



# MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER

34 Potts Rd , Simcoe ON • 519.426.0820 • [www.stjosephsimcoe.ca](http://www.stjosephsimcoe.ca)  
@stjcatholic - ZONE 1



Principal: Mrs. Graham  
Vice Principal: Mr. Persia

Secretary: Mrs. Melissa Vaughan  
Mrs. Mary VandenBussche

## Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

Our Lenten season is upon us. We were blessed to begin this important liturgical season as a school community with Deacon Gerrard and Deacon Andy sharing in Ash Wednesday liturgies at the school. Lent is a very important season for us in our faith. It is the season where we spend 40 days preparing our hearts to celebrate the joy of the Resurrection! During Lent, we practise fasting, praying and almsgiving. Choosing to go without something reminds us of our dependence on God and of the sacrifice Jesus made for us. It also teaches us to live in solidarity with our neighbours in need. Praying allows us to grow closer to God. Giving enables us to share what we have. Lent invites us to think about how we can help to create a more socially just world.

During the liturgical season of Lent, we are naturally drawn to the call of Almsgiving. Within the school, we will continue our conversation and learning with our students of 'why' it is important to support others during the season of Lent. We are called to put our faith into action to help our neighbours in need. What we message out, display, pray and teach can foster this learning and further the understanding of our Catholic call to action. Again this year, we have begun a collection of caring where donations will support the St. Vincent de Paul Society. We are collecting the following items during the month of March: cereal (e.g., boxed cereals, oatmeal, etc.), pasta (e.g., spaghetti/noodles, Kraft Dinner, etc.), canned goods (e.g., soup, canned vegetables, etc.) and toothbrushes and toothpaste. As well, you may wish to make a cash donation via SchoolCash online. Please give as generously as your situation allows. May God continue to bless each of your families this Lenten season.

Sincerely,

Heather Graham,  
Principal





## Fundraiser Update:

On February 16th the Professor Jamz School Fundraiser was held. The students had a blast at their glow in the dark neon dance party. With the selling of glowsticks (bracelets and necklaces), along with student collected donations we were able to raise \$7,133.42 which will be used for classroom resources. A donation of \$500 went to Caring for Cancer Community—South Coast. A big thank you to all the families who were able to support this fundraiser, and the Youth Leadership Team who sold the glow sticks. A special thank you to Mrs. Demeyere, Ms DeLauw and Mme Martin for organizing this fundraiser. What a great success!

## NEWSLETTERS, CALENDARS, and TWITTER

### STAY Current with School and Classroom Events!

- To access the school calendar, choose the 'Calendar' button on the main page. Once you reach the Calendar, there will be a 'printer' icon to print the monthly calendar.
- When you are on the webpage there is a Subscribe button to receive email notifications when new items have been added to our webpage. Stay up-to-date with alerts, news, upcoming events and more by subscribing.
- As well, please subscribe to the school's Twitter feed (@stjcatholic) to keep up to date with the daily events in our school.

## ALLERGY ALERTS!

There are students in our school with life threatening allergies to peanuts, tree nuts., dairy, crab, sesame seed, soya sauce, sunflower seeds, banana, avocado, and eggs. Even a trace amount from any of these items or food that has come in contact with these sources including cross contamination, can result in a life threatening anaphylactic reaction. The most serious reaction being respiratory difficulties, blockage of the airways, which if not medicated immediately, can lead to death.

To provide the minimal allergen environment, we need the support and cooperation of the parents/guardians and the school community. Students are asked to bring lunches and snacks free of these items as well as products that have the "may contain peanuts/tree nuts" warning on them. In keeping with Board policy, no peanut butter substitutes are permitted (e.g. 'Wow Butter'). Please read labels before sending food to school. Truly, this is a life saving measure. If you have caregivers who provide your child with lunches or snacks we encourage you to share this information with them.

We realize this request may require added planning and effort on your part when packaging your child's lunch and snacks, however, we wish to express our sincere appreciation for your support and cooperation. We cannot guarantee a nut free environment for students nor an "allergen free" area at our school, but with your help we can make our school as safe as is reasonably possible in this regard.

Thank you for your cooperation with keeping our students safe.



## Important Upcoming Dates:

March 7th—Big Crunch

MARCH BREAK—11th to 15th—no school

March 22nd—Mass

## PA DAY DATE CHANGE:

The Board PA Day originally scheduled for Friday, April 19, 2024, **has been rescheduled to Monday, April 8, 2024.**

This change is due to a **total solar eclipse occurring on Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>**. The eclipse is expected to **begin at approximately 2:00 p.m. and end around 4:30 p.m.**, coinciding with student dismissal times.



Please do your part to keep everyone safe by abiding by the parking signs posted on the roads, do not park in front or beside the school or block our neighbours' driveways. Pylons also help to indicate where you should not be parking to ensure busses are able to move within the streets around the school safely.

**A friendly reminder that the school parking lot is closed from 8:15-8:45 and 2:15-3:15 daily.**

Recently we have had too many vehicles enter and exit the parking lot when they shouldn't be and are putting the safety of students and staff at risk.

Please adhere to the above timelines as to when the school parking lot is closed. Thank you for your continued support to keep everyone safe.



## REACHING OUT for Lent 2024

### Support our Norfolk St. Vincent de Paul

February 14, 2024

Dear Families,

During this season of Lent, our school, along with our fellow Norfolk County Catholic Elementary Schools will be participating in this year's **REACHING OUT for Lent** campaign. The purpose of this campaign is to support our local chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Non-perishable items and monetary donations will be collected by our school. Collection items have been predetermined in conjunction with the St. Vincent de Paul Society. A list of items that are needed is provided below. Any assistance you can provide will be put to great use! We will be also collecting monetary donations using [SchoolCashOnline](#).

Items that are needed:

- |               |                     |                    |
|---------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| -Kraft Dinner | -Soup               | -School snacks     |
| -Pasta        | -Peanut Butter      | -Canned Vegetables |
| -Pasta Sauce  | -Jam                | -Tuna              |
| -Crackers     | -Canned Baked Beans | -Canned Pasta      |
| -Toothbrushes | -Toothpaste         | -Cereal            |

The campaign will begin on Ash Wednesday (February 14) and conclude on Holy Thursday (March 28). You can choose to send in any items listed above or donate to [SchoolCashOnline](#) between February 14, 2024, and March 28, 2024.

May God Bless your families this Lenten season. With your help, the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Norfolk will be able to provide our neighbours in need with renewed hope this Lenten season.