



THE



AGUAR

ST. JOHN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

November 2015

TRICIA DOWDALL-CIRELLI, PRINCIPAL

LAURA OWENS, SECRETARY

ROOTS OF EMPATHY



Baby Thaddaus!

We are excited to announce that both FDK's are participating in a program called Roots of Empathy (ROE). This program teaches children about their own feelings and the feelings of others. Once a month, baby boy Thaddaus and baby girl Melina visit FDK.

Trained ROE instructors help our students learn about the babies and students are encouraged to predict and cheer when their ROE baby reaches first year developmental milestones.

Students are coached to observe the baby as well as the cues the baby gives as to how the baby might be feeling. For example, "Is the baby happy or sad?"; "How can you tell?" This discussion is used as a lever for students to talk about their own emotions and to better understand how their classmates feel.

Roots of Empathy's mission is to build caring, peaceful, and civil societies through the development of empathy in children and adults.



Roots of Empathy

VIRTUE OF THE MONTH

This month we are celebrating the virtue of JUSTICE – one of the building blocks in developing moral intelligence in young people. From a young age, students have a strong sense of what is fair. As they grow, they develop the capacity to decipher right from wrong and to make ethical decisions.

This theme of Justice ties in with the Catholic Graduate Expectation of a Responsible Citizen – one who gives witness to Catholic social teaching by promoting peace, justice and the sacredness of human life. Traditionally, our Catholic Schools have made outstanding contributions to society through Social Justice Causes. Students in both our Elementary and Secondary Schools have raised funds to support many causes both locally and abroad. These include the Terry Fox Run, Adopt a Village, Holy Childhood, Share Lent, Peace and Development, the United Way, Thanksgiving Hampers, and Christmas Toy Drives. We are very proud of the contributions our student have made and continue to make through their altruistic efforts.

Self-control gives our children the willpower to “say no”, do what is right, and stick up for others being treated unfairly. There are three critical steps parents can use to help their children make just decisions through practicing self-control:

1. Make fairness a priority for your child.
2. Help your child see other people's points of view in a conflict.
3. Think before acting or speaking.



St. John Catholic School Council
Fundraising Warehouse Event
Bring Your Family and Friends!!

You are invited to attend the St. John School Council fundraising event at the **Fundraising Warehouse** (next to Tim Hortons in Garson) on **Wednesday, November 4th from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** The Fundraising Warehouse is only opened to non-profit organizations and charities. St. John School will in turn receive a percentage of the proceeds. We look forward to seeing you there. Please bring your friends and family along!

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU!

Canned Food Drive Total = 6500
Total Dollars Collected (Food Drive) = \$819.00
Terry Fox Walk/Run = \$312.00
Quinn (Quinton) Shewchuk Hat Day = \$1500.00

USE YOUR VOICE - STAND UP
BULLYING AWARENESS AND
PREVENTION WEEK NOVEMBER 15 - 21

Everyone has the right to feel valued, respected and accepted. During this week, students and staff will take special note of what it means to be a safe, accepting and inclusive school community.

Former Canadian Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson won the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in establishing United Nations Peacekeepers, who wear blue as a symbol of peace as they perform their work around the world.

On Friday, November 20th, St. John School staff and students are encouraged to wear BLUE as a symbol of peace and safety.

WHY "MATHITUDE" MATTERS

DID YOU KNOW?

- Research shows that early math literacy helps children to succeed in school and improves their future career prospects.
- 70% of Canada's top jobs require science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education. This includes careers we may not expect, such as culinary arts, animation, and fitness.
- When children are positively engaged and successful, they are more likely to stick with an activity and keep searching for a solution to a problem.
- Early success in problem-solving will build your child's confidence.

HOW CAN I HELP?

- Be Positive - Choose your words carefully. When parents (and other adults) say they aren't

good in math - they may be giving children permission to stop trying and learning.

- Avoid Math Anxiety - Math anxiety is real and occurs in both children and adults. Try not to over-react when your child makes a mistake. Mistakes are an important part of learning.
- Learn From Mistakes - Homework time can be a more positive experience if you praise your child's efforts; ask your child to explain their thinking; and encourage them to try again.
- Help Set The Tone - Be relaxed and engaged as your child does math homework. You are not expected to be an expert but you can offer support by asking questions like: "How did you do that?"; "How do you know if you're right or wrong?"; "Would you teach me how to do another question?"

MATH ACTIVITIES

- Math Games - play with games and puzzles. Use dice, cards and dominos.
- Math on TV - watch educational programs.
- Math at Grocery Store - Take your child grocery shopping. Weigh fruit and/or veggies, estimate the total cost of items as you fill your cart, discuss measurements like litres and grams, investigate food labeling etc.
- Math in Computer Games - Introduce your child to fun and educational web-based games and apps. (Math Information taken from The Council of Ontario Directors of Education - CODE)

Parent/Teacher Interviews

Progress Report Cards go home Friday, November 13th. Please sign and return the consultation page. Parent/Teacher Interviews have been scheduled for the following:

Wednesday: November 18th between 4 and 6 p.m. Interviews will occur on a first come, first served basis and are approximately 10 minutes in length.

Please make every attempt to touch base with our staff as research shows that parental involvement and engagement increase student achievement.

If you are unable to make it on the 18th or require more time to meet, please contact the school to set up a meeting by phone or in person at a mutually agreeable time.

WIN A FREE PIZZA FROM FAT TUESDAY'S PIZZA FOR READING THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

NAME: _____

GRADE: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____
