

*NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER*

**Our VIRTUE for the month of November is: JUSTICE**

**Our VIRTUE for the month of OCTOBER was: EMPATHY (See award winners later in this newsletter)**

**FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK:**

This month we are celebrating the virtue of **JUSTICE** – one of the building blocks in developing moral intelligence in young people. From a young age, students have a strong sense of what is fair. As they grow, they develop the capacity to decipher right from wrong and to make ethical decisions.

This theme of **Justice** ties in with the **Catholic Graduate Expectation** of a **Responsible Citizen** – one who gives witness to Catholic social teaching by promoting peace, justice and the sacredness of human life. Traditionally, our Catholic Schools have made outstanding contributions to society through Social Justice causes. Students in both our elementary and secondary schools have raised funds to support many causes both locally and abroad, including the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. We are very proud of the contributions our students have made and continue to make through their altruistic efforts.

Self-control gives our children the willpower to “say no”, “do what is right”, and stick up for others being treated unfairly. There are three critical steps parents can use to help their children make just decisions through practicing self-control:

1. Help your child understand the importance of fairness, which includes the very important idea that fairness doesn’t always mean sameness.
2. Help your child see other people’s points of view in a conflict
3. Model and encourage children to think before acting or speaking.

When the school, home, and church work together we can bring JUSTICE to our small corner of the world – and beyond.

As always, we appreciate your support.

 Lucas Boluk

**We Scare Hunger: Food Drive Cash Donations**

 Due to BCHU regulations, we were not allowed to collect food items at the school for our annual food drive. As an alternative, we set up School Cash online to enable families to make a cash donation, to be given to St. Vincent De Paul at the end of the October. Donations totaled **$565.00**. God bless all our families!

“Happy is the generous person, the one who feeds the poor. (Prov.22:9)

**PROGRESS REPORTS**

****Progress Reports will go home on ***Friday, Nov. 6th***.  All families are encouraged to sign up for an interview time using Microsoft Bookings.  A link will be emailed to you through ***School Messenger on Friday, Nov. 6th***.  Please make sure to check your email, including your junk mail. Using this program, you will be able to see when your child’s classroom teacher will be available for a virtual interview, using either Microsoft Teams or with a phone interview.  Once you have booked an interview time, you will receive a confirmation email which includes a link for the virtual meeting.  If you have any questions, or do not receive the bookings link by ***Monday, Nov. 9th***, please don’t hesitate to call the school and we can help you.  Your child’s academic success depends on our partnership.  We look forwards to seeing you virtually!

**SAFETY CONCERNS: PLEASE ASSESS YOUR CHILD DAILY FOR SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19**

On Oct 1st, the Ministry of Health changed the screening tool for students.  If you have not already done so, please familiarize yourself with this new document, **COVID-19 Screening Tool for Children in School and Child Care – Version 1 – October 1, 2020.**  All publicly funded schools and childcare centres in Ontario will reference this new screening tool.

The link to the online screening tool is: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

**LUNCH DAYS AT ST. PETER SCHOOL**

Our first block of lunch days are done and we look forward to our second month of lunches in November. Feedback has been good so far, but we always appreciate hearing suggestions from students and families. Send your concerns/suggestions/inquiries to the school secretary (jdugas@bhncdsb.ca), using the Subject Line: **SCHOOL LUNCHES**. Thank you in advance.

****The dates for **purchasing** are as follows:

**For November** – October 26 through 30

**For December** – November 23 through 27

**For January** – December 21 through 25

**For February** – January 25 through 29

**For March** – February 22 through 26

**For April** – March 22 through 26

**For May** – April 26 through 30

**For June** – May 24 through June 28

SchoolCash Online is the ONLY method of payment for Lunch Days. Contact the school if you need assistance setting up your account.

***Please note:*** *there are NO refunds issued for days missed due to student absence*. Missed lunches may be sent home with another designated student, be picked up by the parent, or remain in the school refrigerator until the following day (after that, for food safety reasons, the lunch will be discarded).

In the event of inclement weather that closes the school, lunch will be provided by the vendor on the NEXT school day.

**Strong Start Reading Program**

Currently, since volunteers are not yet allowed in schools, Strong Start’s *Letters, Sounds and Words* program is on hold as per our school board’s decision. We are looking at a possible January start of this valuable program in our schools.  In anticipation of the program starting in January, Strong Start is offering Volunteer Coach training right now, both in-person and on-line. Participants must register for the training. Here is a link to all the times and dates to share with your school community or anyone who you think would be interested in becoming a Strong Start volunteer in your school:

[https://www.strongstart.ca/programs/letters-sounds-and-words/training/](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/www.strongstart.ca/programs/letters-sounds-and-words/training/__;!!Kq1SNukRZg!oCvNLR291JcFLZQ_46ECSxQ_WzL5iHNHJZIUjyZdER2fsxXhzWiOL-_6nYtUHqMdXA$)

Thank you for your consideration in sharing this information and with your continued support for the Strong Start program.

If you have any inquiries regarding Strong Start at this time, you can contact **Ruth Mills**at:

**Ruth Mills,** Regional Program Co-Ordinator, *Letters, Sounds and Words™,* Strong Start® Charitable Organization
565 Kumpf Dr., Unit 1, Waterloo, ON N2V 1K3 519-743-9578 ext.106 519-761-8459 (cell) [www.strongstart.ca](https://urldefense.com/v3/__http%3A/www.strongstart.ca__;!!Kq1SNukRZg!uqho8-jccqs9P6C_hrpk5fj1nUAPXl21g-crD2lmCukD8-XhDZCeiGhtQnoPfPLK_A$)

**MONTHLY AWARD WINNERS – OCTOBER**

We congratulate the following students on their academic success and/or demonstration of the virtue of EMPATHY throughout the month of October. Awards were presented to the students during our Month End Virtual Assembly on Friday, October 30.

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| **ACADEMIC WINNERS** | **VIRTUE OF THE MONTH FOR OCTOBER WINNERS****- EMPATHY** |
| **Teacher/Class** | **Student Winner** | **Teacher/Class** | **Student Winner** |
| Ms. Dobrovodsky (JK/SK) | Isabelle N. | Ms. Dobrovodsky (JK/SK) | Olivia V. |
| Miss DiSabatino (gr 1) | Colten V. | Miss DiSabatino (gr 1) | Amelia C. |
| Miss Csercsics (gr ½) | Lilleigh E. | Miss Csercsics (gr ½) | Alexis M. |
| Mrs. McVey (gr 3) | Josh L. | Mrs. McVey (gr 3) | Melia S. |
| Mr. Halsey (gr 4/5) | Chloe T. | Mr. Halsey (gr 4/5) | Emma F. |
| Mrs. Smith (gr 5/6) | Hudson D. | Mrs. Smith (gr 5/6) | Braxton D. |
| Mrs. McBride (gr 7) | Elia H. | Mrs. McBride (gr 7) | Victoria C. |
| Mr. Enns (gr 8) | Nash V. | Mr. Enns (gr 8) | Nicolas A. |

**HALLOWEEN AT ST. PETER SCHOOL – COVID STYLE**

We were delighted to still be able to enjoy some of the fun of past Halloweens with our staff and students at St. Peter. Keeping with our school tradition, our students participated in the Halloween Parade around our neighbourhood. Many parents lined the streets as our students, maintaining social distancing, paraded along in their Halloween costumes. Later in the day, students had a dance in the back-playground area (we hope we didn’t frighten our neighbours!!!) Halloween movies, activities, and snacks from home (no sharing allowed this year!) permitted everyone to have a fun-filled, almost-“normal” Halloween celebration.

**VIRTUAL SCHOOL TO IN SCHOOL LEARNING AND VICE-VERSA**

The date for students to notify the Virtual School and St. Peter about their intentions to switch from one “school” to the other is **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6**. Transition from one to the other takes place on **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16**. If your family is interested in making this change, you must contact the VIRTUAL school and the office at ST. PETER school to ensure all necessary documents have been completed. For additional information, email the Virtual School at mvaughan@bhncdsb.ca or call St. Peter School at 519-752-1611. Please note that students who are returning to St. Peter School AND who are eligible for bussing, must complete a NEW Transportation Request Form, in order to ride the bus. Copies are available from St. Peter and through the Board’s website (Transportation tab).

**SPIRIT DAYS AT ST. PETER**

In the month of October, the staff and students at St. Peter School enjoyed their FIRST Spirit Day with SPORTS JERSEY DAY. Coming up in November, we will have TWO more SPIRIT DAYS – Tuesday, November 17 is WACKY HAIR DAY (the crazier the better – don’t need combs or brushes that day!) and Tuesday, November 24 is TWINS DAY (pick a partner and dress like twins – identical, fraternal – you decide but make sure everyone knows that you are twins!!)



**STOPPING/PARKING ON GLENWOOD – IN FRONT OF ST. PETER SCHOOL**

Parents, grandparents, babysitters and all others are reminded that there are designated NO PARKING areas on Glenwood Avenue. Directly in FRONT of the school is one of the NO PARKING areas and cars stopped/parked in this area create a safety hazard. ***PLEASE*** ….. obey the parking signs and stay away from the area …. the few extra steps you take to park further down the street help to ensure the safety of everyone in the community.