March 2009 NEWSLETTER

March Virtue – Forgiveness

Quote of the month – To err is human – to forgive, divine.
During the month of March we will be focusing on the virtue of forgiveness. The first step to forgiveness is taking responsibility for one’s actions.
Aspects of forgiveness include consoling those in need, understanding the challenges that others face, pardoning those who may have offended us.
Children who take responsibility for their own actions are demonstrating a first step to forgiveness.
Showing others true contrition along with an apology is another step towards true forgiveness.

March Prayer

Loving God,
Help us to make our schools places of integrity
Where word and witness are one,
Where truth is spoken and walked,
Where justice begets peace,
Where reconciliation reigns,
Where compassionate ears listen to words of wisdom,
Where we pray in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

Lent

The liturgical season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 25th. Ashes will be distributed to the pupils by the staff during the day. During Lent the children will have opportunities to reflect on the Stations of the Cross. They will learn about the importance of prayer, giving alms, and fasting (from things that take our attention from God). Holy Week begins this year on Palm Sunday, April 6, 2009.

Parent Teacher Interviews

We will be having our second term parent teacher interviews on Thursday, March 12 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm and then on Friday, March 13, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Report cards will be sent home on Monday, March 9, 2009. Friday, March 13 is a Professional Activity Day for the pupils. There is no school on that day. Also – the Parenting and Family Literacy Centre will be closed.

March Break

School will be closed for the March break during the week of March 16-20th. We wish all families a wonderful and safe March break and we will see everyone on Monday, March 23, 2009.
Cross Country

Please note that cross country practices will take place soon after the March break. However, in order for the pupils to have the necessary training, we ask that pupils continue/begin cardiovascular training activity during the March break. This could be walking, jogging, climbing stairs, helping with housework, skating. We will send a separate letter with cross country details. The cross country meet for St. Marguerite Bourgeois School is scheduled for **WEDNESDAY, April 22**. We expect that any pupil who wants to be a member of the track events be physically fit and cross country provides the training and motivation. Please encourage your child to join the team.

Are You Moving?

It is important for the school to have as accurate an enrolment number as possible for the 2009-2010 year. We use these numbers to form a tentative staffing model. If your child will not be returning to St. Marguerite Bourgeois School next September, 2009, kindly notify the school as soon as possible. This does not include the Grade 8 pupils. If you are aware of anyone who has recently moved into the neighbourhood, or if you know of any families interested in joining the school from out or area, please have them contact the school office.

ShareLife

The Archdiocese of Toronto encourages the schools to support the work of the Catholic Charities of Toronto through a campaign known as ShareLife. The Toronto Catholic District School Board has designated the week of March 30-April 3 as ShareLife Week. During that week, the pupils of St. Marguerite Bourgeois will be asked to support the ShareLife charity campaign by making a monetary donation. We teach our children that it is good to help those who are less fortunate when we encourage them to be kind, share and contribute towards good causes.

Student Writers

A Shared Writing Activity – Mrs. Cassar’s JK Class

On Tuesday, February 17th, Bonhomme came to visit us. We walked around him and we clapped hands. We took a picture with him. He played a song for us. He looked like a snowman and had a red hat on. He also had white mittens and feet. He asked us to give him a “high-five.” We had a great time.

Love, Mrs. Cassar’s JK Class

Loving Children

Loving children are happy friends, but will their friendship ever end? It is good to be a loving friend, and we have Valentines to send. We should all be loving people, because we all can be equal.

by Alyssa Quan, Gr. 2

Reptilia

Today, the Reptilians are coming! We are all excited. We like reptiles because we are children born in the year of the snake. We saw all of the reptiles we ever could think of. We saw a turtle, and an alligator, a blue tongued skunk and a snake. There was a surprise! The surprise was an anaconda. An anaconda can squeeze other animals very tightly. We all got to touch the animals. My class was there, grade one was there, and SK was there too.

by Matthew Chin, Gr. 2

Henry’s Freedom Box

There was a little boy named Henry and he was a slave. He lived back in the days when slaves weren’t allowed to know their birthdays. Henry’s master was very ill, and his master gave him to his
son. If Henry made a mistake, his new master would beat him. One day Henry met a girl named Nancy. Their masters agreed to let them get married, and they did. Henry and Nancy had three children. One day Nancy and her children were sold as slaves. Henry went to Dr. Smith and told him that he wanted to mail himself to a place with no slaves. Henry was delivered to Philadelphia. Then he awoke in Philadelphia and he finally had a birthday – March 30, 1849, his first day of freedom. The message of this true story is – don’t treat others like slaves, and we are lucky because now we are all free.

by Kayana Shand and Tristan Gaffoor-Piette, Grade 2

Café Francais

On February 19th, in the gym, there was a Café Francais. We had hot chocolate and croissants. We also watched a short movie about the Bonhomme Carnival. Thank you to Mr. Medeiros and the Parent Council.

by Alyssa Quan and Jane Xu, Grade 2

Carnaval

Since its beginning in 1894, the winter Carnaval has been hosted by Quebec City. For more than 50 years, the Quebec Winter Carnaval has been the biggest in the world. The most famous Quebec traditions are snow spectacular, canoe races, glittering night parades, a golf tournament, dancing, dog sledding, rock climbing, ice fishing, swimming in cold water, Bonhomme coming, and fire works. The Quebec Carnaval is an unforgettable experience.

by Serge Nerces, Grade 4

Carnaval is a winter festival that started in Quebec. We celebrated it in February. Bonhomme is the symbol for Carnaval. Bonhomme is a snowman with snow hands and snow feet. There are many activities during Carnaval. Dog sledding, ice and snow sculpting competitions are some activities. In the evenings there is music and dancing at outdoor concerts. Carnaval is a fun and exciting festival.

by: Marie Gamboa, Grade 3

“OUR BUDDING POETS “– Mrs. DeSouza’s Class

Reaching Goals

Goals are dreams that you set for yourself. It may be an award that sits on a shelf. To become famous with tons of fans. Or even to be brave enough to make a stand. If you fail, don’t give up, just try again. You’ll realize your dreams in the end. Believe in yourself, and you will succeed. Because self confidence is all that you need. Don’t listen to what other people say. You won’t get anywhere doing it that way. Know that you can do it, don’t have a doubt. Smile at your fears, that’s what it’s about. The sky is the limit, and there are no rules. Brain power, confidence, these are the tools. So set some goals and get out there today. Go out into the world and be on your way.

by Nathan De La Rosa, Grade 5

Life on Other Planets

Kids have one thing on their mind that puts them in a trace and bind. Even the scientists think it’s a boon if there are aliens on the moon. Can there be life signs on Saturn, then we should send them something with a pattern. There are so many things yet to discover, I’m going to bed, pass me the cover. While the scientists jump and crawl, the kids go crazy in the hall. No more of this confusion because I’ve come with a conclusion.
You shouldn’t be worrying about this mess.  
Go home and take a nice rest.  

by Devin Williams, Grade 5

**Toy Bear**

I was selling chocolates in the candy store,  
I sold my last bar when there was a knock at the door,  
The guy said “Congrats”! when I was standing there,  
He said “You sold the most chocolates so you won a toy bear”,  
“Thank you” said Mya as she took the bag from the man.  
Now” said Mya “I have to do candy grams”.  
I worked on the computer that was sitting there,  
When I was done I looked at my toy bear.  
His fur shone like snow as you can plainly see,  
His eyes were blue and made of glass that brought me glee.  

by Mya Brant , Grade 5

**Football**

Summer starts the football season.  
I write this poem for a reason;  
Football is my favourite sport.  
But they don’t play on a court.  

Instead, they play it on a field.  
And when they run, they just don’t yield!  
Sometimes they play on turf or grass.  
With the crowd cheering, some playing brass!  

Now my poem is about over  
C’mon guys, let’s play red rover!  

by Joshua Wilmot, Grade 5

**Show Some Love**

Show some love to the world,  
To all the boys and all the girls  
Never fight, stay by their side.  
Help them through, when they cry  

Help them to think positive, when they’re sad.  
Dang that they won’t be bad  
Never fail to be a friend.  
Show some love until the end.  

Whenever they are really in need,  
be a good person,  
do a good deed.  
I’m sure it’ll help everyone succeed.  

by Melissa Namey, Grade 5

**My Friends!**

My friends are really nice,  
And we all like skating on ice.  
My friends give good presents on my birthday,  
And that time we like to play.  
They enjoy coming to my house,  
But sometimes they find a mouse,  
And we will all be friends  
To the end!  

by Gloria Ng, Grade 4

**Valentine’s Day!**

On Valentine’s Day  
My school had a dance,  
We listened to songs,  
The songs were long,  
And the dance went on and on.  

We got back to our class  
We read our cards and  
It was a blast!  

by Angelo Diletto, Grade 4

**Reptilian Presentation**

It was a sunny morning on a Wednesday. I just got to school and the morning announcements came on. I heard there was going to be a Reptilia Presentation and I was ecstatic. When we went into the library for the presentation, we sat in a circle and the presenter introduced himself. His name was Blair.
We first talked about the four groups of reptiles, which are lizards, snakes, turtles and the crocodilians. After that Blaire took out the first animals. It was a Box Turtle, named Franklin. Blair told us about the shell and how it is made out of the skins and bones of the turtle. When Blair brought the turtle around for everyone to feel, I was anxious and the shell felt very much like a tile.

After Blair put away the Box Turtle, he brought out a Spectacle Alligator. Blair showed us a bridge that was between the eyes and told us that the alligator would grow to be about two and a half meters long. When I touched it, it felt like a plastic toy. Next, Blair took out a Blue Tongued Skink, named Kool-Aid. He had a beige coloured skin and a bright blue tongue. Blair was telling us about how the skin would protect itself from predators with the tongue. The last animals Blaire brought out were…SNAKES! There was a Corn Snake Python, but my favourite had to be the Corn Snake, because I got to hold it! But the saddest part was leaving and saying goodbye to the reptiles.

by Marcella Choy, Grade 5

Reptilia

On Wednesday, it was Reptilia Day! A presenter named Blaire came to the library to show us five different reptiles and learn about the.

Our first reptile was a Box Turtle, it was kind of like a turtle but it closes its shell when its predator is close by.
Our next reptile was a seven-year old alligator. You’ll realize it doesn’t look like an alligator but a crocodile because it wasn’t fed properly. Our third reptile was a Blue Tongued Skink – when it has nowhere to run away from its enemy, it will stick out its tongue to make its enemy think that the tongue is poisonous. The second last reptile was a Corn Snake. Farmers usually think it will eat their crops which they don’t. They are one of the non venomous snakes ever. And our last reptile was the Carpet Python which was wider and longer than the Corn Snake. It must have been really heavy because of the size and width! The presentation was great and I hope we have it again next year with different animals.

by Kevin Zhou, Grade 4

Reptilia Presentation

On Wednesday, February 4th, we went to the library to see a presentation of reptiles. We sat down on the carpet and Blair the presenter, said he was going to take out a reptile which was a box turtle. The mother and the father turtle leave the baby turtle on the sand for the egg to crack and when the egg cracks the baby goes into the sea to look for its parents. Next, he asked us not to make noise because the reptiles get scared. When he took the next one out it was an alligator. He said that it needed to eat more to get bigger in order to look like an alligator. The difference between a crocodile and an alligator is that an alligator has sharp tee. Then, he took out a Skink which is a lizard. The skink had a blue tongue to scare other animals so the animals think he is poisonous. He took out another animal which was a Corn Snake. A Corn Snake doesn’t eat corn but it lives on a farm.
When Blair took out the next reptile inside the bag it was a big snake called a Carpet Python. When my classmate put it around his neck it looked big. A Carpet Python has smooth skin. Reptilia presentation was fun and it was fun learning about reptiles.

by Cristine Agbayani, Gr.4

Scientist in School

Today is Wednesday, February 25th. It was a very exciting day in our Gr. 1 class because a scientist came to teach us about using tools to discover new things in science.

The title of our workshop was “Microscopy: More than Meets the Naked Eye”. We were using , as the real scientists do in their labs, different kinds of microscopes. A stereoscope shows things 2- times larger. A compound microscope is more powerful and it shows things 40 – 400 times larger. It shows
small slides that you can’t see with your own eyes. You don’t even know they are there. An electron microscope makes things bigger – thousands of times.

First, we were pretending that we were forensic scientists looking at our own fingerprints. We discovered that 5 of us have loop fingerprints, 4 students have whirl fingerprints, and just 3 of us have arch fingerprints.

Then, we became the entomologists and we were looking for special samples of living things in the discovery boxes. We discovered the wonderful wings of insects. One can see through the membranous wings and they have tiny hairs sticking up all over. Net-veined wings are see-through boxes that make them look like stained glass windows. Leatherly wings have boxes that are not see through and scaled wings are covered in scales that overlap each other and are not see through.

Next, we became biologists observing the micro-world in a drop of pond water. Using the microscopes, it was great to see the little creatures living there. They were daphnias, cyclops, ostracods, amphipods, mosquito larvas, snails and planarias.

Working as scientists called physists, we discovered that curved shapes, like sphere and cylinder, magnify and that magnifying glasses and microscopes have lenses made with curved glass.

Finally, we became botanists, and discovered the secrets of sticky seeds. We found out that an enchanter’s nightshade was harder to remove from the cloth than a queen Anne’s lace, because it has hooks. It was fun learning together about characteristics and needs of living things using microscopes just like the real scientists do.

We would like to thank our school Parent Council for making this great educational experience possible for our Gr. 1 Class.

Mrs. Kawnik’s Gr. 1 Class