



Fr. Frederick McGinn CES

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Visit us @ ffm.ycdsb.ca



Tweet us @FFMcGinnCES

February 2018 Newsletter

A Prayer for Lenten Grace

Loving God,

During the sacred season of Lent, bring me closer to you. Prepare a place in my home and heart for silence and solitude, so that I may rediscover the grace of a prayerful life.

Help me to fast from those things that threaten the well-being of body and soul and remind me of the grace of simplicity.

Enlarge my heart so that I give to those in need and, in so doing, rediscover the grace of gratitude and generosity. May this season be a grace-filled time to rekindle my love for and faith in you.

Amen.



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Our Lenten journey towards Easter begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14. Students will be asked to consider to not just "give something up" for Lent, but rather to focus on "doing something" for others. All are welcome to join us as we gather for our Ash Wednesday Liturgy on February 14 at 9:30am. January was a busy month with students participating in a variety of sports and club activities around the school. We are truly blessed to have such a vibrant co-curricular life at FFM and we thank our dedicated staff for volunteering their time to provide these amazing opportunities for students.

During the month of February we focus on the virtue of wisdom. Let us be inspired to by Mother Teresa's words and keep the virtue of wisdom in mind as we encounter others throughout our day:

"Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness: kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile, kindness in your warm greeting."

February also marks the end of Term 1 for our students. On February 13th, students from Gr.1-8 will bring home their Term 1 Report Cards. Kindergarten students will also receive their Communication of Learning on February 13. Celebrate the successes as you read through the report card with your child. As we try to encourage self-reflection, help your child consider areas that offer opportunities for growth. Learning is an ongoing process and when children set personal goals to improve learning, they are better able to see the continuum of growth. By mastering small steps towards a goal, children develop increasing confidence and are more willing to take risks.

Teach them to embrace the power of the word "yet". A child may not have mastered a skill **YET**, but with support and guidance, parents and teachers help build a child's resilience and determination towards achieving the goal.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Ms. M. Sullivan
Principal

Mr. F. De Bartolo
Vice Principal

Area 3 Catholic School Trustee:
Dominic Mazzotta
Ann Stong

**Superintendent of Education
Area 4:**
Mary Battista

**Our Lady of the Annunciation
Roman Catholic Church**
905-773-5223
Pastor:
Father Peter Lackmanec



February Catholic Virtue:

Wisdom

I will use my conscience as my guide. I will love God & I will love others as my self. I will use my creativity & gifts for the good of

The School Day:

Entrance: 9:00 a.m.

Recesses: 10:20 a.m. & 2:25 p.m.

Lunch: 12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m.

Dismissal: 3:30 p.m.

**To report student absences/lates,
please dial: 1-855-856-7862 or
[http://](http://yorkcdsb.schoolconnects.com)
yorkcdsb.schoolconnects.com
before 9:00 a.m.**

Mission Statement

Guided by Gospel values and Catholic Virtues, in partnership with home and Church, we educate and inspire all students to reach their full potential in a safe and caring environment.

Vision Statement

Our students will become creative and critical thinkers who integrate Catholic Values into their daily lives, as socially responsible global citizens.

Core Values



Strategic Commitments



Catholic Community of Faith

Ash Wednesday Liturgy

Our Ash Wednesday liturgy will take place on **Wednesday, February 14 at 9:30am**. We thank Mr. Calabria and Mr. Gonzalez and their Grade 5 students for organizing this special liturgy that begins our Lenten journey. All are welcome.

Catholic School Council Updates

Coming soon!!!!

Our biggest fundraiser of the year is around the corner, and this year we will be featuring Terracotta Cookie Dough! The campaign will start on Friday, February 9th through to Wednesday March 7th. Perfect timing for all your Easter cookie needs!! Let's support our school and have a successful campaign!!! More information to come!

Shrove Tuesday!

On Tuesday February 13, the students will be participating in Shrove Tuesday. We will have members of council preparing the pancakes on the premises in the servery. They will be using a nut free pre-made pancake mix from Aunt Jemima. The ingredients are as follows: Wheat flour, corn flour, sugar, modified milk ingredients, monocalcium phosphate, dextrose, sodium bicarbonate, salt, wheat gluten, glucose solids, modified corn starch, and colour. They will also be using the Aunt Jemima syrup. The ingredients are as follows: Glucose, glucose-fructose, water, cellulose gum, natural and artificial flavor, salt, caramel color, sodium benzoate, sodium hexametaphosphate, sorbic acid, sulphites. Thank you for your continued support on our initiatives and have a wonderful day.

Special Presentation This Thursday, February 8th!

CSC Faith Committee is proud to bring Jacob Moon- *I can Hear You* presentation to FFM. On Thursday, February 8th from 1:15pm to 2:15pm all students from K-8 will take part in a musical, Faith based presentation lead by Jacob's one-man band. Through song and audience engagement, Jacob will illustrate how faith in God is a foundation of strength in life's journey. Parents are welcome.



Parish Breakfast

Saturday February 24, 2018 - 9am
OLA Parish Hall

\$10 / person
\$5 / Child (4-12)
Children 3 and under are free



Guest Speaker: Mario Biscardi, President Elect, Serra International
Topic: Serra International & Helping Promote Vocations

Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish News

Annual Parish Breakfast

Saturday, February 24th—9:00 to 10:30am

Tickets for Parish Breakfast can be purchased after every weekend mass.

Charismatic Prayer Group - **NEW!!** Join us every Tuesday at 8pm

OLA Parish has started a Charismatic Prayer Group that meets on Tuesday at 8pm in the church basement. All are welcome, so please come out, and join us to find out more about this wonderful way of prayer and worship.

Knights of Columbus - 2018 Boy's & Girl's Free Throw Competition

All boys and girls ages 9 to 13 (age as of Jan 1, 2018) are invited to participate in the Knights of Columbus Oak Ridges Free Throw Championship. The contest will be held from 6-8pm on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at Father Frederick McGinn Catholic Elementary School.

The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship is sponsored annually, with winners progressing through local, district, and regional-level competitions. Boys and girls will compete in their respective gender and age divisions. Participants will all receive a certificate of participation, with 1st place winners also receiving plaques and being eligible to compete at higher-level contests, with competition dates to be announced.

Please pick up entry forms at your own school office, and bring the completed form and proof of age with you on contest night. Participants are required to provide proof of age and written parental consent if parent is not accompanying the student.

*****VERY IMPORTANT***** On contest day, please observe the schedule as follows:

- Boys and girls aged 9 or 10, please arrive at the FFM gym at 6pm to register
- Boys and girls aged 11, 12, or 13, please arrive at the FFM gym at 7m to register

Life in the Spirit Workshop - **NEW!!** Starting Tuesday, February 13th 2018 at 8:00pm

On Tuesday, February 13th at 8:00pm OLA Parish will be starting a "Life in the Spirit" workshop. All are welcome to join, so mark your calendars and come out to find out more about this faith enriching workshop. The Workshop will run from February 13, 2018 and will conclude on March 27, 2018.

Quality Learning For All

Jr. Volleyball

We wish the Junior Boys and Girls teams best of luck as they represent FFM at local area tournaments. The boys are off to Corpus Christi on Thursday Feb. 8th and the girls will be hosting the tournament right here at FFM on Monday Feb. 12th. Thanks for all their hard work throughout the 8 weeks of intramurals and the past few weeks of before and after school practices. Job well done Falcons!



Jump Rope for Heart

On Wednesday January 31st our kickoff to Jump Rope for Heart was celebrated with our school community. This is a fundraiser for the Heart and Stroke foundation and some of the proceeds will be coming right back to FFM. But the most amazing benefit is students will be jumping and getting their hearts pumping with exercise. We have challenged our neighbouring school Our Lady of the Annunciation and we know that the spirit of the Falcons will make us soar above the rest! We thank Gabriel Trichillo who shared his story of heart saving procedures with our school demonstrating courage and strength comes in many shapes and sizes.

Ms. Wong is starting a skipping club in the month of February and we will have a Jump Rope Day on Wed Feb. 28th. All students received a package outlining all the amazing incentives and we encourage the on-line component of this terrific campaign. Thank you in advance for all your support.



Kindergarten Registration Update

Registration packages are currently available, from the office, for the Kindergarten program for September 2018. Parents/guardians have the option of completing a print copy of the Kindergarten registration form and, beginning on **February 15, 2018** you will have the option of completing the Kindergarten registration online. Both the paper and online Kindergarten registration form can be accessed from the board's website at www.ycdsb.ca/admissions.

We look forward to welcoming your child into our school and encourage you to invite your neighbours and friends who live within our school's boundaries to begin the registration process.

PLAY Leaders

We thank Vanessa Fortier, our public health nurse, who came and trained 18 of our very own grade 5 and 6 students to lead our primary students in active play over the lunch hour recess. Each day these students demonstrate responsibility, courage, leadership and pride in the way they interact and lead our young students in positive active play. Thanks to each and every one of them for their continued dedication in this amazing endeavour at FFM!



International Walk to School Day

On **Wednesday, February 7th**, it is officially International Winter Walk to school day. All students either live close enough to walk or far enough to take the school bus and we encourage this everyday but we hope that FFM can strive for this on Wednesday Feb. 7th. Bundle up and take an active route to school and leave the car at home.

Upload your photo of your family walking to school to @FFMfit twitter handle and share your active route with the world.



You're The Chef

The Healthy School Committee is proud to have delivered another fine year of You're the Chef to our grade 6 students. Special thanks to Ms. Vittoria, Ms. Libera, Ms. DelBuono and Ms. Vavala who volunteered to take the time to teach important safe and nutritious meals to the 12 students who wanted to learn to be chefs. Some of their master pieces can be seen @FFMfit twitter handle and we hope that they have taken their culinary experience and assisted in making a delicious meal to their families at home.



February Family Fit Night

Mark your calendars on **Thursday, February 22nd at 7pm**, and dust those runners off because Zumba is returning to FFM for our February Family Fit Night. There is no better way to be good to our hearts than with a night with family dancing and moving to a Certified Zumba instructor. So bring grandparents, children and yourself to this wonderful evening of fitness and fun! Thank you to the parents of the Healthy School Committee for organizing this initiative and don't forget to follow us @FFMfit.



Quality Learning For All



Kindergarten Registration

Registration for the 2018-2019 school year begins January 8, 2018

To register, please bring the following original documents:

- Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate (child or parent)
- Proof of age
- Proof of legal status in Canada
- Proof of residency
- Proof of Separate School Support (i.e. MPAC Assessment Notice), or you can complete a school support form that is included in the registration package.

JK: Children must be 4 years old by Dec. 31, 2018 (born in 2014)

SK: Children must be 5 years old by Dec. 31, 2018 (born in 2013)

If your child is already attending a YCDSB school for JK registration is not required.

For information, contact the Admissions Department:



www.ycdsb.ca/admissions



@ycdsb



905-713-2711 or 416-221-5050



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Quality Learning For All



The York Region Alliance of African Canadian Communities presents...

Celebrating the Success of our Black Families in York Region



Saturday, February 17, 2018

Thornlea Secondary School
8075 Bayview Ave. Thornhill, ON
L3T 4N4

Time: 11:00am - 2:30pm

11:00-11:30am
Registration

11:00-11:30am; 1:30-2:30pm
Networking

Free Admission

Uplifting our Black Families

Bridging the Past with the Present

Navigating the Present into the Future

Celebrating our "Firsts":

Members of our Black community in York Region who have broken glass ceilings.

Bring the entire family!

Activities include:

- **Community Speakers**
- **Black Marketplace**

Entertainment:

- **Drumming**
- **Youth Entertainment**



Refreshments provided

Contact: Ann Marie (647)-280-9879 | info@yorkregionaacc.ca

Register at: <http://bit.ly/YRAACCEvent>

Safe & Caring Schools

Keeping EpiPens Up-to-date

As we continue to monitor EpiPen expiry dates and send home notices of expirations, please ensure that you send in an up-to-date EpiPen as soon as possible.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.



Valentine's Day Reminder

Just a friendly reminder that all treat bags and Valentine's cards that your child distributes to classmates are not to contain any food, candy or chocolates. If your child wishes to hand out small gifts (not just cards), then we encourage non-food items like Valentine's pencils, stickers, erasers, etc. As always, we remind students that we are NOT to share food, due to the many food allergies and dietary restrictions at our school. Thank you for your co-operation.



Extra Clothing Reminder

We have made it half way through winter! Please ensure that your children have indoor shoes and appropriate clothing for wintertime fun. Children should come to school with boots, hats, mittens and proper outerwear such as waterproof jackets and snow pants. Primary students in particular should have a change of clothes in the event that their socks or pants get wet. These items of clothing should be clearly labelled and kept in your child's school bag or locker.



Student Drop Off and Driveway

Parents and guardians are reminded to exercise caution and be patient when using the student drop off and parking lot areas especially during peak periods. Please do not park in the drop off loop as it impedes the flow of traffic and slows everyone down. The safety and well-being of all students must be everyone's priority. Please note that no cars should be entering the front parking lot between 8:45am and 9:00am. Only school buses are permitted to enter during those times. We appreciate your support.

