

# THE PANTHERS' PRIDE



*We are smart. We do our part. We take pride in Sacred Heart!*

SACRED HEART SCHOOL - NEWSLETTER

2 PAGE ISSUE

APRIL 2013

## VIRTUE OF THE MONTH

The virtue that we will be celebrating this month is the virtue of **JUSTICE**. During the month of April we will be working towards:



- ♥ Knowing that it is not easy to do the right thing
- ♥ Realizing that when we complain about how unfair life is that there are many other people around us and in the world that suffer much more than we do
- ♥ Treat others as fairly as we want to be treated
- ♥ Recognizing that our decisions affect the lives of others (fair trade products, protecting the environment, protection of animals, etc.)

LOVE YOUR MOTHER...



## HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, which is also Earth Day, Sacred Heart School will be participating in "Lights Out Canada" where the school will be shutting off the lights for the entire day. This is an initiative to try and raise awareness for the need to reduce our ecological footprint which ties directly to our virtue of justice. Lights Out Canada was an idea created by grade 10 Canadian student Keleigh Annau after attending an environmental conference. She felt that schools could do small things to make a big difference and last year 122 000 students across Canada participated. We are hoping to convey the message that it is this generation that will be most affected by global warming and it will be up to them to start changing their habits so that we have an Earth in the future.

We are also asking students to wear blue, green and/or brown in honour of Earth day!

## GRADE 6 ORIENTATION - PARENT MEETING

The grade six students will be going to O'Gorman Intermediate Catholic School during the day on April 18<sup>th</sup> for their orientation to grade seven. Parents are invited to the parent meeting from 6:30-7:30 p.m. so that you may tour the school, learn about the programs, events and activities OICS has to offer. This is an excellent opportunity to have all your



questions answered before your child moves on to their new school.

## FIRST COMMUNION MEETINGS

The dates listed on the April calendar for First Communion Meetings are for students grade 3 (or older) who want to get the Sacrament of the Eucharist with Sacred Heart Parish.



## MATH, MATH, MATH

Math has definitely been one of our main focus areas during this school year. The Ontario curriculum often expects our students to learn math in a different way than how most of us learned math. It is important to understand that there is a great emphasis on students being able to express their "thinking" in math. This means that your child is expected to be able to answer the question and fully explain how they got that answer. This explanation may take several forms.

We want to make sure you know that students are taught basic math facts during math class and are expected to know them. It is very important that your child master the basic math skills taught and we realize that most students often need more practice in mastering these skills.

We are noticing that students often lack the perseverance to work through a problem, especially when they do not know their basic facts, and it takes them longer to calculate a proper answer OR their lack of knowledge hinders their ability to look at their answer and determine if it is reasonable.

This is why we need to ask for your support. Ensuring your child has a sound knowledge of the facts appropriate to their grade is key to their success. For example, depending on your child's grade, can your child easily identify numbers and their values? Can they skip count by twos, threes, fours, fives, tens, starting at an odd number? Do they know what numbers add to ten without using counters? Can they identify the number on a dice without counting? Do they know how many days in a week? month? year? Do they know how many grams in a

kilogram? meters in a kilometer? Do they know their multiplication tables? These are examples of concepts that have been taught in class but has your child mastered them? Programs such as ixl.com for the grade 3-6 students will help them practice what they are learning in class. The Ministry of Education has a website guide that offers suggestions to help your child. You can find "Helping your child learn math - a parent's guide" at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/brocure/earlymath/#numbers>



### FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN

In September 2013, Sacred Heart School will be implementing the Full-Day Kindergarten program. Even though we have had our Junior and Senior Kindergarten students coming to school for the full day for many years now, this program, instituted by the Ministry of Education, requires some changes to how the 'traditional' Kindergarten program is run. As of September the "junior" and "senior" kindergarten students will be placed in the same class. We will no longer have separated Junior and Senior Kindergarten programs. You will also see that there will be a teacher and an early childhood educator in the classroom working together to plan a program that is challenging yet geared to the child's level of development. The focus of the programming will be to design learning experiences that allow the children to explore and discover in a more play-based learning environment. Parents of our current junior kindergarten students will be receiving a pamphlet today that discusses the elements of the new program.

### ENTRANCE AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

This is a reminder that the bell for entrance into school is 8:50 a.m. and our dismissal time is 3:20 p.m.



We have a growing number of students who are consistently arriving late to school. When a child is late for school their entrance to class disrupts the learning of others. They may also miss valuable instruction as Language and Math are usually taught first thing in the morning. Even if they are only 'a few minutes late', there is still a disruption as they need to prepare themselves for class while everyone is ready to start their day.

Should you want to pick up your child after school, you are reminded to meet the teacher on duty who stands by the north entrance, check off your child from the pick-up list and then leave with your child. You will also need to be available to pick up your child at 3:20 p.m.

### NEW STAFF MEMBER

We would like to formally welcome Mme. Dinel to the Sacred Heart School family as she will be teaching the grade 4 and 5 French Immersion program for the remainder of the year.

### CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

Just to let you know that Catholic Education Week will take place May 5-10. I know it may be a little early to be talking about events in May but we would like to give you a little advanced warning that we are currently planning events throughout that week that celebrate our faith and our Catholic schools. There are five sub-themes for each day of Catholic Education Week:

- Monday – Faith that is Rooted
- Tuesday – Faith that is Nurtured
- Wednesday – Faith that is Discerned
- Thursday – Faith that is Witnessed
- Friday – Faith that is Celebrated

Once we have completed our planning for our events, we will let you know because it is our hope that you will celebrate this week with us.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our students for their peaceful, reflective and respectful participation in our Holy Thursday celebration of the Passion of Christ. It was quite a moving moment to see our students enacting the crucifixion of Jesus.

### "ER" DAY

On April 17<sup>th</sup> we will be having a theme day called "er" day. On this day we ask that students dress up as a person whose 'title' ends in "er". For example, your child can dress up as a teacher<sup>er</sup>, dancer<sup>er</sup>, hockey player<sup>er</sup>, etc. Have fun with it! We are looking forward to seeing who comes to school that day!

