



St. Michael's School Newsletter

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OUR VIRTUE FOCUS FOR FEBRUARY—EMPATHY

In February, we celebrate the virtue of **empathy**. God wants us to understand and care about others. God has given us the ability to form connections with each other - to live together. **Empathy** helps us to connect and live together in safe, caring, inclusive communities.

An empathetic person...

- listens when people speak
- notices when someone is upset and tries to help
 - can name his/her feelings
- can see a situation from another person's point of view
- accepts that others have different perspectives

***"Life's most urgent question is:
what are you doing for others?"***

~Martin Luther King, Jr.

SINCERE CONDOLENCES

Please join us in praying for the repose of the souls of Ms. A. Alberti's and Ms. M. Alberti's grandfathers who both passed away within a day of each other this week. Our two teachers shared a grandfather, Sergio Alberti, and Ms. A. Alberti also lost her other grandfather, Antonio Pedron, from her mother's side of the family.

We ask God to bring peace and comfort to the families during this time of sorrow.

FEBRUARY 2020 CALENDAR

Be sure to check the school's website for the February calendar.

GRADE 1 ASSEMBLY

The Grade 1 Assembly on Empathy has been rescheduled for **Thursday, February 20th at 9:15 a.m.** Everyone is welcome to attend!

NO SCHOOL

A reminder that the school will be closed for three days: **Thursday February 13th, Friday, February 14th and Monday, February 17th.**

The staff is attending the Catholic Educator's Conference on February 13th and 14th.
Monday, February 18th is the Family Day holiday.

HOT LUNCH VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED!

The St. Michael's School Hot Lunch Program is a delicious highlight every week, and we thank our Parents' Association for organizing this. **However, to continue with this service, we are in urgent need of extra help at lunch times.** If you can help or would like more information, please contact Mrs. Yonathan ASAP at Rahiwa2010@hotmail.ca. We didn't have any parents respond last week so we hope that at least a few of you will contact Mrs. Yonathan this week. Thanks in advance for your help.

USED UNIFORM SALE

Our Used Uniform Store is open for business this **Friday, February 7th** from 3:00-3:30 pm in the library.

FATHER DEPAUL CLASSROOM VISITS

We thank Father DePaul for coming to visit our students every Thursday afternoon. Father DePaul visits two grades each week. This is a wonderful opportunity for our children to get to know Father DePaul a little more and to listen to his instruction on various aspects of our faith.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress reports will be going home with your child(ren) tomorrow, **Friday, February 7th**. Please sign and return the folder in the envelope to your child's classroom teacher.

A reminder that St. Michael's School has followed CISVA's recommendation to all CISVA Elementary schools to remove letter grades from student progress reports. This change aligns with and supports the implementation of the B.C.'s redesigned curriculum. These changes are based on current assessment research which concludes that ongoing personal feedback, which is embedded in daily instruction, along with examples of student work are more beneficial in supporting student learning than simply reporting on student results.

A Proficiency Scale, used in the Fall Interim, January and June Report Cards, is intended to reflect student learning in relation to widely held grade level learning standards for a particular point in a school year and is based only on achievement in each area of study.

MINISTRY MONITORING VISIT

St. Michael's School is having a regularly scheduled Ministry Monitoring visit next **Wednesday, February 12th**. Regular visits from the Ministry, as well as our CISVA Superintendent's Office, ensure that our school is in compliance with facilities and operations, curriculum, and other Ministry policies.

MARDI GRAS – MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24th 5:00 - 7:30pm

A party for the whole family and invite some friends! Enjoy many fun activities: **cake walk, bouncy castle, ice cream sundaes, crafts, candy jar game, face painting** and **carnival games** with lots of prizes to be won! Dine at the Parents' Association's famous concession for dinner.

Passport play cards are available at the door or at the office for \$5 and \$10. Dress up and wear a costume - Prizes for best boy and girl costumes.

We ask each **primary student** (grade K-3) to bring in a cake for the Cake Walk Game and each **intermediate student** (grade 4-7) to bring in a candy jar for the Candy Jar Game. The class that brings in the most cakes for primary and candy jars for intermediate will **win a non-uniform day and a free play for each donation**.

All items can be dropped off in the school kitchen or in your child's classroom the day of Mardi Gras, **Monday, February 24th**. Candies may be packaged in any type of container...be creative. Everyone sincerely appreciates your support...especially the kids!

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST FEBRUARY 25TH

The Parents' Association will be serving the entire school a pancake breakfast on **Tuesday, February 25th**. This is served during the morning hours before lunch. You may want to feed your child a small breakfast and pack a lunch, just in case.

ANNUAL PARENT INFORMATION MEETING

The Annual Parent Information Meeting for St. Michael's School will be held on **Thursday, February 27th**, at 7:00 pm in the school gym. Two participation hours will be given to each family in attendance.

Re-registration packages for returning students and 2019 Tuition Tax receipts will be distributed at this meeting. If you have a child entering Kindergarten in September 2020, registration forms will be included in the re-registration package. If you **do not** receive forms for your Kindergarten child, please speak with Mrs. Bird **ASAP**. Re-registration packages, including tax receipts, for those not attending the meeting will be sent home on Friday, February 28th.

STUDENT LED CONFERENCES

Student-Led Conferences will be held on **Thursday, March 5th**, between **11:00 am and 7:00 pm**. No regular classes are scheduled for that day. Students are required to come to school with their parents at their scheduled conference time only and are to wear their St. Michael's School Uniform to the conference.

The Student Led Conference allows students to be present to show what they have done this learning period and to receive feedback and encouragement from their parents. Students become accountable for their learning and accept responsibility for reporting their progress to their parents. Students will be explaining and demonstrating what they have learned at school by showing parents samples of their work in their portfolios, notebooks and in classroom displays. The students will conduct the conference and the teacher will be on hand to give support and encouragement.

There are several reasons for conducting the conferences in this way. By having the students actively involved in the conference, they will:

- Assume responsibility for reporting their progress to you.
- Collaboratively set goals with you for further learning.
- Be accountable for the work they produce and the quality of that work.
- Develop good communication and leadership skills.
- Show you firsthand some of the many learning activities they are involved in at school.

At the conference, your child will:

- Share work samples with you.
- Demonstrate some recently acquired skills.
- Ask you to comment on his/her progress.
- Collaboratively set a goal for the next learning period with the parent and teacher.

Conferences will last approximately 30 minutes. Your positive comments, encouragement and questions about your child's work, will help your child feel a sense of accomplishment and pride in what he/she has done this term.

Up to three students and their parents will be involved in conferences at the same time. Each family will have a separate area in the classroom. After this conference time is over, you may make an appointment with the teacher if you have further concerns or questions which you would like to discuss at an individual Parent/Teacher Conference.

This is a very special time between you and your child, and we would request that a parent be present on this day and not send a substitute. Please use the "School Appointments On-Line" (see below) to schedule your appointments.

STUDENT-LED CONFERENCE—ONLINE APPOINTMENTS **PARENT INSTRUCTIONS**

On-line appointments open on **Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 9:00 am** and will close at **10:00 pm on Thursday, February 27th**. Register early to get your best time!

1. Go to our school appointments web site: stmichaels.schoolappointments.com
2. Register for an account by clicking the "**REGISTER**" menu tab and filling in the on-line form. Choose a user id and password for yourself and then click the "**Register Now**" button. **If you registered last term, you shouldn't need to create a new account this term.**
3. Add your children into the system by clicking the "**Add a Student**" button. If you have more than one child, click "**Insert New**" to add siblings.
4. Click the "**date**" icon beside each child's name to schedule appointments. Select the teacher you wish to book appointments with and the "**View Calendars**" button.
5. Click on available time slots to book your appointments and then click the "**Book Appointments**" button to save your bookings. Repeat for each child.
6. Print your schedule of appointments when you have completed booking all your appointments.
 7. When you have completed your entries – click to "LOG OUT"

LAST CALL FOR CLASSROOM BOARD GAMES

Thanks for your wonderful response to our request for classroom board games. Our hamper is overflowing! If you would still like to donate any board games, puzzles, building blocks, etc. which are in good condition and where all the pieces are intact, please bring them to the hamper outside the school office. Thanks for your generosity!

BEST DEFENSE AGAINST COLDS & FLU

With all the attention on the coronavirus, we are also reminded that it is the annual cold and flu season.

The best way to try and keep healthy is by following these recommendations:

- Frequent hand washing (it is the single most effective way of reducing infection spread)
- Practicing other good hygiene habits (avoid touching face/eyes/mouth with hands, and covering one's mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing, ideally with a disposable tissue or the crease of the elbow)
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched workspace surfaces
- Maintaining good general health (balanced diet, getting adequate sleep, exercising in moderation)
- Staying home when sick
- Anyone who is concerned about their personal health situation should contact their primary-care provider, local public health office or call HealthLink BC at 8-1-1

Teachers have disinfectant wipes to help clean desk/chairs, etc. in the classrooms, and we've asked our cleaners to also use these on common surfaces such as doorknobs, railings, etc.

2020 BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 2020				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
10 Gr. 7 B vs QAS @ St. Michael	11 Gr. 7 G/B vs OLA @ St. Michael	12 Gr. 5 G/B vs St. Mary @ St. Michael	13 Catholic Educators' Conference No School	14 Catholic Educators' Conference No School
17 Family Day No School	18 Gr. 7 Boys @ OLF	19 Gr. 6 Girls vs St. Patrick @ St. Michael's	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

NO MORE SNOW!

We're keeping our fingers crossed that we won't have any more snow days! However, just a reminder that, if a decision is made to close school due to inclement weather, **our class phoning parents will phone all the families to ensure that everyone is informed of the school closure. All calls will be made by 8:00 am.** Please do not tie up the school and parish telephone lines by trying to call these offices.

Information will also be posted on our school website, www.stmichaelschool.ca. We also inform radio station **CKNW AM 980**. The radio does not announce if a school is open. Likewise, if you do not receive a call from your class phoning parent then the school is open.

As traveling conditions vary depending on where you live, please use your own judgment regarding sending your child to school or picking them up early if it begins to snow during the day. The staff, however, will always work to keep the school open when safety is not in question.

Also, please remind your child/ren to wear clothing appropriate for the weather, (i.e. **boots, warm jacket, mitts, toques**). If weather conditions are reasonable, students are sent outside for fresh air during recess times. Thanks!

OUR LADY OF FATIMA CARNAVAL

You are invited to the Our Lady of Fatima Carnaval which will be held on Friday, February 21st from 4:30 pm - 8:30 pm

ST. MICHAEL'S AUCTION 2020

Take a trip back to the Middle Ages with this year's Auction:

A Night in Camelot

Save the date: April 25, 2020

The yearly Auction is St. Michael's Parish's largest single fundraiser. As our Parish generously supports the school in many ways to benefit our students, everyone's help is needed to ensure the success of this event. Our Auction Committee is hard at work planning, and thanks you in advance for your generous donations. Also, if you are in need of Parent Participation hours, the Auction is a perfect opportunity to earn these. Check out the areas below where volunteers are needed.

Class Competition

Keep the donations coming so the kids can join in on the fun:

- **Extra recess:** Class with highest participation (largest number of families who make a donation)
- **Pizza party:** Class with the highest overall donation amount

Bring a Bottle

- This year's Parents General meeting (AGM) is happening on **Thursday, Feb. 27**. Please bring a bottle of wine or fine spirits to the AGM to help with our bottle booth. Our goal is to have 100 bottles and raise \$1,500 at the booth!
- You can also bring your donation and drop it off with one of the Auction Committee volunteers who will help with receiving and recording all the donations. Remember, all donations count towards the class competition!

Corporate Donations

- Do you have a favourite restaurant, auto mechanic, dentist, kids birthday party place? Why not ask them if they'd like to be a corporate donor?
- Corporate donations also count towards the class competition.

Care to Lend a Hand?

- How many more volunteer hours do you still need to complete the yearly total of 60? Is your total looking a bit short?
- Well, here's the perfect solution: volunteer for the Auction! You'll get your hours and help make the Auction better, too.

Here are some positions where we could use your help:

- TUPS, also known as Theatre Under the Pews; volunteers will need to be available on the evening of the Auction to help oversee the children registered for TUPS (contact Cyrus at cjmanalo@shaw.ca)
- Cataloguing: a few hours of work in the Shrine Room (contact Cicy Zhang at cicyzhang@hotmail.com)

Stay tuned for more details, and check out the Facebook page for all the latest info:

<https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsauction/>

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

"Peace begins with a smile."

Saint Teresa of Calcutta