PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Remember when we were younger, Lent meant mostly giving up candy or something sweet? This was good in introducing self discipline, but then children would often dread the Lenten season. Lent can be not as "attractive" to children as can be the lead up to Christmas.

If we as adults can look forward to Lent with devotion and yes even joy, then our children will grow up with the idea of Lent as a season of grace and opportunity (to be a better person). Choosing to give alms (to charity, foodbank, church), doing a good deed (i.e. washing dishes after the supper meal), saying a prayer before bedtime...and perhaps in some way "giving up a treat", are all simple ways to make Lent a special time in our families. Pope Francis asks that we "experience Lent more intensely as a privileged moment to celebrate and experience God's mercy". How about Happy Ash Wednesday? Let us use the opportunity to reflect on an area we need to grow closer to God and look forward to Lent with joy. As the daylight grows longer, so hopefully our faith will grow stronger, this Lenten season.

Your partner in Catholic Education,
Ann Lepine

GOOD BYE TO MS. VOORAND and BOZENA

A big thank you to Ms. Pia Voorand, who will be retiring on January 31st, from her music position with our school board. Ms. Voorand has been with the RCCDSB since 1989. She has taught music the last six years and the students and staff have appreciated her help with concerts, liturgies and assemblies. Music is the universal language and Ms. Voorand has certainly brought joy to many a function, with her music ministry. Blessings to Ms. Voorand as she explores other adventures and here’s hoping she has much health and happiness in her retirement.

Also, thank you to Bozena, who is moving on to other employment and who has filled in as a custodian here since September, 2015. We will miss your smile. All the best, Bozena!

MESAA BROOMBALL TOURNAMENT

St. John Bosco will be represented at the annual Broomball Tournament held in Wilno/Killaloe tomorrow, Thursday, January 28, 2016. Thank you to Mrs. Ronda Lundy and Mr. Rod Minns for coaching our students. The schedule for our team is below:

Wilno Rink
9:30 a.m. St. John Bosco vs. Palmer Rapids PS
10:30 a.m. George Vanier vs. St. John Bosco

Killaloe Rink
12:15 p.m. C Finals
12:45 p.m. B Finals
1:15 p.m. A Finals

Good luck team!
Students and staff have welcomed two lovely ladies, Ms. Whitney Charbonneau into the Grade 7-8 classroom and Ms. Lisa Yutronkie as an EA in the school.

GOODBYE SARAH, WELCOME TORI, SYDNEY & RYLEY

The Grade 1/2 students were sad to have co-op student, Sarah Ridout finish her placement at Bosco (also in the Kinder class), on Thursday January 21st. She always enjoyed listening to the students read, with many encouraging words and smiles. We celebrated with a popcorn 'locomotion' party!

In February, the Grade 1/2 students will have the opportunity to welcome another very special co-op student - Tori Biernaskie. Tori is a graduate of St John Bosco. Her sister, Amelia, and brother, Jacob, are students at Bosco as well. We can hardly wait until February!

We also welcome the following students from MVDHS into our family for a co-op term from February 9 – June 16, 2016:

Sydney Aide Grade 2/3 - all day
Ryley Luckovitch Grade 7/8 - half day

P.A. DAY

Just a reminder that Friday, January 29, 2016, is a Professional Activity Day. There will be no classes for students. Teachers and EA’s are busy at workshops or in the school.

FEAST OF ST. JOHN BOSCO - JANUARY 31st

At 200 years of age, Don Bosco is alive and well. From his humble roots in the hamlet of Becchi, to the growth of his work during Turin’s Industrial Revolution, his unique style of education and evangelization, leadership and service has spread to every continent.

His spiritual legacy continues to attract. Through schools and universities, youth centres and parishes, social justice initiatives and a vast array of missionary presences, generations of young people have experienced God’s love for them. Don Bosco has led them to a Church they are proud to call “home”. Don Bosco has provided an education that prepares for responsible service in all sectors of society and the church. Don Bosco has helped them recognize in Jesus, the Good Shepherd, a model for a meaningful, personal plan of life.

KINDergarten REGISTRATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2016

Registration for full day, every day kindergarten classes for September 2016, will be held from Monday, January 25, 2016, to Friday, February 5, 2016 inclusive from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Documents required to register your child:
Immunization record, child’s individual health card, baptismal certificate and birth certificate. Your 911 address will also be required.

Senior Kindergarten registrants must be five years old by December 31, 2016. Junior Kindergarten registrants must be four years old by December 31, 2016.

Pupils who are presently attending Junior Kindergarten do not have to register for Senior Kindergarten.

PROVINCIAL ASSESSMENT 2016

Grades 3 and 6 students will be involved in EQAO Provincial Assessments between May 25 and June 8, 2016. Please check your calendar to ensure that these weeks remain clear of appointments.
PROVINCIAL REPORT CARDS

Report cards are being sent home on Thursday, February 25, 2016. Please remember to return the last page signed.

Visit the link to the ministry’s brochure “Growing Success” explaining changes to parents: http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/ReportCard_En.pdf

CLERGY VISITS

Father M. Coulas will be visiting the Grade 1/2 class during February and the topic will be Lent. Father C. Shalla will be visiting the Grade 4/5 class in February as well.

BOUQUETS TO…

Kim Strack, Brandi Dombroskie and Leslie Dupuis for preparing the Spaghetti Lunch on January 11th.

Viola Cybulskie, Theresa Prince, Carmel Rumleskie and Maxine Smaglinskie for praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet with our students.

Tracy Yandernoll, Mary-Ann Dombroskie, Nicole Villeneuve, Leslie Dupuis and Amanda Levean for preparing healthy snacks in January.

Mr. David Afelskie for doing an incredible job keeping the rink surface in tip top shape! Many students have enjoyed this outdoor rink; we are hoping that all students get the chance to skate.

Ms. Ingrid Coulas and Ms. Halinka Shulist who arranged and organized for speakers to come into the school to talk about the importance of literacy and math in our lives. Please see the hand out on Literacy, included in this newsletter.

Bernie Evans, John Greene, Katie McGrath, Faith Archer, Iwona Mooney, and Brandi Dombroskie who spoke to students on January 27th about the importance of Literacy/Math in their jobs.

MILK PROGRAM

Attached to this newsletter is the monthly pre-order for March.

Milk credits will be issued to students who were absent on the day that they had pre-ordered milk. The credit slip will be placed in your child’s agenda and needs to be attached to your March pre-order. Online payments are also available.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS

Ash Wednesday Mass will be held at St. Lawrence O’Toole Church at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 10, 2016, to begin this sacred season together.

GRADE 8 INFORMATION MEETING

MVDHS is hosting a Grade 8 transition information session on Wednesday, February 3, 2016 at the high school. This session will be from 6:00-7:00 p.m. for parents and grade 8 students. Mrs. C. Sweeney will also be visiting the Grade 8 classroom on Friday, February 5th in the afternoon, to further discuss questions about course selections and other student inquiries.

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

The next School Council meeting will be held on Monday, February 01, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. All parents are welcome to attend.

FAMILY DAY

We wish you a Happy Family Day on Monday, February 15, 2016. May you find time to celebrate your gift of family on this special day.

PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

The public speaking competition provides our students with an opportunity to share their
excellent oral communication skills to entertain, persuade, or inform us about a topic that they are interested in. Students in Gr. 1-3 should strive to keep their talk between 1-3 minutes long. In Gr. 4-6 and 7-8 speeches should be between 3-5 minutes in length. Your child may use cue cards to assist them, however memorizing their speech is encouraged. Mrs. Shulist, Ms. Coulas, and Ms. Afelskie will be available to assist with the writing and practicing of the delivery of the speech.

The in-school competition will take place on Thurs. Feb. 11th, in the Family Studies Room, beginning at around 9:00, depending on the number of participants. Parents are welcome to attend. Please help your child choose an age-appropriate and engaging topic.

The Royal Canadian Legion Public Speaking Competition will take place on Saturday, Feb. 20th at the Legion Hall. Information regarding rules and scoring guide will be available to students, if they would like to participate in either or both of the competitions.

Thank you to Mrs. H. Shulist, Ms. I. Coulas and Ms. H. Afelskie for co-coordinating this extra-curricular event.

CHESS CLUB

The Grade 1/2 students have been eagerly learning how to and / playing chess at lunch, in their classroom. They have more recently begun playing on Fridays, during lunch (11:40-12:00), under the guidance of some more experienced chess players, from grades 2/3 and 4/5. Thank you to these older chess players, who are passing on their love of chess!

As these students become more confident in their skills, they will have the opportunity to play students in other grades - including 6/7 & 7/8. This should occur later in the month or early March. The Chess tournament is not held until Education in Week, in May - so there is plenty of time for everyone to gain experience. Chess is a wonderful 'math' strategic game.

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

Student Council members will be selling paper hearts every day at lunch from February 1st to February 10th. The hearts will cost 25 cents each, and students can write a kind message to a friend. The heart messages will be delivered to students on Friday, February 12, 2016. This is your chance to tell a friend what makes them special! Buy a paper heart message for every one of your friends!

St. John Bosco School will be having a Valentine’s Day Dance on Friday, February 5th from 7:00-9:30 p.m. If you wear red, pink and white, admission is $5.00; otherwise it is $6.00. Canteen available with a variety of Valentine treats, homemade goodies, snacks and drinks. All proceeds from the dance will go towards the 7/8 class trip.

SPAGHETTI LUNCH

The Kindergarten class will be offering a spaghetti lunch for all students on Monday, February 8, 2016. The cost is $2.00 for a bowl of spaghetti with sauce. Orders are due on Friday, February 6, 2015. Online payments are also available.

Students are asked to bring a fork and bowl on that day. In case of inclement weather the spaghetti lunch will be the following day.

TIM HORTON’S CAMP PRESENTATION

A representative from Tim Horton’s Camp will be here on Monday, February 22nd at 10:30 a.m. to explain and answer any questions about the camp. There will be a presentation and parents of participating students are encouraged to attend this assembly/meeting.
HOCKEY DAYZ IN THE BAY

The Barry’s Bay and Area Minor Hockey Association is once again holding their now annual ‘Hockey Dayz in the Bay’ Feb. 12-14th at the Paul J Yakabuski Community Centre. Activities happening all weekend long!

Friday February 12th - 7:00 -10:00 p.m.
Teen Dance for ages 10-14yr olds
DJ music by Red Rock Music
$5 cover charge.

REMINDER TO PARENTS/STUDENTS

Parents picking up or dropping off students are asked to only use the front door. This is especially important if you drop off your child at 8:35 a.m. or after.

If you come to pick up your child or drop off items you must first go to the office. The secretary will then buzz the classroom. Parents are asked to wait in the main hall for their child unless otherwise instructed.

Students have been reminded to keep off the ice on the creeks on their way to and from school. Parents are asked to reinforce the message.

LENT

Doing Good Deeds for Jesus
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<td><strong>Sunday Masses</strong></td>
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<td>6 Saturday Evening Masses</td>
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<td>St. Hedwig’s 8 a.m. &amp; 11 a.m.</td>
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<td>St. Lawrence O’Toole 9:30 a.m</td>
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<td>St. Lawrence O’Toole – 7 pm</td>
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<td><strong>Sunday Masses</strong></td>
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<td>Kindergarten Registration – 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Valentine Hearts 25 cents each until Feb. 10</td>
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<td>Healthy Hot Lunch</td>
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<td>John Yakabuski, MPP</td>
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<td>Quesadilla’s</td>
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<td>Visit -9 a.m.</td>
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<td>Transition Meeting at MVDHS - Gr. 8</td>
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<td>School Council Meeting 5:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Valentine Hearts sold at noon for 25 cents each day until Feb.10th</td>
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<td>Groundhog Day</td>
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<td>Spaghetti Lunch</td>
<td>Spaghetti Lunch</td>
<td>ASH WEDNESDAY Mass - 9:00 am - St. Lawrence O’Toole</td>
<td>Last Day to purchase Valentine Hearts</td>
<td>March Milk Pre-orders due today.</td>
<td>Spirit Day – Wear pink or red</td>
<td>Spirit Day – Wear pink or red</td>
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<td>Valentine Hearts sold at noon for 25 cents each day until Feb.10th</td>
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<td>Last Day to purchase Valentine Hearts</td>
<td>Healthy Snack Celery, baby carrots with ranch dip</td>
<td>In-School Public Speaking - a.m.</td>
<td>Valentine Hearts Distributed!</td>
<td>Valentine Hearts Distributed!</td>
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<td><strong>Happy Valentine’s Day</strong> Family Day Holiday</td>
<td><strong>Happy Valentine’s Day</strong> Family Day Holiday</td>
<td>Healthy Snack Smoothies</td>
<td>Healthy Snack Smoothies</td>
<td>Princess/Spa Day bring your own clips and brush</td>
<td>Gr. 2/3 Primary Cosom Hockey Tournament Palmer Rapids</td>
<td>Legion Public Speaking Contest</td>
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<td>Tim Horton’s Camp Presentation 10:45 a.m. All welcome</td>
<td>Tim Horton’s Camp Presentation 10:45 a.m. All welcome</td>
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<td>Healthy Snack Tostitos chips with salsa</td>
<td>Report Cards go Home Please return last page</td>
<td>Gr. 7/8 Movie Day – p.m.</td>
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