

ST. GREGORY THE GREAT SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents of St. Gregory the Great School:

As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week, I am reminded of the mission of Jesus and our commitment to a solid Catholic Education. I want to share and remind you of the important people in the lives of our children as we endeavor to be an integral part of their lives as Catholics. We unveiled our school's Vision Statement. I want to thank the teachers and all persons who gave their feedback. I also want to thank the parents for the important feedback from the surveys. In upcoming weeks, the results will be shared with you. We want to continue to grow in faith as a community. It is important to understand the responsibility we bear in witnessing to our faith and providing our children the best Catholic education.

St. Gregory the Great School Vision Statement:

Steeped in the rich Catholic tradition and Gospel values, St. Gregory the Great School works in partnership with church, family and community to continuously strengthen our faith and spiritual formation. Our students flourish in a collaborative challenging academic environment rooted in our Catholic faith. With high expectations we endeavor to develop in our students a growth mindset and a globalized focus in service learning. It is our goal to empower all students to be Christ-like leaders who can creatively and ethically respond to the challenges of the 21st century.

The week is full of activities for Catholic Schools Week. I want to thank all of the families who brought friends, neighbors and relatives to our Open House. The Family Mass was beautiful and it truly represented what it means to be Catholic; accepting of all God's people. We were honored to have as our special guest, past principal, Sister Sheila Reen. She delivered an inspiring message, reminding us all of the importance of a Catholic education. One of our parishioners eloquently expressed the long-lasting impact *Sr. Sheila left with community.*

"Sister Sheila is a consummate Catholic educator. She made a huge difference in our lives and in the lives of our children and we will forever be in her debt. As ripples spread out when a single pebble is dropped into water, the actions of a single individual can have far-reaching effects. Such is the case with Sister Sheila. Every time she upheld an ideal, acted to improve the moral compass, struck out against injustice, fought indifference, and cared enough to choose the road less traveled, she sent forth ripples of goodness which became centers of energy in those under her care. She inspired our children "to dare to be different, to give of themselves, to court insecurity for a higher end." She sent our children into the world with the right message, the right intentions, and the right goals. Thank you, Sister, and God bless you for your love, self-sacrifice, and dedication". - Kathy Ronan

Remember Grandparents' Day on February 1st at 10:00 a.m in the hall. Our show will be entertaining and most enjoyable. Enjoy the rest of your week.

Blessings, Ms. Paulette Clagon, Principal



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CATHOLICISM 101

Canon Law:

Catechetical Formation

Catechetical formation is another means of promoting Catholic education. According to canon **779**, "Catechetical instruction is to be given by using all helps, teaching aids, and instruments of social communication which seem more effective so that the faithful, in a manner adapted to their character, capabilities and age, and conditions of life, are able to learn Catholic doctrine more fully and put it into practice more suitably." Thus catechesis should be adapted to the audience.

By virtue of one's baptism and confirmation, every Catholic bears some responsibility for teaching the Catholic faith (**canon 774**). Yet canon law identifies five types of people who have a special duty in this regard: parents, godparents, the diocesan bishop, the parish pastor, and the local ordinary.

1. Parents bear primary responsibility for the Catholic education of their children. "Before all others," **canon 774** states, "parents are bound to form their children, by word and example, in faith and in Christian living." Notice that parents are obliged to educate their children not only through words, but also through their example of Christian living. In other words, canon law recognizes that children often learn best through the example of those around them.

2. The pastor of a parish must "ensure the catechetical formation of adults, young people and children" (**canon 776**). He is to ensure, in keeping with **canon 777**, that Catholics in his parish have adequate catechesis for the celebration of the sacraments, that children are properly catechized to receive the sacraments, and that children continue in their catechesis after receiving their First Holy Communion. The pastor must also see to the catechetical formation of those with special needs, insofar as it is possible.

Catholic Schools

Catholic schools are the principle means of helping parents provide their children with a Catholic education (**canon 796**). Parents and teachers should closely cooperate in this endeavour (canon 796). Parents have freedom to choose when it comes to Catholic schools (**canon 797**), and they are to choose those schools that will best provide for their children's Catholic education (**canon 798**).

Canon law understands education in terms of forming the whole person (canon 795). Not only does a Catholic education develop an individual's academic talents, but it should also seek to develop a person's physical, moral, and social talents. Most importantly, a Catholic education should deepen a person's spiritual life and commitment to serving Our Lord.

Canon 803 defines a Catholic school as one under the authority of the competent ecclesiastical authority or acknowledged by the same. The formation and curriculum in a Catholic school must find its basis in Catholic doctrine, and the teachers must be faithful to this doctrine both in word and in deed. **Canon 803** also prohibits a school from calling itself Catholic unless permission is first obtained from the competent Church authority.

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- February 16, 2017 - Science Fair/Food Trucks
- February 20, 2017- **NO SCHOOL** - Presidents' Day
- February 24- **NO SCHOOL**
- February 24 - Auction/Dinner

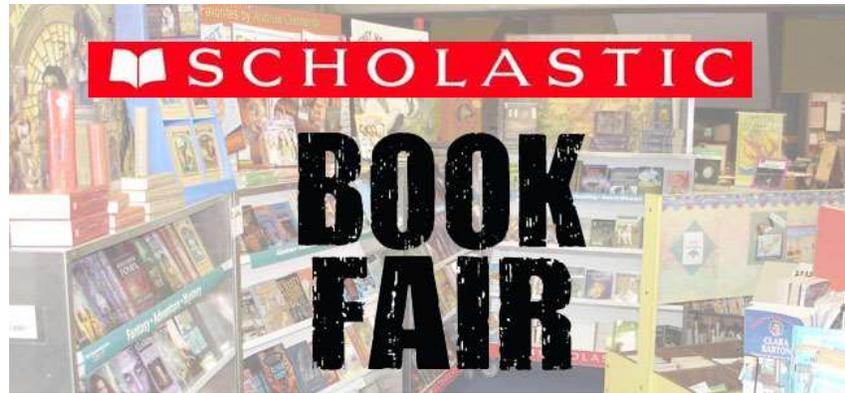


Congratulations to the students who worked hard in the second quarter to achieve Honor Roll status.



Thank you to 3rd grade for cleaning up on Saturday with the help of our "TLC" group of parents that come and assist the class clean up.

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Our Book Fair started Sunday, January 29th, and will end Friday, February 3rd. During the week, students will visit the Book Fair to make a purchase. All parents are invited to come during any of our open hours, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (except Friday).

Besides bringing affordable, appropriate books to our school, a goal of Our Book Fair is to increase classroom libraries. One way to accomplish this, is with the Classroom Wish List, which allows you to donate books to your child's classroom in your child's name. Be sure to look for the Classroom Wish List shopping bags that the teachers have used to put aside the books they would love to have.

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Catholic School's Week *(Jan.29-Feb.3)*

Monday (Service): "Clash of Cans" aka Castle can Contest. Bring your cans to school this week!

Attire: Class color shirt with jeans. Time: 1:30-2:30

Tuesday (Knowledge): "Teddy Bear Tuesday" we will be having a read-a-thon during the day. Bring book to read and a new teddy bear to donate if you'd like!

Attire: Pajamas. Time: 10:30-11:30

Wednesday (Family): Grandparents Day- Attire: Ask teachers. Time: 10:00 am in the Hall

Thursday (Community): "Race to the Ace" (Volleyball Tournament) - Attire: Class colors with PE shorts. Time: 1:30-3:00

Friday (Appreciation): End of Catholic Schools Week Assembly. Attire: Mass Uniform 12:00-12:30

Makeup Not Allowed:

Recently, we have had an increase in makeup worn by our junior high students. We have found in the classrooms, mascara, eyeliner and eyelash curlers. Since we do not allow makeup to be worn on campus, we ask that the parents be more diligent in checking with their children before they leave for school.

Illnesses:

We have had many students out sick with the flu and a few with strep throat. If you know your child could possibly have some sort of virus, please do not send them to school. We ask that you make the proper arrangements to take them into the doctor and/or keep them home until the symptoms have run its course. We understand that this may be difficult at times to detect illnesses but some students have come to school with a high fever and complaining of headaches/stomach aches. Thank you for your full cooperation in this regard.

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THANK YOU SR. SHEILA REEN
FOR YOUR 15 YEARS OF SERVICE
AT ST. GREGORY THE GREAT SCHOOL
AND FOR CELEBRATING FAMILY MASS
TO KICK OFF OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK
FOR HER FULL SPEECH, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO VISIT
OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

