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Trustee: Mrs. C. Cotton

# NEWSLETTER

## February 2012

Principal: Mrs. S. Knetsch  
Vice-Principal: Mrs. C. Santianni  
Secretary: Mrs. A. Coutts  
Secretary: Mrs. R. Cornacchia



**St. Justin, Martyr C.S.**

### Principal's Message

The month of February is a short month, yet it is filled with many activities. As we celebrate Valentines Day, Black History Month, and Carnival, we are reminded to love and respect one another. These special events, in addition to the wonderful experiences provided in daily classroom activities, encourage our students to remember that each one of us is a special gift from God and to be grateful for the experience of love, which He has bestowed on us. We must never take for granted the life which we have been blessed with and we must take every opportunity to thank the Lord for leading us on our journey in faith and love.



*In this month when we reflect on WISDOM let each of us pray,*

**God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference.**

## *Catholic Communities of Faith*

### *Character Attribute for February- "Initiative and Wisdom"*

During the month of February we are celebrating the Character attribute of Initiative and the Catholic virtue of Wisdom. Our students are reminded to look for ways they can demonstrate these qualities in their day-to-day lives. Wisdom is the ability to see things as they are, and the ability to respond to reality as it is. The wise person knows how to accept things in life that cannot be changed, and how to try to change those things that need improvement. Students are recognized monthly by their teachers for demonstrating the Catholic Virtues by their words and actions.

### *Ash Wednesday*

On Wednesday February 22, at 11 a.m we will join together to distribute ashes to students, staff and parents as we try as a school community to reflect and strengthen our relationship with God. All parents are welcome.



### *Sacramental Preparation Grade 2 and Grade 8*

Families of St. Justin, Martyr students in **Grade 2** are reminded of their enrollments on Sunday February 12 at 8:30 Mass.

Families of students in **Grade 8** are reminded that Confirmation classes continue at St. Augustine High School.

Please contact the parish for further information.



## *Quality Learning By All*

### *Report Cards*

Your child's 1<sup>st</sup> report card will be sent home on February 7. This report card is to provide parents/guardians with information about their child's progress in meeting the curriculum expectations during the first half of the school year. There are no formal interviews scheduled as these occurred in November 2011. Interviews, by telephone or in person, may be scheduled upon the request of the teacher or parent.



### *February is Black History Month*

During the month of February we will be learning about the experiences, achievements and contributions of African Canadians and those of African descent to Canada and to the world. In Canada, February is recognized as "Black History Month". This month was proclaimed by both our Federal and Provincial governments. There will be library displays and posters honouring the contributions of many Afro-Canadians to our country. On February 2, we will have **two** assemblies for our students. One assembly will be for **Grades 5 to 8** presented by "Down to Earth Conservation Organization". They will compare the similarities and differences of life in Canada with those in Africa, learning about climate, foods, homes, animals, clothing, cultures, transportation, languages and more. With a collection of over 100 authentic African artifacts for students to touch, smell and explore, students will also have an opportunity to play authentic African instruments, try on African clothing, use African cooking utensils, dance to African music and learn to speak Swahili. For **Grades K-4, "Down to Earth Conservation"** will retrace African roots as they make the historic journey from the heart of Africa to the New World. Through drama, students will learn about life on a sugar cane plantation and follow the freedom route into the hills of Jamaica and along the Underground Railroad. Students will have a chance to reflect upon the history, struggle and enduring spirit of Africans and their descendants.



## *Valentine's Day Cake Raffle*

Our annual valentine cake raffle will be held on **Tuesday February 14**. Our students always look forward to this day. We invite you to bake a cake, cookies or dessert for this event. Please bring your contribution to the gym before 9:00 a.m. on February 14th. More details will follow. Thank you to our parent volunteers for organizing this special event. *Happy Valentine's Day!*



## *Pancake Tuesday February 21*

A special thank you also to Mrs. Roxanne Chan and her team of parents for organizing the purchase and distribution of pancakes for all our students and staff on this day. We are most grateful to the students who bring in non perishable food items for the Markham Food Bank, truly "paying it forward" for those not as fortunate.



## *Family Day Holiday - Monday, February 20*

Please note that our province's statutory holiday known as **Family Day** will occur on **Monday, February 20**. There will be no school for any of us on that day!



## *National Flag Day*



On February 15, Canada celebrates "National Flag Day". National Flag Day occurs during the week of February 15-18 which was designated Heritage Week by former Prime Minister Jean Chretien in 1996. Our Canadian flag is flown proudly and serves as an important symbol of our country- its values, its diversity and its freedom.

## *Catholic School Council Meeting*

Please join us for the next Catholic School Council meeting on **February 15** at 7:00 p.m. in the school library. All parents are welcome to attend.



## **Sports Update**

### **Basketball - Intermediate**

Our boys' and girls' basketball teams have been practicing diligently and have a variety of after school competitions planned throughout the month of February. The boys' local area tournament will take place on February 27<sup>th</sup> at St. Justin, Martyr School and the girls' local area tournament will take place on February 28 at All Saints School. Thank you to our dedicated coaches, Mr. V, Ms. Giardini, and Ms. Paniculam for volunteering their time and energy.



### **Volleyball -Junior**

Congratulations to our junior boys' and girls' volley ball teams. They have shown tremendous effort and sportsmanship during their after school games and at their area tournaments last week. Thank you to our coaches Mr. MacLean, Mr Leone, Mrs. Nikitopoulos, Ms. Espe and Ms. Cornacchia.



## *W 5 H*

St. Justin, Martyr has begun a W5H intramural league. What is W5H? It stands for Who, What, Where, When, Why and How. It's a trivia challenge that grade 7 and 8 students play at lunch recess, where they compete in teams of 4. Top students from our school will compete in the Board W5H Tournament on May 8th. Thank you to our many teacher coaches, who will be preparing the students for this event.



## *Intermediate Dance*

On Friday February 10, St. Justin, Martyr will host a Valentine's Day Dance for students in Grade 7 and 8. Intermediate students from our family of schools are also welcome to attend. Permission forms for this event can be downloaded from our website. Thank you to our parent volunteers for making this event possible for our students.



## *Speed Stacking*

The Speed Stacking Club has begun for the year. There will be a tournament later in year, likely held in May. More details will follow. Thank you to Mrs. Prangikos and the teachers who have volunteered their time to coach the students.

## *2012 Canadian Chess Challenge Tournament - February 17th*



Members of our Chess Club in Grades 4-8 will be representing our school in the 2012 Canadian Chess Challenge at Thornhill Community Centre on February 17<sup>th</sup>. We wish all the students representing our school good luck: Thank you to Mr. Capuccinello for coaching and preparing the students for this event.

## *Carnaval At St. Justin Martyr*

French Carnaval will take place on February 8 and 9th at St. Justin, Martyr. Visits by Bonhomme, theme days, croissant and hot chocolate, snow soccer and many other fun activities are planned. We thank our French teachers, Mme Lupu, Mme. Chalifour-Vessio, Mme Perfetti and Mme. Barbuto, for all their hard work in making this carnival such a fun learning experience for our students. Merci! With funds raised this year through our fundraising campaign, we are able to bring in to our school a concert by Jacquot, a French performer, on Wednesday February 8th. More details regarding Carnival will follow.



## *Heart and Stroke Presentation*

On Wednesday February 1, our school will have a "Heart and Stroke" Assembly. This assembly will introduce and explain how we will be taking part in the **Jump Rope for Heart** and the **Hoops for Heart** activity on February 9. These activities will help the students learn the importance of physical activity, eating healthy and social responsibility. More information and a Heart and Stroke package will be coming home shortly. Thank you in advance for your support.

## *Library News*

St. Justin celebrated Family Literacy Day on January 27th by wearing slippers at school and dedicating quiet time for leisurely reading. Reading is a fantastically fun and relaxing way to increase literacy skills. Thank you to all for participating!

February is Black History Month. Black history refers to the stories, experiences, and accomplishments of people of African origin. Black

History Month is an opportunity for our school to recognize the past and present contributions that African Americans and Canadians have made in areas such as education, medicine, art, culture, politics and human rights. The Library Resource Centre has a collection of books to help enrich our understanding.

The Junior Book Club is up and running! We are reading books from the Forest of Reading program, focusing on Canadian authors. It is never too late to become a member - the more the merrier! All junior readers are welcome to join us in the library on Thursdays at lunch.



### *Photography Club:*

The *Intermediate Photography Club* has been meeting every Wednesday during lunch recess. It is headed up by Mr. Arbour. Students have been sharing and learning about what makes a great photograph, the elements of a photograph, and the composition rules for a landscape photograph. Students have also been practicing what they learn during photo shoot sessions! The students have been working very hard - keep up the great work! Everyone will have the opportunity to see their fabulous pictures in the foyer during Catholic Education Week in May.



## *Safe and Caring Schools*

### *Registration for September 2012*

During the month of January, we have been accepting registrations for Junior and Senior Kindergarten classes beginning September 2012. We are also accepting registrations for all other grades. Please remember that only families currently living in our area may register at St. Justin, Martyr School. If you have neighbours wishing to attend our school, who are Catholic, please have them contact the office to receive a registration package.



### *Personal Electronic Devices (PED's)*

A reminder to all students and parents of the Board Policy on PED's. At the Elementary level all PED's carried by students shall be kept out-of-site, turned off and not used during the school day. Students must have prior authorization from the school's principal for use during school related activities. The school cannot accept responsibility for lost item. Thank you for your attention to this matter.



### *Making a Difference in Bullying*

Parents are one of the most important persons in the prevention of bullying. Encourage open communication with your child to share concerns and fears with you. Teach your child about empathy, integrity and tolerance. Take time to develop your child's special skills and confidence. Activities that children enjoy and experience success, will promote self confidence.

## *Snowball Ball Throwing*

Although there has been mild weather so far this winter, snow does gather in our play area and it is important to remind students of the dangers of throwing snowballs. We have a busy playground and throwing or kicking snow is a serious breach of "safe playground rules" and may result in serious consequences. The students are reminded of this on a regular basis. Please continue to support us in this matter for the safety of all the children.

## *Indoor Shoes*

All students need indoor shoes at school. This keeps classroom floors dry and safe and ensures that in the event of an emergency or fire drill, all students will be wearing shoes.



## *Bus Safety*

Over 50% of our school population is transported by bus to St. Justin, Martyr. There are 14 buses that pick up and drop off children on a daily basis. Parents expect that their children's safety is paramount when they arrive at school or leave it. Many parents also understand that reserving the driveway use for buses (and students who have special needs such as broken limbs) is important. In order to allow the buses to come onto the property or leave it safely, **please do not park near the driveway entrance or exit.** The turning radius of a large bus means that it needs room to manoeuvre the corners. These areas around the driveway are designated "no-stopping zones" and the bylaw officer has been by on several occasions to ticket cars parked there. Please be aware of the signs when stopping your vehicle. **Please remember that no cars are allowed to stop or park in the bus lanes in front of the school at any time during the day, especially before and after school and during the lunch hour.** With everyone's cooperation, our students' experiences coming and going to school will continue to be safe ones

## *Enviro Update*

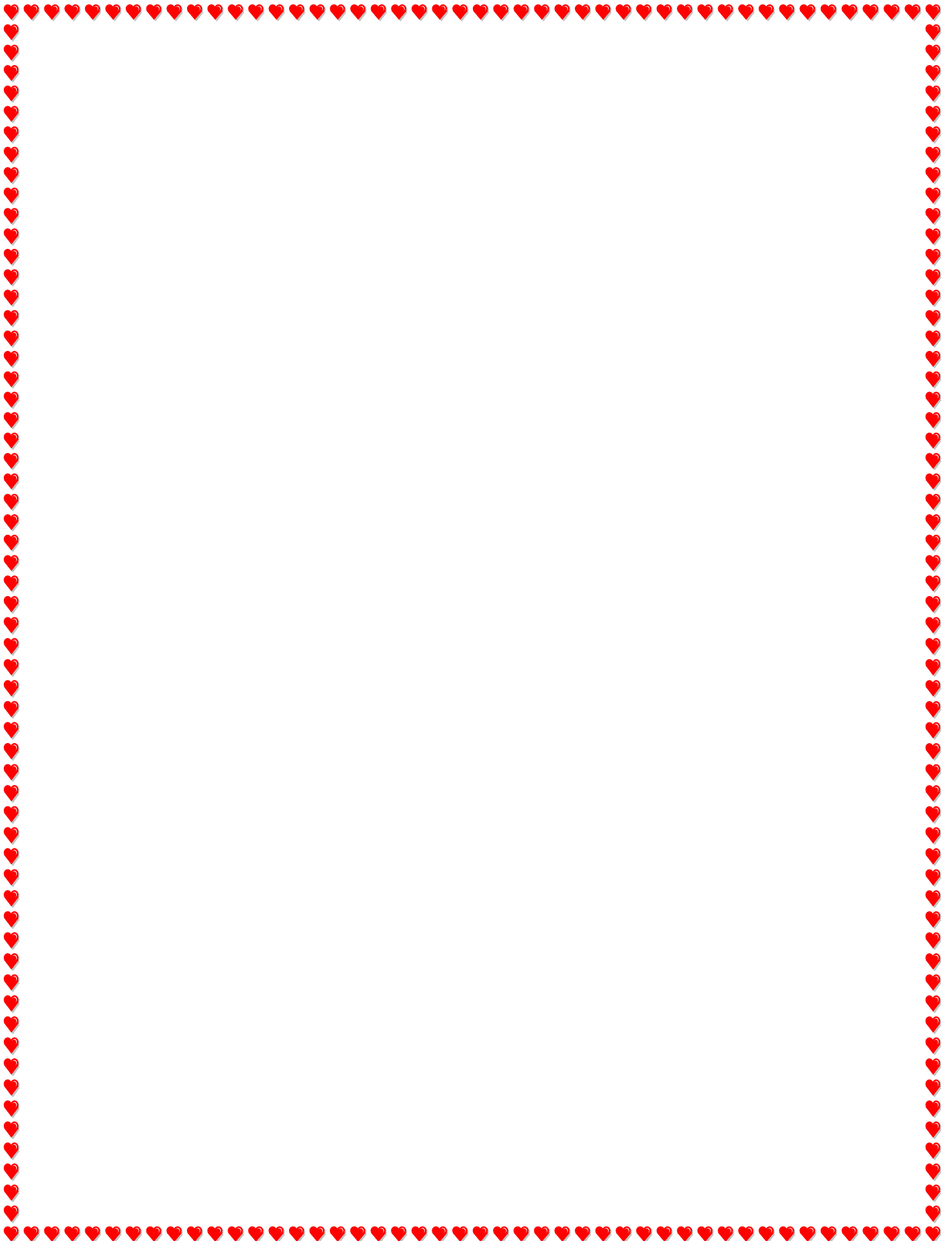


Our Environmental group meets weekly to discuss ways in which we can be proactive in keeping our school green. Before Christmas, a video was made by two grade 8 students, showing some Enviro Club members giving their fellow students some green tips they could use. Examples included bringing their own cutlery to parties to reduce plastic waste, and making their own decorations and gifts. Students had a lot of fun making the video and we hope students went home and talked about the environmental - friendly ideas! As well, the Enviro Club is proud to say that the school is yet again aiming to be certified as gold EcoSchool! Some intermediate students are already working with Mr. Tacchino and Mrs. Lacey to complete the EcoSchool application for this year. With the help of our students and staff, we're hoping to achieve three gold medals in a row! The Enviro Club will also present to all classrooms. another helpful way to become more environmentally friendly, the 'Whoops!' ticket. Using the 'Whoops!' ticket, Enviro club members will monitor every classroom to check if they are following the basic environmental routines, (such as turning off the lights when no one is in the room, proper waste is in the right bins, etc.) This will enable students to see how their class is doing to help out the environment.

We hope that we can continue to keep up the great work our students have shown so far in relation to the environment, and keep St. Justin Martyr green!

Do the Green Thing!!




























# February 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <b>JUMP ROPE FOR HEART KICK OFF</b> 	2 9:00—Down to Earth—Black History Presentation 3:30 Int. Boys' Basketball Exhibition Game vs. St. Julia 		
5	6 9:00— Int. Boys' Basketball Tournament 	7 9:00— Int. Girls' Basketball Tournament 	8 Carnival Crazy Hair Day  French Concert 	9 Carnival Sports Day  Jump Rope for Heart	10 <b>HOT LUNCH</b> Intermediate Dance 2:00 Grades 7 & 8 Geography Challenge Contest  	
12	13 Fire Safety Visit—Gr.2. 2/3 	14 <b>Valentine's Day Cake Raffle</b>  3:30 Int. Boys' Basketball Exhibition Game vs. San Lorenzo 	15 3:30 Int. Girls' Basketball Exhibition Game at SJM	16 3:30 Int. Boys' Basketball Exhibition Game vs. St. Michael's 	17 Chess Tournament 	18
19	20	21 Pancake Tuesday 	22 Ash Wednesday  Liturgy 3:30 Int. Boys' Basketball Exhibition Game vs. St. Michael's	23 4:00 Int. Girls' Basketball Exhibition Game at St. Michael's 3:30 Int. Boys' Basketball Exhibition Game vs. All Saints 	24 <b>HOT LUNCH</b> 	25
26	27 Int. Boys' Basketball Tournament 	28 Int. Girls' Basketball Tournament 9:00 Gr. 2 Retreat 	29 			



# St. Justin, Martyr Parish

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*You will seek me and find me; when you seek me with all your heart.*

*~Jeremiah 29:13*

## **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner Dance, Mardi Gras Gala Saturday, February 18, 2012 Le Parc Banquet Centre 8432 Leslie Street, Thornhill**

You can make a difference—support the HOPE (Help Our Parish Excel) Fund by purchasing tickets @\$75. each, making a donation to the Silent Auction or Raffle, sponsoring the evening, or advertising in the Program.

Please call the parish for further details

*The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22.  
Ashes will be distributed during the 9:10am and 7:00pm  
Masses at the church.*

### **Road to Calvary**

The Music Department of Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts presents an evening of choral masterpieces that sets the stage for Lent and Holy Week. A journey through prayers inspired by the Birth of Christ to His Passion.

Please join us on Wednesday, February 29

At St Justin, Martyr Church

7:30pm

General Admittance is \$15.00

Please check the website or bulletin for particulars about ongoing parish programs.