

January



School Newsletter

St. Gregory Catholic School



Principal: Kevin Dorey

Secretary: Rhonda McLean

Superintendent of School Effectiveness: David Giroux

School Website: <http://schools.alcddb.on.ca/greg/>

Catholic School Council Chair: Nikki Crenna

Parish Priest: Rev. R.J. Chisholm

Trustee: Gregory Speagle

Happy New Year and welcome back!

We have rescheduled our Regent Theatre excursion to see The Star for Friday January 19th at 9AM. Teachers will be looking for volunteers to accompany classes.

It is great to see so many parents and grandparents at our school Masses. This Friday our January Mass will be at 1030 in the church. We hope to see a great turn out again.



Follow
St. Gregory Catholic School on Facebook
and on Twitter @alcddb_greg

Why learn French?

"French is important because it is just another language like English except it has a different culture. It shows that we as people are different and the same."

-Michael, ALCDSB Grade 8 Student

Encourage your child to be a lifelong learner of French!

Also, be sure to connect to your child via Fresh Grade. All classes at St. Gregory are using Fresh Grade to create a portfolio of learning and development that will follow students as they progress from year to year. This secure, online tool, also has a communication function that allows messaging between teachers, students, and parents. Check out the last page of the newsletter for more details.

Mr. Kevin Dorey

Some Important Dates

Dec 25 - Jan 5 Christmas Break

Jan 8 - Classes Resume

Jan 12 - School Mass 1030 - Everyone Welcome

Jan 16 - School Council Meeting 6PM

Jan 19 - The Star at The Regent Theatre

Jan 23 - School Council Play Date 5:30-7PM

Jan 30 - Terrific Kids Assembly

Jan 31 - Ontario Skills Challenge - Gr. 8 - QSWC

Feb 2 - PA Day

Cut and paste this link into your browser for the Parish Bulletin

<http://stgregoryparish.ca/publications/weeklybulletin.pdf>

School Council *Welcome Back Everyone!*

CHRISTMAS BASKET RAFFLE

Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Basket Raffle this year! Together, we raised over \$1100 to support our fundraising goals. Extra thank you's to Lisa Heffeman for the beautiful basket assembly, and Todd Lichti for ticket sales.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2018:

Last month, we shared some upcoming (non-fundraising) events with you. Our first Play Date event will be on January 23rd. Look for more details to come as we get closer to the dates.

Date	Time	Event	Details
Tuesday January 23rd	5:30pm to 7pm	Play Date	Active fun for kids and the whole family
Tuesday February 20th	5:30pm to 7pm	Movie Night	Bring the whole family to watch all ages appropriate movie (TBD)
Tuesday March 20th	5:30pm to 7pm	Play Date	Active fun for kids and the whole family
Saturday April 7th	10am to 2pm	Clothing Swap	What's old is new for someone
Sunday May 6th	After Family Mass	Bench Assembly – Adult Event (Pre-Registration)	Help assemble benches for the outdoor learning space

FUNDRAISING: We have a couple of new events for you to look forward to in the new year! Stay tuned! Our current fundraising goals for 2018 are:

FUNDRAISING ITEM	ESTIMATED COST
New Sound System	Approx \$2,500 to \$5,000
New School Uniforms	Approx. \$45 per shirt Need 40 shirts for total cost of \$1800
Lexia Reading Program	\$60 per license per student for 2 years School wide option estimate is under consideration For more information visit https://www.lexialearning.com/

HAVE A VOICE, JOIN THE CONVERSATION

St. Gregory Parent Council is looking for your feedback. We'd love to hear your thoughts. Join the conversation! You can find us online on Facebook. The group address is:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/pecsqpc/>

As always, if you have any concerns or questions or thoughts you'd like to address with Parent Council, feel free to email the Parent Council email address: pecsqpc@gmail.com

Or we'd love to see you at our next meeting - Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 6 pm at the school! Kids are welcome.

As always, if you have any concerns or questions or thoughts you'd like to address with Parent Council, feel free to email the Parent Council email address:

pecsgpc@gmail.com

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Nut Allergies

A crucial, possibly life-threatening reminder to parents is that we do have students in our school who have severe peanut allergies. Please refrain from sending food items to school that contain nuts. While this may seem simple, there are many foods where peanuts or nuts may be a hidden ingredient and so it is very important that you read labels. We realize this request poses an inconvenience for you when packing your child's lunch. However, the parents of these students wish to express sincere appreciation for your support and understanding of this potentially life-threatening allergy.

Safe Arrival & Departure

Students arriving or departing by personal motor vehicle during posted bus loading zone times (7:45-8:30am and 2:00-2:45pm) should be dropped off/picked up on Church Street. Vehicles stopping and pedestrians crossing Owen street through bus lanes during the posted times is distracting to bus operators and unsafe. Pedestrians needing to cross Owen Street or Church Street can do so at the intersection of these two streets. A staff member is posted there during peak periods at the beginning and end of the day. Nothing is more important to us than the safety of your children.

Pediculosis (Head Lice)

It is important to check your children's hair for head lice and nits (eggs) as part of your weekly routine. If we all take the time to check (and treat) now, it will minimize the number of cases. Also please remind your child(ren) not to share combs, brushes or hats. Thanks for your co-operation. If you would like more information about what to look for and how to treat lice go to our school's website we have posted a brochure that is very helpful. Thank you

Unscheduled Student Pickup

The end of the school day is a very busy time. If you are picking up your child, please send a note to the classroom teacher. This will avoid miscommunications and missed connections. Daily routines are very important to the learning environment. Numerous phone calls and drop ins at the office after 2 PM, from parents expecting to have their children paged are very disruptive to classes. **Please try to contact the school by noon to schedule pickups and please, at days end, pick up your child by 2:25 PM.**

Bus Delays & Cancellations

Search for notices or sign up to be notified by email if your bus is running late or has been cancelled at <http://triboard.ca/>

Home Baked Goods in the School for Sharing

Occasionally, some classrooms have special events or celebrations, and parents are invited to send in food items to be shared. Food to be shared within the school community must be prepared in an commercial setting. This means we may no longer bring in home baked goods to share with classmates. When bringing in a commercially produced item to share, such as a tray of squares from Sobeys, be sure to consult with the classroom teacher well in advance. Arrangements can also be made to access our school/parish kitchen for food preparation with your child's classroom teacher.

Sacramental Preparation

Our Staff work with Fr. Chisholm and our parish partners to prepare our students for First Communion/Reconciliation (grade 2), and Confirmation (grade 7 & 8 every other year). Children must have a Baptismal certificate on file at the school in order to receive these Sacraments. Please ensure that we have this by the end of September. Baptismal preparation will be offered to students requiring it. Please contact the school or Parish office if you would like to have your child baptised or if have any questions regarding your child's eligibility to receive the Sacraments. The Rite of Christian initiation for adults is also offered by the Parish.

If you have already expressed interest in receiving the Sacrament of Baptism for your child, expect to be contacted shortly after Thanksgiving.

Please Remember to Sign in when visiting the school!

As we start this new school year, please remember to come to the office and sign-in when visiting the school. Ms. Hulton will be happy to call your son/daughters classroom to have them come to the office and meet you. This is a safe schools policy to insure the safety of our children. Thank you for your co-operation.



Engaged parents have a direct and positive impact on the successful development of a child. FreshGrade is increasing communication and collaboration between teachers, students and parents through a learning collaboration system that facilitates greater parental engagement and student development.

Knowledge is Power

As parents, we know everything about our children's habits. We know what gives them nightmares and why at 4:00pm they get a bit cranky. We know it all, right? Nothing is more important to us than our child's development, yet we have a blind spot – the classroom.

FreshGrade helps to give parents a window into the classroom. It provides parents an on-going communication channel to be fully engaged in their child's progress and development.



How it works



Capture

Teachers will utilize both mobile and tablet devices to capture learning artifacts through:



Collect

Captured artifacts and assessed activities automatically collect to form beautiful student ePortfolios.



Engage

For Students

Students access ePortfolio via web browser and mobile application.

Push Notifications inform students when ePortfolio has been updated.

Students can upload photos, videos, and notes to own ePortfolio.

Students can self reflect and/or comment on ePortfolio activities.

Students can communicate with teachers via "student conference."

For Parents

Parents access child(s) ePortfolio via web browser and mobile application.

Push Notifications inform parent when child(s) ePortfolio has been updated.

Parents can comment on child(s) ePortfolio and communicate with teachers.

How to access

FreshGrade for Students:

Web: student.freshgrade.com

iTunes app store: FreshGrade for Students

Google play: FreshGrade for Students

FreshGrade for Parents:

Web: parent.freshgrade.com

iTunes app store: FreshGrade for Parents

Google play: FreshGrade for Parents

freshgrade.com