

# St. Michael Spirit

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Principal: C.Pitman

## HOPE FOR HAITI: PEACEFUL SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL

### Showing Kindness

The devastating earthquake in Haiti this past week, has demonstrated the fact that people around the world are guided by kindness, compassion and generosity. At St. Michael School we would like to show our compassion and kindle the flame of kindness for the people of Haiti. We will be holding a HAT DAY on Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup> and the students can bring in a voluntary donation of \$2.00. Your support for the people of Haiti will be greatly appreciated.

### Full time JK



We are very excited that beginning September 2010 all of our Junior Kindergarten programs (Regular and French Immersion) will become full day! Research indicates that early intervention has a profound impact on future development and success. Full day kindergarten will provide a smoother transition to the next grade and help children develop the social and academic skills necessary to succeed in school and in life. If you have a child who will be four years old

by December 31, 2010 please call the office for more information.

Please pass this wonderful information on to anyone who has children eligible for school.

### JK/SK Report Cards

Junior and Senior Kindergarten report cards will be going **home on Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Please remember to sign and return Page 3 of the report card. **Interviews will take place Feb.4<sup>th</sup> between 3:30-4:30 p.m.** Please contact Ms. Hall if you are requesting an interview.

### MMA OPEN HOUSE

Parents and Gr. 6 girls are welcome to attend the **Marymount Open House on Feb.4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** Please bring your registration forms.

### FAMILY DAY



On October 11, 2007, the Government of Ontario announced the creation of a province wide statutory holiday known as Family Day. This day will occur on February 15, for the purpose of emphasizing and celebrating the importance of families taking time to be together. As a result, there will be no school for students and staff on Monday February 15<sup>th</sup>.

## TRANSPORTATION CONSORTIUM WEBSITE



The Transportation Consortium's Website at [www.sssc.ca/english](http://www.sssc.ca/english) is a good one to bookmark for information on the status of buses, bussing procedures, delays and weather announcements.

## PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES



The Sudbury Catholic School Board has developed an Administrative Procedure and Guideline to regulate the use of student Personal Electronic Devices (PEDs). Personal Electronic Devices are wireless and/or portable handheld equipment that include some of the following items: cell phones, pagers, video games, CD players, compact DVD players, MP players, iPods, digital or film cameras etc...

We are requesting that if your child(ren) bring any of these communication technologies to school, that they are to keep them in their packsacks so that they are not visible in the school and are not used in the school.

Your cooperation is much appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

## SEND A NOTE

Please send a note to the classroom teacher if your child is being picked up

early or at the end of the day (not taking the bus). Thank you.

## HEALTHY EATING

We continue to provide "Tasty Thursday", vegetable day and 'Tuttie Fruiti" fruit day, every second week. Thank you to our parent volunteers who make this possible.

## PRAYER ASH WEDNESDAY Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>

Dear and Gracious God, this month we are being the observance of Lent with Ash Wednesday and the placing of ashes on our foreheads. As you watched over Jesus in his forty days, watch over us as we prepare to celebrate Easter. May our works of kindness, our prayers and our fasting help us to be ready for the great feast of your Son's resurrection. We pray, In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

## WINTER WEATHER



Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for winter weather. Required clothing should include the following: hat, mittens, warm coat, snow pants, slush pants, winter boots, neck warmer. If your child is not properly dressed and thus at risk-he/she may not be allowed to go outside during recess. Do not hesitate to contact the office if you have any questions or concerns. Once again, safety is our primary focus.

## Recycling; Saving the planet one classroom at a time

Starting January we will begin by introducing 'litter-less lunches' on Tuesdays. This means that we can all try to reduce how much garbage we produce at school by using recyclable containers for sandwiches and snacks.



## HOMEWORK

Homework and assignments are a very important part of your child's education. Please make sure to check your child's agenda nightly for messages, assignment notes and test dates. It is important that your child know that you are interested in and supportive of his/her endeavours! Reading together nightly is a great way to both remain close to your children and to emphasize the fun of reading!

## TEN TIPS FOR HELPING YOUR CHILD READ EFFECTIVELY

### CHOOSING A BOOK

**1. Too Easy.** Ask your child to select a book and read. If two or three pages can be read without mistakes, ask the child to find a more difficult book to read.

**2. Too Hard.** If the child makes three mistakes per page, it may be too difficult and frustrating. Find an easier book for your child to read.

HOWEVER, if the story and ideas seem very interesting to him/her, don't worry about the number of words not understood or recognized.

**3. Just Right.** Ask your child to read silently for several pages, then ask, "Please explain what you have just read," with the book closed. If your child can give you a brief idea of what the story is about, then he/she is reading and understanding the materials. If the child cannot understand or recall the story, then you know he/she has poor reading comprehension.

## IMPROVING UNDERSTANDING

**4. Reading For Understanding.** Children may be able to read the words, but often do not understand what the words mean. Helping them understand the world about them by talking to them about the things they see and use will improve their understanding of words. This may mean using difficult vocabulary and explaining what the words mean.

**5. Improve Reading Understanding.** Watching television and talking over the plot or talking about advertising, billboards and signs as you are driving down the street are ways of improving your child's reading comprehension. He/she will have a better understanding of what is heard, seen, and sensed.

## HELPFUL TIPS

**6. Make Reading Useful.** Give your child tasks to do that are within his/her reading ability. Examples: reading the road map on trips, ordering from a menu, reading the directions for assembling a model, or reading advertising.

**7. Reading To Children.** Reading is not meaningful until the child wants to read. The child will want to read when he/she sees other

family members acquiring useful information through reading. Reading to a child stimulates seeking more resources for reading.

**8. Reading For A Purpose.** There needs to be a reason for reading that is child-centered. Reading directions for model cars, airplanes, boats, doll houses, etc., recipes, "how-to" books, or repair manuals needs to go beyond just reading. The child must interpret what is read and then experience the results.

**9. Develop Speaking Skills.** Speaking in complete sentences to express ideas in a logical order is important too. Helping your child organize spoken ideas also helps him/her learn to read and write. Most children learn to tell others their ideas before they can read.

### **CAUTION:**

**10. Don't Go To Extremes.** Reading, like speaking, is a tool that should be comfortable to use. It is a method used to transmit information and to transport yourself mentally, using words as images, to other times and places. Make reading fun. Read jokes. Read comedy. Read fiction and non-fiction. Read a variety of materials.

## **VIRTUE OF THE MONTH**

### **COMPASSION**

During the month of February we celebrate the virtue of COMPASSION. In Luke's Gospel, we read "Be compassionate as God is compassionate." We understand compassion not only as the ability to empathize with one another but also to act on behalf of that other person. It is evident when we care deeply and want to help others, even if we do not know them. It is being kind and forgiving to someone who has hurt you. We practice COMPASSION when we are:

- Helpful to a person or animal in need
- Notice when someone is hurt or needs a friend
- Imagine how another person might be feeling
- Take time to show you care
- Forgive others when they make mistakes
- Reach out in the broader community to share our resources and skills

The more we talk, teach and learn about compassion, the closer our Graduates come to dedicating themselves to the common good and to doing God's work.