



## March 2026 Newsletter

### Administrators' Message

March 2, 2026

Dear St. Richard Families,

As we welcome the month of March, we are reminded of the many blessings that our Lenten journey offers. It is a season of renewal, whereas Deacon Thomas shared with us during our Ash Wednesday celebration this is our training season. Just as Olympians train for their respective sport, Lent is our training ground through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. We are all training to be part of Team Jesus and the ashes we received on Ash Wednesday is our team logo.

This month is filled with exciting opportunities that highlight the vibrant life of our school. We look forward to hosting our Open House on Thursday, March 5 from 6:00 -7:00 pm for prospective families, a chance to share the joy, warmth, and excellence that define our school community.

Our second Demonstration of Learning will take place on Wednesday, February 18 from 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm. This is a wonderful opportunity where families can witness firsthand the growth, curiosity, and skills that our students have developed throughout the year.

We are also excited to welcome families to our APEGA Family Science Night on Tuesday, March 24. This will be an engaging evening designed to spark wonder as we explore hands-on science together.

Other events to look forward to this month include our Jump Rope for Heart activities and our second T-Shirt Celebration of the year.

As always, thank you for your continued partnership and support.

Blessings to you all!

Alannah Muirhead  
Principal

Michel Gagnon  
Acting Assistant Principal

## Parent Council News

Our next parent council meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, March 12 at 6:30pm** in the library. We invite all parents and guardians to join us at our meetings.

Thank you to Parent Council for organizing and providing a Shrove Tuesday pancake breakfast for our students on Tuesday, February 17.

## Healthy Hunger

Parent Council is once again offering families the opportunity to order lunch for their children through Healthy Hunger. Thank you to Holly Karch for organizing this for our families.



The poster is titled "Healthy Hunger" in a large, green, playful font. Below the title, it says "MONTHLY HOT LUNCHES" in white text on a red banner. Underneath that, it says "PRE-ORDER FOR ENTIRE YEAR OPTION AVAILABLE" in red text. The main instruction is "LOGIN TO ORDER TODAY" followed by the website "healthyhunger.ca". A list of five steps is provided: 1. LOGIN OR REGISTER ACCOUNT, 2. ADD STUDENT, 3. FILL ALL INFORMATION (MAKE SURE TO SELECT CHILD'S SCHOOL AND GRADE), 4. ADD STUDENT, and 5. ORDER UPCOMING LUNCHES. The poster features logos for Pizza Hut, Boston Pizza, Subway, Tim Hortons, and Dairy Queen. At the bottom, it says "Questions? Contact strichardparentassociation@gmail.com" and includes an illustration of a hand holding a megaphone.

### Healthy Hunger Dates for 2025/26

March 13 - Pizza Hut

April 17 - Popeye's

May 8 Rice Bowl Deluxe

June 12 Dairy Queen

**Please note all orders are due at 11:59 pm the Sunday before the order is delivered.**

Volunteers are needed to help deliver the orders to the classroom. If you can help, please email [strichardparentassociation@gmail.com](mailto:strichardparentassociation@gmail.com)

## Demonstration of Learning

Our second Demonstration of Learning will take place on Wednesday, March 18 from 3:00 - 7:00 PM.

We welcome all families to come and celebrate all the wonderful growth, learning and progress our students have achieved these last few months.

## T-Shirt Celebration

We had our first t-shirt celebration in February. Our T-shirt celebration is an opportunity to build community in the school and celebrate our students. Each student will receive a T-shirt by the end of the year. Thank you to our Parent Council in supporting this initiative by purchasing the t-shirts for us. We invite our families to join us for our next T-Shirt celebration on Friday, March 20 at 9:30 AM in the gym.

## School intentions for 2026 – 2027

A reminder that families have until March 13 to inform the school of their registration plans for the upcoming 2026 - 2027 school year. Intentions for next year can be completed through your PowerSchool account. Stating your intention for the upcoming school year supports us in our work in planning for next year's classes. Thank you for completing this on or before March 13. If you need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

## Kindergarten and New to St. Richard Registration

Registration for the 2026-2027 school year is now open. We will be hosting an Open House on Thursday, March 5 at 6:00 PM for new families. We are encouraging everyone who is interested in having a child attend kindergarten or another grade level to come and learn more about our extraordinary school and programming. We would like to encourage our St. Richard families to talk to their neighbors about all the great learning opportunities taking place at our school. Word of mouth is by far the best way of advertising our school to the community. This is also a reminder that you can check out many of the exciting learning opportunities on our [Instagram](#) page.

## STEM in Action

St. Richard students recently took part in a school-wide Winter Olympics event!

As part of the challenge, students designed and built their own sleds with the goal of protecting an "athlete" as it raced down a bobsled course. They also learned about friction and created their sleds to gain speed and distance. They also modified their sleds with different materials to make them go slower.

Learners enthusiastically planned, built, tested, and refined their designs, engaging in hands-on problem solving and creativity. It was a fun and energetic day that showcased teamwork, innovation, and winter themed engineering skills!

## APEGA Family Science Night

St. Richard School is excited to host an APEGA Science Night!

Join us on **March 24, 2026**, from **6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** for an evening of exploration, creativity, and hands-on fun. There is **no cost to attend**—simply come and enjoy!

An Elementary Science Night offers engaging, interactive activities and demonstrations designed for students, families, and staff of St. Richard School.

Participants will enjoy engineering and geoscience themed stations that connect directly to the science outcomes taught in Grades 1 through 6. These activities are not only educational but also exciting and enjoyable for adults, making it a great family event. We look forward to seeing you there for a night of discovery and fun!

Please click [HERE](#) to register.

## Attendance

As we are past the halfway point of the school year, this is a reminder about the importance of regular and consistent attendance. We understand that occasional absences are sometimes unavoidable. However, we encourage families to prioritize attendance whenever possible and to reach out if your child is facing challenges that affect their ability to attend. Together, we can ensure that every student has the opportunity to succeed.

Please note that if students are away for extended vacations during regular instructional days, homework will not be provided. Students can access their google classroom account to see assignments.

If your child is late, please ensure they stop by the office to check in, receive a welcome slip and have their attendance updated. Accurate attendance of students is important so we know who is in the building and we can account for all students and staff in the event of an emergency.

## Supervision After School/Playing in the Park

As the weather begins to warm up, students may want to linger at the playground after school. Please note that supervision ends approximately 10 minutes after the bell rings. If you allow your child to stay after school, please note there is no supervision. It is recommended that all students go straight home from school and check in with their families first and get parental permission to return and play at the park.

## Parking and Drop Off

A reminder that the staff parking lot is for staff parking only and **should not** be used for student drop-offs. Street parking is available, and we ask that families use the sidewalks to walk around the perimeter of the school. We are seeing increased drop-offs in the staff parking lot and with staff arriving at various times throughout the morning this is a potential safety hazard. Also, please observe all posted signs for bus parking and use marked crosswalks for crossing the street. The safety of all our students and families is paramount.

## PAT Dates

A reminder that grade six students will be writing Provincial Achievement Tests in all four core subjects (language arts, math, science and social).

The administration dates are as follows:

- May 21 – English Language Arts, Part A
- June 4 – English Language Arts, Part B
- June 11 – Social Studies
- June 12 – Science
- June 15 – Math, Part A
- June 18 – Math, Part B

## Student Teachers

St. Richard is pleased to welcome three preservice teachers to our school. All preservice teachers will be starting on Monday, March 9 and will be mentored in the grades two, five and six classrooms. Families in these grades, please watch for an introduction letter from your child's preservice teacher in the coming weeks.

## Chaplain's Corner

The Lenten season calls us to reflect on how we can be more like Jesus, following his journey into Jerusalem, to his cross, and his resurrection.

As we prepare our hearts during this Lenten season, our focus is on the three main areas: almsgiving, prayer, and fasting. Jesus always welcomed the poor, the widows, the children, and the most vulnerable, and they are at the heart of our Catholic social teaching. So let us ask ourselves how we can be Hope for others and support them during this Lenten season.

## School Fees

We have several outstanding school fees. School fees were posted to Parent Power School accounts in September. Fee payments can be made online. If you are experiencing financial hardship, please contact the office to speak with Mrs. Muirhead to discuss how we can support you.

## Mark Your Calendars

March 5 – Open House for new families at 6:00 PM

March 8 – Healthy Hunger orders due at 11:59pm

March 12 – Parent Council at 6:30pm in the library

March 13 – Hot Lunch Day

Jump Rope for Heart Activities

March 17 – St. Patrick's Day- Wear green

March 18 - Demonstration of Learning 3:00 – 7:00 pm

March 20 – T-Shirt Celebration at 9:30 am

March 26 – Full Day, dismissal at 2:46pm, remember to pack a lunch

March 27 – Half day, early dismissal at 11:45 AM

March 30 – April 6 – Spring break – No Classes

April 7 – School resumes