



# March 2011 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

**In Peace, Hope and Joy**

## Catholic Virtues into Action The Virtue of "Forgiveness"

"It is by forgiving that one is forgiven." Mother Teresa.

During March our schools are recognizing the Catholic virtue of FORGIVENESS. This virtue is an important cornerstone of our faith as we reflect on the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made to forgive us all. In our Catholic schools we work to honour and model forgiveness. Many of our young students will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this Spring.

We join together to pray for God's forgiveness and continue to model it for our children. We teach them the steps to forgiveness, most notably through our "Restorative Practice" initiative. While it is usually best not to 'force' an apology, as role models we as adults can offer suggestions and options for verbal, written or even reflective responses. Our children need to witness adults forgiving them and each other to learn the true depth of the freedom of this virtue. This freedom is achieved one step at a time.

## A LENTEN REFLECTION

During lent the Church calls us to prayer and fasting. I offer to you a brief guide on what to consider FASTING FROM and to consider FEASTING ON:

- \*FAST from judging others; FEAST on the Christ within.
- \*FAST from busyness; FEAST on quiet time and silent prayer
- \*FAST from emphasis on differences; FEAST on the unity of life.
- \*FAST from thoughts of illness; FEAST on the healing power of God.
- \*FAST from discontent; FEAST on gratitude.
- \*FAST from anger; FEAST on patience.
- \*FAST pessimism; FEAST on optimism.
- \*FAST from worry; FEAST on trust in God.
- \*FAST from complaining; FEAST on appreciation.
- \*FAST from bitterness; FEAST on mellowness.
- \*FAST from self-concern; FEAST on compassion for others.
- \*FAST from discouragement; FEAST on hope.

Blessings go out to one and all as we journey together through the season of Lent. Keep on striving to receive a Lenten footprint.

Please remember to continue to keep safety in the forefront of our thoughts, choices, and actions. Whether in the hallways at school, out on the school yard, in our classrooms, throughout our school facility, or on the bus ride to and from school we want everyone to stay safe.

We wish all our families have a fun filled and healthy March Break. Wishing everyone safe returns and that we all come back well rested and prepared for continued learning.

Mr. G. Charette  
Vice Principal

Mrs. L. Bier  
Principal

PRINCIPAL  
*Linda Bier*

VICE PRINCIPAL  
*Guy Charette*

PARISH PRIEST  
*Fr. P. Seabrooke*

SECRETARIES  
*Pat Ryckman*  
*Jane Hunt*

CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
COUNCIL CHAIR  
*Maria Kramer*

SUPERINTENDENT  
*Ron McNamara*

TRUSTEES  
*Granville Anderson*  
*Peggy O'Toole*

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



This past month we have been talking about the different stages of grief and how we can help each other and help the members of our families deal with these feelings. Fitting the pieces together now that things are different, is another area we have been discussing in our groups.

Mrs. Hegarty  
Mrs. MacLean

### Leaders Today

In February, the Leader's Today sold Valentine's candy grams and we were able to donate \$112 to the St. Vincent De Paul society. Thank you for your support.

### And the Beat Goes On

Thank you to the Navarro family who donated a professional drum set to the school. It will be enjoyed by many for years to come.



***Humanity is never as beautiful as when praying for forgiveness, or else forgiving another.***

***Jean Paul Richter***

### "Reading Boosters After School Tutorial"

This Destination Reading Programme will begin Tuesday March 22 and run for 10 weeks, ending Tuesday May 24. It will be after school in the library.

## 2011 Summer School—Registration begins Monday, April 18

### GRADES 5 AND 6 LITERACY AND NUMERACY CAMPS

Students who are presently in Grades 5 or 6 at a Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board Catholic School 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 for two sessions as noted below. Students can register for both sessions of the literacy and numeracy camps or choose one session. Registration deadline is Friday, June 10, 2011 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 SUMMER SCHOOL COURSES

Grades 7 and 8 students can attend Literacy or Numeracy Summer School at each of the Summer School Sites listed below. Intermediate 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 - Monday, July 4 to Friday, July 15, 2011

Session #2 - Monday, July 18 to Friday, July 29, 2011

Registration deadline is Friday, June 10, 2011 at 4:00 p.m.

### SECONDARY SUMMER SCHOOL COURSES

Grades 9 to 12

Full Credit – E-learning - Credit Recovery - Upgrading Credit Course

Registration deadline is Tuesday, June 28, 2011 at 4:00 p.m.

Session #1 - Monday, July 4 to Friday, July 15, 2011

Session #2 - Monday, July 18 to Friday, July 29, 2011

For full credits, Secondary students must attend Sessions #1 and #2.

Time: 8:15 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Host Schools for Intermediate and Secondary Summer School 2011

Monsignor O'Donoghue Catholic Elementary School, Peterborough

St. Mary Catholic Secondary School, Cobourg

St. Stephen Catholic Secondary School, Bowmanville

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School, Lindsay

Brochures are available at all Catholic schools or on the Board's website.

Registration for Camp and Summer School is on-line at:

<http://www.pvnccdsb.on.ca/schools/summer-school.asp> beginning Monday, April 18, 2011.

For further information about Intermediate or Secondary Summer School, call the Peter L. Roach Catholic Education Centre at (705) 748-4861, ext. 350 –toll free at 1-800-461-8009, ext. 350, or email [summerschool@pvnccdsb.on.ca](mailto:summerschool@pvnccdsb.on.ca)

## Lent, a Time for Growth by Fr. Peter Seabrooke

Hi Folks: welcome to another Lenten Journey of growth. Our annual Lent-Triduum-Easter cycle can be imagined as a journey from the water, into the desert and back to the water. Immediately after his Baptism, Matthew says, Jesus went into the desert wilderness, led by the Spirit. For forty days he was alone there, fasting, praying and confronting temptation. We too are called to imitate Jesus by going into the desert to keep a forty day fast.



I invite you to take advantage of the following aids as you set out on your Lenten Journey; Ash Wednesday Mass (with the school), Sunday Mass, (including the Youth Mass at 7:00 p.m.), Stations of the Cross (Fridays 11:00 a.m.), Taize Service (Mar.29, 7:00 p.m.), Penitential Service (Mon. April 11, 7:00 p.m.) and Healing Mass (Fri. April 15, 1:30 p.m.)

I invite you to continue to pray for our children who are preparing to celebrate First Communion (grade 2) and Confirmation (grade 7).

## Catholic School Council News

The Catholic School Council invites parents to become involved in two committees: The Fundraising Committee and the Parent Involvement Committee. The Fundraising Committee will look at fundraising needs and opportunities and make recommendations to Council on future fundraising initiatives. The Parent Involvement Committee will look at strengthening the bond between parents and the school community. If you are interested in participating in either committee, send an email to [St.FrancisCSC@gmail.com](mailto:St.FrancisCSC@gmail.com) or leave a message for Susana Gomes at the school.

Did you know the minutes of Catholic School Council meetings are public and available for perusal? As soon as they become available, the minutes are posted on the bulletin board outside the office. Copies of previous meeting's minutes are kept in the office and are available on request. Council is also looking into posting the minutes on our school website. If you would like to see a copy of the minutes, but can't make it into the school, request an email copy from [St.FrancisCSC@gmail.com](mailto:St.FrancisCSC@gmail.com).

Council is pleased to announce a new addition to the Parenting Collection: *The World Needs Your Kid: How to Raise Children Who Care and Contribute* by Craig Kielburger and Marc Kielburger. This book, written by the founders of Me to We, is a parenting guide suggesting one of the greatest legacies parents can leave is a generation of conscientious and thoughtful children. The Parenting Collection is located on the bookshelf outside the office and houses titles on a variety of topics such as education and homework, health and nutrition, children with special needs, and parenting. To borrow a book, fill in the library card at the back of the book and leave it with the school secretary. Thank you to our librarian, Mrs. Cormack, for adding this book to the Parenting Collection.

The Catholic School Council will not meet in March. The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 11, 2011 from 6PM to 7:30PM in the school library. All are welcome. Child care is available with prior arrangement.

Council wishes all students, teachers and school staff a safe and fun-filled March Break!

Susana Gomes  
Vice-chair, Catholic School Council  
[St.FrancisCSC@gmail.com](mailto:St.FrancisCSC@gmail.com)

## Sri Lankan Fundraiser

Thank you to Emma and Siobhan Ward, Hannah Bourke, Emilie Roti, Abbey Milne, Jasmine Madalena, Carly Elcome and Rachel Thompson for their hard work in raising funds for uniforms and supplies for Sri-Lankan children. The funds raised from sales were \$165.70 and Ms. Alves' French classes raised \$25.71 for a grand total of \$181.41.

### Grade 8 Grads

Put on your Best Smile.  
Grad Photos take place March 10



**The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.**

Mahatma Gandhi

## St. Francis' Parenting Collection

Parents are invited to borrow books from our Parent Library located in the main lobby of the school. Books can be signed out for a two week period. New books are added periodically, so please feel free to browse when you are in the school.

## Library News

The members of the Red Maple & Silver Birch Reading Clubs are all reading away nicely! Our Red Maple Club members have read a total of 58 books! Silver Birch members have read 47 books & Silver Birch Express students have read 81 books! Good job everyone! We will be visiting the public library in late March & early April. Red Maple Book Club - Tuesday March 29th, Silver Birch Express Club - Thursday March 31st, and the Silver Birch Club - Monday April 4th. Permission forms will be sent home the Monday after the March Break. As always, we are looking forward to these Library visits.

Mrs. Cormack  
Library Support Specialist



## Knights of Columbus Free Throw Winners—Council Level

<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>
10 year olds— Courtney Irwin	Bradley Ullrich
11 year olds— No competitors	Jordan Neuman
12 year olds— Colleen Waters	Liam Caume
13 year olds— Olivia Costello	Spencer MacArthur

Courtney Irwin, Liam Caume and Spencer MacArthur also won at the District level and moved on to compete at the Regional level. Congratulations to all the winners.



## French Book Fair

Thursday, March 31  
10:00 to 7:00 p.m.  
St. Catherine Catholic Elementary School Gym  
1575 Glenforest Blvd.,  
Peterborough  
Vendors/Publishers:  
The French Library for Kids  
Groupe Modulo Inc.  
Cheneliere Education  
Nelson Education Ltd.  
CEC Publishing  
Children's French Bookstore of Toronto

# March 2011—Forgiveness

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>Looking Ahead</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April 17—Holy Week</li> <li>• April 22—Good Friday</li> <li>• April 24—Easter Sunday</li> <li>• April 25—Easter Monday</li> <li>• April 11—Catholic School Council Meeting 6 pm</li> </ul>		1	<p>2</p> <p>Pediculosis Check</p> <p>Foley swimming 1-2 pm</p> 	<p>3</p> 	<p>4</p> 	5
6	<p>7</p> <p>Bruckmann swimming 9-10</p> 	8	<p>9</p> <p>9 am Mass Ash Wednesday—school</p> <p>Foley swimming 1-2 pm</p> 	<p>10</p> <p>Am—Grad Photos</p> 	<p>11</p> 	12
<p>13</p> <p>Daylight savings time Begins</p> 	14	15	16	<p>17</p> <p>HAPPY ST. PATTY'S DAY</p> 	18	19
<h2>MARCH BREAK</h2>						
20	<p>21</p> <p>Bruckmann swimming 9-10</p> 	22	<p>23</p> <p>Foley swimming 1-2 pm</p> 	<p>24</p> 	<p>25</p> <p>Twin Day—\$1 to participate</p> <p>1:45—3 Anti-racism workshop Gr. 7</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>First Reconciliation—3-4:30</p>
27	<p>28</p> <p>Bruckmann swimming 9-10</p> 	<p>29</p> <p>Red Maple Book Club visits Public Library-pm</p> <p>First Reconciliation 7-8:30</p> <p>1:15—Gr. 6 VIP</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Foley swimming 1-2 pm</p> 	<p>31</p> <p>Pm—Silver Birch Express visits Public Library</p> 		