



St. Michael's School Newsletter

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Number 10

Our Virtue focus for November – Conscience

During the month of November, we are focusing on the **Virtue of Conscience**

Conscience is the voice of God within us. As you develop your conscience, you will learn to make decisions that will make sure you will always have love in your life. Our conscience reminds us how to act towards other people and how to be a good friend. Sometimes it is hard for us to do the right thing, but we must always remember that the right thing is not always the easy thing to do.

A person of conscience...

- † chooses to do the right thing, even when it is hard
- † takes time to think and pray before making decisions
- † makes decisions according to gospel values
- † knows that their actions and decisions affect all those around them
- † thinks of others before themselves
- † accepts accountability for one's own actions

Let us pray for the grace and strength to be people of conscience, who know the good and decent way to act and then choose to act that way. Amen.

NOVEMBER – MONTH OF ALL SOULS

By tradition, the Catholic Church dedicates each month of the year to a different devotion. In November, it is the Holy Souls in Purgatory, those faithful Christians who have died and gone before us but who still must atone for their sins. The time they spend in purgatory cleanses them so that they may enter Heaven free from all effects of sin.

Praying for the dead, especially for those we have known, is a requirement of Christian charity. Our own prayers and sacrifices can be offered up to relieve their suffering.

One of the most commonly recited Catholic prayers is:

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen.*

REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY

I hope you enjoyed the beautiful Remembrance Day Service performed by our Grade 5 students. A special thank you to Mr. Cavaliere and Mr. Da Silva for organizing and putting the video together. Although we were unable to gather in person, we were able to still honour all those who fought and died in the line of duty to keep us free.

COVID PROTOCOL REMINDERS

Dr. Bonnie Henry has announced new restrictions due to the increase in the number of people testing positive for COVID. For example, she has said that residents are no longer allowed to have a “safe six” group of friends to gather and interact with. The province is telling residents to not invite friends or family into their household.

Here at the school, we will be vigilant in following our safety plan very carefully.

A reminder that **ABSOLUTELY NO VISITORS A.K.A PARENTS CAN COME INTO THE SCHOOL. PARENT MEETINGS WILL NEED TO BE HELD BY PHONE OR BY ZOOM. IF YOU NEED TO DROP SOMETHING OFF OR PICK SOMETHING UP YOU WILL NEED TO USE THE INTERCOM TO SPEAK WITH MRS. BIRD.**
PLEASE, we need to keep our staff and students safe!

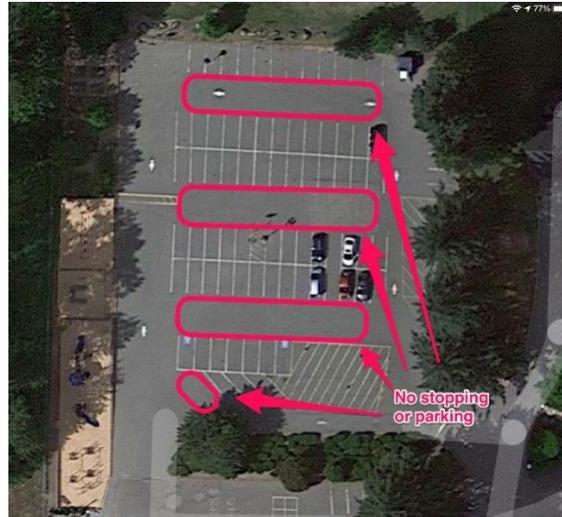
PARKING LOT SAFETY DURING AFTER SCHOOL PICK UP

As the daylight hours are getting shorter, the chaotic parking lot situation at pick up must be reviewed. **Parking in undesignated areas is a safety concern**, especially with children and families walking through the parking lot. This is particularly worrisome when most drivers are in larger vehicles like SUVs and trucks, which can block visibility and make it difficult to see the children.

Let's all do our part to help protect everyone:

- Do not stop or wait in the parking lanes as it blocks vehicles from entering and leaving.
- Do not "create" your own spots, especially in the angled parking area near the gym.
- You do not need to all come at once to pick up your children. There is a 15- minute window to do so.

Thank you for your cooperation!



WINTER UNIFORM SOCK DILEMMA!

I still see white socks being worn with the winter uniform.

PLEASE NOTE: BLUE SOCKS ARE WORN WITH WINTER UNIFORM

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Dear St. Michael's Families,

Our Scholastic Virtual Book Fair starts next week! The **Virtual Book Fair** is a fantastic way to continue to give our students access to the books they want to read. We're excited that you will be able to shop together, selecting the books that inspire your readers, from the comfort of your home. Don't forget that books make great gifts for Christmas!

All purchases benefit our school and earn **Rewards** that can be redeemed for books and Education Resources for our school's classrooms and library.

So save the date! Our **Scholastic Virtual Book Fair** will take place between **November 16-23**. All orders placed online will be shipped to you directly.

When it's time to shop, visit our school's **Virtual Book Fair** site using this link:

<https://bookfairs-canada.myshopify.com/pages/5151535>

Share this link with Grandparents, too! Extended family can participate in the **Virtual Book Fair** from the comfort of home.

Thank you for your continued support in fostering the love of reading in our students!

THREE-WAY CONFERENCES - VIRTUAL

Three-way conferences are being held **VIRTUALLY** on
Thursday, November 19th from 9:00 am –5:00 pm.

Students are to attend their conference, wearing their school uniform (**YES, THAT IS CORRECT IN THEIR UNIFORM EVEN IF THEY ARE AT HOME**), at their scheduled time. Each conference will take approximately 15 minutes and it is **mandatory** that at least one parent be present virtually.

There will not be regular classes that day.

APPOINTMENTS CAN BE MADE UNTIL TONIGHT, NOVEMBER 12th at 10:00 PM. IF YOU DO NOT SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT, THE TEACHERS WILL GIVE YOU THE REMAINING AVAILABLE TIME SLOT.

3 – WAY Conference – Online School Appointments

Parent Instructions

1. Go to our school appointments web site: www.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.
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"

SCHOOL CLOSURE – PROFESSIONAL DAY

The school will be closed on **Friday, November 20th** as it is a Professional Development Day.

CHOCOLATE SALES – PURDY'S

So far we have sold \$5,477.85 worth of chocolates with a Profit: \$1,369.46.

HELP!

We were hoping to use the funds to help pay for 32 Chromebooks AND we are also looking at raising funds to build a covered area over the outside picnic tables.

To reach \$10, 000 we would need to sell \$40,000 worth of chocolates. YUM YUM!! That would be doable if every family (we have 163 families) can sell \$245 worth of chocolate. To break this down even further...if you get 10 family members to buy \$25 worth of chocolate each we will achieve this goal!

St. Michael's School is excited to announce it's fundraising with Purdy's Chocolatier, this year, just in time for Christmas!

Whether you are purchasing gifts for your loved ones, children, grandchildren, friends and/or employees, Purdy's has something for everyone, at any budget. Options include big, or small, gift boxes, stocking stuffers and/or chocolate bars.

If you'd like to support St. Michael's School by purchasing some very sweet, and tasty, Christmas gifts, please click the link below:

<https://fundraising.purdys.com/841136-77470>

After you've signed in, you can place your order and invite others (friends, family, etc) to join and support St. Michael's Fundraising Campaign.

The CUT-OFF date to order is **Wednesday, November 25, 2020**. The PICK-UP DAY will be announced but it will likely be the week of **December 6, 2020**. Pick up will be from the area in front of the church, drive-by style; more details to follow.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact fundraising@smeschool.ca. Thank you so much! Yolanda Lavorata

AUCTION UPDATE

The Auction is returning, but like everything else this year it's going to look different. To start, in November we're having an online mini-Auction. More details are coming about this mini-Auction and what's happening for the rest of the year, so stay tuned.

Check out the Facebook page for all the latest info:

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

ADVENT WREATHS FOR SALE

Dear St. Michael's community,

This year in place of our annual school Craft Night the Parent Association is selling kits to create your own Advent Wreath for home.

This year has had many challenges which shows how important it is we celebrate our Catholic traditions at home.

Advent candles readily demonstrate the strong contrast between darkness and light, which is an important biblical image. Jesus referred to himself as the "Light of the World" that dispels the darkness of sin: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).

This can be a beautiful time of prayer together as a family every week as you light the candles. Each kit comes with everything for you to easily make your own Advent Wreath. It can be a fun craft for you and your kids to do together.

Orders due by Sunday Nov 22.

To order please email sme.parentassociation@gmail.com

Payment will be by e-transfer (details communicated once you email your order).

Drive thru pick up on Friday Nov. 27 2:00pm.

GRADE 2 PARENTS MEETING & ENROLMENT MASS

There will be a meeting on **Wednesday, November 25th at 7:00 pm in the school gym** for those parents whose children will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this school year. The Grade 2 Enrolment Mass will be held during one of our Friday school Masses.

This meeting is for any Catholic parent who intends to have his/her child receive the Sacraments of First Confession and First Holy Communion in 2020.

Safety measures:

- Only one parent is to attend
- Everyone in attendance must wear a mask
- Seating will ensure physical distancing

REGISTRATION FOR KINDERGARTEN 2021-2022

We are interested in knowing our potential numbers for Kindergarten for the 2021-22 school year. If you have a child who is eligible for Kindergarten next year (born in 2016), please let Mrs. Bird know as soon as possible. Please let your friends know that we are hosting an Open House on **Thursday, January 28th** at 7:00 pm for any **NEW** family interested in having their child/ren attend St. Michael's School (any grade). There is no need to RSVP for the Open House. Application packages for new families will be available that evening.

Thought of the week...

“It seems to me that I have found my heaven on earth, because my heaven is you, my God, and you are in my soul. You in me, and I in you—may this be my motto.”

~St. Elizabeth of the Trinity