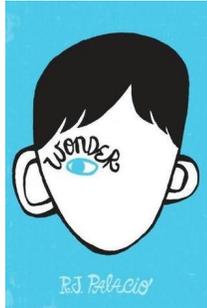


Canadian Martyrs Catholic School  
September 2017 Newsletter

Welcome to the 2017-2018 School Year!

# The Year of Wonder



## OUR STORY ~ OUR JOURNEY

"You shall put these words of mine in your heart and soul..... Teach them to your children"  
- Deuteronomy 11: 18a -19a

We are excited to meet all of our new Junior Kindergarten students and other new families who have joined our Canadian Martyrs community. Welcome back to all of our returning students. We hope everyone had a fun and restful summer.

This year we will continue our focus on being kind to others. We will be using the novel *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio as our jumping off point. If you haven't read it yet, we highly recommend it! A wonderful story about new beginnings, resilience, kindness and looking beyond the superficial to what really matters.

### September Virtue - Kindness

"Throw kindness around like confetti." This month students and staff have been challenged to compliment someone different everyday. A kind word to someone can go so far.

Every year, our Board chooses a spiritual theme and for the 2017-2018 school year it will be Our Story ~ Our Journey.

As Christians, stories are an important way for us to communicate who we are and what we believe. The stories passed on through our Catholic faith tradition remind us of God's love and our responsibility to share that love with others. These stories are the foundation for Catholic education in our province and in our region. We know Catholic education is a special gift to be cherished and protected. We are on a journey in Catholic education to share our sacred stories through the faith-filled work we do in our schools.

This year's theme is especially fitting as our country celebrates its 150th anniversary. Our nation's story is one filled with the journeys of so many different cultures, races and religions. Our faith calls us to learn from these diverse journeys as we continue to grow together as one nation.

This year, we encourage our staff, students and families to reflect upon the stories which shape us, as we journey together in faith and learning.

God of the seasons,

We give you thanks for the gift of summer, a time for renewal and rest, and for connecting with friends and family.

Remind us of your presence among us as we begin another school year.

As we reflect on our journey as a Catholic school, help us remember those people, places and experiences that have shaped our identity.

Bless us in our work this year as we continue to create the story of Canadian Martyrs Catholic School.

Amen

## **Administrivia**

### **Attendance and Safe Arrival/Departure**

Research clearly shows us that school success can be directly related to school attendance. We would ask that efforts be made where possible to book appointments outside of school hours. We do recognize that sometimes this is not possible. If your child is going to be absent for any reason, please contact the front office at 705-549-1877. The answering machine is available 24/7.

If your child is going to be late in the morning please notify the school and have him/her check into the front office when they arrive for attendance. ***If you will be picking up your child early at the end of the day, please contact the office prior to 2:30.*** The end of the day is very busy and we cannot guarantee that we will be able to get messages to students after this time.

### **Parking Lot Reminders**

Safety of our students and staff is our always our first priority. Please keep in mind these Parking Lot Reminders:

- Do not stop behind the parked cars to drop students off.
- If you are dropping off, please do so at the top of the parking lot and students can walk down the sidewalk to the back.
- If you are walking your child across the parking lot, park in a designated parking spot first and cross down by the gate to the back yard.
- Do not cross between parked buses.
- Do not stop on any of the curves in the driveway to drop off - buses cannot get by.

### **Bus Safety**

We would ask the help of parents and guardians to remind students that being safe on the bus is everyone's responsibility. Students are asked to sit in their designated seat, refrain from standing or moving while the bus is in motion; save snacks for school; and respect the rules of the bus driver.



**We are not able to provide notes for students to ride on any bus other than their own.**

### **Allergies**

We strive to be a nut free school. Please check labels carefully and avoid sending nut products to school. School Board policy also prohibits use of WOW butter or other peanut butter substitutes. We thank parents for their help in keeping our school safe for all students.

### **Food Orders**

Food orders will go home towards the end of September, with food delivery beginning in October. We will be continuing with pizza this year, but will be looking at some alternatives to hot dogs. More details will be provided as we get closer to October.

### **Staffing**

The beginning of the school year is always a busy time with students moving in and out of the school area. We have a few new staff faces to welcome, Mrs. Long, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Brewer and Ms. Penwarden. Once the dust has settled and class placements are finalised, a staff list will be shared.

### **Agendas**

School Agendas are available for students in Grades JK-5. The cost this year will be \$6.00.

### **September Dates:**

Monday, September 11th 6:00 PM - Parent Council Meeting - Community Use Room

September 26th-October 3rd - Scholastic Book Fair - Community Use Room

Tuesday, September 26th - 5:00-7:00 Pizza Q and Open House

Thursday, September 28th - Picture Day!

Friday, September 29th - PA Day - no school for students.

## Annual Report - Catholic School Community Council

Dear Parents/Guardians and School Community:

Well it is September already and the Community Council hopes that everyone has settled back into the swing of things. The Canadian Martyrs Community Council had a very rewarding 2016/2017 school year. The school council held 4 meetings on September 12th, January 16, February 27th, May 29th of the last school year. These meetings are always open to the public to encourage input from parents and other members of the school community.

The purpose of the Community Council is to help improve student achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parent. School councils are advisory organizations. A school council's primary means of achieving its purpose is by making recommendations to the principal of the school and the school board. Boards and principals are responsible for considering the recommendations made by each school council and for advising the council(s) of the actions taken in response to the recommendations.

Fund-raising activities were also conducted, and the proceeds were used to fund projects in accordance with school board policies. Money raised from the Dance-a-thon in the fall and the selling of chocolates in the Spring were used to purchase:

- a water filling station for the students water bottles located in the downstairs hallway by the kindergarten classes
- prizes for the fundraisers
- crosses for the students who made their First Communion and Confirmation
- Athletic fees for the students
- Cake and composite pictures for the Graduating class
- Cupcakes for the whole school to celebrate the sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation
- pumpkins for painting at the Pizza Q
- welcome packages for new families to the school
- admission for the whole school to Martyrs Shrine for the annual fall pilgrimage
- 10 new tables to be used in the gym for the Pizza Q and other events as needed

Additional achievements of the school council in 2016/2017 were possible due to the efforts of parents who raised money for the school by volunteering their time to help with Bingo's. Bingo Volunteers raised over \$10,000.00 last year! Items purchased with money raised from Bingo's included the following:

- \$3000.00 towards bussing for the students class trips
- entrance and tournament fees for the children to participate in hockey, basketball, soccer tournaments and track and field meets
- buses to take the students to the King's Wharf Theatre in June for a play
- 5 new chromebooks for the children
- services provided by Make A Mess at the Pizza Q last year

If you are a parent who has been trained in doing Bingo's for another club, please let us know. It would be great to add you to our list of volunteers and be able to call on you to help out with the bingo's for Canadian Martyr's in a pinch! As many of the parents who helped out with bingo's no longer have children going to Canadian Martyr's we are also in need of new parents who are willing to be trained or who have training and can help out with a bingo once a month, once every two months...every little bit helps! Please contact Mrs. Weishar at 705 549-1877 if you are able to help out with this and she will put you in touch with our Bingo Coordinator, Geri Garroway.

We wish to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the individuals who volunteered their time to contribute to the success of the school council last year. Special thanks are due to the following members of the 2016/2017 school council: Monique Burns, Siobhan Campbell, Geri Garroway, Lynne Duquette, Charlene Marion, Mrs. Weishar, Mrs. Gemmell, Mary Lynn Lesperance, Lori Douglas, Leanne Cruise, Brittany Wicken, Sheyla Hassanille and Sarah Sauve.

Finally, due to a number of parents who had children graduate in June, we are in dire need of new faces and people to help out on the Council. We would like to encourage parents to consider attending the upcoming Community Council meeting next week on September 11th, 2017 at 6:00pm and becoming a member of the 2017/2018 Community Council for our wonderful school! In addition, we are also in need of a community representative as Anne Murphy has retired from this position. Please contact Mrs. Weishar at 705 549-1877 if you are interested in helping out our great school in this capacity as well.