



St. Michael's School Newsletter

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Our Virtue Focus for the month of January - Self-Control

During this month of January we celebrate the virtue of self-control. Self-control helps us to resist the temptation to do something that we will regret. It also helps us to resist the temptation to do something that will harm ourselves or others. Each time you exercise self-control you grow stronger in the Lord and invite peace to settle over life as you avoid any guilt you may feel from having made a poor decision.

Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths. -- St. Francis de Sales

A person with self-control...

† is patient

† knows how to wait his or her turn

† can calm him or herself down and think before reacting to situations

† knows how to avoid physical aggression (hitting, kicking, pushing, etc.)

† can think things through

† applies effective communication, decision making, problem-solving & resource management skills

Let us pray for the virtue of self-control so that we will resist the temptation to cause harm to ourselves or to others around us. AMEN

A NEW YEAR'S REFLECTION

Dear St. Michael's Families,

May 2021 be a year filled with optimism, hope, joy and good health! A friend sent me this reflection and I thought I would share it with all of you.

"You can have flaws, be anxious, and even be angry, but do not forget that your life is the greatest enterprise in the world. Only you can stop it from going bust. Many appreciate you, admire you and love you.

Remember that to be happy is not to have a sky without a storm, a road without accidents, work without fatigue, relationships without disappointments. To be happy is to find strength in forgiveness, hope in battles, security in the stage of fear, love in discord.

It is not only to enjoy the smile, but also to reflect on the sadness. It is not only to celebrate the successes, but to learn lessons from the failures. It is not only to feel happy with the applause, but to be happy in anonymity. Being happy is not a fatality of destiny, but an achievement for those who can travel within themselves.

To be happy is to stop feeling like a victim and become your destiny's author. It is to cross deserts, yet to be able to find an oasis in the depths of our soul. It is to thank God for every morning, for the miracle of life. Being happy is not being afraid of your own feelings. It's to be able to talk about you. It is having the courage to hear a "no". It is confidence in the face of criticism, even when unjustified.

It is to kiss your children, pamper your parents, to live poetic moments with friends, even when they hurt us. To be happy is to let live the creature that lives in each of us, free, joyful and simple. It is to have maturity to be able to say: "I made mistakes".

It is to have the courage to say, "I am sorry". It is to have the sensitivity to say, "I need you". It is to have the ability to say, "I love you". May your life become a garden of opportunities for happiness...That in spring may it be a lover of joy. In winter a lover of wisdom. And when you make a mistake, start all over again.

For only then will you be in love with life. You will find that to be happy is not to have a perfect life. But use the tears to irrigate tolerance. Use your losses to train patience. Use your mistakes to sculptor serenity. Use pain to plaster pleasure. Use obstacles to open windows of intelligence. Never give up Never give up on people who love you. Never give up on happiness, for life is an incredible show."

~Fernando Pessoa

COVID REMINDERS

MORNING DROP OFF PROTOCOLS – WILL REMAIN AS IS.

AFTERSCHOOL PICK UP PROTOCOLS:

Parents will pick up their child **punctually** at their designated staggered time.

Surnames beginning with **A-K** will pick up between 2:55-3:10 pm (M, T, Th, F)

Surnames beginning with **L-Z** will pick up between 3:10-3:25 pm (M, T, Th, F)

Surnames beginning with **A-K** will pick up between 2:25-2:35 pm (W)

Surnames beginning with **L-Z** will pick up between 2:35-2:45 pm (W)

WE ARE ASKING ALL PARENTS TO PLEASE FOLLOW THE ABOVE PROTOCOLS. WE NEED TO REDUCE THE CONGESTION IN THE PARKING LOT. IN ORDER FOR THESE PROTOCOLS TO WORK, YOU MUST ENSURE THAT YOU PICK UP YOUR CHILDREN AT THE DESIGNATED TIME. TEACHERS WILL ONLY TAKE OUT ONE GROUP OF STUDENTS AT A TIME BASED ON THEIR LAST NAME. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE MAY BE EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES AND, THEREFORE, REQUEST THAT YOU DISCUSS THESE WITH YOUR CHILD'S CLASSROOM TEACHER. OTHERWISE FOLLOW THE PROTOCOLS BECAUSE WHEN YOU DO, IT WORKS VERY WELL!

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NO SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS AFTER THE LAST PICK-UP TIME. STUDENTS NOT PICKED UP WILL REMAIN OUTSIDE THE FRONT DOOR. WE CANNOT HAVE STUDENTS WAITING INSIDE THE LOBBY OF THE SCHOOL.

Children are to go straight home and not to play on the school grounds after school.

JANUARY CALENDAR

The January calendar is posted on the school website.

<http://www.stmichaelschool.ca/january-calendar/>

GRADE 3 VIRTUAL ASSEMBLY

Grade 3 Assembly on self-control will be held virtually on January 14h.

GRADE 2 FIRST CONFESSION

The Grade 2 First Confession is scheduled for January 20th at 7:00 pm. The Grade 2 teachers will send you information about how confessions will be organized in a separate letter.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY – NO SCHOOL

Please note that there will be **no school on Monday, January 25th** as the staff will be attending a workshop that day.

VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE FOR NEW FAMILIES

On January 28th, we will be hosting a virtual open house for **new** families interested in the school. A link to the online video will be posted to the school's website on January 28th.

BASKETBALL PRACTICE SCHEDULE 2021

Please find the basketball practice schedule.

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:45 - 8:30 am					
12:15 - 12:50 pm	Grade 5 Girls	Gr. 5 Boys	Gr. 6/7 Girls	Grade 5 Girls/Boys	
3:00 - 4:00 pm	Grade 6/7 Girls	Grade 6/7 Boys		Grade 6/7 Boys	

WINTER WEATHER CONDITIONS

With the cold days of winter upon us, 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 will go outside to get some fresh air during recess and lunch breaks.

In the event of inclement weather, such as snow, tune in to **CKNW AM 980 on the radio** for information regarding any school closure. Information can also be found on their web site, www.cknw.com or on our website www.stmichaelschool.ca. In the case of inclement weather in the morning, closures are usually reported every ten to fifteen minutes.

You will receive an email to let you know if the school is closed.

All emails will be made by 8:00 am.

Please do not tie up the school and parish telephone lines by trying to call these offices. The radio station WILL NOT announce if the school is open; therefore, if you DO NOT hear the name of the school then the school is open. Likewise, if you do not receive an email from your school administration email allparents@smeschool.ca then the school is open.

As traveling conditions vary depending on where you live, please use your own judgment regarding sending your child(ren) to school. The staff, however, will always work to keep the school open when safety is not in question.

Thought of the week...

Pope Francis has announced 2021 as the 'Year of St. Joseph.'

“With the backdrop of the pandemic, Pope Francis said the faithful can rediscover St. Joseph, ‘the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence,’ as an intercessor and source of support and guidance. Through his faith, Joseph, the pope said, teaches that God can work “even through our fears, our frailties and our weaknesses...that amid the tempests of life, we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course. At times, we want to be in complete control, yet God always sees the bigger picture.”