

P.B.S. EXPRESS!



February-March- 2017

Message from the Desk of the Principal

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Nadine Kotes, Parish Secretary
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Virtue for March - Forgiveness



"Whoever is forgiven much, loves much."
(Luke 7:47)

Last week we marked the beginning of Lent by gathering for Ash Wednesday. This liturgical season is a time for us to move closer to God through prayer, acts of kindness and perhaps almsgiving. We engage more consciously in these activities to prepare for the celebration of Easter. Our intention during the approximately six weeks is to move closer to Our Lord.



In an ongoing effort to keep our Catholic schools safe and caring places in which to learn, the Toronto Catholic District School Board is collecting information from all of our students in Grades 6 and 8 about their feelings of safety and the general school climate. The Safe and Caring Catholic School Climate Survey will be administered on-line here at Precious Blood. All of the information gathered will be anonymous and confidential, and only group-level results will be used to inform our planning.

Lastly, since the beginning of February I have been acting as Interim Principal here at Precious Blood while Ms. Rossi has been off on medical leave. She will return shortly to her Principal duties. I have worked as Principal at six of our TCDSB schools - the last being St. Bonaventure. During my time here I have thoroughly enjoyed working with your children and the staff of Precious Blood. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

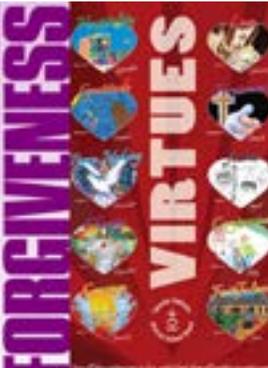
John Shea



**TO ERR IS HUMAN,
TO FORGIVE IS DIVINE.**

- ALEXANDER POPE -

- LET YOUR ACTIONS BE GUIDED BY THE IDEA THAT JESUS SAID, "LET HE WHO IS WITHOUT SIN, CAST THE FIRST STONE."
- IF YOU WANT TO BE FORGIVEN, YOU NEED TO MAKE SURE YOU FORGIVE OTHER PEOPLE.
- THE FIRST STEP TO FORGIVENESS IS TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR ACTIONS.
- LIVE YOUR LIFE IN A WAY THAT MAKES OTHERS KNOW YOU ARE A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST.

Video link to a video clip produced by TCDSB to promote the [Virtues of the Month](#)

Below is an excerpt from Pope Francis' Message for Lent 2017.

"The Word is a gift. Other persons are a gift"

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Lent is a new beginning, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ's victory over death. This season urgently calls us to conversion. Christians are asked to return to God "with all their hearts" (Joel 2:12), to refuse to settle for mediocrity and to grow in friendship with the Lord. Jesus is the faithful friend who never abandons us. Even when we sin, he patiently awaits our return; by that patient expectation, he shows us his readiness to forgive (cf. Homily, 8 January 2016).

For the [full version](#), you can access it from the Toronto Archdiocese Website

What are you doing for Lent?

10 IDEAS FOR A MORE MEANINGFUL LENTEN SEASON

- 1. Give up sin**
Show your love for God by keeping his commandments. Turn away from sins.
- 2. Fast**
An empty stomach can lead to more attentive prayer. Give the money you saved on food to others in alms.
- 3. Pray**
Be in constant prayer. Pray for your family and friends, for those who suffer, and for the Church and the world.
- 4. Do good works**
Help those in need. Pray for them and be ready to serve them in their time of need.
- 5. Give alms**
Help the poor and support the good works of the Church. Give cheerfully to God who has given us everything we have.
- 6. Abstain**
Give up meat or other desirable foods during Lent, especially on Friday, the day of Christ's saving death on the cross.
- 7. Do meditative reading**
Nourish your faith by spending time in quiet reading and reflection. Prayerful reading of God's word each day will open your heart to the Spirit, and let God's thoughts and ways influence yours.
- 8. Control desire for possessions**
Build up treasures in heaven rather than on earth. Cut down on material possessions, eliminate frills, lessen wants, share yourself - your time and your talents - with others.
- 9. Control desire for entertainment**
Too much entertainment and other distractions can lead to less or no time for the works of the Lord.
- 10. Carry out duties in life**
Serve God by living out your vocation in love each day. God is calling each of us to be a living sacrifice. Offer your daily life through Christ!

Text from Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops "Living Lent"

Archdiocese of Toronto www.archtoronto.org

Ash Wednesday

On March 1st 2017, Ash Wednesday, all grades came to gather in the gym to celebrate the first day of Lent. Father Xavier and Chico led the ceremony, and addressed the gathering of students and staff about the meaning of Ash Wednesday and Lent. Following the address, a few of the teachers read out prayers asking God's blessing upon the beginning of Lent. After the prayers, the students, class by class, received ashes with the mark of the cross on their foreheads. The words, "You are dust, and unto dust you shall return", remind us that one day we will die and go to God's Kingdom.

By Anaeline O. Grade 6



A special Parish Family Day Celebration will be held at the Catholic Education Centre on Friday, May 5th, 2017 to showcase student work focusing on the many

ways that our parishes and our parish priests contribute to our schools and communities.

Students are invited to share their vision of the relationship their school has with their parish, their pastor, or members of their founding religious order. This vision can be shared through a short story or poem, a short video (no more than 5 minutes), an original song, a piece of original artwork or photographs/photo essay. Remember that this does not have to be an additional assignment: Consider using the pastor/parish theme for a regular classroom lesson; ask students to write about their favourite memory or experience at Church, or with someone from their Parish, consider using the parish theme for your next visual art project or infuse this project in any lesson. Cross-curricular projects are welcome of course. Friday, April 17, 2017 is the deadline for entries. See the [TCDSB Website](#) for more details on the project.

Precious Blood School Winter Carnival

Precious Blood Catholic School organized and hosted its annual Carnival celebration.

A variety of events took place over the week. We started off the Carnival festivities this year with Red & White Day and Find Bonhomme. On Friday Feb. 24th we had our First Nations Inspired Play Day for all our classes. Our Play Day was extra special this year because Mickey from TVO Kids came visit us at Precious Blood School. Mickey experienced many of our Carnival games and events with some special students and Bonhomme.

Precious Blood School was featured on T.V. during the portion of the program. In case you missed it, check out the video clips on our school website - [Precious Blood School Winter Carnival](https://www.tcdsb.org/schools/preciousblood/News/2016-2017/Pages/Carnaval.aspx) - <https://www.tcdsb.org/schools/preciousblood/News/2016-2017/Pages/Carnaval.aspx>

We also want to say thanks to our CSPC for providing a hot chocolate station as part of our Winter Play Day, a great way for students and teachers to warm up from being outside. On Monday we all wore our comfy and cozy PJ's to school. Our final event was our Pancake Day/Mardi Gras celebration, which was enjoyed by both students and staff here at Precious Blood. Yummy pancakes and syrup were served all day. It was a sweet and delicious experience had by all! SALUT (French Bingo) was played every day in the afternoon.

Carnaval is a celebration of French culture enjoyed by all! We look forward to organizing future Carnaval celebrations in the years to come here at PBS. A special thanks goes to CSPC, Griffith Laboratoires and PBS staff members who offered their support and assistance in making this event a success.

Merci et Joyeux Carnaval 2017!

Mme Iula-Lombardi, Mme McLean, Mme Omondi and Mr. Vigliatore



World Day of Prayer

Each year, Precious Blood students and staff celebrate the day with a gathering in the school gym. Students and staff are invited to dress up in their former national

dress.

At the beginning of the assembly, students and staff say "Welcome" in their native language. Then prayers are shared and a final song is sung to unite all in peace and justice

throughout the world.

We wish to thank Ms. Soraine and her grade two-three class for organizing the prayers and the symbols of prayer on the centre of the gym floor.

Student Led Learning Walk



This was our second Student Led Learning Walk for the school year. It was held in the school gym from Monday, February 13 to Friday, February 17. Many parents and their children took the opportunity of visiting the gym during the First Term student/parent/teacher conferences.



For this SLLW, teachers were able to make a broader choice from the Ontario Curriculum to produce an inquiry that reflected the three stages of learning: enactive, iconic and symbolic. As a result, many interesting and creative pieces of work were produced by classes from JK to grade 8.



A [slide show](#) has been produced for the school website, showcasing examples of work from several classes.



A Grade 5 Inquiry into Creation Stories of the First Nations People

The grade 5 students in Ms. Hatch's class have been learning about the lives of First Nations people before European contact.

They have been also learning about myths and legends from around the world. Students then compared The Creation story with various creation myths from First Nations peoples. Their final task was to create their own creation myth including common mythical elements such as a mythical creature with super natural powers and an important message. Using plasticine, students brought their mythical creatures to life. They are currently working on storyboarding their myth and will be using an app called Seesaw to record the key components of their creation myth. This unit was facilitated alongside Ms. Cuming (a teacher candidate from University of Toronto).



Ms. Hatch

Newsletter Changes

In this edition of the newsletter changes have been made to the format, which allow for the newsletter to be viewed online using hyperlinks, so that videos, articles and websites can be viewed interactively.

ATTENDANCE

Student Absence/Lateness

Parents/Guardians must call and leave a message on the answering machine (AUTO ATTENDANT, Press #1) Include your child's name, teacher's name, grade and a reason for absence. When a student arrives late for school, he or she must report to the office before going to class.

Children who must leave before dismissal, must be signed out by parent/guardian at main office.

Science Fair - 2017



From February 13th - February 17th our school was transformed into a show-case for a multitude of interesting and thought-provoking science projects. They were created by students from all of our grades who wished to participate.



Students completed their projects at home, displayed them in the hallway here at school and presented their projects to a panel of judges. Parents and other family members were invited to walk through and see all the interesting ideas displayed at our fair.



We congratulate Jenefar Danhach, Jessica Decena, Juvhan Kirushnapillai, Christian Cordero, Ianrhe Santos, Kristian Viana, Itzel Yanez, Larissa Caterbury, Frank Pasztor, Taliyah Hamilton-Skyers, Mejour Kirushnapillai, Theresa Millo, Emily Pasztor, and Roshan David who will be advancing to the Toronto wide fair at the end of the month.



Marlies' Game

On March 2nd, 160 students attended the Marlies Ice Hockey Game Downtown. Thanks to Ms. Magony and supporting staff for organizing the day.



Snow Tubing

Junior students from Ms Gill, Ms. Hatch and Mr. Cosgrove's classes attended snow tubing at Lakeridge Ski Resort on February 23rd, 2017. For most students, it was their first experience of a winter sport out on the snow covered slopes.

The conditions were rather warm for snow tubing (15C) but there was a good covering of snow on the ground. The slope was fast, allowing the students to enjoy the adrenalin rush as they raced down the hill in their rubber tubes.

At the end of the day, all students had a great experience and many stories to tell.

Mr. Cosgrove



Apple Crunch Day

Students were supplied with a red apple each, generously supplied by Norfolk Fruit Growers Association who belong to the [FoodShare program](#) of Ontario.

Mr. Shey (acting school principal) gave all students and staff at 10.00 am a signal on the PA to begin the apple crunch. It was an outstanding success! Our students had joined 100 500 students across Toronto in celebrating good, healthy food in schools.

TCDSB Board of Trustees News

Through 2014 and 2015, a special ad-hoc committee of parents, students and other Toronto Catholic District School Board stakeholders worked to produce a Draft Parent Charter of Rights and a Draft Student Charter of Rights, which has been approved by the Board of Trustees for public consultation. The Board of Trustees is pleased to invite parents and guardians to participate in a comprehensive community consultation process regarding the draft Charter of Rights. This process includes a confidential [online survey](#), which is accessible directly from the School Board's webpage. Copies of the survey and documents can also be obtained from the school office.

The deadline for responding to this survey is March 31, 2017.