



St. Michael's School Newsletter

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Part of Pope Francis' Lenten message focused on HOPE. I have shared that excerpt with you below:

Jesus revealed to his disciples the deepest meaning of his mission when he told them of his passion, death and resurrection, in fulfilment of the Father's will. He then called the disciples to share in this mission for the salvation of the world.

In our Lenten journey towards Easter, let us remember the One who "humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross" (Phil 2:8). During this season of conversion, let us renew our *faith*, draw from the "living water" of *hope*, and receive with open hearts the *love* of God, who makes us brothers and sisters in Christ. At the Easter vigil, we will renew our baptismal promises and experience rebirth as new men and women by the working of the Holy Spirit. This Lenten journey, like the entire pilgrimage of the Christian life, is even now illumined by the light of the resurrection, which inspires the thoughts, attitudes and decisions of the followers of Christ.

Fasting, prayer and almsgiving, as preached by Jesus (cf. Mt 6:1-18), enable and express our conversion. The path of poverty and self-denial (*fasting*), concern and loving care for the poor (*almsgiving*), and childlike dialogue with the Father (*prayer*) make it possible for us to live lives of sincere faith, living hope and effective charity.

In these times of trouble, when everything seems fragile and uncertain, it may appear challenging to speak of hope. Yet Lent is precisely the season of hope, when we turn back to God who patiently continues to care for his creation which we have often mistreated (cf. *Laudato Si'*, 32-33; 43-44). Saint Paul urges us to place our hope in reconciliation: "Be reconciled to God" (2 Cor 5:20). By receiving forgiveness in the sacrament that lies at the heart of our process of conversion, we in turn can spread forgiveness to others. Having received forgiveness ourselves, we can offer it through our willingness to enter into attentive dialogue with others and to give comfort to those experiencing sorrow and pain. God's forgiveness, offered also through our words and actions, enables us to experience an Easter of fraternity.

In Lent, may we be increasingly concerned with "speaking words of comfort, strength, consolation and encouragement, and not words that demean, sadden, anger or show scorn" (*Fratelli Tutti*, 223). In order to give hope to others, it is sometimes enough simply to be kind, to be "willing to set everything else aside in order to show interest, to give the gift of a smile, to speak a word of encouragement, to listen amid general indifference" (*ibid.*, 224).

Through recollection and silent prayer, hope is given to us as inspiration and interior light, illuminating the challenges and choices we face in our mission. Hence the need to pray (cf. Mt 6:6) and, in secret, to encounter the Father of tender love.

To experience Lent in hope entails growing in the realization that, in Jesus Christ, we are witnesses of new times, in which God is "making all things new" (cf. Rev 21:1-6). It means receiving the hope of Christ, who gave his life on the cross and was raised by God on the third day, and always being "prepared to make a defense to anyone who calls [us] to account for the hope that is in [us]" (1 Pet 3:15).

COVID PROTOCOLS

We ask that all parents follow our safety protocols carefully. Please be reminded that no parent is allowed in the school unless it has been prearranged with a staff member. Parents who need to pick up their child due to illness are required to pick him or her up from the designated isolation room which is located at the back of the school. To get there you are to walk behind the school (where the outdoor learning area is) and keep walking down the path until you come to a door labeled "Isolation Room." These protocols are in place for everyone's safety and are mandated by our health authority. Thank you, in advance, for your continued adherence to our safety protocols.

LENTEN MITE-BOX PROJECT

The Archdiocesan Vocations Office has given all CISVA Elementary Schools Lenten mite-boxes. Your children are encouraged to use these boxes to collect small financial offerings to help our seminarians in their formation, as well as bless those who will be helped by the sacrifices they make.

We will collect the mite-boxes during Holy Week (March 29th to April 1st).

ANNUAL PARENT INFORMATION MEETING – VIRTUAL- TONIGHT

The Annual Parent Information Meeting for St. Michael's School will be held tonight **Thursday, February 18th, at 7:00 pm via ZOOM**. At this meeting there will be a presentation by our PEC treasurer, Maddalena Florescu, our Participation coordinator, Steve Han and Mrs. Kennedy. We will also be reviewing the re-registration process. **A separate link was sent to you yesterday.**

We ask that only one device in the home log into zoom.

Each family will receive a participation hour for attending!

IMPORTANT RE-REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Re-Registration packages will be sent home with your **youngest or only child TODAY, February 18th**. Please ask your child for the package. **ALL re-registration packages are due back to the school no later than March 5th**. Due to COVID, your child can return the completed package to the school any time on or before March 5th.

*** With the exception of the current Grade 7 students, if you are NOT planning to return to St. Michael's School, please inform the office, in writing, no later than March 5th, 2021.**

2020 Tuition Tax receipts will be included in your child's re-registration package.

If you have a child entering Kindergarten in September 2021, 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.

PARENT PARTICIPATION HOURS REMINDER

This is a reminder that last day to submit 2020-2021 School Year's Parent Participation Hours will be on June 27th, 2021. Late participation hours submission will not be accepted. All Parent Participation Hours must be submitted to ParticipationHours.com website only before or by the deadline.

Please email ParticipationHours@gmail.com if you have any Parent Participation inquiries or in need of ParticipationHours.com technical support.

Parent Participation Opportunities

Please contact below parent participation category managers or email ParticipationHours@gmail.com to sign up!

Crossing Guard Supervision

School Cleaning

Parent Participation Hours Communication

Outdoor Learning Area

Auction
Walkathon
Technology Support – Live Streaming Mass Support

FRIENDSHIP DAY

The Student Leadership team invites our school community to take part in our 'Friendship' Non-Uniform Day on **Wednesday, February 24th**. Students are asked to come dressed in pink and red and to bring a minimum of \$2 for donation. But more importantly than just wearing the colours pink or red, the students are encouraged to be "extra" kind to their peers by doing random acts of kindness. This day is an opportunity to do something **extra nice** for someone else, to appreciate our fellow citizens and build community. Thank you for your continued support.

PARENTS OF GRADE 2 STUDENTS

There will be a meeting on **Wednesday, February 24th at 7:00 pm** for all parents of children preparing to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. **We will use the same Zoom link as the previous meeting.** A reminder email will be sent to you.

STUDENT LED CONFERENCES

Student-Led Conferences will be held on **Thursday, March 4th**, between **9:00 am and 5:00 pm**. No regular classes are scheduled for that day. Students are required to wear their St. Michael's School Uniform while attending their online conference.

This year the student led conferences will look a little different. We will not be able to have the students showcase their learning in the classroom like in the past; however, the students will continue to experience the three-part process: in-class preparation, the student-led conference (including goal setting), and an evaluation of the process.

The biggest difference will be that the students will showcase their learning at home PRIOR to the online conference with the teacher.

The primary students will bring home a student-led guide to review and the intermediate students will share their learning in the form of a google slide show.

What will stay the same is that the process continues to be an opportunity to let your child shine and take an active part in his/her education.

A letter will be sent home early next week with more information.

STUDENT-LED CONFERENCE -- ONLINE APPOINTMENTS PARENT INSTRUCTIONS

On-line appointments opened on **Thursday, February 11, 2020 at 9:00 am** and will close at **10:00 pm on Thursday, February 25th**. Register early to get your best time!

Student-Led 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"

Thought of the week...

“The Church lays great stress on this truth, confirmed by the history of every man. Remember that “to dust you shall return.” Remember that your life on earth has a limit!”

~St. Pope John Paul II