



St. Catherine Catholic School (SCCS)

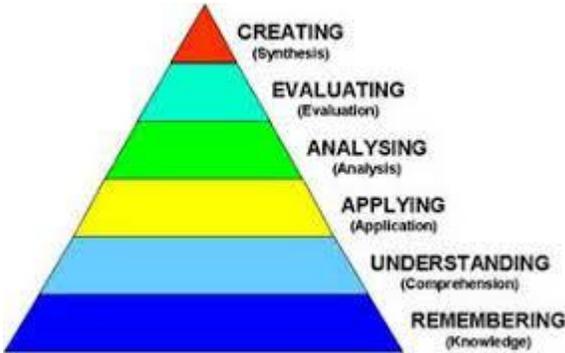
The Mission of St. Catherine Catholic School is to provide a Christ-centered education and a strong Catholic foundation where children can strengthen their relationship with God and prepare for life's challenges and their service to others.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020

School News...

Children remembered All Saints Day a little bit different this year. The beautiful Feast Day was celebrated on Sunday, November 1st, and with COVID-19 restrictions, we asked the students to research and write reports on their favourite Saint. 7th grader, Eileen Morales, chose St. Elizabeth of the Trinity. "St. Elizabeth visited the sick, sang in the church choir and taught religion to children who worked in factories...in the words of St. Elizabeth, 'I find Him everywhere, while doing the wash, as well as while praying.'"

Every other week, Mr. Barock, our 5th grade teacher can be found with a group of students in the Media Center playing chess. According to research, "playing chess benefits and exercises both sides of the brain and benefits both young and old. It helps children both mentally and emotionally. It is proven to improve school performance in young children and even reduce the risk of Alzheimer's disease in adults." Additionally, chess helps children and adults improve "strategic thinking" and attention. www.chessity.com; <https://woochess.com/en/blog/10-benefits-of-teaching-kids-to-play-chess>



Our *Friendzy* catchphrase this month is "Love at all Times"

"Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions" 1 John 3:18

Student Council Leads Us in Giving Back

Our Student Council members started the annual Food Drive on November 2nd and did a great job promoting the Drive amongst grade levels. At last count, 6th grade and 2nd grade had a commanding lead. The St. Catherine "Spirit Stick" and treats will be awarded to the winning class (or classes)!

Next up on the Student Council agenda is our Toy Drive. Toys for needy children will be collected from December 1st – 17th. "Thank you", families and friends for your support of our efforts.



Our 8th grade students culminated their study of early Africa by writing diary entries. Ms. Gouge, our 8th grade Social Studies teacher, shared a portion of an entry: "Dear Diary...I am a captive slave aboard a ship. These men led us onto their ships and, once we were on, they would not let us leave. I was even separated from my mother and father. I do not know where they plan to take us. We have been out to sea for days...our captors treat us as if we were wild animals...I wish I could go back home." *Julian Ruiz*

Cross-curricular. Middle-school students also studied the beginnings of African American music and its importance in American culture. Students listened and identified songs from 5 categories of music: work, spiritual, blues, ragtime, and New Orleans Jazz. Mr. Gillmore may not be able to have the children sing (yet), but they are learning valuable lessons in music history, as well as just how much of our musical culture is rooted in these simple work and spiritual songs.

Re-registration for current families begins December 1st. Please visit our website under "Admissions"

www.stcatheschool.org

Celebrating our Faith

We welcome Bishop Dewane on December 4th as he comes to celebrate Mass with the students!

During the season of Advent, students in grades 3 – 8 will also have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Report Cards & Parent/Teacher Conferences

Report Cards will go home with students on January 8th and Parent/Teacher Conferences for parents who would like a conference will be held on January 14th through Zoom.

From the Cyberbullying Research Center

- Most youth have been drawn to social media-95% of teens in the U.S. are online.
- The best thing a parent can do when their child is cyberbullied is to make them feel safe and convey unconditional support.
- Overall, we need to educate our children about appropriate online behaviours - we can never monitor their activities 24/7.
- Parents should cultivate and maintain open lines of communication with their children.
- Reinforce positive morals and values regarding respect and dignity.
- Teach resilience – the skill to bounce back after facing adversity.

Sameer Hinduja, Ph.D. Justin Patchin, Ph.D.

3rd Grade Gets a Real-World Lesson in Physics and Gravity

Mr. Cullipher got creative with a science lesson that used our playground equipment to understand the properties of gravity. The initial question posed to students was: What is the force that propels them down the slide? Once it was determined to be gravity, they explored what forces can help overcome gravity, like the upward force of a parachute or the propellers on a drone.

Students then went inside to reinforce these concepts using their online science program on their iPads. That's where they did the heavy lifting!



Building the Highest Tower

Mr. Barock challenged his 5th graders with an engineering project where they were given limited "materials" – marshmallows and uncooked spaghetti – and tasked with building the highest "tower".

Students quickly learned the importance of a strong foundation, and they were very creative with their structures!



Student Clubs

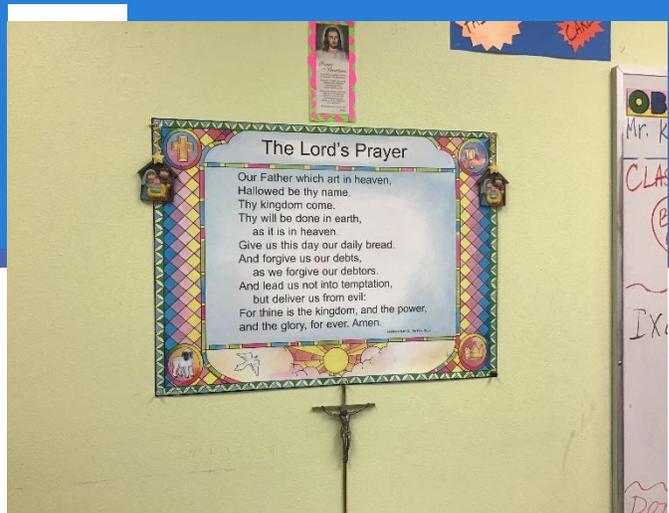
Students have opportunities to join the following after-school clubs: **Art Club**, **Book Club**, **Chess Club**, **Yearbook**, and **Math Club**. Stay tuned...we will be adding a few more in January!



The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted everyone in education, but our teachers at St. Catherine Catholic School have risen to the challenge. I am extremely impressed and grateful for their hard work in handling both online and in-person teaching. As of the printing of this newsletter, we have 126 students learning in-person and 19 learning on-line. *Dr. Higgins*

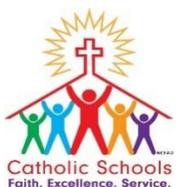
Why Choose Catholic Education?

- We offer an education that combines Catholic faith and teachings with academic excellence.
- We partner with parents in the faith formation of their children.
- We set high standards for student achievement and help them succeed.
- We instill in students the value of service to others.
- We emphasize moral development and self-discipline.
- We provide a safe and welcoming environment for all. www.ncea.org



Advent Resources for Families!

Please see our website www.stcatheschool.org for family resources for Advent.



Catholic Schools Week, January 31 – February 2, 2021.

Website: www.stcatheschool.org **School Phone:** (863)385-7300

Follow us on *Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram*

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