

George Vanier Catholic School

May 2016



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Principal – Maureen Enright



Vision Statement

Inspired by our rich heritage and challenged by the struggles of our past, we, at George Vanier Catholic School, are called to express our mission as church, to pass on the good news of Jesus Christ, to make it relevant in the world today, and to be the hope for the future.

Catholic Education Week 2016 - Opening Doors of Mercy

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy” –Matthew 5:7.

Pope Francis has declared 2016 a “Holy Year of Mercy” as a way for the Catholic church to “make more evident, its mission to be a witness of mercy”. The Holy Year began on December 8, 2015 and will be celebrated until November 20, 2016. Throughout the year, there will be a series of jubilee celebrations on the theme of mercy for teenagers, deacons, the sick and disabled, prisoners, catechists and clergy.

As well, Pope Francis opened the Vatican’s Holy Door on December 8th. The Holy Door is opened to evoke the concept of forgiveness which is the main focus of a Holy Year. The theme God’s mercy is illustrated in fifteen of the sixteen bronze panels that make up the Vatican Door. There are seven such Holy Doors in the world, including one in Quebec City.

Catholic Education Week 2016 combines both the theme of mercy and the act of opening doors of reconciliation, mercy and forgiveness to all around us.

There are five sub-themes for each day of Catholic Education Week:

- Monday: Mercy that Welcomes**
- Tuesday: Mercy that Loves**
- Wednesday: Mercy that Forgives**
- Thursday: Mercy that Lives the Gospel**
- Friday: Mercy that Rejoices**

Every year, the Ontario Catholic School Trustees’ Association (OCSTA) provides our Catholic schools with a resource kit to help schools prepare for Catholic Education Week. Using these resources as well as our own developed activities we have prepared a series of activities which will highlight how our school is ‘Opening Doors of Mercy’.

Special thanks for your support during the month of April to:

- **Our families and staff who work together for the success of our students**
- **Ms. Landon for giving so much of her time to prepare our Chess team for the tournament**
- **Everyone who helped with our Trivia Night**
 - **All parents/grandparents who donated baking**
 - **Mrs. M. Schweig, Mrs. C. Schwieg and Ms. Sherry Logan Hicks for making popcorn and helping that evening**
 - **Mrs. T. Glofcheskie and Ms. G. Kosnaskie for organizing the prizes**
 - **Jerome and Susan Yaraskavitch, Lorraine's Pharmasave and Barry's Bay Metro for donating prizes**
 - **Mr. Artymko and Mrs. Pecarskie for helping prepare for the evening**

School Mass

Our school mass will be held on May 18th at 1:00 pm. We would love to celebrate with you, so please join us if your schedule allows.

School Council

Our School Council meeting will be held on Thursday, May 26th at 5:30 pm. Our School Council does so many things for our students and school and, with the help of some new parents, they are hoping to host some special events before the end of the year. We had no volunteers for our May pizza day, so we will try again for June. If you would be able to pick up pizzas in Barry's Bay and deliver them to the school for 11:45 am on Thursday, June 16th, please let Mrs. Enright know. We do have some parents who offered to help serve ice cream, so the Council will be treating the students to ice cream on Tuesday, June 21st.

Track and Field

George Vanier Catholic School will be holding a Track and Field day on Thursday, May 5th. Students will need to come prepared to be outside for a good portion of the day and may want to bring water from home to ensure they stay well hydrated for their events. We would love to have some parent volunteers to help us with the events, so please let us know if you are able to help and we can give you more details. Thank you in advance.

Tutor in The Classroom

We welcome former student, Lauren Parcher, to George Vanier as a Tutor in the Classroom. Ms. Parcher will spend time working with students from all grades. On Friday, May 6th, she will accompany our Gray Matter team to Palmer Rapids Public School for the competition.

Robotics at George Vanier

A new program being piloted in the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board introduces students to robotics by building models featuring working motors and sensors along with a computer software component. The program blends hands-on manipulatives with technology to engage and motivate students while developing skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics as well as language, literacy, and

social studies. This program is taught by Wayne and Carol Campbell of Hila Science and they will be bringing the program to our grades 3,4,5,6 students on Friday, May 27th. This is an amazing opportunity for our students and we are very thankful to the board for allowing us to take part in the learning. One session will take place in the morning and one in the afternoon. In order to reach the maximum capacity of 12 for each workshop, we will be extending an invitation to 4 children from the area, who do not attend George Vanier, to join us at the school for a ½ day of learning and exploration.

Hot Lunches During the Month of May

Ms. Landon and her grade 4,5,6 students will be hosting two fundraising lunches during the month of May. On Thursday, May 5th, we will have a salad bar available for \$3.00. On Wednesday, May 18th, there will be a rotini pasta lunch for \$2.00. Thank you for your support of these events!

George Vanier Trivia Night

We hosted a very successful Trivia Night on Friday, April 15th, 2016. Thirteen teams participated and we raised \$760. Thank you to all who helped with the event and to those who came to support us by playing. It was a fun evening and we are already looking forward to next year! Team Douglas were the repeat winners for 2016 by a margin of only 1 point!

Volleyball Tournament

Thank you to Ms. Landon for coaching our Volleyball teams. We had a very successful day with both teams making it to the final game. In the end, the Girls' team came home with the 'A' title! Congratulations to all of our students for their effort and dedication and to Ms. Landon for all of the hours she put into preparing for the tournament.

EQAO

Our Grade 3 and 6 students will write the annual EQAO Assessments on May 25, 26, 31 and on June 1, 2 and 7. If a student is absent one of those days, we have allowed for some flexibility in the schedule to get him/her caught up.

Library

Students are reminded to please return all overdue Library books as soon as possible.



Healthy Smiles Ontario

On April 27th, Roxanne Moss from the Renfrew County District Health Unit was here for Dental Screenings. She shared some information with me that I thought may be of interest to our families so I have included it below.

Good oral health is important for your child's self-esteem, sense of well-being and their overall health. Cavities and gum disease can be painful and can lead to serious infections,

affecting the growth of adult teeth. Pain can result in loss of sleep, affect a child's ability to eat and can impact a child's ability to learn and attend school. The best way to treat oral health problems is to prevent them before they start, through regular dental checkups.

Healthy Smiles Ontario is a government-funded dental program that provides free preventive, routine, and emergency dental services for children and youth 17 years old and under from low-income households.

The program includes regular visits to a licensed dental provider and covers the costs of treatment including: Check-ups, Cleaning, Fillings, X-rays, Scaling, Urgent or emergency dental care

Children and youth 17 and under may be eligible if:

- They are residents of Ontario; and
- They are members of a household that meets the income eligibility requirements.

NOTE: Children and youth 17 and under are automatically eligible and automatically enrolled in Healthy Smiles Ontario when they or their family receive: Ontario Works, Temporary Care Assistance, the Ontario Disability Support Program or Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities.

Children and youth with other dental insurance coverage are no longer automatically excluded.

Once enrolled children and youth 17 and under will receive dental coverage for

- Up to one benefit year (August 1 to July 31), or
 - 12 months from the date of enrolment for those enrolled for emergency and essential care, or
- Up to their 18th birthday.

Need more information, including how to apply? Go to <http://www.ontario.ca/healthysmiles> or your local Public Health Unit

Renfrew County and District Health Unit Dental Services 613-735-8661

If you have any questions, please call the ServiceOntario INFOLine toll-free at:

ServiceOntario toll-free:1-844-296-6306, ServiceOntario TTY toll-free: 1-800-387-5559

Prayers

Please continue to pray for the students who will be receiving the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time on Sunday, May 29th.

Summer School

Once again, Summer School will be held at St. John Bosco during the month of July. This is a great opportunity for students to practice and strengthen their math and language skills. Transportation is provided by the RCCDSB. More details will be sent home shortly.

Grade 8 Students

Grade 9 Orientation morning will be scheduled for Thursday, August 25, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Parents are encouraged to come with their child.

Students entering Grade 9 in September can begin their community hours this summer, from July 1, 2016, onwards.

Math Problem Solving

Thank you to those of you who entered last month! The winner of our problem solving challenge was Katarina Jakelic! Congratulations to Katarina and enjoy your prize! Thank you to all who have participated in these challenges.