

St. Pat's Pulse

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6 Cedar Street
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Upcoming St. Patrick's School Events:

Feb. 25

-Public Speaking Festival
@ 6pm

-Hockey Jersey dress up
day for \$1.00 donation

-Staff vs. Grade 7/8 stu-
dent floor hockey game
@ 11:30

Feb. 26

-Olympics day—dress in
red/white or you coun-
try colours

-12:30 meet in the gym,
"we believe" parade to
the circle, Olympic ac-
tivities

Feb. 28

Join us for family Mass at
9:30

March 1

Lenten celebration @
9:00

March 2

School winners compete
at Legion @ 7pm

March 9

School Mass @ 9:00

March 12

Winter carnival activities
this afternoon

March 15-19

March Break—no school

From the Principal's Desk

The month of February has been a very busy one for staff and students. We have been watching the Olympics, focusing on friendship, doing public speeches and started our Lenten journey.

Public Speaking Festival:

Join us on Thursday night for our annual public speaking festival. Show your support for our classroom winners at this school-wide competition. We will start at 6pm in the gym. We hope to see you there. Congratulations to all students who wrote and delivered a speech this year. Good luck to all our classroom winners. Reading our way to Vancouver: Congratulations to all students who participated in this contest. Over the 100 days of the torch relay, we

read nearly 1000 books.

Overall class winners: Mrs. deMontigny's K/Grade 1 class read 214 books, Mr. Casonato's grade 8 class read 188 books and Mrs. Oldaker's class read 164 books. Primary division winners: Gold—Jordan (55 books), Silver—Michelle (39 books) and bronze—Christopher (18 books). In our junior division: Gold—John (28 books), Silver—Yanique (15 books), Bronze—Ryan (14 books). Our intermediate division winners: Gold—Lana (40 books), Silver—Madison (15 books).

Everybody Jump: Congratulations to Mr. Dube's Grade 4/5 class who participated in the Everybody Jump program for diabetes awareness and

prevention. They created a video that was entered into this national contest. They won 2nd place which means they won some physical education equipment for the school. Good job!

Morning Drop-off: This is a reminder to all parents who drop off their children in the morning, that the parking lot is one way and one vehicle at a time. This means that buses and vehicles can enter—but need to drop off ONE AT A TIME. Do not double park as this is a safety concern.

WRITER OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to **Taylor Hamilton & Cassandra Flynn** who did an amazing job doing an analogy composition. Keep up the good work!



In February—Focusing on Friendship

Over the month of February, many classes have been focusing on friendship. We have been following the Olympics which is a celebration of sport and friendship. We have also been looking at what qualities make a good friend. In keeping with this theme, we will be having a hockey jersey dress up day this Thursday February 25th. We will be collect-

ing a suggested donation of \$1.00 from each student. All money raised will go to a kindergarten student from Coeur de Nord, Emma-Rose Brander and her family. She has a brain tumor and has recently undergone surgery. As an added bonus, the staff will take on the grade 7 & 8 students in a floor hockey game at 11:30 lunch

recess. **On Thursday, bring in your donation (\$1.00) for the Brander family and wear your hockey jersey!**



Balanced Literacy in the Classroom

How is your child learning to read at school?

Teachers throughout the elementary grades use a variety of teaching strategies to help students learn to read and understand a text at their level. The elements of balanced and comprehensive literacy include:

Read Aloud:

- The teacher reads a selected text to the class daily
- The teacher involves students in discussions before, during and after reading
- The emphasis is on understanding the meaning of the text



Shared Reading:

- The teacher reads a text to the whole class with print large enough for all students to read
- The same text is read aloud together throughout the week to teach and review how different reading strategies are used to understand a text.

Guided Reading:

- The teacher works with small groups of students with similar reading needs throughout the week.
- Each child has a copy of the text which he/she reads at his/her pace with the teacher's guidance
- The teacher helps the students

use the strategies that they have learned during read-alouds and shared reading to make meaning of the text.

Independent Reading:

- The students select and read a "just right" book (not too easy, not too hard) daily
- The students use the reading strategies taught to read and understand the texts they have chosen
- The students talk about what they have read and the strategies they used to help them understand the text



"Even one incident of bullying or harassment in schools is one too many."



"Reading our way to Vancouver" winners with Librarian Tina Cataford.

Helping Make Schools Safer

New Legislation Outlines Reporting Requirements

Schools must be places where everyone feels welcome, safe and respected. The *Keeping Our Kids Safe at School Act* that came into effect February 1, 2010, is the latest step in our strategy to help make Ontario's schools safer. It will affect how all school boards handle incidents at school.

This new law requires that all school staff report serious incidents that could lead to suspension or expulsion to their principal and that principals notify parents of victims when a student has been harmed. In addition, all staff who work directly with students, must respond not

only to serious incidents but also to inappropriate or disrespectful behavior among students. This could include racist or sexist comments, graffiti or vandalism, behaviours and activities that are unacceptable in Ontario schools.

Students need a safe and positive learning and teaching environment to succeed at school. But it isn't just the school's responsibility to make that happen. All of us have a part to play in making and keeping school safe.

Ontario's Code of Conduct sets out clear standards for behavior for everyone involved in the publically funded school system. This includes students, parents/guardians, teachers, other staff members, volunteers

and community partners. The code applies on school property, on school buses, at school-authorized events or activities or in other circumstances that could have an impact on the school climate.

Find out more about Ontario's strategy to help make schools safer. Check out the Safe School section of the Ministry of Education's website for more information on the *Keeping our Kids Safe at School Act* and what it means for you and your child. You'll also find information on the code of conduct, bullying prevention and other programs designed to help build a positive school climate.