

St. John the Evangelist

Faith and Character Development Night

Some ideas to consider on Character Development

- The Toronto Catholic District School Board is focusing on a different virtue each month. The first three virtues are courage, love and forgiveness
- Never hesitate to talk to your children about their responsibility to follow Christ's example
- ***Courage is shown*** when you do what Jesus would do even if it will not make you popular
- ***Love is shown*** when you remember the Golden rule – treat others the way you want to be treated.
- ***Forgiveness starts*** with being able to say you're sorry and continues with the ability to let things go – don't hold onto grudges
- Positive language is the way to express anger. The more the word **I** is used, the less conflict seems to occur e.g. ***I don't like when someone raises their voice.*** instead of ***Why are you always yelling at me?***
- Teaching our children to follow Christ's teachings is the most important thing we can teach them, and our actions will speak louder than our words.

It is our Responsibility as Catholics to try and live a life of Virtues

- encourage your children to take ownership for what they do by admitting to their mistakes.
- we can model this by admitting to our own mistakes in front of our children (tough to do but what a great example it sets)
- If you're never seeing the agenda filled in, newsletters or permission forms come home, chances are that your child needs to take more responsibility for these things
- communication with your child's teacher by note or phone call is a great way to let your child know that YOU are involved in their education, and that now it's THEIR turn to start to take responsibility.

Next Steps

- The two most important things we can do to encourage Faith and Character Development are as follows:
 1. Model for our children the qualities we would like them to show (demonstrate courage, love, and forgiveness to them and they will show it as well)
 2. Be prepared to consequence our children and follow through with what we say. If your child is warned that the next time they show disrespect that they will lose computer privileges, the computer needs to be shut down when they show disrespect again.

Parenting is a non stop job, but the rewards of good parenting are a lifetime of secure, happy, confident and hopefully successful children.

A Parent's Prayer (by Marguerite Kelly)

Help me give my children the best... not of trappings or toys, but of myself, cherishing them on good days and bad, theirs and mine.

Teach me to accept them for who they are, not for what they do; to listen to what they say, if only so they will listen to me; to encourage their goals, not mine; and please, let me laugh with them and be silly.

Let me give them a home where respect is the cornerstone, integrity the foundation, and there is enough happiness to raise the roof.

May I give them the courage to be true to themselves; the independence to take care of themselves and the faith to believe in a power much greater than their own.

See that I discipline my children without demeaning them, demand good manners without forgetting my own, and let them know they have limitless love, no matter what they do.

Let me feed them properly, clothe them adequately, and have enough to give them small allowances... not for the work they do but the pleasure they bring...

And let me be moderate in all these things, so the joy of getting will help them discover the joy of giving.

See that their responsibilities are real but not burdensome, that my expectations are high but not overwhelming, and that my thanks and praise are thoughtful and given when they're due.

Help me teach them that excellence is work's real reward, and not the glory it brings. But when it comes.. and it will.. let me revel in each honour, however small, without once pretending that it's mine; my children are glories enough.

Above all, let me ground these children so well that I can dare to let them go. And may they be so blessed.