March 2010

St. Columba Catholic School News

Principal’s Message

We began February with Wiarton Willie seeing his shadow and thus indicating that we would have 6 more weeks of winter. All things aside, February proved to be a fairly mild month, especially the day we were outside enjoying the wonderful Carnaval activities. February was a very busy month at St. Columba as we all watched our athletes participate in the 2010 Vancouver Games – Go Canada Go! So many wonderful and disappointing moments that are sure to become part of our history. We welcomed the world to our Country, and as Canadians we witnessed an unprecedented display of national pride. February also marked the beginning of Lent as we prepare ourselves for the coming of Easter. Deacon Bob spoke to our students on Ash Wednesday about the need for reflection as well as action in preparation for Jesus’ death and resurrection. How timely that the virtue for this month is FORGIVENESS, not only because we are in the season of Lent but also because it is an important cornerstone of our faith and one that Jesus modeled for us in his life and death. We are reminded that forgiveness is a gift to ourselves as we let go of the burden of resentment when we forgive another person and it’s a gift to our children when we teach and model it to them.

God Bless,

P. Cherrier

SCHOOL HOURS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>SCHOOL BEGINS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30-10:45 a.m.</td>
<td>A.M. RECESS</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00-1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30-2:45 p.m.</td>
<td>P.M. RECESS</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>DISMISSAL</td>
</tr>
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2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Labour Day</td>
<td>Monday, September 9, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Instructional Day</td>
<td>Tuesday, September 8, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving Day</td>
<td>Monday, October 12, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas</td>
<td>December 22, 2009 – January 1, 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Day</td>
<td>February 15, 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Winter Break</td>
<td>March 15, 2010 – March 19, 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>April 2, 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
<td>April 5, 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Day</td>
<td>Monday, May 24, 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Year Ends</td>
<td>Monday, June 29, 2010</td>
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PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAYS 2009-2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, September 2, 2009</td>
<td>Provincial Education Priorities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, September 3, 2009</td>
<td>Faith/Community Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, November 13, 2009</td>
<td>Report Card Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, December 4, 2009</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher Interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, March 5, 2010</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher Interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, June 30, 2010</td>
<td>Provincial Education Priorities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
St. Columba’s Haiti Relief Efforts

Thank you to all our students, parents and staff who purchased Raportor’s Raffle tickets for Haiti. We were able to raise $267 for Haiti which we sent to The Spiritan Father’s Haiti Aid Fund. I feel so proud of our community’s contribution. As a school Board we were able to raise $230,000 towards relief efforts and this money was raised just in time to have dollars matched by the Federal Government pledge. In additional two schools donated just under 1,000 gently used shoes, while others bought much needed medical supplies identified by the Red Cross. Although the media attention has begun to dwindle, at St. Columba we will continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Haiti that they find the strength and courage to deal with the weight of the devastation while trying to rebuild their lives.

St. Columba Carnaval

Under the direction of Monsieur Bhersafi St. Columba enjoyed a wonderful day of Carnaval events. The Gr.7 students did an excellent job of running the teams, while the Gr.8s were amazing at running the various games. The weather was picture perfect, and everyone had a great time. In the afternoon we were treated to a school wide Bingo game, in French of course, and our two callers Julia and Ramindia had fun saying the numbers in French. Mrs. Barran’s class was lucky enough to be our first Bingo winner, followed by Ms. McCormick’s and Mr. Spano’s classes. The French quiz contest was won by Team France, and the best Snow Art award went to Team Cuba. The best Carnaval Art work went to Mrs. Miller’s class who came up with a unique and original piece of art work. Bon Homme made a grand entrance during our assembly and he graciously crowned La Reine and Le Duke du Carnaval: Julia Carrillo and Kevin Dayno.

I would also like to thank a host of volunteers who served pancakes and hot chocolate, and helped out with lunch duties. So a big THANK YOU goes to: Alicia Antoine; Cheryl Paul; Janice Shea; Alicia DeCoito; Sharon Junor; Dawn Parker; Runilla Carrera; and Mr. Cohen and Mr. DeCoito.

To Mr. Bhersafi Merci beaucoup pour votre travail et vos efforts. Ils sont tres apprecies.

Appropriate Dress for 2010

As most of you are fully aware, we will be having “Appropriate Dress” for our students starting on September 2010. As outlined in last month’s newsletter, appropriate dress simply mean a white top (golf shirt), and blue pants (no jeans or track pants). Parents have the option of purchasing these items at many local retailers (WalMart, Zellers, Old Navy, etc.). At our last CSAC meeting we had the owner of ColoLine come and present his uniforms to us. As a committee it was decided that we will be supporting ColoLine as our official supplier given the quality and cost of his garments. One of the advantages of going with ColoLine is that he will supply crested shirts at no additional cost. He will also be offering a package price for 5 garments, which is very reasonably priced. The package will include 2 navy pants, 2 polo shirts, and a sweater (vest or hoodie) for $115 tax included. Please see the attached letter for more details.
Congrats to our Boys Basketball Team

Congratualtions goes out to our Boys Basketball Team who did a tremendous job representing our school at their tournaments. Thank you also to their coach, Mrs. Minnan-Wong who took the time and effort to prepare them.

Team members were:
Kevin Donkor; Kevin D; Marcus J; Junior B; Jehlen JB; Tareq M; Elijah W-B; Deshawn W; Jayden B; Alvin JC; Joseph W; Antonio V; Jude Francis

Breakfast with Ms.McCormick’s Class and Book Talk with the Gr.8s

As a principal one of the fringe benefits is being able to participate in the variety of classroom activities which teachers plan for their classes. This past month I was fortunate enough to attend a scrumptious breakfast prepared by Ms.McCormick’s and Ms. Craig’s students. The students not only planned the menu, but also cooked the eggs, and bacon, and cut up all the fruit. It was a great feast! Later on in the month I was invited to Mrs. Miller’s class for a Book Talk where the students presented on a variety of books they read. It was an interesting afternoon with engaging conversations and insights. Thanks to both classes for inviting me to participate!!!

Principal’s Lunch Winners

Thanks for the following students who made a difference in our school: Kehlieb, La-Nease, Amari, Michael, Giles, and Blair.

Ideas for the Virtue of Forgiveness

Parents if you are looking for some good ideas and books which support the virtue of forgiveness, take a look at the ideas and books listed below:

1) Let your actions be guided by the idea that Jesus said “Let the one who is without sin, cast the first stone.

2) The first step to forgiveness is to take responsibility for your actions.

Books
• Because of Winn Dixie, by Kate DiCamillo
• Forgiveness, by Lucia Raatma
• Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez
• I Did It, I’m Sorry, by Caralyn Buehner
• Learning about Forgiveness from the Life of Nelson Mandela, by Jeanne M. Strazzabosco
• Lily’s Purple Plastic Purse, by Kevin Henkes
• My Brother, Ant, by Betsy Byars
• Star Boy, Retold by Paul Goble
• The Easter Story, by Brian Wildsmith
• The Story of Ruby Bridges, by Robert Coles
• When Sophie Gets Angry-Really, Really Angry, by Molly Bang
• Where the Wild Things Are, by Maurice Sendak
• Whirligig, by Paul Fleishman
**Virtue Winners - Love**

Valeri: Mary R; Aaron V-M; Caitlin C
Barrans: Bastien A; Aysha H
Liwang: Romeo SC; Mia D
Notzl: Angelina DN; Michael M
Abrham: Carlo R; Marielle D; Richard G; Katelyn A
Spano: Patrick G; Hayley D
SoraineTrayanna W-W; Stephen C
Minnan-Wong: Gabriella K; Nathalie B; Linda A
Miller: Jackielou T; Michael A
Monaghan: Tiawon S
McCormick: Cameron M

**W5H Team**

On February 22, 2010 our Junior W5H team went to play their tournament at St. Rene Goupil School. Our team emerged victorious versus St. Barbara and St. Rene Goupil, and had a tie versus St. Nicholas. Representing our school were:

- Marielle D
- Marcus K
- Noah R
- Rachel B
- Ranit A
- Dean B
- Rizza B
- Stephen C

Congratulations to all the team members for doing an excellent job representing our school.

**March Birthdays**

Happy Birthday Wishes go out to:

- March 1: Seannah B
- March 5: Tajana B
- March 9: Malcolm K; Marcus K; Pillay S
- March 12: Rashon D
- March 15: Joseph W
- March 16: Ervyn J-M
- March 17: Ranit J
- March 20: Cy DC
- March 21: Reethi N
- March 30: Gabriella K

**News from the Craft Club**

During the past month the students in the Craft Club were extremely busy creating all kinds of wonderful creations. Under the direction of Ms. Craig the students participated on an Olympic Poster Contest. Father Paul and I were the judges, and it was a difficult decision. But the winners were:

- **Gold Winner - Cameron M**
- **Silver Winner - Adrian R**
- **Bronze Winner - Kate**
I am so excited to announce that St. Columba will be working with the Mobile Dance Studio called U GOT DANCE. They will be involved in a number of different activities at our school. To begin with, U Got Dance will be conducting a workshop with some of our intermediate student leaders to teach them a dance routine which the leaders will then teach to the school. Also we will be having a one day workshop on March 31st, 2010 in which the whole school will be learning some cool dance moves. The third thing that U Got Dance will be doing with our school is offering dance lessons to students during an 8 week period at lunch time. Normally the cost for the 8 week sessions (Hip Hop) is $105, but we have managed to acquire an exceptional rate of only $60 for the 8 week sessions-thats only $7.50 a lesson!!! I will be sending home information about the lessons shortly so please look for that information. I can't wait for the party to begin!!!!!!!!!! (No experience necessary)

St. Columba Goes to the ROM

On February 22, 2010 our Gr 4/5, 7/8. and Gr.8 had a fabulous trip to the ROM. They were able to see a number of wonderful displays ranging from the Dinosaur Exhibit, to Ancient Egypt and everything in between.

I-LITE

On February 26, 2010 our Gr.7s had a fabulous day at Mother Teresa engaged in various courses such as: Physical Education, Math Games, ME to WE activities, and leadership training. The morning began with a presentation from Andy Thibodeau, an inspirational speaker who talks about making a difference. It was a great day for our students to experience what it is like to be in High School. The M.T. students were excellent hosts, and we received many compliments about our students. Thanks to Mrs. Minnan-Wong for organizing and taking the students.

Using the Crossing Guard

We are continuing to notice that our students are not using the cross walk to cross on Brenyon Way. There is a crossing guard there, and even with that our students still insist on crossing between cars, and in the middle of the street. I have continued to make daily announcements about this, and would ask that you reinforce this at home as well.

Olympic Gold medalist for Poster Contest – Cameron M.

Mrs. Miller’s Gr.8s celebrating a job well done for their Book Talk presentations.

Monsier Bhersafi and Mrs. Kotiadies with our winter Carnaval friends.

Mrs. Valeri’s class enjoying pancakes for Shrove Tuesday.