



# February 2012 Newsletter

## St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Elementary School

1774 RUDELL ROAD . NEWCASTLE . ONTARIO . L1B 1E2

TEL: (905)987-4797 . FAX: (905)987-7279

### Spiritual Theme:

**Believe, Love, Act: "The greatest among you will be your servant."**

Matthew 23:11

### PRINCIPAL

*Linda Bier*

### VICE PRINCIPAL

*Guy Charette*

### PARISH PRIEST

*Fr. P. Seabrooke*

### SECRETARIES

*Pat Ryckman*

*Sheila Blainey*

### CATHOLIC SCHOOL

#### COUNCIL CHAIR

*Susana Gomes*

### SUPERINTENDENT

*Deirdre Thomas*

### TRUSTEES

*Granville Anderson*

*Peggy O'Toole*

## COMPASSION

In Faith, Hope and Joy

### Catholic Virtues into Action

#### The Virtue of Compassion

During the month of February we celebrate the virtue of COMPASSION. In Luke's Gospel we read "Be compassionate as God is compassionate." We understand compassion not only as the ability to empathize with another but also to act on behalf of that other person. It is evident when we care deeply and want to help others, even if we do not know them. It is being kind and forgiving to someone who has hurt you. We practise COMPASSION when we:

- are helpful to a person or animal in need
- notice when someone is hurt or needs a friend
- imagine how another person might be feeling
- take time to show we care
- forgive others when they make mistakes
- reach out in the broader community to share our resources and skills

The more we talk, teach and learn about compassion, the closer our graduates come to dedicating themselves to the common good and to doing God's work. We ask parents to join us in this important work with our children.

We are very proud of students in the ME to WE Leadership group at school who are spear heading fundraising activities at St. Francis of Assisi. They are modelling compassion as we all work together to support those in need.

Mrs. L. Bier,  
Principal.

Guy Charette,  
Vice Principal.

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Check out our school website:  
<http://schools.pvnccdsb.on.ca/stfra14/>

### Reporting on Progress



Report cards for term one will go home on **Tuesday, February 14**. Mrs. McMillan's and Mrs. Hegarty's Monday/Wednesday kindergarten classes will receive their report cards on Monday, February 13 since they are not here on Tuesday. Please review these carefully with your children. Plan to accompany grade 1 to 8 students to **Student Led Conferences on Thursday, February 16th from 3:15 to 8:00 p.m.** Call Mrs. Ryckman at (905)987-4797 to make an appointment by Wednesday, February 15th at noon. Also available for interviews on the same date and times are Mrs. Gray's Sr. Kindergarten, French, Integrated Literacy and Special Education Resource Teachers. Mrs. McMillan and Mrs. Hegarty will be holding their interviews on **Wednesday, February 15 from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

### SCHOOL THEME: "At St. Francis of Assisi we will fill our Buckets with God's Love."

**St. Francis of Assisi Bucket fillers:** Charlie Vanhaverbeke, Kaitlyn Cottam, Gabriella Roti, Brooklyn Fitzpatrick, David McKinney, Jack Barich, Ayden Baldwin, Bethany Van Boxtel, Bradley Chicoyne, Eddie Borutskie, Rosemary McCarthy, Marisa Beauvais, Skylar Spratley, Trent Flower.



## Recycle for Education



Drop off your empty ink and toner cartridges at your local STAPLES Business Depot.

**Staples will contribute \$1 to local schools for every eligible ink and toner cartridge donated.**



## Big Brothers and Big Sisters Bowl for Kid's Sake

This year St. Francis will be participating in the Bowl for Kids Sake fundraising event. Over the next 3 months each class will have the opportunity to go bowling. The money we raise will support Big Brothers and Sisters of Clarington. Consent and pledge forms will be sent home closer to the scheduled bowling date.

## SOS—Save Our Secretary

If your child is going to be late or absent from school, please call the school at 905 987-4797. You can leave a message on our 24 hr. answering machine. This will save Mrs. Ryckman valuable time in trying to confirm the safety of your children. Thank you.



We have begun our **Rainbows** group at St. Francis! As a group, we have great discussions, play games and participate in fun activities. We look forward to our weekly meetings!

## Library News

Thanks to all the students who have joined the Red Maple and Silver Birch Book Clubs! We've had 10 grade 3 & 4 students sign up for Silver Birch Express, 19 grade 5 & 6 students sign up for Silver Birch and 9 grade 7 & 8 students sign up for Red Maple! Silver Birch members meet on Tuesdays at 12:00 and Red Maple members meet on Thursdays at 12:00. Voting is the week of April 23rd. Thank you to the following staff members for their leadership in these clubs: Miss Punshon, Mrs. Biss & Mrs. Martin. We plan to visit the Public Library sometime in March. Details to follow.

Mrs. Cormack  
Library Support Specialist

## Catholic School Council News

**There's still time!** Have you signed up for Council's new electronic newsletter, *The Council Quarterly*? The newsletter will shine a light on what Council is doing at the school and keep you informed on policies, activities and plans from the school to the school board. Subscribe today so you don't miss the very first issue to be sent out on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Visit the Council area of the school website to subscribe: <http://schools.pvnccdsb.on.ca/stfra14/CSC.html>.

If you miss the February 1<sup>st</sup> issue, you can still sign up to receive the second issue in May.

**New Titles Have Arrived!** Council is proud to announce the addition of 2 new titles to the Parent Lending Library: *You're Ruining My Life! (But Not Really): Surviving the Teenage Years with Connected Parenting* and *Connected Parenting: How to Raise a Great Kid*. Both books are by Jennifer Kolari. These books offer advice "based on Kolari's groundbreaking application of the concept of 'mirroring', an instinctive process that helps parents bond with their children and promotes optimum growth and development". (Annotation from Amazon.ca.)

To borrow these, or any other books and materials, from the Parent Lending Library, visit the bookshelf outside the office, fill in the library card and leave it with the office.

**See You Tonight!** On February 1<sup>st</sup>, from 6:30 to 8:30PM, we are delighted to host the Regional Council Meeting. The green flyer sent home last week includes details of the event. This meeting is open to everyone and will provide you with important information. Please come out! Special thanks go to Mr. Charrette and Natalie Ingram for organizing this event.

**See you next time!** The next Council meeting will be held on February 27, 2012 from 6PM to 7:30PM in the school library. Everyone is welcome! If you require childcare to attend, please contact the Chair no later than the Friday before the meeting.

Susana Gomes  
Chair, Catholic School Council  
st.franciscsc@gmail.com

## A Valentine Thought by Fr. Peter Seabrooke

One of the Christmas gifts I received this year was a calendar of daily sayings. When I was preparing my newsletter item, I came across the one for January 23<sup>rd</sup>. It read, "You can trust the Bible—God always keeps His word."

As we enter what we sometimes refer to as the month of love because of Saint Valentine, this saying is very appropriate because it reminds us that one of the many ways we can show our love for other people is by being people, who like God, keep our word.

As February unfolds, our Grade 2s will be celebrating their First Reconciliation as they continue to prepare for First Communion in April. Please keep these beautiful children in your prayers as well as the Grade 7s who are continuing to prepare for Confirmation in May.

Our grade 8s and up are invited to our parish youth group which meets on the third Sunday of the month in a parish meeting room.

Finally parents, do you have a son or daughter who is a parish altar server, reader or member of the Children's choir? If you do, please remember that it is an honour to minister in the Church this way, but your child needs your encouragement to remain faithfully committed to serve Jesus this way.

**ST. FRANCIS KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS INVITE YOU TO ENJOY A SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER, ST. FRANCIS PARISH HALL -Tuesday Feb.21, 6:00PM-Bring the family-donations box available.**

## Do you have a child born in 2008?

### Early Learning Registration—February 6—February 10, 2012

Beginning Kindergarten is a wonderful and exciting new experience for you and your child. There are many ways to become involved in your child's schooling that will enhance the experience and make it a successful one for your child.

Kindergarten registration for eligible students attending in **September 2012** takes place February 6 - February 10, 2012. Please contact the school to receive registration forms and other information to assist you. Early contact with the school enables staff to build a rapport with you and your child resulting in an immediate sense of belonging, and a more relaxed introduction to the school environment.

We recognize that parents play an important role in their child's success in school. Your support, involvement and encouragement are a key factor in your child's education and we want to support you in your efforts to prepare your child for a successful future.

We look forward to welcoming your child in our Catholic school and our staff will work hard to provide the best kindergarten experiences possible.

**My Name is Dakota Yaskow.** I am in 6th grade at St. Francis and I **have been fundraising annually for the Hospital for Sick Children** since I was 6 years old. I would like to ask the support of my school/friends and family to help me on my fundraising goal. The school will be donating the proceeds from our February Candy Grams to the Hospital for Sick Children. All money will be donated to help fund the life saving treatments the hospital offers. Please feel free to Google Dakota Yaskow to see his efforts.

Sincerely Dakota Yaskow #786

Link to Dakota's Fundraising Page

<http://my.sickkidsdonations.com/personalPage.aspx?SID=3232938&Pref=en-CA>

Link to Dakota's interview on City TV

## Knights of Columbus Free Throw Winners

10 year old girls—Abbey Frank

11 year old girls—Rachel Thompson

12 year old girls—Harriet Conrad

13 year old girls—Sarah Theberge

10 year old boy—Cobe Pantaleo

11 year old boys—Bradley Ullrich

12 year old boys—Matthew Kartusch

13 year old boys—Riley Kennelly

These students will now move on to represent St. Francis at the District Level which will be held in February.



The Eco Team has recently conducted their first review. We did okay, but there is definitely room for improvement. The four areas we are targeting are: lights, computer monitors, computer peripherals, and space around vents, walls and window sills. We are also going to be doing garbage audits. We are trying to reduce our garbage. The school will now be recycling household batteries. We encourage everyone to bring in your batteries. We are starting to use GOOS paper, which means Good On One Side. We would like each class to have somewhere to keep GOOS paper. For more info, check our bulletin board outside the upstairs boys bathroom. Check back for more updates soon.

Written by: Emily Hean

## 2012 SUMMER SCHOOL!!

REGISTRATION BEGINS  
MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2012

### GRADES 5 AND 6 LITERACY AND NUMERACY CAMPS

Students who are presently in Grades 5 or 6 can attend Literacy or Numeracy camps at each of the Summer School sites listed below.

These camps will run from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. daily from Wednesday, July 4 to Tuesday, July, 17, 2012.

Registration deadline is June 15, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.

\*Please note that parents are responsible for transportation for their children in Grades 5 and 6. There is no bussing provided.

Campers will have a daily health and physical education break.

For further information call the Peter L. Roach Catholic Education Centre at (705) 748-4861, ext. 172 or 174, or toll free at 1-800-461-8009, ext. 172 or 174

### INTERMEDIATE Literacy/ Numeracy SUMMER SCHOOL COURSES

Grades 7 and 8 students can attend Literacy or Numeracy Summer School at each of the sites listed below. Summer School will run from 8:15 a.m. – 2:15 p.m. daily. Students attending Intermediate Summer School will improve literacy and numeracy skills with reading, writing and math remediation programs. Students can register for both sessions, or choose one session.

Session #1 - Wednesday, July 4 to Tuesday, July, 17, 2012 (Locations: St. Mary CSS, St. Thomas Aquinas CSS, Holy Cross CSS and St. Stephen CSS)

Session #2 - Wednesday, July 18 to Tuesday, July 31, 2012 (Locations: Holy Cross CSS and St. Stephen CSS)

Registration deadline is June 15, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.

# February 2012—Compassion

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>Check for bus cancellations and delays @ <a href="http://www.stsco.ca">www.stsco.ca</a></p>			<p>1 Board Volleyball St. Peter's Secondary</p> <p>Skills Canada—gr. 8—1:45 pm</p> <p>Regional CSC Mtg. 6:30-8:00</p>	<p>2 </p> <p>Snow Day volleyball</p>  	<p>3 P.A. Day Report Card Writing</p>	4
<p>5 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time</p>	<p>6 Kindergarten Registration</p> <p>Bruckmann Swimming 9-10</p> 	<p>7 </p> <p>8:25 School Meeting</p> <p>Kindergarten Registration</p>	<p>8 St. Stephen's Band performs</p> <p>Kindergarten Registration</p> <p>Trolley swimming 1-2 pm</p> 	<p>9 Selling Candy Grams</p> <p>Kindergarten Registration</p>  	<p>10 Snow day for St. Stephen's Band</p> <p>Kindergarten Registration</p> <p>Selling Candy Grams</p>	11
<p>12 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time</p>	<p>13 Selling Candy Grams</p> <p>Bruckmann Swimming 9-10</p> 	<p>14 </p> <p>8:25 School Meeting</p> <p>Report cards sent home</p> <p><b>Happy Valentine's Day</b></p> 	<p>15 Conferences—McMillan &amp; Hegarty</p> <p>Trolley swimming 1-2 pm</p> 	<p>16 </p> <p>Student-Led Conferences 3:15 -8 pm</p>	<p>17 Violence Prevention Workshop Gr. 7, 8</p> <p>Bowling 1:30-2:30 Gray, Punshon, Armstrong</p>	18
<p>19 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time</p>	<p>20 Family Day</p> 	<p>21 </p> <p>No School Mtg.</p> <p>Grad Parent Meeting 5 pm</p>	<p>22 Ash Wednesday Mass—church</p> <p>Trolley swimming 1-2 pm</p> 	<p>23 Gr. 8 to St. Stephen's Secondary for Career Cruising</p>  	<p>24 9 am—Gr. 5 to Safety Village</p> <p>Bowling 12:30-1:30—Dears, McCarthy</p> <p>Bowling 1:30-2:30 Temple, Terveld</p>	25
<p>26 1st Sunday in Lent</p>	<p>27 Battle of the Books</p> <p>Bruckmann Swimming 9-10</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> <p>6 -7:45 pm Catholic School Council Mtg.</p> </div>	<p>28 </p> <p>8:25 School Meeting</p>	<p>29 Gr. 2, 2/3 to Robert McLaughlin Gallery-am</p> <p>Trolley swimming 1-2 pm</p> 	<p><b>Looking Ahead</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March 12—17—March Break</li> <li>• March 27—School Mass—9:00 a.m.</li> </ul>		