

## St. Gregory Catholic School

# MARCH NEWSLETTER

*God made you and God made me,  
He made the world for us to see.  
God loves you and long ago,  
He sent his Son to tell us so.  
Jesus showed us many things,  
To love and share and dance and sing.  
To learn and pray, to help and care,  
He promised he'd always be there.  
He died but then came back to life,  
Let's celebrate for he's alive!  
Amen.*

### Kindergarten Program

The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario believes that early childhood education is the key to successful education. Our board is dedicated to nurturing our students through an education based on the Catholic virtues from the time they enter kindergarten until they become secondary school graduates. Should you have any questions, please call the school. If you or someone you know, has not yet registered their child for JK, please do so as soon as possible. Kindergarten Orientation for our new JK's will take place on Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.



### Planning for Next Year

It is the time of year where we begin to look ahead to planning for the next school year. Staff is hired and classes are created based on the numbers of students that are enrolled in various programs. If it is your intention to switch your child from the French Immersion program to the English/Core French program or vice versa, please write a note in your child's agenda as soon as possible to let us know. If you know of families moving to the area, please have them call the school to register for September. As well, if you know that your child will not be attending St. Gregory Catholic School in the next academic year, please let us know that as well. We appreciate your cooperation as we strive to optimize our class sizes and staff resources for next year.



### Parent/Guardian Contact Information

Please ensure all contact information is up to date on file at the school. We have had a few instances where work and cell numbers were out of service while trying to contact parents. As part of the Ministry Safe School Policy, the school must be able to reach a parent during the school day. Student Transportation (STEO) and Premier Bus Lines also use the contact information for bus changes and updates. Updated contact information should be written in your child's agenda to be passed along to the office.

### Season of Lent begins

#### Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday Prayer Service

As we begin the season of Lent, we will be serving pancakes to all students for Shrove Tuesday. Shrove Tuesday is a Christian festival to mark the start of Lent. Lent is a period of about six weeks when Christians are meant to practise abstinence – by giving up luxuries or unnecessary things. Traditionally, Shrove Tuesday is associated with pancakes being eaten. This was the last chance to eat rich foods before Lent, and an opportunity to use up all of the luxury foods (such as butter and eggs) which might go bad during Lent. Classes have signed up to come to the gym in the morning. We are still looking for a few parent volunteers to help serve if you are available and have a Vulnerable Sector Police check on file at the school.

You can write a note in your child's agenda with the time you are able to volunteer.

Our Ash Wednesday Prayer Service will be held on Wednesday, March 6 at 1:05 pm.

Our next School Mass will be held on Thursday, March 21 at 10:30 am.  
Parents are always welcome to join us.

### Catholic School Council

Parents are always welcome to join us for Catholic School Council meetings. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 19 at 6:30 pm in the Library.  
Our next CSC Movie Night will be Friday, March 29. More information to come!



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## Sacrament of Eucharist for Grade 2 Students



Our grade 2 students have begun preparations for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Sacrament of First Holy Communion. All events are at St. Mary's Church. See important dates below:

*Enrolment Celebration	Sunday, March 3 at 11:00 am Mass (Parent meeting to follow Mass)
*Sacrament of Reconciliation	Wednesday, March 20 at 7:00 pm
*Retreat Day (candidates only)	Friday, May 3 - am
*Sacrament of First Holy Communion	

**Group 1**  
Students in Mrs. Dupont, Mme. Cox & Mrs. Killeen-Darou's class

**Group 2**  
Students in Ms. O'Grady, Mme. Brownlee, Ms. Buiting and Ms. Diotte's class

## Reminders

- ❖ With the mild weather outside, it is a good idea to send your child with splash pants. The yard is quite wet and muddy in some areas. Please include an extra change of clothes for your child in their backpacks.
- ❖ Let the office know by phone/agenda if your child will be absent from school or late arriving. Please help us reduce the number of classroom interruptions by having your child arrive at school on time and ready to begin their day.
- ❖ Please remind anyone (grandparents, aunts, neighbours, friends, etc) who drop off your child that school supervision begins at 8:55 am. There is nobody on duty to supervise students until this time. Pick up at the end of the day is 3:25 pm. There is no supervision after this time. If you cannot be here by that time, please arrange for someone else to pick up your child and call the school to let us know.
- ❖ **Please call the school by noon for any end of day changes. This helps eliminate classroom interruptions to relay messages.**
- ❖ Due to many **medication allergies, never send medication in your child's backpack.** All medication to be given to students must be brought to the office by the parent with a Request to Administer Medication form filled out.

## Using Our WITS!: My child is being victimized: when and how should I seek help?

Seeking help isn't just for kids. Parents sometimes need support when their children experience bullying or peer victimization. So how do you know it's time to seek help? Ask yourself the following:

- Could someone get hurt?
- Does the situation make you feel afraid or uneasy?
- Is this something you can't handle alone?
- Did your attempts to deal with the situation not work?

If you answer yes to any of the above, it's a good idea to seek help. Check out Your Pyramid of Support at [www.witsprogram.ca/pdfs/families/pyramid-of-support.pdf](http://www.witsprogram.ca/pdfs/families/pyramid-of-support.pdf) for suggested sources of support. Every situation is different and every source of support offers different kinds of assistance, so you may need to seek help from multiple places before getting the appropriate assistance. Remember: if at first you don't get the help you need, keep seeking help until you do!

Want to know more? Explore the Using WITS with Your Child section of the WITS website at [www.witsprogram.ca/families/using-wits-with-your-children/](http://www.witsprogram.ca/families/using-wits-with-your-children/).

## Library

We would like to remind all parents and students that library books are due back prior to the March Break. Please return all books by Wednesday, March 6th.



## Outside Food & Baked Goods

A reminder to parents that due to allergy and safety concerns, as well as parental preference, we do not allow baked goods or candy/treats to be sent to school for sharing.

## Clothing Donations

We are looking for donations of extra clothing for students. Sometimes our students have wee accidents or fall into a puddle and need to borrow clothes. If your child borrows clothes, please wash and return them to school as quickly as possible so we can lend them to others if needed.



**The March Break runs from March 11th to March 15<sup>th</sup>.**  
**We wish all our families a safe and restful holiday.**