



Living and Learning in Faith

MARCH 2018

St. Jerome Catholic School

790 Paisley Blvd West

Mississauga, Ontario

L5C 3P5

(905) 273-3836 Fax# (905) 273-9539



Follow Us on Twitter@DPCDSBSchools

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Head Secretary

M. Vritsios

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R. Preyra

Superintendent

D. Finegan-Downey

Mississauga South

Trustee

B. Iannicca – Ward 7

905-270-0536

Parish

St. Martin of Tours

1290 McBride Avenue

Miss., ON. L5C 1M8

905-279-5742

Pastor

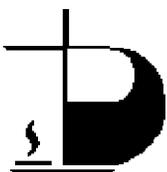
Fr. Joyson George

Associate Pastor

Fr. Gijo Muthanattu

School Website

www.dpcdsb.org/JEROM



Lent and Your Family



As we continue our Lenten journey we recognize that Lent is a special time when you can share the concepts of prayer and giving with your children. Take family time each day to offer devotional prayers. Consider as a family how you might help others in need by giving of your time or resources. Even very young children can understand and will enjoy participating in the process. Carve out time in your day for your own special prayer time. This may involve early rising or time spent away from a favorite hobby or activity.

**Let us pray
for the grace to keep Lent faithfully.**

Lenten Prayer

**Good and gracious God, you call your people back to you this Lent. May this sacred season renew our desire to live fully the promises of our baptism and to love you with a whole heart. Through more frequent prayer, acts of charity and fasting may we remember that loving you and one another is the most important thing we can do. In confidence, we ask these things through Christ, our Risen Lord and Saviour.
Amen.**



The Easter Tree



A wonderful story from medieval times traces the wood of the cross on which Jesus died, all the way back to the Garden of Paradise, where God made grow "every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food." (Genesis 2, 9) The great tree of Paradise is the "tree of life."

Seeds from the tree of life, our story goes, were planted from age to age, until the time of Jesus, when a tree produced from one of its seeds provided wood for His cross. Once again, God offers new life through the cross of Jesus, His Son, and invites the human family to return to Paradise.

So, this is a story that may help us all understand that, in spite of appearances, the cross of Jesus brings life and not death.

PRINCIPALS' MESSAGE

Palm Sunday

In a few weeks, we will celebrate Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday is the day we remember Jesus' "triumphal entry" into Jerusalem, exactly one week before His resurrection (Matthew 21:1-11). They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest!" This event took place on the Sunday before Jesus' crucifixion. This day is referred to as "Palm Sunday" because of the palm branches that were laid on the road as Jesus rode the donkey into Jerusalem.

The meaning of Easter is Jesus Christ's victory over death. His resurrection symbolizes the eternal life that is granted to all who believe in Him. The meaning of Easter also symbolizes the complete verification of all that Jesus preached and taught during His ministry. If He had not risen from the dead, if He had merely died and not been resurrected, He would have been considered just another teacher or Rabbi. However, His resurrection changed all that and gave final and irrefutable proof that He was really the Son of God and that He had conquered death once and for all.

Let us remember that the more we focus on Christ, the better. The resurrection of Christ is the central theme of Christianity. Paul says that without this, our faith is futile (1Cor 15:17). What more wonderful reason could we have to celebrate! What is important is the true reason behind our celebration, which is that Christ was resurrected from the dead, making it possible for us to have eternal life (Roman 6:4)!

There is **important information in the newsletter** pertaining to some **changes** for the **2018-2019 school year**. We ask that you please take the time to read about these changes which can be found in the newsletter. The **changes include the following: The St. Jerome School Gifted Program** will be moving to **St. Mark School** effective **September 2018** and in light of this change there is a **Bell Time Revision Proposal (Start/End School Time) for September 2018**. The bell time revision proposal put forward is for a start time of **8:30 AM** and an end time of **3:00 PM**. A brief survey will be sent home after March Break in order to obtain your feedback to this proposal. Please read the newsletter for more details.

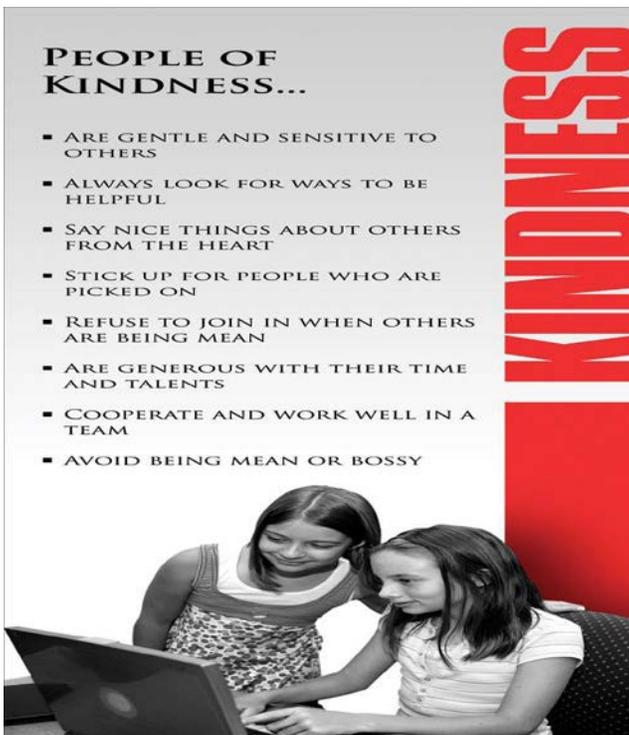
We would like to wish our students, staff and families a very safe and enjoyable March Break.

God bless all of you for making St. Jerome School such a wonderful learning community.

L. Calabrese, Principal

THE VIRTUE OF THE MONTH

During the month of March we will focus on the virtue of **Kindness**.



PEOPLE OF KINDNESS...

- ARE GENTLE AND SENSITIVE TO OTHERS
- ALWAYS LOOK FOR WAYS TO BE HELPFUL
- SAY NICE THINGS ABOUT OTHERS FROM THE HEART
- STICK UP FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE PICKED ON
- REFUSE TO JOIN IN WHEN OTHERS ARE BEING MEAN
- ARE GENEROUS WITH THEIR TIME AND TALENTS
- COOPERATE AND WORK WELL IN A TEAM
- AVOID BEING MEAN OR BOSSY

KINDNESS

From the perspective of the Catholic Graduate Expectations, a kind person...

- Relates to family members in a loving, compassionate manner
- Values and honours the important role of the family in society
- Examines, evaluates and applies knowledge of interdependent systems for the development of a just and compassionate society
- Promotes the sacredness of life

Whoever pursues righteousness and kindness will find life and honor. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. (Prov. 21:21; 31:26)



ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH



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Pastor: Father Joyson

Email: stmartins_mississauga@yahoo.ca

Website: <http://www.stmartinoftourschurch.ca>

For all events and full schedule, please visit our website: <http://stmartinoftourschurch.blogspot.ca/>

MARCH BREAK

The March Break will be **Monday, March 12, 2018 to Friday, March 16, 2018**. Students and staff will return to school on **Monday, March 19, 2018 at 9:15 AM**.

GIFTED PROGRAM AT ST. JEROME SCHOOL MOVING TO ST. MARK SCHOOL – SEPTEMBER 2018

The board has reviewed all elementary programs and locations this year to establish if they continue to best meet the needs of our students. Gifted was one of those programs reviewed. We have had 3 programs in the Mississauga area and one in Brampton. To make programs more accessible to students throughout the board our goal was to balance the programs –two north, two south. It was decided that the Gifted Program at St. Jerome School would be consolidated with the St. Mark School Gifted Program as they have room for growth effective September 2018.

The Special Education Department, St Mark School and St Jerome School will be working together to create a transition plan for the St. Jerome students as they prepare to transition to St Mark School. More information will follow but the plan will include the opportunity for the students to visit St Mark School and spend time with the St Mark students and community.

2018-2019 BELL TIME REVISION PROPOSAL (START/END SCHOOL TIME) – SEPTEMBER 2018

In light of the change of the St. Jerome School Gifted Program consolidating with the St. Mark School Gifted Program effective September 2018 there will be fewer students that will require transportation to and from our school outside of our school boundaries. With this change there is an opportunity to propose an adjustment to the start/end time for St. Jerome School. Our current start time is 9:15 AM and our end time is 3:45 PM. A **potential revision under consideration** would be an **8:30 AM start time and a 3:00 PM end time**. This would be a 45 minute time adjustment to the start and end time of the school day.

There are **many benefits** to our school community in a revision to our school day start and end times:

1. **Student Drop Off** – Parents will be able to drop off their children at 8:15 AM on their way to work in the morning.
2. **Out of School Activities at the end of the school day** – Parents who have children enrolled in extra-curricular activities outside of school at the end of the day would not have to sign out their children early and by doing so are missing class time.
3. **School Extra-Curricular/Competition Activities** – these activities will be able to begin and end earlier for our students.
4. **Excursion Planning** – In planning excursions for our students staff will be able to arrange a transportation pick up time by at least 9:00 AM thus allowing our students to arrive earlier at their destination and spend more time at the location of their school trip before they will need to return to school for dismissal.

Please note that this revision in start/end time will need to be assessed by our school board transportation department which will consider various factors such as, transportation and surrounding school start/end times. We will be advised if it will work from the perspective of routing efficiency and a possible alternate start and end time may be proposed for our consideration.

We are most **interested in the feedback of our community** each family with children in FDK to Grade 8 will receive a **brief survey**. **It will be sent home in a sealed envelope with your youngest and only child after March Break**. Please return your response in the enclosed envelope to your child's teacher. We thank you for your cooperation and feedback in advance.

SCHOOL HOURS



9:00 Supervision in the yard
9:15 School Entry
11:15 – 11:30 Morning Recess
12:15 – 1:15 Lunch
2:40 – 2:55 Afternoon Recess
3:45 Dismissal

Please note that **supervision** in the playground begins at **9:00 AM**. Please do not leave your children unattended in the school grounds before the teachers begin their duty. Morning announcements begin at 11:05 a.m. in order to allow for a 2 hour uninterrupted Literacy block of time.

ATTENDANCE

Our attendance line is: **905-273-3836 (Press #1)**. Please call to register an absence. **You can call 24hrs a day including weekends if you know your child will be absent from school.** An answering machine is available to take information.

Please provide the following information:

- Name(s) of student(s)
- Name of student's teacher(s)
- Grade of student(s)
- Reason for absence

If an absence is not reported, our policy is to call home to verify student absenteeism. A parent or guardian must sign out students at the office who leave early.

All students are expected to attend school regularly and punctually. There has been an increase of students coming to school after 9:15am. This is particularly disruptive to the school, the class, and the individual child who is late. It is most difficult for a child to be fully engaged in a lesson when the lesson has already begun without them.

All students who arrive after 9:15 am or 1:15 pm must obtain a late slip from the office. This measure is to ensure the safety of your child. We thank you for your continued support in following this procedure

EQAO Primary & Junior Assessment Gr 3 & 6

Each year all grade three and grade six students in Ontario are assessed in reading, writing and mathematics for a period of five days. This year the dates for this assessment are: **May 22 to June 4, 2018**. Please keep this in mind when booking appointments/vacations.



CHESS CLUB

The St. Jerome Chess Club have been meeting to learn and share their expertise in chess. On Tuesday, March 6, 2018 our Junior and Intermediate teams competed at the Mississauga South Chess Tournament at St. Valentine School. Our Junior Chess Team came in First Place and our Intermediate Chess Team came in Fourth Place. We would like to thank our coaches, Mrs. Gorospe and Mrs. Vermeiren and all the Chess Club members for preparing the students.



PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

On February 8th, St. Jerome held its annual speech competition for grades 4-8. The students did an amazing job and demonstrated excellent public speaking skills. Winners were chosen from both the junior and intermediate grades. Congratulations goes to the following students in the junior division: Christian R. for placing 1st, Gabrielle R. for placing 2nd, and Benjamin C. for placing 3rd. Our intermediate division winners were: Julia O. for placing 1st, Patrick P. for placing 2nd, and Emily B. for placing 3rd. The first place winners were invited to participate at our Family of Schools competition on February 23rd. Students also participated in the speech competition held at The

Royal Canadian Legion on February 25th. Special congratulations goes to Christian R. for placing first at the legion, Gabrielle R. for placing 2nd, and Julia O. for placing 3rd. Honourable mention goes to all of our speech competitors: Joshua P., Paulo Y., Angelin H, and Eric F. from the junior division, Joshua B. and Sophia F. from the intermediate division. Congratulations to all!!! Thank you to Mrs. Danton for organizing our speech competition.

CUSTODY OF CHILDREN

On rare occasions, we are faced with difficult situations in which non-custodial parents arrive at school asking to visit their child or to take their child home after school. We are best able to serve and protect students when we are made aware of legal custody arrangements, visitation rights, and other special instructions. If legal custody matters affect your family, please ensure that our office and classroom teachers are aware of custodial arrangements between parents that may affect your child during school hours. Please ensure that a copy of the Court Order is on file at the school office.

LIGHTS OFF FOR EARTH HOUR



Millions of people around the world switch off their lights for Earth Hour at 8:30pm (20:30) in their local times on the last Saturday of March each year (March 25, 2018).

Make Earth Hour **an event to share** with your friends and family!

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND EXCURSIONS

Students will have the opportunity to take field trips and participate in a number of extra-curricular activities. Permission forms will be sent home to be filled out, signed and promptly returned to school. **NO STUDENT WILL BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE ON A TRIP OR EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY WITHOUT WRITTEN CONSENT FROM THEIR PARENT /GUARDIAN. VERBAL CONSENT OVER THE TELEPHONE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

No exceptions will be allowed. Teachers give ample notice for trip consent forms. We encourage parents to support these educational opportunities by volunteering to assist and supervise these excursions. **For the safety of your child, excursions lacking appropriate adult supervision will be cancelled.**

PALS



The PALS (Playground Activity Leaders in Schools) is a playground leadership program for schools and it encourages children to participate in activities during recess. The leaders are outside at lunch recess in the primary yard where they allow our primary students to participate in many fun, exciting and cooperative games. The PALS motto is, "There is always room for one more". There will be information for a call of volunteers from students in grades 4 to 6 to be trained with our Peel Health Nurse Sonia Seebachan and staff. We thank the

following staff who will be involved in the PALS program Mrs. Srutwa, Mrs. Read, Mrs. Metlin and Ms. Andriano

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

If you would like to help with any of the special events, or would like to have input on the various initiatives that are being planned for this year, please join us at our next meeting on **Monday, April 23, 2018 at 6:30 pm. the Director's Webinar, Public Budget Consultation Webcast/School Council Meeting. Please note that the Wednesday April 11, 2018 School Council meeting has been cancelled and will be rescheduled in May 2018.**

Next School Council Meeting
Monday, April 23, 2018 @ 6:30pm
All St. Jerome School Parents are invited to join us.



CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK – RENEWING THE PROMISE - MAY 6 – MAY 11, 2018



As always, Catholic Education Week begins on Sunday to highlight the parish-home-school partnership that remains the foundation of Catholic education.

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2018 are as follows:

Monday: **Remembering the Promise**

Tuesday: **The Promise is within You**

Wednesday: **Praying the Promise**

Thursday: **Living the Promise**

Friday: **Proclaiming the Promise**

ALLERGIES



We would like to inform you that St. Jerome School is an allergen aware school. We have a number of students in our school who have **severe allergic life threatening** reactions to peanuts, peanut butter, peanut oils, any peanut/nut by-products and dairy products. As in the past, we are asking you to not put any child at risk, therefore, are requesting that **PEANUTS, PEANUT BUTTER, PEANUT OILS, ANY PEANUT/NUT AND COCONUT BY-PRODUCTS NOT BE BROUGHT INTO THE SCHOOL. WE ASK THAT YOU READ THE LABELS OF ALL FOOD ITEMS SENT TO SCHOOL.** A letter was sent home the first day of school which

addressed this concern. **We are asking parents not to send food items to school when celebrating your child's birthday since there are many alternatives such as pencils, stickers, etc.**

STORAGE / ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION

Parents are responsible for ensuring that all medication and forms are updated annually. If your child requires medication, please have all pertinent forms completed and returned with the medication to the office as soon as possible.

USE OF SCHOOL PHONES



Students will only be permitted to use the school phone in cases of emergency. An emergency is considered to be an illness or injury. Calling home because it is raining, or for forgotten shoes, wanting to go to a friend's house or other minor issues, are not considered emergencies.

BUSSING



STOPR(Student Transportation of Peel Region)

Stopr is providing bus transportation services for the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. The STOPR website address is www.stopr.ca. This website provides access to up to date information regarding delayed buses and bus cancellations due to inclement weather. To check for eligibility for transportation, please access the following website: businfo.stopr.ca. **STOPR Telephone Contact Information:** 905-890-6000.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY RULES

The conduct of individual students on the bus directly affects the safety of all the students on the bus. The driver's attention needs to be on the road. If students are misbehaving, this can distract the driver. We are requesting that all parents/guardians reinforce the **School Bus Safety Rules** with their child (ren).

All Students Should:

- ❑ Be at the bus stop 5-10 minutes prior to their stop time. Never play close to the road. Be ready to board the bus by waiting in an orderly line.
- ❑ Board the bus in single file, use the handrail and sit down in their seat as quickly as possible.
- ❑ Listen to the bus driver.
- ❑ Always remain seated while the bus is moving.
- ❑ Do not throw anything around the bus or out of the window.
- ❑ Keep the aisles clear of all objects (back packs, lunches, books etc.)
- ❑ Do not shout or cause any other unnecessary noises. Be especially quiet at railway crossings.
- ❑ Never put any part of your body out an open window.
- ❑ Be sure to look all ways before crossing the road.
- ❑ Do not damage the bus in any way.
- ❑ Do not throw garbage on the floor.
- ❑ Do not consume any food or drink on the bus.

If students fail to follow the bus safety rules, the following actions will be taken.

- ❑ First Offence – child is warned by administration with a phone call home
- ❑ Second Offence – parents will be notified in writing and/or a telephone call.
- ❑ Third Offence – student may lose bus privilege.

Thank you for your support in ensuring that our students journey safely to and from school.

MOVING



If you are planning to move out of the St. Jerome school area or change address within our boundaries, please let the office know as soon as possible.

Please keep us informed of any address, phone number or medical changes for your children. It is of the utmost importance that our records be up to date. If your child should get sick or hurt, we must have accurate contact information.

AFTER HOURS SCHOOL ACCESS



When school closes at 3:45 p.m. students should be leaving with all the homework and books that they may need for the evening. We strongly encourage students to do this. We strongly encourage students to be responsible citizens

LOST AND FOUND



We often find lost items at St. Jerome School. Items like shoes, socks, hats, jackets, gloves etc. are collected and placed in the 'lost and found' box. Please look through it to see if any items belong to you. Please remind your children to bring all personal items home and to continually check the lost and found box regularly for any missing items.

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS



Interested in volunteering at St. Jerome Catholic School for 2017/2018? During the school year, volunteers support programs and activities at the school. We appreciate and rely on parents who can devote a small portion of their time to help. **You may pick up a volunteer form and a Criminal Reference Check Form at the school office as of January 1st, 2018 there will be a cost.** People who volunteer in schools and attend trips are required to have completed Criminal Reference Checks, which can be picked up from our school office and taken to Police Headquarters listed on the form. Once the form is completed, your volunteer service can begin. We look forward to working with you for the betterment of all students at St. Jerome School.

COLD WEATHER DRESS



The cold weather is still upon us. Please ensure that students dress accordingly. This includes proper gloves, hats, scarves, jackets, coats and boots. Board Guidelines indicate that students will generally be outside for lunch and recess when temperatures do not fall below -25 degrees Celsius, with the wind chill. As such, appropriate clothing is essential. Please note that students should have indoor shoes during the winter months. Thank you in advance for your continued support and cooperation.

INDOOR FOOTWEAR REQUESTED



Please ensure that students keep a pair of running shoes or other appropriate footwear at school so that their feet remain dry and clean at all times. As well, because so many areas of our schoolyard can be quite muddy at certain times of the year, this would really help in keeping mud and dirt out of the classroom.

PEDICULOSIS

Head Lice is a common problem which occurs at some time in most schools at least once every year. Head lice are parasites which have been common among human beings for centuries. They are not connected in any way with dirt or neglect. If a case is found in our schools, we shall inform parents of the students in that classroom with a letter. We have had a number of cases so we ask that you also check your own children regularly. If you find them to be infested, please notify the office. For more information go to the following link: <http://www.peelregion.ca/health/topics/headlice/>.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE FORMS

As required by the Education Act and the Ministry of Education, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board annually provides parents with information about cost-effective student accident insurance coverage via student courier. Although enrolment is voluntary, the board strongly encourages parents to take advantage of the inexpensive insurance coverage, especially if their child/children participate in sports, excursions/field trips, or, if parents do not have dental insurance coverage. Enrolment is required in writing so there are two options for enrolment: 1) Complete the traditional form and mail it in or 2) apply online at www.insuremykids.com. If you have any questions please phone 1-800-463-KIDS (5437). Parents alone have the right to insure their children. These forms were sent out the first day of school. If you did not receive one, please ask your child or call the school.

SCHOOL WEB SITE

We have updated our school website. This site will be continually updated and has information for parents regarding school calendar information, newsletters and school updates. Visit www.dpcdsb.org and link onto the Elementary site at St. Jerome Elementary School @ www.dpcdsb.org/JEROM.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN

In the unforeseen event that we should have an emergency at our school, we will evacuate to:

Huron Park Recreation Center
830 Paisley Blvd. West
Mississauga, Ont.
L5C 4P1
905-615-4820

Safety regulations and Board Policy require us to have this contingency plan in place. In the event of an evacuation to the high school, your child will remain at Huron Park Recreation Center until we are able to contact you and make arrangements for pick up.

PIZZA DAYS



Students have been participating weekly in a fabulous Pizza Thursday Lunch. The remaining dates for this session are as follows: **March 1, 8, 22, 29. A new order form was sent home for our final session which will run April to June. The dates for the new session will be as follows: April 5, 12, 19, 26/ May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31/ June 7, 14, 21**

We would like to thank Ms. Andriano, Mrs. Srutwa and Mrs. Vritsios for organizing our Pizza Thursday Luncheons for our students of St. Jerome School. Thank you to our parent volunteers who help with the distribution of pizza.

ST. MARTIN SECONDARY SCHOOL

As part of our partnership with St. Martin Secondary School we will, from time to time, provide you with information about important dates or events. It is our hope that through the sharing of this information we can strengthen our ties to our Secondary School and to assist the administration and staff of St. Martin Secondary School in keeping parents and the community informed of events that are occurring at the high school. The link to the Secondary site at St. Martin Secondary School is www.dpcdsb.org/MARTN. There will also be a link on our website in order for you to connect to St. Martin Secondary School's website.

NEW!- SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

Our school is now offering **School Cash Online** as its preferred method of payment for all school fees - everything from field trips to pizza lunches.

School Cash Online allows parents to pay school related fees safely, quickly and easily. By using **School Cash Online**, you help increase efficiency and security at schools. Teachers and office staff are then able to focus their time on helping students, and not counting cash. As well, your child is not responsible to carry money to school.

School Cash Online shows all of the school fees available to your student online for purchase. You can then view and choose to purchase these fees online through two different payment methods, including credit cards. You can also stay informed of upcoming events and keep track of which school fees require your attention.

Register today!! – a simple task that takes less than two minutes – by visiting dpcdsb.schoolcashonline.com or visiting our website at <https://www.dpcdsb.schoolcashonline.com/>

We will slowly be implementing this payment option as fieldtrip and order forms are sent home. Once registered, you will be able to log in and make your payments online, avoiding the task of sending cash and cheques to school. REGISTER TODAY!!!

IMMUNIZE ON TIME REPORT EVERY TIME



Report all immunizations your child receives to Peel Public Health.

**online at www.immunizepeel.ca

** call Peel Public Health at 905-799-7000.

Student records are reviewed annually. Over an eleven week period, students with incomplete records receive **three letters mailed directly** to them to request immunization information. If parents/students DO NOT provide the required immunization information, the **student will be suspended from school by the third letter.**

PLEASE NOTE: Please send the above information to Peel Public Health, not to the school. Thank you

HEALTHY EATING AND ECOSCHOOLS



At St. Jerome School, we have been very busy promoting various new initiatives. Firstly, we are still promoting Healthy Eating throughout the school year by encouraging our students to bring in healthy snacks and lunches. Students will be able to participate in activities in their classrooms and projects that encourage

healthy eating. We are also encouraging our students to pack a “**Litterless Lunch**” using reusable containers to pack their lunch and snacks and to try to use **refillable water bottles by using our water filling station.**

THE GREAT BIG GULP



On **Thursday, March 22nd, 2018 St. Jerome School** will be participating in **THE GREAT BIG GULP**. Every staff and student is asked to bring water in a reusable container. In the pm the whole school will take a gulp at the same time celebrating healthy living. Thank you healthy schools team.

THE GREAT BIG CRUNCH



On **Friday, March 9th** St. Jerome School will be participating in **THE GREAT BIG CRUNCH**. Every staff and student will be given an apple. In the pm the whole school will take a bite at the same time celebrating healthy eating. Thank you to the ECO team.

HEALTHY SCHOOL TEAM RECIPES:



Ants on a Log

"This is a fun snack that kids can make. It consists of artfully arranged celery, hummus, and raisins."

<http://allrecipes.com/recipes/1659/appetizers-and-snacks/snacks/kids/>

Jam and Graham Cracker Cheesecake



Deb Perelman

This is the perfect way for everyone

- 3 ounces of cream
- 3 tablespoons
- A few sheets of

to have the taste they want without the fat and calories of a wh

cheese, softened for 10 seconds in the microwave

strawberry jam

graham crackers, broken into squares or rectangles

Mix the softened cream cheese with the jam. Spread a little of the mixture on top of each graham cracker. Either eat right away, or chill for 30 mi

Kids can help: Break up grahams, stir cream cheese and jam

Extras: Use different flavors of jam, top with a slice of fresh strawberry

Recipe from Deb Perelman at Smitten Kitchen.

IS YOUR CHILD STRESSED?



Stress can affect people of all ages. How can you tell if your child is stressed? Physical symptoms may be similar in children as in adults. However, the way children deal with these feelings could be quite different. Causes of stress for children can stem from school, home or peers, with the symptoms varying with each child. Look for signs such as inability to concentrate, sleep difficulty, a drop in grades, toileting, eating concerns or isolation from family and peer relationships.

Here are a few tips to help minimize stress in your child:

- Encourage your child to tell you if he or she feels overwhelmed.
- Set a good example of how to deal with stress.
- Make your child aware of anticipated family changes, in an age-appropriate way. Children will often think the worst about a situation they do not understand.
- Help your child select appropriate extracurricular activities and limit over scheduling.
- Encourage physical activity, good nutrition and rest.
- Encourage healthy and diverse friendships.
- Use encouragement and natural consequences when poor decisions are made.
- Monitor television viewing, web browsing and video game use.
- Remind your child of his or her ability to get through tough times, particularly with the love and support of family and friends.
- Communicate with your child's teacher for possible concerns.
- Seek the assistance of a physician, school psychologist, school counselor, or school social worker if stress continues to be a concern.

For more information: www.psychologyfoundation.org

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S PROGRESS



ENCOURAGE READING!

Good readers do better at school. Buy books your child likes to read. Read to your child. Visit the library. Be a reader yourself and model what you want your child to do.

ENCOURAGE RESPONSIBILITY!

Is there a place where school supplies are placed the night before to be ready to go in the morning? Does your child keep an accurate agenda as a reminder of tasks that require completion?

MONITOR HOMEWORK!

Is there ample time set aside to complete homework by the given deadline? Is homework done in a fairly quiet place with good lighting and few distractions?

BE REASONABLE IN YOUR EXPECTATIONS!

High marks do not guarantee success in life nor low marks failure. However, self-confidence, perseverance, and willingness to put forth enough effort to work through difficulties are characteristics of achievers.

BE CONSISTENT ...

If you only talk about school at reporting time, you are missing golden opportunities to reinforce good work habits, and risk sending the message that only the product counts, not the process of learning.

PRAISE OFTEN, GUIDE FREQUENTLY, CRITICIZE SELDOM!

There is a difference between helping your child do better and responding quickly to him/her falling short. Positive suggestions do help, but value-laden criticism hurts and diminishes one's dignity. When things are not going well is when we most need an encouraging word.

CLASS PLACEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2018



The Staff at St. Jerome School will meet over the upcoming months to discuss class placements for students for September 2018. When determining placement, some of the criteria we consider are: academic ability, individual work habits, study skills, maturity, and date of birth, social factors, student needs and gender.

Due to our size, we are limited in our placement options and the number of combined classes.

We appreciate your input concerning any special needs your child (ren) may have. With this in mind, we ask that if you have feedback for us, please provide it to us in writing. We ask that you submit your feedback to the principal by **Thursday, May 3, 2018**.

Parents are asked to include the child's strengths, needs and a description of their learning style and any other intangibles that you feel are pertinent, including the type of learning environment that your child would experience the most success.

Please do not make specific requests for teachers as teaching assignments are tentative and may change between now and September.

When we meet to consider your input and the input of the teachers, a decision can then be made on accommodating any parental feedback. It is not always possible, given the variables that go into devising a class, to accommodate all parental requests. Hence, we ask for your understanding and flexibility.

Please rest assured that our decisions are made only after careful deliberation and consideration of all the facts for the individual good of the child and the common good of the school community.

The hard cap of 20 students per primary class is out of our control. **All primary classes at St. Jerome School cannot exceed 20 students.** The School Board's Planning Department must take direction from the Ministry of Education who has the final say as to the number of students in the class and the configuration of these classes. This decision will have an affect across our school when configuring the makeup of our classes, as will be the case in all schools in the province. **Please note we continue to decline in enrolment and as such, combined classes at St. Jerome School will continue to be a reality for the upcoming school year.** Until we finalize our enrolment in September, all class arrangements are tentative. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me anytime. Thank you in advance for your support and understanding.

VOLUNTEERS COMPLETE YOUR ANNUAL DECLARATION

Volunteers, your Annual Criminal Offence Declaration form was sent home for you to complete and return to the school. If you have provided us with a valid Criminal Reference check, then every year thereafter you must complete a declaration. If there is a break in service for a volunteer for a year and over, then the process of obtaining a new CRC begins all over again.

SACRAMENTAL DATES

Grade 2s:

Saturday, April 14 2018 at 10:30 AM

Sunday April 15, 2018 at 2:00 PM

Saturday April 21, 2018 at 10:30 AM

Grade Two First Holy Communion
at St. Martin of Tours Parish



Grade 7s:

Friday, March 9, 2018

Confirmandi to meet with Bishop
Boissonneau
10:30 a.m. at St. Martin of Tours Parish

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Sacrament of Reconciliation and
Rehearsal
10:00 a.m. at St. Martin of Tours

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Grade 7 Confirmation
7:00 p.m. at St. Martin of Tours Parish

ST. JEROME DATES TO REMEMBER



MARCH

- **Friday March 2, 2018** Scientist in the School Grade 6 Electricity
- **Tuesday March 6, 2018** 10:00 AM Lenten/Easter Mass at St. Jerome School
- **Tuesday March 6, 2018** AM/PM Chess Tournament at St. Valentine School
- **Thursday March 8, 2018 Snow Date** AM/PM Chess Tournament at St. Valentine School
- **Thursday March 8, 2018** AM Historical Speed Timeline Event Grade 6/7
- **Friday March 9, 2018** 10:30 AM Grade 7 Confirmandi to meet with Bishop Boissonneau at St. Martin of Tours Parish
- **Friday, March 9, 2018** PM The Great Big Crunch
- **Monday March 12, 2018 –Friday March 16, 2018** **March Break No School**
- **Monday March 19, 2018** School Resumes
- **Thursday March 22, 2018** PM The Great Big Gulp
- **Sunday March 25, 2018** Palm Sunday
- **Sunday March 25, 2018** Earth Hour
- **Thursday March 29, 2018** Stations of the Cross in the gym – all parents are welcome
- **Friday March 30, 2018** Good Friday

April

- **Sunday April 1, 2018** Easter Sunday
- **Monday April 2, 2018** Easter Monday, No School
- **Wednesday April 4, 2018** Grade 7 & 8 Peel Police Presentation – Youth and the Law
- **Friday April 6, 2018** AM/PM Grade 5/6 Silvercreek Excursion
- **Friday April 6, 2018** Grade 8 Graduation Pictures
- **Friday April 6, 2018** 9:30 – 10:30 AM Grade 3 Swim to Survive Program at Huron Park
- **Monday April 10, 2018** 10:00 AM Grade 7 Confirmation Confession and Rehearsal at St. Martin of Tours Parish
- **Tuesday April 11, 2018** International Day of Pink
- **Thursday April 12, 2018** 7:00 PM Grade 7 Confirmation at St. Martin of Tours Parish
- **Friday April 13, 2018** 9:30 – 10:30 AM Grade 3 Swim to Survive Program at Huron Park
- **Saturday April 14, 2018** 10:30 AM Grade 2 First Communion at St. Martin of Tours Parish
- **Sunday April 15, 2018** 2:00 PM Grade 2 First Communion at St. Martin of Tours Parish
- **Monday April 16 – Thursday April 19, 2018** X-Movement Presentation @ St. Jerome School
- **Friday April 20, 2018** 9:30 – 10:30 AM Grade 3 Swim to Survive Program at Huron Park
- **Saturday April 21, 2018** 10:30 AM Grade 2 First Communion at St. Martin of Tours Parish
- **Monday April 23, 2018** 6:30 PM Catholic School Council Meeting
- **Wednesday April 25, 2018** Administrative Assistant Day...Thank you Mrs. Vritsios
- **Friday April 27, 2018** PA Day – Provincial Priorities in a Catholic Context...No School for Students

ATTACHMENTS:

- Student e-Portfolio February
- Student e-Portfolio March
- Catholic School Councils Conference and Marketplace