

# GRADE 5 NEWS JAN 2025

## Special Dates in January

Jan 9 – Hat and Jeans Day  
Jan 16 – Blue Day  
Jan 27 – Read-Athon Starts  
Jan 30 – Intermediate Skiing  
Jan 31 – NID

## Special Dates in February

Feb 3-9 – Catholic Schools Week  
Feb 6 – Hat and Jeans Day  
Feb 17 – Family Day  
Feb 26 – Pink Shirt Day  
Feb 26 & 27 – Parent Conferences

**Virtue Awards:** One of our goals in Catholic Education is "Helping Children Grow Closer to Jesus." All classes focus on the same virtue and Fruit of the Holy Spirit each month, which will help our children become more kind, loving, and faithful. Awards are distributed monthly at the assembly.

**Prayer and Mass:** Families are encouraged to attend Prayer assemblies and Mass, which are student-led events. Please be sure to arrive before the start time and remember not to bring any food or drinks into the gym or church.

**Agenda:** I ask that students bring their agenda home every day for parents to review and sign each night. Parents/guardians may also use it to communicate with the teacher. We will often write an "Ask me about" sentence. Please ask your child about it! It may reinforce learning, or it might be something interesting that they learned that day. It may help to engage your child in conversations about school.

**Spotlight Student:** Every week until all students have had a turn, a name is drawn and that child will be in the spotlight for the week. They get to create a personalized bulletin board with photos, awards, art, and anything else that can be hung on a clothespin; have special privileges; and have a show-and-tell opportunity. The class will ask the spotlight student questions about themselves and then students will write a friendship letter as a grade 5 keepsake. Please note that we will take very good care of any items coming into school. We will not put holes in pictures or papers. If you email me in advance, I can print pictures for you, but they will be in a lower quality. Thank you for supporting this class activity!

**Volunteers:** We will be looking for volunteers for skiing this term, the first being January 30th. If you are able to help, we would greatly appreciate it! Please stop by the office for a criminal record form if you do not have one. Note: it could take up to two weeks to process!

**Behaviour Expectations:** Students are given reminders during the day about classroom expectations such as listening, working, and staying in their seats. Students struggling to meet these and other classroom expectations will be spoken to in private first. If their choices continue to be a disruption to their learning or to others, students will be required to complete a reflection sheet that will help them analyze the choices they are making in class. The reflection sheet will be sent home for their parent/

guardian to review and discuss with them. The next step will be a phone call home to discuss the issue and plan for mitigation. If all of the steps above fail to help the student meet expectations, then the Principal will be asked to intervene.

### **Learning Update:**

~ **Math:** While the students continue to practice number sense, multiplication, and division strategies, we will be introducing fractions and decimals. Students will learn how to identify, compare, and represent them. They will explore concepts such as equivalent fractions, converting between fractions and decimals, and performing operations. Students will have opportunities to learn through hands-on activities, problem-solving, and real-world applications.

~ **Science:** We are going to be busy exploring machines this term. Students will learn about simple machines, force, and energy. It is a hands-on and engaging unit – always a popular favorite!

~ **English Language Arts:** Students are exploring spelling patterns and vocabulary words. Each week, they receive a list of words to practice both at school and at home. At the end of the week, they will be quizzed on a selection of these words. For an added challenge, students can opt to tackle "bonus" words designed to test their skills further. In reading, students will focus on reading informational texts, such as fact books and reports. They will apply their understanding of text features—such as headings, indexes, labels, and paragraphing—to craft multi-paragraph reports.

~ **Social Studies:** Students will explore how immigration has influenced Canada's development throughout its history, examining the ways in which different cultural groups have contributed to the nation's growth and identity. They will study key historical events, immigration policies, and the experiences of newcomers. Additionally, students will analyze how diversity shapes Canadian society, fosters inclusivity, and contributes to a shared sense of identity while celebrating the unique backgrounds of its people.

~ **Career Education** - Students will be working on their self-identified goals. Using S.M.A.R.T. goals, students will be monitoring their progress throughout the term and reflecting on their overall success.

~ **Arts Education** - Through skits and story theatre, students will develop creative expression by studying characters, movement skills, mood, and plot.

~ **Christian Education** – Students will continue to learn about the Cardinal virtues and prayer and worship of the Holy Trinity. We will focus on Jesus, the Son of God, and living in his image and likeness. Leading up to Easter, We will celebrate the Paschal mystery of Death, Resurrection, and Ascension.

**Communication:** Please connect with me if you have any concerns or questions. I am always happy to make time for you. Thank you for your cooperation and support!

Thank You!

Mrs. Shannon McKenzie