

MRS. MCKENZIE

GRADE 5 NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025



Dear Families,

Welcome back! I hope that you had a wonderful break and enjoyed some spring activities. As we head into term 3, I would like to thank you for your continued support of our classroom activities and routines.

TERM 3 SCHEDULE

April - Virtue: Justice

- 3 - Hat and Jeans Day (bring a toonie to wear a hat and jeans)
- 9 - Vimy Ridge Day
- 13 - Palm Sunday
- 18 - Good Friday
- 21 - Easter Monday
- 22 - Earth Day

May - Virtue: Compassion

- 1 - Hat and Jeans Day
- 5 - Non-Instructional Day
- 6 - Wishbone Day (wear yellow: international awareness day for Osteogenesis Imperfecta)
- 19 - Victoria Day
- 30 - Grade 5 Prayer (in the gym at 9am)

June - Virtue: Faithfulness

- 1 - Hat and Jeans Day
 - 6 - Non-Instructional Day
 - 26 - Last day of school
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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.

Homework: Spelling words will be distributed at the beginning of each week. While I recognize that families have busy schedules, dedicating 5-10 minutes daily to practice will significantly enhance your child's vocabulary and spelling skills. Tests will be at the end of each week. I make a concerted effort to ensure that students catch up on any missed work during the school day; however, there may be occasions when homework is assigned to be completed at home. This will be limited to work essential for achieving the required learning outcomes.

Show and Tell: In an effort to learn more about each other and to practice oral language and presentation skills, students will have a weekly show-and-tell event. All students will have an opportunity to share and discuss their choice of a special item or teach/demonstrate a skill. Students will have one week's notice to prepare and are required to document and plan an organized presentation of 2-4 minutes.

Weather: In grade 5, children are expected to develop place-based knowledge and experiences about their local natural environment. This means getting outside! I am asking for your support in having your child come to school dressed to spend time outdoors. If students are dressed for the weather every day, taking them out on spontaneous outdoor activities on the school grounds will be possible. Place-based outdoor learning promotes a relationship with the natural environment and constructs deep environmental knowledge and understanding of the world. Don't forget to ask your child about their outdoor experiences!

Volunteers: We will be looking for volunteers for year-end events such as swimming, movie day, and fun day. 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 (or I could send it home). Note: It could take up to two weeks to process! Also, if I have willing volunteers, it is easier to plan events.

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.



If your child is experiencing difficulties at home, I would like to provide additional support at school. I understand that you aren't always able to share details, and that is completely okay. If your child is coming to school after a hard night, morning, or weekend, please send me a message "**handle with care.**" Nothing else will be asked or said, this will let me know that your child may need extra help, patience, time, and love during the day.

Grade 5 Term 3 Learning Update:

~ **Math:** This term in math, students will learn to read, write, and compare decimals, as well as perform basic operations to enhance their number sense. In financial literacy, they'll understand the value of money, including coin combinations and simple financial decisions, to build responsible money management skills. We'll also focus on measuring area and perimeter, helping students calculate these for various shapes to strengthen their spatial reasoning. Additionally, they'll study the properties of two-dimensional shapes and three-dimensional objects, learning to identify, compare, and classify them based on attributes like sides, angles, faces, and edges.

~ **Science and Social Studies:** Students will delve into the rock cycle and Earth's materials. They will learn how Earth's materials transform through the rock cycle, gaining insights into the formation and characteristics of minerals and igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks. Additionally, students will explore how these materials serve as natural resources, emphasizing their significance in our daily lives and the importance of sustainable management.

~ **English Language Arts:** Students will explore various forms of expression through creative writing. They will learn about different types of poetry, such as haikus, free verse, and rhyming poems, while experimenting with figurative language, rhythm, and imagery to bring their words to life. In our comics unit, students will combine storytelling with visual elements, learning how to use dialogue, panels, and illustrations to convey emotions and ideas. They will develop their storytelling skills through creative writing by crafting original narratives, building strong characters, and using descriptive language to engage their readers.

~ **Career Education:** In our career education program, students are learning to navigate their public identities and understand the potential positive and negative consequences of their online presence. They are also developing skills to identify safety hazards both in the community and online, promoting responsible and secure interactions in various environments. Students will explore the importance of having positive influences and will identify people in their circle.

~ **Music:** Students will develop their musical skills through singing, playing simple instruments, listening, and creating music. They will explore rhythm, melody, harmony, and dynamics while learning to read and write musical notation. Students will also engage in improvisation and composition, using creative expression to communicate ideas and emotions.

~ **Christian Education:** Students will continue to learn about the Cardinal Virtues and Fruit of the Spirit. Students are learning to embody God's truth through their actions and to spread His message by respecting and caring for their own bodies. This includes telling the truth with the body, manners, and how the body speaks in Scripture. Additionally, they are exploring Catholic Social Teaching principles and how these can be applied within their families, schools, and communities. This involves recognizing the dignity of every person, promoting the common good, and participating in society to support those in need.

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