



Shamrock Times



St. Patrick Catholic School

January 2016



Wishing You All the Best in 2016!



St. Pats Staff and Students Wish Family and Friends a very Happy New Year!

On behalf of the staff at St. Patrick School, I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and everyone a very Happy New Year! We look forward to your continued support in 2016 as we work together to create a vibrant, faith-filled learning community!

While January brings the beginning of the New Year, many of us also regard it as the true beginning of the long, hard winter. Do you want to beat the winter blues? The St. Patrick School Parent Council will be hosting a **Family Fun Night on Thursday, January 28th from 4:30-7:00 p.m.** Dinner will be provided at no cost and there will be plenty of games to play! We hope that you will join us! More information is to follow!



Listed below are a number of informational items. Please see the January calendar for additional details!

JK/Kindergarten Registration for September 2016 will take place on **Tuesday, January 26th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** If you, or someone you know, has a child born in the year **2012** and would like further details, please contact the school at 679-5575. Registration is also available online at www.ncdsb.on.ca



Our next **Parent Council meeting** will take place on Monday, January 11th at 6:00 p.m. in the Library!

Family Literacy Day 2016 takes place on Wednesday, January 27th. Please see the attached sheet **15 Minutes of Fun** for some great family literacy ideas! For more fun family literacy activities and contests, check out www.abclifeliteracy.ca

Friday, January 29th is a **Professional Activity Day!** There are no classes on this day!



JANUARY CURRICULUM FOCUS

In Mathematics, students will begin focusing on Measurement (length, height, width, distance, area, perimeter, and metric conversions). In Reading, students will focus on extending their understanding (making connections beyond surface information and determining important ideas). In Writing, students will focus on Explanatory writing (writing to explain an experience or event).

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

As part of our efforts to enhance our communication with parents regarding assessment, student progress and achievement, beginning this month, teachers at St. Patrick School will be sending home an **assessment folder** on the last Wednesday of each month! We would ask that you take some time to review your child's work, provide some encouraging feedback on the form provided and then return the folder to the school so that the work can be placed in your child's learning portfolio!

January Birthdays!

- Jan 4th - Gryphon T.
- Jan 9th - Max C. and Gabrielle J.
- Jan 13th - Brice E. and Layla K.
- Jan 15th - Grace L.
- Jan 19th - Joel S.
- Jan 20th - Sophie H.
- Jan 21st - Audrey W.
- Jan 27th - Malcolm P.



Making the Most of Reading Minutes

A little planning can help busy mothers and fathers make the most of even a few minutes of bedtime reading:

Read daily. Go to the library on the weekend and pick out several books for the week. Schedule special reading time to share one book with your child every night. This shows your child you value reading and your time together.

Talk about it. Talk about the story after reading time and again in the morning. This reinforces the special time you spent together and is a great educational exercise.

Try variety. Tell a story that you know or make one up together. This helps stimulate creativity. Another option is to sing familiar songs together at bedtime to help your child explore and develop rhythm and language.

Teach the concept of time. Let your child choose books according to how much time you have to spend together (short, medium, long). "Tonight is a short book night. Can you find a short book that you want to read?" This teaches your child about time and involves your child in the decision process, which is empowering.

Build excitement. If using a longer book, you can read a chapter or two each night. This helps build continuity and suspense for what's to come!



This month's criteria for

Student of the Month:



A student who demonstrates **respectfulness** for self, peers and adults; **a collaborative contributor** who finds meaning, dignity and vocation in work, which respects the rights of all and contributes to the common good.

Dressing for Cold Weather!

A reminder that students should come to school prepared to play outside in snowy and cold weather. A hat, mitts, snow pants and boots are required for all students who wish to play in the snow. Should the temperature fall below - 20° and depending on the wind chill, students will remain inside for an indoor recess.



New Years Prayer

Thank you Lord for giving me
The brand new year ahead
Help me live the way I should
As each new day I tread.

Give me gentle wisdom
That I might help a friend
Give me strength and courage
So a shoulder I might lend.

The year ahead is empty
Help me fill it with good things
Each new day filled with joy
And the happiness it brings.

Please give the leaders of our world
A courage born of peace
That they might lead us gently
And all the fighting cease.

Please give to all upon this earth
A heart that's filled with love
A gentle happy way to live
With Your blessings from above.

~ Charlotte Anselmo ~

Wishing you all the best in 2016!

L. Hurtubise, Principal

