

REGIOPOLIS-NOTRE DAME CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Visit our website: www.reginotredame.ca



May 2020 Newsletter

Newsletter is issued at the beginning of each month

Principal's Message

The first week of May, the month of Mary, marks both the celebration of Catholic Education Week and Mental Health Awareness Week. This year's CEW theme, Igniting Hope, is more crucial than ever. When we have hope, it is easier to be well. Our faith provides us with hope. Our school community helps each of us to be strong, to belong, to have hope.

Thanks to **Friar Jim, Mary-Elaine, Mr. McDonald** and all who contributed to the online Memorial for **Barb Megill**. It was a beautiful collaboration of students and staff and I think it really captured Barb's joy, faith and generosity well. Many of us were able to participate in the online tribute by watching from home. Thanks for keeping us together even when apart.

So often, I am proud of the efforts of our students and staff and that remains true, of course. Today, though, I thank our parent community. Your advocacy for your teens has been invaluable as we all try to do our best emergency learn from home scenarios. You take the time to commend our staff for their efforts and those words of gratitude go a long way in these uncertain times. And, slowly but surely, spring is springing: we know what this means for teenagers. Much like the songbirds and the daffodils, teenagers emerge at this time with extra energy. It cannot be easy to parent teens at this time of year, from home, trying to reign them in, help them to learn, and keep their well-being at the front of mind. We know their springtime ranginess at school. God bless you for the work you are doing with your teens at home – a fine balance between sleeping and healthy productivity is not always easy to achieve. Thanks for all you do to help us to help your daughter or son learn.

To our Class of 2020, you received a letter from **Director DeSantis**. Please do keep at your studies. We feel your disappointment in occasions missed right alongside you.

When we learn more about our ability to celebrate graduation, we will share that with you. We will celebrate your achievements and mark the occasion, one way or another, in due time.

I think students will hear shortly about ways we are planning to mark year end activities such as the Athletic Banquet, potentially online. Just as it was important that we mourn together, so too is it important to celebrate achievements and share joy. Many thanks to Student Council and our leadership groups for continuing to build hope for our school community. You are nothing if not innovative. A chuckle or two works wonders for us all.

Don't forget: we are all invited to participate in the provincial Catholic Education Week Mass.

<https://www.stmichaelscathedral.com/live>

All are invited to participate in a mass celebrated by Cardinal Collins in Toronto on Wednesday May 6 @ 10 am. Click on the link above!

Take care.

Terri Daniel

Pastoral Services

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13)

Each year, the Catholic community of Ontario engages in a week-long celebration of the unique identity and distinctive contributions of Catholic education during **Catholic Education Week**. This year's celebration is entitled, "Catholic Education: *Igniting Hope*" and will be celebrated during the week of **May 3rd – May 8th**.

The themes for each day are:

Our Hope in Christ

The Hope Within Us

The Hope Among Us

Hope for the World

A Future Full of Hope

Materials may be found on the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) website at www.goodnewsforall.ca

Prayer adapted from CEW intermediate prayer service:

Loving God, we face many challenges during this epidemic. Help us to know that together we are resilient and that humanity works as a community. Your love always helps us to handle whatever comes our way. Be with us as we continue to stay in our homes to protect others. Help us to remember the love of our community and let this be a sign of hope.

Question: Where do you see HOPE alive in the world today during this crisis?

God of hope, let the joy of your resurrection fill our hearts in this Easter season, reminding us that hope and unity bring us to the other side of darkness. Amen +

Hail Mary! May is the Month of Mary - How can we spend some time with her this month? Say a Hail Mary every morning. Better yet, say a decade of the rosary (an Our Father, 10 Hail Mary's and a Glory Be) whenever you are bored or waiting for something. Or, why not a full rosary each week or day? <https://bustedhalo.com/video/the-rosary-in-two-minutes>.

Recognize Mary by keeping flowers near a statue of Mary all month (or print out a picture or do a drawing of her). Finally, give honour to Mary and all mothers this month by offering to help someone who nurtures others. Is there a grandparent raising their grandkids that could use some encouragement or a single mom? Could your own mother use some support without having to ask for it or when she asks can you help without complaint?

Sacraments in a time of social distancing: Check out one of the many masses online in our Archdiocese (St Mary's, St. Paul's, Fr. Stephan Pouliot) or in our province (St. Michael's cathedral basilica in Toronto) or in our world (Bishop Robert Barron's daily mass with Word on Fire). Keep it simple and show up for mass in your PJ's with your pets, or make it a special event and get dressed up for a change and light a candle. Make an act of perfect contrition and if you have any mortal sins, plan to go to Confession when you are able:

"My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against You, whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with Your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin."

Then during the online mass offer a Spiritual Communion:

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most holy sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace

you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

We will be ending the month with **Pentecost on Sunday May 31st**. "Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful..."

Student Services

Student Services Course Selection for 2020-2021

Course selection is now complete. Parents/Guardians are reminded to review their child's courses for next year on Maplewood or myBlueprint. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's guidance counsellor. A reminder for next year's Grade 12 students planning to attend university - you need a minimum of six Grade 12 U or M classes, including the program's prerequisites, to be an eligible applicant.

On-line Summer School 2020

The Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board will offer online summer courses in English, Math, Co-op, and Civics/Careers (both in French and in English) from **Monday, June 29th - Friday, July 24th, 2020**. Other course options are available through the Ontario Curriculum Consortium. Interested students should contact **Mr. Poser** (poser@alcdsb.on.ca) to register for a course. If you are uncertain about taking a course, reach out to your guidance counsellor – either **Ms. Gaudet** (gautami@alcdsb.on.ca) or **Mrs. Glancey Cox** (glanceyc@alcdsb.on.ca) – to discuss your options. Please note that courses only run if there is sufficient enrolment.

Dual Credit at St. Lawrence College

Dual credit programs are ministry-approved programs that allow high school students to take college or apprenticeship courses that count towards both the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) and a college certificate, diploma, or an apprenticeship certification. If you are a grade 12 or fifth year student and are interested in trying out a college course before you leave high school, dual credit might be for you. For more information, email our Dual Credit teacher, **Ms. Lott** (Lott@alcdsb.on.ca) or connect with your guidance counsellor. Developmental Psychology, Police Foundations, Taste of the Trades, Make up, and Welding are available for **Fall 2020**. **The deadline to register students on line for fall 2018 Dual Credit courses at St. Lawrence is the end of May 2020**. After that date, registrations will be accepted based on seat availability.

OUAC/OCAS Grade Submissions

Midterm marks have now been sent to OUAC and OCAS. Be sure to log on to verify your marks for accuracy. If you notice any discrepancies, please report them to Student Services immediately.

Mark Changes

Any change to a student's mark must go through their guidance counsellor. Where appropriate, only guidance counsellors contact classroom teachers about such matters.

Full Disclosure and Midterm Mark Distribution

Messaging received from the Ministry of Education "*According to Growing Success... students can withdraw from a...Grade 12 course no more than five instructional days after the first report card is issued in a semestered school For the 2019-20 school year. This date has been changed to May 6th, 2020.* If a student drops a course after this date, the course will be recorded on the student's official transcript.

EQAO Testing

As you will know, the Ministry of Education cancelled all EQAO testing for the current school year. This includes the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT), which students must typically attempt in order to graduate. As yet, we do not have any information regarding EQAO assessments for the 2020-2021 school year. In the meantime, students and families interested in looking at sample OSSLT questions are encouraged to visit www.eqao.com.

IB News

May Examinations and Issuing of Diplomas

Due to COVID-19 and the global pandemic, there will be no IB examinations in **May**. Students will still be awarded Diplomas and Course Certificates based on work completed in courses, their Predicted Grades, and school's historical data. Midterm grades and IB Predicted Grades have been sent to Universities. IB students will receive their IB results **July 6th, 2020** as is usual.

Extended Essays

IB Diploma students entering year II of the programme are to begin discussions with their Supervisor in order to formulate an area of interest, research plan, and research question. Students are required to read the Extended Essay Guidelines posted on the **Regi IB D2L** page.

CAS

Current Year II IB DP students are to be finishing their requirements for CAS and posting reflections to Managebac in anticipation of completion of CAS by **May 20th**.



FLY FM Graduation Celebration Is May 22nd

FLY FM wants to help celebrate the accomplishments of the Class of 2020!

For most graduating students, end of the year celebrations won't be happening the way we're used to. FLY FM wants to make sure YOU or the graduate in your life, still gets to celebrate! It's a rite of passage. You deserve to be celebrated!

FLY FM will be celebrating the class of 2020 on **May 22nd** all day with music and shout outs. Do you have a student you want to congratulate? Upload a photo of your graduate at 983flyfm.com starting **Monday, May 11th**.

Please include the graduate's name, age, school they attend and a congratulatory message.

Make sure to listen on **Friday, May 22nd** for their special shout out a day of celebration.