

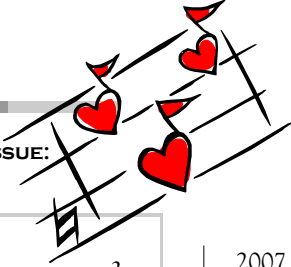
FEBRUARY 2008 NEWSLETTER

February 4, 2008

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



Events at St. Sebastian	2
Dance-A-Thon Prize Structure	3
February Calendar	4

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**ST. SEBASTIAN CHURCH
(416) 536-2302**

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Principal's Message

On December 5, 2007 our grade 3 students travelled to Pioneer Village located at the north end of our city. After studying Pioneer Life in class, students had the opportunity to experience first hand the many facets of our early settlers' life. At the restored site, students viewed homes, barns, clothing and various tools used 150-200 years ago. It is not always possible to enhance our children's learning with such excursions. By involving the entire community, such trips become more affordable.

A day trip to Pioneer Village, for example, costs approximately \$25.00 per child (admission, two programs, transportation). As a school, we asked par-

ticipating students to bring in \$12.00. The difference was paid for by CSAC—St. Sebastian's Catholic School Advisory Council.

CSAC has been eager to organize various fundraising activities during the school year to attain monies used to subsidize various trips, programs and purchase library books for our students. This month's

Dance-A-Thon, for example, is our primary fundraiser. This single event is responsible for bringing in the bulk of CSAC's annual operating budget. Without this kind of support from our parent community a broadened educational experience for students is not always possible. I would like to thank all of our families for their continued support!



Ms. Borges along with student council displaying Dance-a-thon prizes.

Scientists in School—a big success!

Below, *Scientists in School* working with gr. 2 students from Ms. Atkinson's class, along with gr. 8 helpers.



Many of our Primary and Junior classes this month have had visits from **Scientists in School**. During these half day programs students are given an excellent opportunity to learn science through the expertise of science teachers. These specialists bring with them various tools and equipment that fosters greater learning for our students. Ms. Atkinson's grade 2 class is featured to the left, as students are busy at work in the PLC room. Grade 8 students from Ms. Albinowski's class were also assigned to help out.

Events at St. Sebastian

Campbell House

On January 16, Mr. McDonald's 7/8 class travelled downtown for an interesting morning at Campbell House. We learned about nineteenth-century family life, baked shortbread cookies on an open hearth, and danced the night away with Scottish country dances. After lunch at the Eaton Centre, we finished the day on the ice rink at Nathan Phillips Square. - Mr. McDonald



St. Sebastian Ski Day!



On Thursday, January 24, 2008 the grade seven and eight classes went skiing in Bolton, Caledon. The journey to Albion Hills took about forty-five minutes. Once the students put their feet out of the bus, all they could see was sparkling white snow. After all the students got their boots, poles and skis, they tried out their skiing skills. A few students already knew how to ski. Some learned very quickly. But others spent a lot of time falling, and trying to get back up. There were many different trails, in quiet, tree-filled areas. Sometimes, students thought they were all alone, but then they quickly found their friends skiing around the turns in the paths. Everyone had a great time at Albion Hills, and maybe next year the other new grade seven and eights will have as much fun as this year's intermediates did.

-by Meghan Borges and Vanessa Pinto

As Parents And Teachers What Can We Do About Video Games? from TCDSB Psychology Department

Given the popularity and some advantages of video games, completely eliminating them from our children's life is difficult. However, there are many ways to decrease their negative impact on the child or adolescent.

1. Limit how often and the amount of time spent playing video games.
2. Monitor the level of violence in the games and other media.
3. Do not install video game equipment into your children's bedrooms. Instead opt for areas that allow for more supervision.
4. Supervise internet use as there are many video games that can be played online.
5. Discuss with children the games they are playing.
6. Use playing video games as opportunities to teach and explore a child's thoughts and feelings.
7. Encourage children to play video games with other children, making it a more social experience.
8. Provide your child/teenager with the appropriate space, time, and a variety of other toys/activities they can play with and encourage participation.

9. Allow them to choose the other types of activities they want to participate in.

10. Encourage them to participate in extra curricular activities.

11. Encourage cooperative play/ interaction opportunities at school, e.g., during recess or in class; and participation in leadership and volunteer activities for teenagers.

12. Praise children's efforts and engagement in interactive play activities.

Play/spend time with them!

Message from CSAC

Helping Hands:

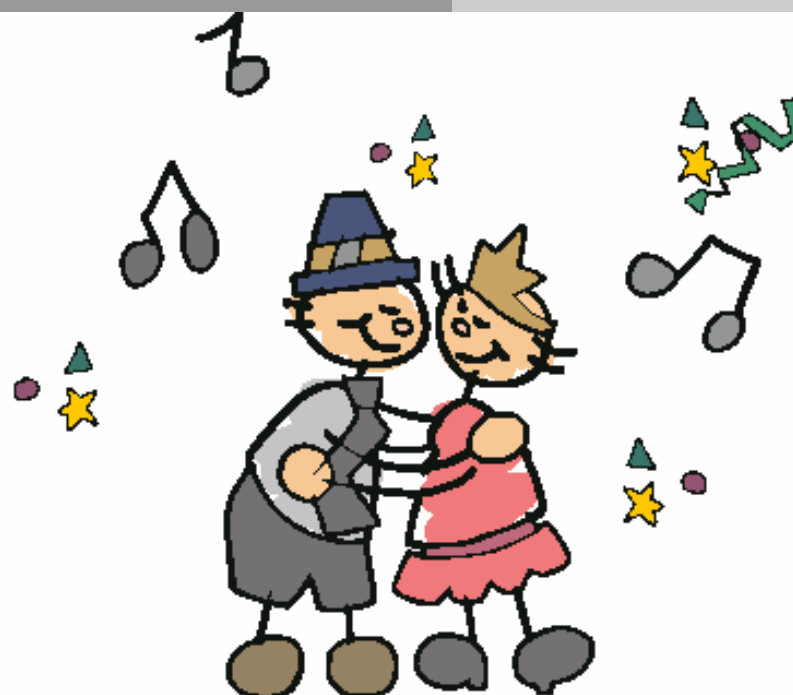
If you are able to help tally and record money collected or help during the Dance-A-Thon, please leave your name with the school. Thank you!

St. Sebastian Catholic School



Date: Feb. 14, 2008

Time: all day



Prize Structure

Dance-A-Thon 2008

Grand Prizes

1. LG 20" LCD Flatscreen Television
2. Canon 7.1 mp Digital Camera
3. 7" Widescreen Portable DVD Player

Great Prizes

- 1, 2, 3. Apple iPod Shuffles (250 song capacity)
- 4, 5, 6. CD Players with AM/FM Radio
- 7, 8. MP3 Players (500 song capacity)
- 9, 10. Movie Entertainment packages (includes snacks)

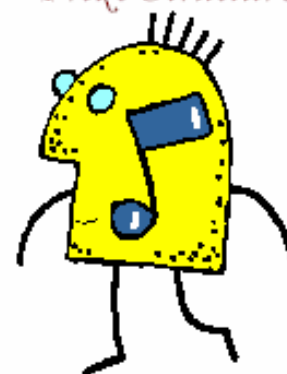
Class Prizes

- JK to gr. 3 classes which raise a minimum of \$400 will receive a free PIZZA LUNCH
- Gr. 4 to gr. 8 classes which raise a minimum of \$500 will receive a free PIZZA LUNCH

Collection Days

For every \$10 collected, students are entered into a "collection day" raffle.

Prize Structure



Free Gifts

- glow sticks
- drinks

St. Sebastian
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