



# FALL UPDATE 2020

## Celebrating Our Catholic Virtues With Our Strengths

We are a strength based school. We focus each month on a specific strength theme. We have also gone further to see how our strengths relate to our Catholic Virtues. Each classroom explores the Virtues & Strengths monthly and how they work in unison within each of us and so that we can determine our individual strengths and put them to good use now and in the future.

**“Thank You God for Our Strengths”.**



**“Do to others  
as you would have  
them do to you.”**

Virtues	Strengths
September - <b>Inclusivity</b>	September - <b>Strengths with Friends</b>
October - <b>Respect</b>	October - <b>Strengths at School</b>
November - <b>Peacemaking</b>	November - <b>Strengths at Home</b>
December - <b>Humility</b>	December - <b>Keeping Clean &amp; Healthy</b>
January - <b>Courage</b>	January - <b>Strengths with Goals and Dreams</b>
February - <b>Honesty</b>	February - <b>Strengths in Knowing Yourself</b>
March - <b>Forgiveness</b>	March - <b>Strengths in Faith and Culture</b>
April - <b>Justice</b>	April - <b>Strengths in Being Involved</b>
May - <b>Compassion</b>	May - <b>Strengths in Faith and Culture</b>
June - <b>Charity</b>	June - <b>Strengths during Free Time</b>

### Operating in a Pandemic

This school year, although different than the spring pandemic lockdown, offers its own share of obstacles. Staff and students are persevering and a positive learning environment and climate carries on. We are learning to successfully manage our COVID protocols and be productive in the learning process. We continue to be flexible and learn to do things in a different manner and therefore, we are better able to implement and phase-in school programs. The latest phase-in will be the pizza lunch program. **Please refer to the note that was sent home. We will continue the home-school communication via hardcopy, email (school email address), website and social media.**

### Virtual Guest Instructors

We are unable to travel within our community and, for the most part, unable to bring programming into school. However, our staff is continually looking for unique experiences that can be virtually brought into the classroom or offered outdoors on our property. We have recently purchased a Science North Virtual Learning Package that will offer livestreaming science lessons; Anti-Bullying Virtual Magic Show will also be presented in 2 shows: K-2 & Gr.3-6.

**“Be kind and honest and you will live a long life; others will respect you and treat you fairly.” Proverbs 21:21**



# FALL UPDATE 2020...Cont'd

## Social Justice

We continue to look at offering charity & compassion in the face of social justice issues. Through our classroom 'Lenten Campaigns', students voice their concerns and work collaboratively to help or find a solution. It also offers a opportunity to bring the curriculum to life with unique and real- life challenges. We have had a few take place thus far: Mrs. Jahn's Gr.3/4: Thanksgiving Food Drive; Mrs. Smylie's Gr.1, Mrs. Heppler's Gr.1/2, Mrs. Ongaro's: Operation Grandma & Grandpa and Mrs. Sutherland's Gr. 4/5: Christmas Cheer.



**"So then, we must always aim at those things that bring *peace* and that help strengthen one another.**

**Romans 14:19**

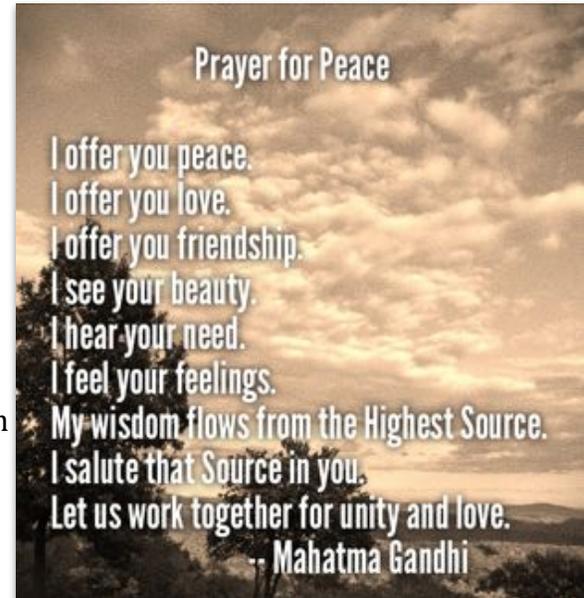
## From Mrs. Kozyra's desk...What's new in Special Education?

Now that our routines are established, we have been able to complete our initial language and math screens with students. We are very pleased to be offering a number of intervention programs to meet the needs of all our students.

**Primary Update...**In our primary grades we have begun our early intervention for reading. Early intervention sees students working in pairs or one-on-one with a student support person, on basic reading skills including letter-sound recognition and sight word reading. To support our Grade 2 and 3 learners, we have adapted and customized a reading program that will teach comprehensive decoding and spelling strategies. Once this initial phase is complete we will include reading comprehension strategies as well.

## Junior Update...

I am pleased to be completing Empower Reading with the class that began the program during the 2019-2020 school year. This group of student's is expected to graduate from this reading program in late November and be our latest group of expert readers! I am so proud of their hard work! We will not be offering a new Empower Reading program this year. We are also excited to announce the expansion of our junior intervention programs. Last winter we trialed a reading comprehension group and a math intervention group which unfortunately ran for only a few short weeks before we moved to virtual learning in March. This year each of our junior classes have both a comprehension and math group dedicated to their specific class cohort. In these groups, we will be focusing on using six reading comprehension strategies to focus our attention while reading. In math, students will work on gaining automaticity of basic math facts while playing a variety of games.



## Catholic School Council (CSC)

Our first CSC meeting was held virtually on October 20. Congratulations to Mrs. Christine Minnella as she returns as Chair of the committee; Mrs. Jahn/Mrs. Sorel (Teacher Reps.) will serve as Secretary. The next CSC meeting will take place virtually on November 24 followed by The Parent Council Commissioning Service which will also take place virtually.

