

March, 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians:

“To Err is Human, to Forgive is Divine” ~Alexander Pope

As we continue in this most holy liturgical season of our Catholic faith calendar – Lent – we are blessed with the opportunity to be mindful of the importance of forgiving ourselves and those around us. We are reminded that this special season provides all of us with a time to prepare for the essence of our faith – the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

With the arrival of March, we look forward to warmer weather and longer spring days. The March Break will soon be upon us, and we will have the opportunity to renew ourselves for the final stretch of the school year. We encourage you to continue to celebrate your child’s successes, and continue to support them on their academic journey.

Please note that MARCH BREAK begins on March 16th and ends on March 20th; the school will be closed during this week. Regular classes commence again on Monday, March 23rd.

Below is some important information for your review and consideration during the month of March:

Monthly Virtue: How timely it is that our virtue for this month is FORGIVENESS – not only because we are in the season of Lent but because it is a cornerstone of our faith; one that Jesus modeled for us in his life and death. Throughout this month we are reminded that forgiveness is a gift to ourselves as we let go of the burden of resentment. The following are examples of ways Forgiveness can be demonstrated:

- Let your actions be guided by the idea that Jesus said, “Let he who is without sin, cast the first stone.”
- The first step to forgiveness is to take responsibility for your actions.
- If you want to be forgiven, you need to make sure you forgive other people.
- Live your life in a way that makes others know you are a follower of Christ.

Church News/Information: Our next school Mass will be held on Thursday, March 5th at 9:15 a.m. Mass is held at St. James Church, 728 Annette St. All parents and family members are welcome to attend.

CSAC News: Our next CSAC meeting will be held at James Culnan on Tuesday, March 3rd at 7:00.

Multicultural Pot Luck and Pan Am Games Celebration: Many thanks to all those who attended and contributed to this overwhelming successful event. It was wonderful having the opportunity to come together as a community to enjoy each other’s company and culinary delights. A special thanks to CSAC, who worked hard planning and organizing this annual event, and to the many volunteers who helped make it a special night.

Parking: Given our growing enrolment and limited number of parking spaces, a reminder to all that the lots on both the North and South side of the school are for staff only. As well, cars are not to be parked in the bus loading zone on Willard Avenue in the morning, as our buses are experiencing difficulty safely unloading students. As a recommendation, there is little vehicle congestion on Windermere Avenue in the morning, making it an ideal location to park if escorting your child into the school.

Student Absences: If your child is to be away from school for any reason, always call the school by 8:30 in the morning to report the absence. If calling after-hours, you can record the child's name, grade, teacher, and reason for the absence, on the school's voicemail. As well, our secretary, Ms. Curcic will also accept email notification of an absence. You can email the absence information to: susan.curcic@tcdsb.org.

School Closures: Monday, March 16th to 20th – NO SCHOOL for students due to March Break

Should the school be closed due to inclement weather conditions information is made available on most major television and radio stations as early as possible. Information is also available on the TCDSB website at www.tcdsb.org.

Bus Delays: For various reasons, school buses are sometimes delayed. Should a bus be late to your stop, please contact the bus company directly for information. When buses are cancelled due to inclement weather, information is made available as early as possible on most major television and radio stations. Information is also available on the TCDSB website at www.tcdsb.org. **PLEASE REMEMBER – IF BUSES DO NOT RUN IN THE MORNING, BUSES WILL NOT BE RUNNING AFTER SCHOOL. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PICK UP YOUR CHILD AT 3:00 PM IF YOU BRING THEM TO SCHOOL WHEN BUSES ARE NOT RUNNING.**

Visiting the School: We value the importance of making James Culnan a welcoming place for our parent community. This, of course, has to be balanced with the school's obligation to ensure a safe environment for all students. When visiting the school, **always report immediately to the office**. Never travel the halls or go to classrooms without first getting permission from Ms. Curcic or Mr. Dempsey.

Winter Weather: All children need an opportunity to get outdoors to exercise and enjoy free play. For what's left of this winter, please ensure your child(ren) arrive at school with hats, mitts, scarves, winter jackets, and boots. Unless the temperature, combined with wind-chill, indicates -18°C or lower, all students will be required to go outdoors for recess.

Students who are healthy enough to be at school are expected to go outside for recess. The school is not able to provide supervision for students wishing to stay inside due to an illness. Students who are too ill to go out for recess should remain home for the day.

Allergy Awareness: Please be aware that we do our best at James Culnan to be sensitive to the needs of those with particular food or environmental allergies. We have a number of children in the school with peanut and nut allergies. Please be mindful of anything you make in your child's lunch that may contain peanuts/nuts. Peanut butter and Nutella should not be used in sandwiches. If you are using soy-based products, or the chocolate cheese based products please send a label on your child's lunch container.

Yours in partnership,
Stephen Dempsey
Principal