these activities are intended to help our students prepare to renew their Baptismal commitment. Throughout the season, we will be involved in a variety of activities to assist the students to have a deeper understanding of this special season.

VIRTUES EDUCATION:

During the month of February, we celebrate the virtue of Respect. Respect is seeing the goodness in others. It helps us to see others as God sees them, to accept them as they are, and to treat them with dignity

FEBRUARY - BLACK HISTORY MONTH:

We are privileged to live in a city as diverse as the Greater Toronto Area. As Canadians, we welcome all opportunities to celebrate our differences and to learn more about each other.

Black History Month, which is celebrated during the month of February, is one such opportunity. During this month, we will take time to develop

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Fr. Joyson, Pastor		
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greater awareness and understanding about Black people in Canada and around the World.

REPORT CARDS:

Report cards for Grade 1 – 8 students were sent home on January 31, 2012. Included in the report card envelope was your designated interview time. Interviews will take place on Thursday February 2nd in the evening and Friday February 3rd during the day. Please take this opportunity to speak with your child's teacher about your child's progress.

FEBRUARY 3, 2012 - P. D. DAY:

Friday February 3, 2012 is a professional development day for parent/teacher/student interviews. There will be no school for the students.

FAMILY DAY:

On Monday February 20 we celebrate Family Day. There will be no school for staff or students on that day.

ASH WEDNESDAY:

The custom of placing ashes on the heads of the faithful on the Wednesday before the First Sunday of Lent probably dates back to the fourth century. At that time, public sinners would come to the Church to have ashes placed on their heads by the Bishop as a sign that they wished to change their way of life, to do public penance during Lent and to return to full union with the community of God's people.

By the Middle Ages, it had become a custom for all the faithful, to come on Ash Wednesday to receive the Blessed Ashes as a sign that they wished to change their way of life, do penance and strengthen their commitment to Christ during the Lenten season. We will be having an Ash Wednesday liturgy on February 22, 2012 at 9:15 AM. All are invited to attend.



STUDENT ILLNESSES:

This is a reminder that if your child is not feeling well, your child should stay home. If your child is well enough to come to school, he/she is well enough to go outside for recesses and lunch hour. The fresh air will do them good.

IMMUNIZATION:

This is a reminder to ensure your child's immunization is up to date. The health department will be contacting parents/guardians of students whose immunization is not up to date. If the records are not up to date by May 3, 2012, I will receive an order from the health department to suspend your child from school.

STUDENT SAFETY:



We continue to remind students to play smart and play safe in the schoolyard. This includes staying off any ice patches, snow hills and out of puddles, as well as not throwing snow. Your continued support in reminding your children to cooperate with these requests is appreciated. If your child tends to get wet during recess times, please consider sending a change of clothes to school, especially socks and sweat pants. Please remind your students on a regular basis about safety rules on the way to and from school.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION SAFETY:



“Students must wear appropriate clothing for physical education classes. Running shoes are a minimum uniform requirement. Shorts or sweatpants and t-shirts are examples of appropriate clothing. Some ill-fitting clothing, scarves, jewelry, hard-soled shoes and socks without shoes can inhibit movement and possibly cause injury during active movement. Hanging jewelry must not be worn. Jewelry which cannot be removed and which present a safety concern (e.g. medical alert identification jewelry) must be taped. Long hair must be secured so as not to block vision.” *Physical Education Safety Guidelines.*

HEALTHY SNACK AND BREAKFAST PROGRAMS:

Thanks to the support of the Boys and Girls Club, we will continue our healthy snack and Breakfast programs. Each class receives a bin with healthy snacks. Teachers will use their discretion to give snacks to students who don't have one.

STUDENT ENTRANCES AND EXITS:

We remind students on a regular basis to enter and exit through their assigned doors. Students are not to be entering and exiting through the front door, or side door that leads to the parking lot.

HEAD LICE CHECK:

This is a reminder for all the parents/guardians to check their children on a regular basis. If you notice any case of Lice, please notify the school.. By working together, we can reduce the number of head lice cases in the school.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FREE THROW:

On January 31, 2012, members from the St. Martin Parish Knights of Columbus ran the Free Throw Competition. Congratulations to Jamaine, Nicole, Miles, Lily, Ryan, Brian and Aylin for having the highest number of baskets at Blessed John XXIII School.

HOUSE LEAGUES:

Students from various grades continue to have the opportunity to participate in house leagues. We would like to thank Mr. Glicner for organizing this and the teachers who volunteered to supervise.

PIZZA LUNCHES:

Our pizza lunch for this month is on Thursday February 16th.

PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES (PED):

This is another reminder that Personal Electronic Devices are not to be used on school property and on school buses. If a student uses any PED's on school property, parents will be contacted to come

and pick it up. We will not be responsible for lost or damaged items

ITEMS OF VALUE:

This is a reminder that we cannot assume responsibility for items of value that go missing. A great deal of distress can be avoided if such items as expensive toys, electronic equipment, musical devices, cell phones, trading cards and significant amounts of money are not brought to school.

DRESSING FOR WINTER WEATHER:

Winter is here! Please encourage your child to dress appropriately for the cold weather. The students will continue to play outside for 2 fifteen-minute recesses and 1 forty-minute lunch break. Outdoor play is a healthy and invigorating activity when students are wearing suitable clothing and warm mittens. Please write your child's name on boots, hats, mitts and snowsuits. Children must change into their indoor shoes for warmth, comfort and cleanliness. Please keep an extra pair of mittens and socks in your child's school bag in case they need a dry change.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY:

On Tuesday, February 7th, 2012, the Blessed John XXIII library will be holding a literary event for students in grades 3 to 8. Michael Wade, author of the humorous best-selling *And Then it Happened* series will be talking about his books and the fun and importance of reading. He is one of Canada's busiest guest authors and we are honoured to have him speaking at our school. Please visit www.boysbookshelf.com for more information about Micheal Wade and the *And Then it Happened* series.

READING WITH YOUR CHILDREN:

"The single most important thing you can do for your children's education is read to them, starting from the day they are born." (a quote from Richard Worzel, one of Canada's leading futurists)...
"You are encouraged to give your child your **TIME**. Especially, take the time to read to your child."



How about spending some time at your local library? The best value your tax dollars will ever get you. Wonderful books for free.

FULL DAY JK/SK REGISTRATION FOR 2012-13

Registration for Full-Day Kindergarten for the 2012-13 school year, will take place at Blessed John XXIII School on the following days:

Monday, February 6, 2012*

7:00-9:00 p.m.

*Snow Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2012 - 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Wednesday, - Friday, February 8, 9 & 10, 2012

9:00-11:00 a.m. and 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Junior Kindergarten - Children must be 4 years old by Dec. 31, 2012

Senior Kindergarten - Children must be 5 years old by Dec. 31, 2012

For more information, contact the school.

GRADE 4 CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MEETING FOR PARENTS

This is a reminder of the parent information session on the Child Abuse Prevention Unit, for parents of grade 4 students. The meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2012, at the Catholic Education Centre from 7:00 – 8:00.

NEXT SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING:

Tuesday, February 21, 2012

at

6:30 PM

in the Library

Everyone is welcome!

DID YOU KNOW?

A Catholic school can never be simply a place where students accumulate skills and information, a place where they learn how to get ahead and sell their gifts on the open market. If this were so, our schools would prepare students for nothing more than a shallow life far removed from the profound vision of life revealed by the gospel.

– *Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (1989, “The Texture of the Times para.7)*

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Feb 2 Ground Hog Day
- Feb 2 Student/Parent/Teacher interviews
- Feb 3 P. D. Day
- Feb 6 See Hear Screening
- Feb 7 Gr. 3 – 8 Author Presentation
- Feb 14 Valentine’s Day
- Feb 15 National Flag Day
- Feb 15 Gr. 4 Child Abuse parent meeting
- Feb 16 Pizza Lunch
- Feb 20 Family Day
- Feb 21 Rosary Apostolate
- Feb 21 School Council Meeting 6:30 PM
- Feb 21 Shrove Tuesday
- Feb 21 Public Speaking
- Feb 22 Ash Wednesday
- Feb 22 Gr. 4 Abuse Awareness Parent presentation at CEC
- Feb 23 Mississauga South Public Speaking
- Feb 25 St. Martin CWL Public Speaking
- May 23-Jun 6 Gr. 3 & 6 EQAO Testing

ATTACHMENTS:

Home and School



Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION®

February 2012

H. Peroni, Principal

SHORT NOTES

Backpack check

Your child's backpack is full of clues about what's happening in school. Take 10 minutes each day to have her show you what's inside. You can go over homework and look at graded papers. Praise her for assignments she did well, and review those she struggled with.

Get well

When your youngster is sick, it's important for him to stay home so he can rest and get better. Also, avoid spreading germs by keeping him home until he's no longer contagious. *Note:* If your child is out more than a few days, you might call his teacher for assignments or reading he can do when he feels up to it.

Black History Month

February is Black History Month. Tell your child the celebration is one way of recognizing the accomplishments of African Americans throughout history. Read aloud a biography of George Washington Carver, the scientist who made peanut butter popular, or Rosa Parks, whose refusal to give up her bus seat helped spark the civil rights movement.

Worth quoting

"All kids are gifted. Some just open their packages earlier than others."
Michael Carr

JUST FOR FUN

Q: Why do sharks swim only in salt water?

A: Because pepper water makes them sneeze.



Pitching in

Would you like your child to be more responsible, hardworking, and persistent? Here are ideas for working as a family to help your youngster develop these important traits.

A group approach

Thinking of herself as a "team player" can encourage your child to be responsible. Explain that your family operates as a team. Everyone must play a part to get things done. *Example:* You take her shopping for her clothes and sports equipment. She chooses her outfit each morning and keeps track of her bat and glove.

Hard workers wanted

Your youngster probably has regular chores to do. You can motivate her to work extra hard by placing "want ads" on the refrigerator. Choose a challenging job, and offer a benefit. *Example:* Wanted—a hardworking family member to clean out a corner of the basement. Reward—a place for your child and her friends to play.

Sticking it out

Working toward small goals can make it easier to complete a big task. Perhaps your family room needs a fresh coat of paint. Write down the steps (move furniture and lay down drop cloths, prepare walls, roll



paint on walls, paint trim). Tell your child you'll take a fun break after each step is done (go to the playground, take a bike ride, play a game).♥

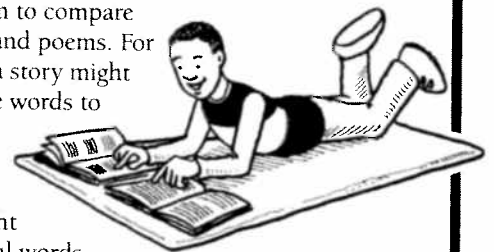
Stories and poems

Spend an afternoon at the library gathering storybooks and poems on a topic your child likes. You can help your youngster learn a new way to choose reading materials and also to enjoy poetry. Here's how:

1. Let your child pick a topic. Does he enjoy camping? Have him search the library's online catalog for books and poetry collections like *When We Go Camping* by Margriet Ruurs and *Toasting Marshmallows: Camping Poems* by Kristine George.

2. Ask him to compare the story and poems. For instance, a story might use simple words to explain events, while a poem might use colorful words

and give your youngster something to figure out. *Example:* "as my pillowed confection slowly reaches golden perfection" is about toasting a marshmallow.♥



Organizing information

Your child can sort out information he learns at school in fun ways that will help him remember it more easily. Share these three creative ways to make graphic organizers.

Build a mobile. Have your youngster draw circles (trace around small, medium, and large cans) and cut them out. If he's studying explorers, he can write the main topic (explorers) on the biggest circle, explorer names on medium



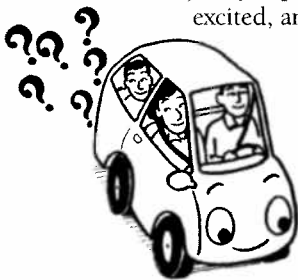
ones (Christopher Newport), and a fact about each person on smaller ones (founded Jamestown). Give him yarn and tape to connect the circles.

Make a chart. What your child knows about a topic (example: space) goes in the chart's first column (Jupiter is the largest planet). What he wants to know goes in the next column (How big is Jupiter?). The third column is for what he learns (Jupiter is 85,000 miles in diameter).

Draw a timeline. When your youngster needs to put events in order, he might draw an ice cream cone with several scoops. Then, he can write the topic on the cone and an event on each scoop. Or he could make cars of a train and write the heading on the engine and the other events in order on the other cars. ♥

PARENT TO PARENT Mystery trip

One Sunday afternoon, our family was arguing about what to do. Jason wanted to visit a hobby shop, and Tiffany asked to go swimming. Then my husband announced that we were taking a "mystery trip." The kids were excited, and the arguing stopped.



As we drove, they begged for clues. My husband said, "This place is full of words, but it's very

quiet." Tiffany guessed the library, but my husband said no. "They have trains, but it isn't the train station," he said. The kids were surprised when we ended up at a great used bookstore with a train table in the play area.

The day was so successful that now we have a mystery trip each month. So far, we've toured our town's recycling plant, watched planes take off at the airport, and relaxed by a stream in the woods. I wonder where we'll go next! ♥

OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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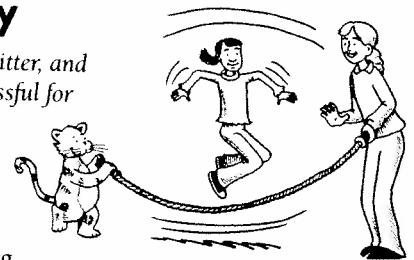
Q & A

Smoothing the way

Q: We just hired a new after-school sitter, and I'm concerned the change will be stressful for my daughter. How can I make the transition easier?

A: Try having the new sitter come over a few times when you're there (perhaps in the evening after work). Seeing you talk and laugh with the sitter will help your daughter feel more comfortable with her. Then, leave the two of them to play together while you go into another room.

Also, you can help your daughter adjust by keeping her rituals and routines as close to the same as possible. Even small things make a difference. For example, ask what she liked about her old sitter (she knew cool jump-rope rhymes or read favorite books). Offer to write down the rhymes for the new caregiver, and leave books on the coffee table. ♥



ACTIVITY CORNER

Listen carefully!

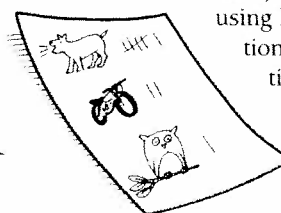
Use these fun activities to improve your child's listening skills.

What did you hear?

Sit quietly outside and have everyone write down all the sounds they hear (siren, motorcycle, dog barking). After five minutes, share your lists and see who heard the most sounds. Did anyone hear something no one else noticed?

Don't say it!

Put three stickers on each person's shirt. Designate a "forbidden word."



Hint: Try to think of one that's hard to avoid, like "dinner," "school," or "Mom." Each time a player catches someone saying the word, he gets one of that person's stickers. Whoever has the most stickers at bedtime wins.

Ask questions

Tell your youngster about your day, using lots of details. Then, ask questions: "What color was my boss's tie today?" "How many e-mails did I get?" Do this a few times, and your child may begin to anticipate the questions and listen more closely. ♥