



# February Newsletter 2025

*St. John of the Cross Catholic School*

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## Prayer for a Diverse Community

Creator of all races and ethnicities,  
help us see that a diverse community  
is the way to deepen our lives  
and to know you more deeply.

Guide us to see  
that entering into a vital  
and just relationship with others  
who are different from us  
is the way to make ourselves whole.

Guard us from fear of the other,  
from the fear that our own security  
is threatened  
if we become truly willing  
to make a place  
at the table for all.

Amen

*Adapted from Education for Justice*



## Virtue of the Month – Respect

### PEOPLE OF RESPECT...

- SEE GOD'S PRESENCE IN THEMSELVES AND OTHERS
- TREAT OTHERS AS THEY WOULD LIKE TO BE TREATED
- WELCOME OTHERS WITH SMILES AND FRIENDLY GREETINGS
- ALWAYS DISPLAY GOOD MANNERS
- SAY 'EXCUSE ME', 'PLEASE' AND 'THANK YOU'
- AVOID THE TEMPTATION TO SWEAR OR GESTURE INAPPROPRIATELY
- LOOK FOR WAYS TO ENCOURAGE AND PRAISE OTHERS
- TALK KINDLY ABOUT OTHERS AND AVOID GOSSIP

# RESPECT



Term 1 Report Cards will be sent *digitally to student emails on Tuesday, February 11th.*

Parent Teacher Interviews will be held on *Thursday, February 13th, in the evening* and on *Friday, February 14th, during the day*, therefore there will be no school for students that day. Bookings for parent teacher interviews will be online, more information to follow.



Lent is the 40 day period of fasting, penitence, and sorrow, leading up to the feast of Easter, recalling Jesus' 40-day fast in the wilderness. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday.

Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the ritual of shricing, when the faithful confessed their sins to the local priest and received forgiveness before the Lenten season began. As far back as 1000 AD, "to shrive" meant to hear confessions. Historically, Shrove Tuesday also marked the beginning of the 40-day Lenten fasting period when the faithful were forbidden by the church to consume meat, butter, eggs or milk. However, if a family had a store of these foods they all would go bad by the time the fast ended on Easter Sunday. What to do? Solution: use up the milk, butter and eggs no later than Shrove Tuesday. And so, with the addition of a little flour, the solution quickly presented itself in... pancakes.



### ***Pancakes for Everyone!***

That's right! On Tuesday, March 4th our Catholic School Council members will be making pancakes for the students of St. John of the Cross School. We want to thank our Catholic School Council members in advance for their time with this and in strengthening our Catholic community of culture and caring.



Our Ash Wednesday Liturgy and distribution of ashes will take place on Wednesday, March 5th in the school Gymnasium at 9:30am. All are welcome to attend.

### ***Valentine's Day***

Please see attached flyer for our Valentine's Day Dance-a-thon. Thank you in advance for supporting our major fundraiser for the year!



### ***Valentine's Cookies***



A reminder that Valentine's cookies will be delivered to those students that have ordered on Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>!

### ***Statutory Holiday***

Schools will be closed on Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. We hope everyone enjoys this day with the family!



## ***Black History 365: A Look Back, A Look Within, A Look***

### ***Ahead***

Black History Month is celebrated thanks to the efforts of the Honourable Jean Augustine, the first Black Canadian women elected to the House of Commons. While it



remains an opportunity to support diversity and awareness, Black History Month provides an opportunity to pause and reflect on the experiences of all Black Canadians, and to celebrate the many contributions they have made to our country. As Canadians, and more importantly, as a Catholic Community, we are called to live in solidarity. Solidarity requires that we learn from and about our brothers and sisters in Christ. Black History is a conversation we must all be present to; it is everyone's history.

Throughout the month of February, the students of St. John of the Cross school have and will be listening to announcements from CEWBA highlighting accomplishments and contributions of Black Canadians, to Canada. Our Catholic Equity & Well Being Ambassadors (CEWBA) will be presenting trivia games on Fridays, focusing content on celebrating Black History. Students are also engaged in curriculum book studies, highlighting equity texts and Math activities. Students will be celebrating Black History Month and staff will continue to participate in professional development that supports equity and inclusivity.

## ***February Eco Report***

Families are encouraged to bundle up and walk to school, this will help to reduce harmful emissions in our community. National Sweater Day is Thursday, February 6 to bring awareness to reducing energy use, so remember to turn down the heat and layer up with a sweater. The Great Backyard Bird Count will be happening during the Family Day long weekend, please encourage your children to do a little bird watching and count the number of birds enjoying the winter weather in your own backyard. Lastly, Thursday, February 27 is International Polar Bear Day, students will learn about this endangered species and how they can be protected.

### ***Attachments:***

1. ***Thrive in Community Newsletter***
2. ***Valentine's Day Dance-a-thon flyer***