



MONSIGNOR CLAIR CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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Barrie, ON L4M 7B5
Phone 705-737-2812 Fax 705-737-1615
Website: mcl.schools.smcdsb.on.ca



May The Road Rise Up To Meet You



May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
The rains fall soft upon your fields
And until we meet again,
May God hold you
In the palm of His hand.

Traditional Gaelic Blessing

www.lords-prayer-words.com

SCHOOL LITURGY

Our Ash Wednesday Liturgy will take place in our gymnasium on March 1st time TBA. Please remember that all are welcome to attend. Families are encouraged to attend one of the services at the church that day.

PAY IT FORWARD

Over the past few months Mrs. McLean's Grade 5 class has been reading the novel, *Pay It Forward* by Catherine Ryan Hyde. After finishing the novel the class was challenged to think of an idea to pay it forward in our community by doing random acts of kindness and encouraging others to do so was well. The Grade 5 students accepted the challenge and went out into the community, shoveling neighbours driveways, handing out quarters at Fresh Co for people to use the carts and asking them to pass it on when they were finished, making gift boxes for children at Sick Kids Hospital, donating toys and clothes to Value Village, donating food, raising money, and giving time to the Barrie Food Bank and Christmas Cheer, spending time visiting with seniors and playing Christmas carols on the piano for them at Nursing Homes, donating money to favourite charities and then challenging all Mom's Facebook friends to do the same, which caused those friends to challenge their friends to do the same. The students learned that these small, simple acts of kindness not only make the people they have helped happy and grateful, but it makes us feel good as well. We hope that you will help us continue to Pay It Forward with random acts of kindness.

WINTER WEATHER WATCH - KNOW YOUR ZONE

The winter weather will be with us for a while. For the most up to date information about bus cancellations and our weather zones please continue to check our web site www.smcdsb.on.ca or www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca and the school board will announce the cancellation of transportation on the local radio stations. Please listen to The Dock (104.1), CHAY, B101 or ROCK95 (FM 95.7) to hear if the buses will be operating. Our school is in the **Central Weather Zone**. We urge you **not** to contact the school or the board office for information about bus cancellations. **When the buses are cancelled the school remains open, unless otherwise announced.** The decision to transport your child/children to school or keep them home is yours. **Please remember that if buses are cancelled in the morning, they will not operate in the afternoon as well.** Be sure that you have discussed with your child (children) the appropriate procedure to be followed in emergency weather conditions or if the school should have to close early. Please remember that the school requires an emergency contact number on file in case of such emergencies. You, as parents and guardians, are encouraged to determine the advisability of sending students to school in inclement weather, even if buses are running.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the staff ~ I would like to wish each of our families a Happy New Year for 2017 and welcome back! We hope you all had a restful break and had time to spend with family and friends.

It is already shaping up to be a busy year as our attention turns to focusing on Math learning activities, speeches, social, spiritual and athletic opportunities.

February marks the end of Term One so report cards will be going home on February 22nd. Thank you to everyone that donated to and supported the Food Bank, Tuck Shop and our Spirit days. Through the Angel fund we were able to support some of our families during the Christmas season. Our Christmas Activity Night was well attended – it was wonderful to see families socializing with each other. Thank you to our many volunteer elves – bakers, face painters, story time readers etc.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the many staff, parents and student volunteers that make Monsignor Clair such a great school. Thank you!

It is with mixed emotions that I have decided to retire on January 31st.

It has been a busy, rewarding three years and I have been blessed to work with so many dedicated staff members, as well as parents who selflessly gave of their time and energy to benefit the students.

To our School Council ~ thank you for your enthusiasm and dedication in your support of the school's goals. The commitment you have shown has meant a great deal in enabling the school to move forward with our technology and healthy bodies goals. I wish each and every one of the Monsignor Clair community all the very best. I encourage all students to have a goal for yourself and work towards it to the best of your ability ~ I will miss you!

Please welcome Mr. Bill Ray as your new Principal ~ I know you will show him that we have the best school, students and families in the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board
~ God bless...

Mrs. Veitch





FROM THE LIBRARY

Thank you to all students who returned outstanding library books before the Christmas holidays. It really does help keep track of books that may have been misplaced. There are still many books that have not been returned prior to December, so please check around your homes for any library books. Ms. Borgogelli will continue to send out reminders to students who seem to have misplaced their books. New books/resources will be purchased soon from the September book fair profits.



PARISH NEWS

FIRST COMMUNION

We remind parents that Registration Forms for Spring 2017 First Communion, of students in Grad 2 and up are due to Msgr. Marco Sunday January 15th. Also, please be reminded to contact the parish office to book your child's First Communion Interview. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mickie Oakes, Pastoral Associate in the parish office at ext. 110.

EDGE NIGHT

On Friday Jan 20th at 6:30 pm we will be having Two City of Barrie police officers giving a presentation on how to use Social Media safely. We would like to invite all parents and any youth Grade 6 and over to attend.

Please email stmarysyouthministrybarrie@gmail.com for more information.

DAYS FOR GIRLS

Days for Girls, Barrie, in conjunction with St. Mary's CWL is holding their next workshop on Wednesday, January 25 at 10:30 am in the Parish hall to make items for sustainable sanitary kits. One kit will keep a girl in school 2-4 years in developing countries. The Team also needs donation of 100% cotton fabrics in medium to dark in botanical or geometric patterns and 100% flannel in medium to dark patterns. Please no faces, animal, glam or bug patterns. Our goal is to make 200 kits. Each kit cost \$15 to assemble and financial donations are appreciated. These kits bring empowerment and dignity to the girls. Brown bag lunch, tea and coffee will be provided. If you are interested in this workshop or have any questions please contact Ann Cavanaugh at barrieon@daysforgirls.org or call 705-331-0635

WINTER PARKING LOT ISSUES

Parking troubles! A reminder that as the snow piles up we are very short on parking spaces. We ask that only parents picking up Kindergarten students park in the parking lot. **There is overflow parking available at the Barrie Free Methodist Church.** Parents can, **after the buses depart**, pick up students in the "Kiss and Go" area in front of the school on Livingstone Street. Please remember that you can not park in the "Kiss and Go" area. It is for quick pick up and drop off only.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Registrations for Kindergarten, both Junior and Senior Kindergarten, will take place on an on going basis starting February 1, 2017. Please contact the school at any time with your child's name and birth date and arrange a day to come in to pick up a registration package. In order for your child to begin junior kindergarten in September of 2017, your child must be 4 years of age by December 31, 2017. Please ensure that you have the following documentation for registration as we cannot register your child without these items: Child's Birth Certificate, Baptism Certificate, and Immunization Record (yellow card), as well as a copy of a **parent** Catholic Baptism Certificate and paperwork showing proof of address (tax form or utility bill). If you have any questions please contact Mrs McVeigh at the school office 737-2812.

CHRISTMAS TUCK SHOP

The students in Ms. St-Onge & Mr DeFazio's class would like to thank our school community for their tremendous support of our Christmas Tuck Shop. We were overwhelmed by the generous donations of gift items and wrapping paper. Students were excited by their shopping opportunity and being able to choose gifts on their own. We hope you enjoyed receiving your special gifts. We enjoyed organizing, selling, and especially wrapping so many gifts! Thank you to everyone who supported this event and helped us raise more than \$600 for our school's Christmas Cheer fund. Start collecting your donations for next year!

Sincerely,
The Grade 6/7 Class

QSP MAGAZINE SALES

Looking for a gift for that hard to buy for person? Don't forget that you can continue to purchase magazines online at www.qsp.ca and our group code is 3720604. Thank you to all who have renewed or begun New subscriptions. Keep renewing your subscriptions. Thank you for your continued support.
Customer Service 1-800-667-2536



HEALTHY SNACKS

At Monsignor Clair we like to encourage students to make sure they are eating healthy snacks especially in the mornings. Everybody snacks! Young children, students, parents and teachers will often eat between meals. Snacks can be fun and healthy; it just depends on what foods you choose. Think of healthy snacks as mini meals including at least 2 of the 4 food groups from Canada's Food Guide. Nutritious snacks are simply wholesome foods like milk, cheese, fruits, vegetables, breads, or cereal. Choose healthy snacks that are good for your body... and don't forget about your teeth.



PUBLIC SPEAKING

January is the month when we traditionally have our public speaking contests. All students from grades 4 to 8 have the opportunity to write a speech. Each class conducts it's own speech presentations and then 9-10 students from both the Junior and Intermediate division are chosen to present their speeches in front of judges in the gym. The school presentations will take place in the school gym on Thursday, January 26, 2017. The Junior Division will present first beginning at 9:15 am and the Intermediate Division will follow at approximately 10:15 am. The winners of this competition will then have the opportunity to move on to the next level of competition for St. Mary's Church CWL. All parents/guardians are welcome to attend. Good luck to all our participants.

SAFE ARRIVAL

Mrs. McVeigh would like to thank all parents and guardians for being diligent about calling for Safe Arrival. At this time of year and throughout the winter our office staff are kept very busy with Safe Arrival calls. You have made her job so much more efficient.

We ask everyone to please remember that if your child is going to be late or absent, to make a phone call to the school 737-2812. The school has an answering machine so a message can be left at any time of the day or night. You can now also use the icon on our website mcl.schools.smcdsb.on.ca which will generate an email to Mrs McVeigh. If all parents/guardians make this call the work for our office staff is diminished considerably. We thank you for your cooperation.



NOON HOUR SUPERVISORS

We are always in need of new Noon Hour supervisors. If you are interested in or able to work for one hour from 11:55 to 12:55 pm, we can always use people on an on-call basis if one of our regular supervisors is absent. Please contact Ms Veitch.

MCS TEAMS!!!!

Congratulations to all three of our Volleyball Teams for 2016/17 and our Intermediate Girls Basket Ball team!! Our Intermediate boys went all the way to the Counties. Way to go MCS Crusaders!!!



CHRISTMAS CONCERT!



LOOKING FORWARD TO...

January 31	-	School Council-6:30 pm
January 26	-	Public Speaking Competition 9:15 am Gymnasium
January 29	-	CWL Public Speaking Competition 1 pm – Parish Hall
February 3	-	PA day
February 20	-	Family Day - No school
February 28	-	Shrove Tuesday
March 1	-	Ash Wednesday Para Liturgy
March 13 - 17	-	March Break