

St. Martins Catholic School Newsletter

OCTOBER

Our Home Reading Program Begins!!

Your Child's Reading Level

Each spring our teachers complete a reading assessment with their students called the Fountas and Pinnell (F&P) Benchmark Assessment. This assessment reports to our teachers the reading level for each student. The reading levels are described by a letter code – A through Z. These levels can also be shared as a grade level equivalent, which means that when the assessment was completed for a student, the results place the student's reading level at the beginning, middle or end of year in a particular grade (for example, beginning grade 3). (At the bottom of this letter is the table that shows the letter code and the grade.) This information is collected at the end of the year to assist teachers in building an appropriate reading program for their students. Research indicates that students develop reading skill most efficiently, when they are working with material that is appropriate for their level.

Your Child's Reading Goal

At the back of our student agendas we have a page dedicated to creating student "Home Reading Goals". We are asking that our students complete the first goal section that leads us to November Student-Parent-Teacher conferences on November 4 and 5. In order for them to reach their goal, our students must participate in home reading. In the student agenda there is chart that sets how many minutes students must read each month to help reach their goal. To honor our student's hard work, students who read their total amount of monthly minutes will receive a charm for their home reading bracelet. We hope by making home reading a priority, our students will increase in their F&P Benchmark Assessments over the year much more quickly than in years past.

Your Child's Grit

We need parent/guardian support to make our Home Reading Program a success. Please be sure to help your child with home reading and take the time to initial their agenda each evening. Parents are the most important teacher our students will have in their lives!!! We are hoping that not only home reading will increase our students reading levels but that they will also continue to develop their perseverance and grit in reaching the goals that they set for themselves.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Dumont at josephd@eics.ab.ca or at the school by calling 780-632-2266.

Sincerely,

Joseph Dumont, Principal



Campbell's Labels for Education™

A school support program whereby registered schools collect labels from Campbell product labels and redeem them for educational resources ranging from sports equipment and musical instruments to video equipment and computers. St Martin's School will once again be collecting Campbell Labels. Please visit the link <http://www.labelsforeducation.ca/english/eligible.asp> to see a complete list of eligible products. (More than just labels from the soup cans!)

This year's goal has been set at 10 000 labels. Thank you to all who have started sending in labels. If you have any questions about the program, please contact Mrs. Welke.

Voice and Choice

This year at St. Martin's we have rearranged a number of classrooms from grade 1 all the way to grade 6. We have redesigned our rooms to increase student engagement and to offer more "voice and choice" to our learners. Instead of having carpets in the corner for reading time, they are front and centre, with benches around the outside for additional seating. There are also tables and groups of desks where students can choose to sit and complete work. When the school day begins, students choose a space that they would like to work and our teachers are helping them understand how they best learn and to make choices that will maximize their learning opportunities each day. Teachers may call their students in small groups to the carpet for discussion or direct instruction and then send their students off to work in a variety of spaces in the classroom. These redesigned classrooms will allow students to be more collaborative and increase their engagement in learning. It is very exciting because even though some of our classrooms have been around a while (like 100 years), the redesigns have made them feel new again.












Now this concept of creating student-centred spaces that offer student "voice and choice" is not new. During the past two years, we have sent a small contingent of staff to St. Timothy School in Edmonton, who have journeyed down this road a few years ago. We appreciate their leadership in this area, not to mention their amazing home reading program that they shared with us as well (starting in October). Thank you so much St. Timothy Elementary School!!!

In order to help make a vision of voice and choice happen at St. Martin's we decided to look for partnerships in our community. This past May, we hosted a luncheon at our school that was attended by many business and community leaders. We asked our audience for support for this initiative, which we called "The Alternative Environments Project" to reflect the altered learning spaces. We were hoping for a few donations to help us get started, but we were very surprised when one business donated \$3000.00 to help us begin this project. This money helped us purchase a number of carpets, benches, ottomans and storage containers to transform our classrooms. This tremendous donation was presented to the school last June from Flaman Rentals; thank you so much!!! We are very appreciative of your very generous donation and we are confident it will help our students learn.



OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Home Reading Program Starts October 1, 2015		1 Hot Lunch Meatballs with mashed potatoes	2 Gr 1 Rainbow Day Wear Rainbow Colors	3
4 Read in Week  Fire Prevention Week Oct 4-10 	5 Prayer Assembly 8:50am-4C Volleyball 3-4pm	6 Hot Lunch Chicken Noodle Soup Cross Country Running 3-3:45pm	7 Spirit Day Only one You!  Wear your favorite color Early Out 1:55pm Subway Day	8 Hot Lunch Rice Bowl with Chicken Buss Evacuation Practice ECS-Gr.6 Cross Country Running 3-3:45pm	9 P.D. Day No School	10
11	12 No School Thanksgiving 	13 Prayer Assembly 8:50am-4A Cross Country Running 3-3:45pm	14 Volleyball 3-4pm	15 Hot Lunch Super Chili with Pasta Guest Author Visit this Month Cross Country Running 3-3:45pm	16 Junior University Gr 2 Teaching Mass  Hot Dog Day! ECS M/W & T/TH ECS Bus Safety	17
18	19 Prayer Assembly 8:50am-30 Foundation AGM 6pm SAC Meeting 7pm Volleyball 3-4pm	20 Hot Lunch Chef Salad Cross Country Running 3-3:45pm	21 Volleyball 3-4pm	22 Picture Day Wear your smiles!  Hot Lunch Mac and Hamburger Casserole Cross Country Running 3-3:45pm (Last)	23 Junior University	24 Harvest Ball 
25	26 Prayer Assembly 8:50am-3S Volleyball 3-4pm	27	28 Volleyball 3-4pm	29 Hot Lunch Mashed Potatoes Ham	30 ECS M/W & T/TH	31  Happy Halloween



Boston Pizza

We do not have a parent(s) volunteer for Boston Pizza days this year, therefore we do not plan to run this service. If you are interested in helping organize the BPs day, please let Mrs. Dubuc know!

Thanks you.

Meet our Three Candidates for Mayor of St Martinsville!
From Left to right; Keaton Heisler, Emma Homeniuk, and Emma Gara



VOLLEY BALL IS BACK!

Thanks to our coaches, Mrs. Zacharkiwi and Ms. Austin we have two coed volleyball teams! We are very excited to get our season under way!!

"Welcome to the 2015 volleyball season for grade 5 and 6 students! Volleyball practices will be on **Monday's** and **Wednesday's** *after school* from **3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.** Make sure that your permission form is signed and returned to Ms. Austin. Bring gym clothes and running shoes. See you October 5th for our first practise! "



BREAKFAST CLUB NEWS

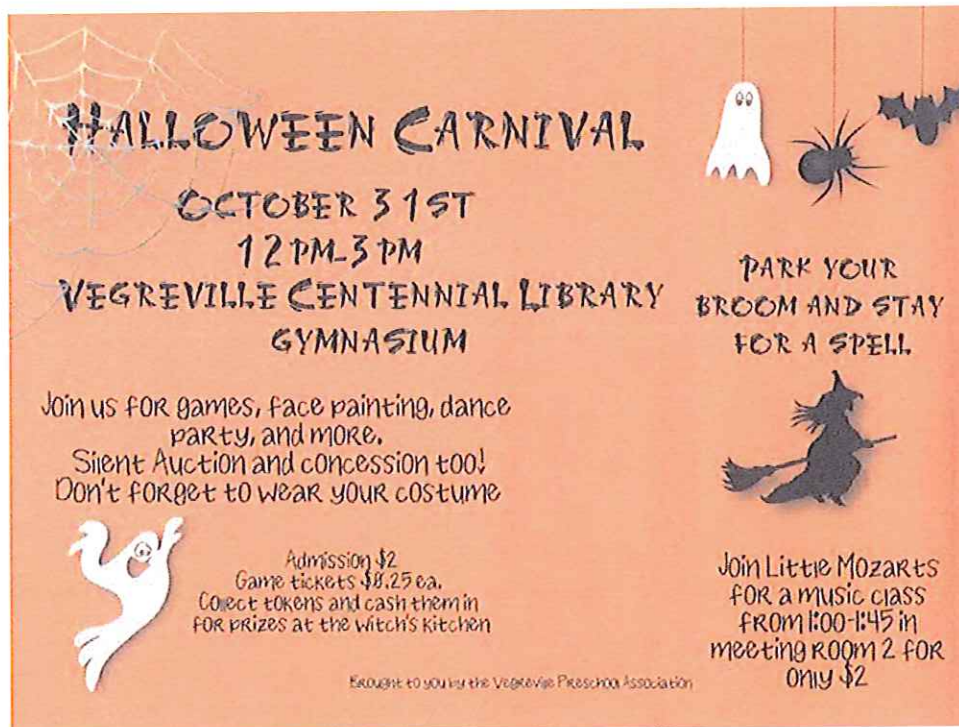
The Breakfast Club school snack program began on Tuesday, September 29th with snack delivery on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays until mid-June. All children are welcome to participate simply by returning their permission form to the school. Children with food allergies or dietary restrictions will be accommodated to the best of our abilities. Like us on Facebook (The Breakfast Club – Vegreville) to find information about weekly menus, program updates, and snack ideas.

Snacks are prepared by volunteers in the commercial kitchen in the Vegreville Early Children's Learning Center (Vegreville Preschool building) across the street from A. L. Horton elementary school. If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions, stop on by!

Thank you parents and guardians for all of your generous donations this fall. Thank you RJV Gasfield Services employees who held a fundraiser at their summer BBQ and raised over \$4500 in support of The Breakfast Club and to the TELUS Community Action team for a \$2500 grant! The community support for this program is much appreciated.

Heather Giebelhaus
Breakfast Club Coordinator
The Community Association for Lasting Success
Phone: 780 632 3225

The Tim Horton's Smile cookie campaign raised \$2492 for The Breakfast Club program! Thanks for eating all of those cookies!



HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL
OCTOBER 31ST
12 PM - 3 PM
VEGREVILLE CENTENNIAL LIBRARY
GYMNASIUM

Join us for games, face painting, dance party, and more.
Silent Auction and concession too!
Don't forget to wear your costume

Admission \$2
Game tickets \$8.25 ea.
Collect tokens and cash them in
for prizes at the witch's kitchen

PARK YOUR BROOM AND STAY FOR A SPELL

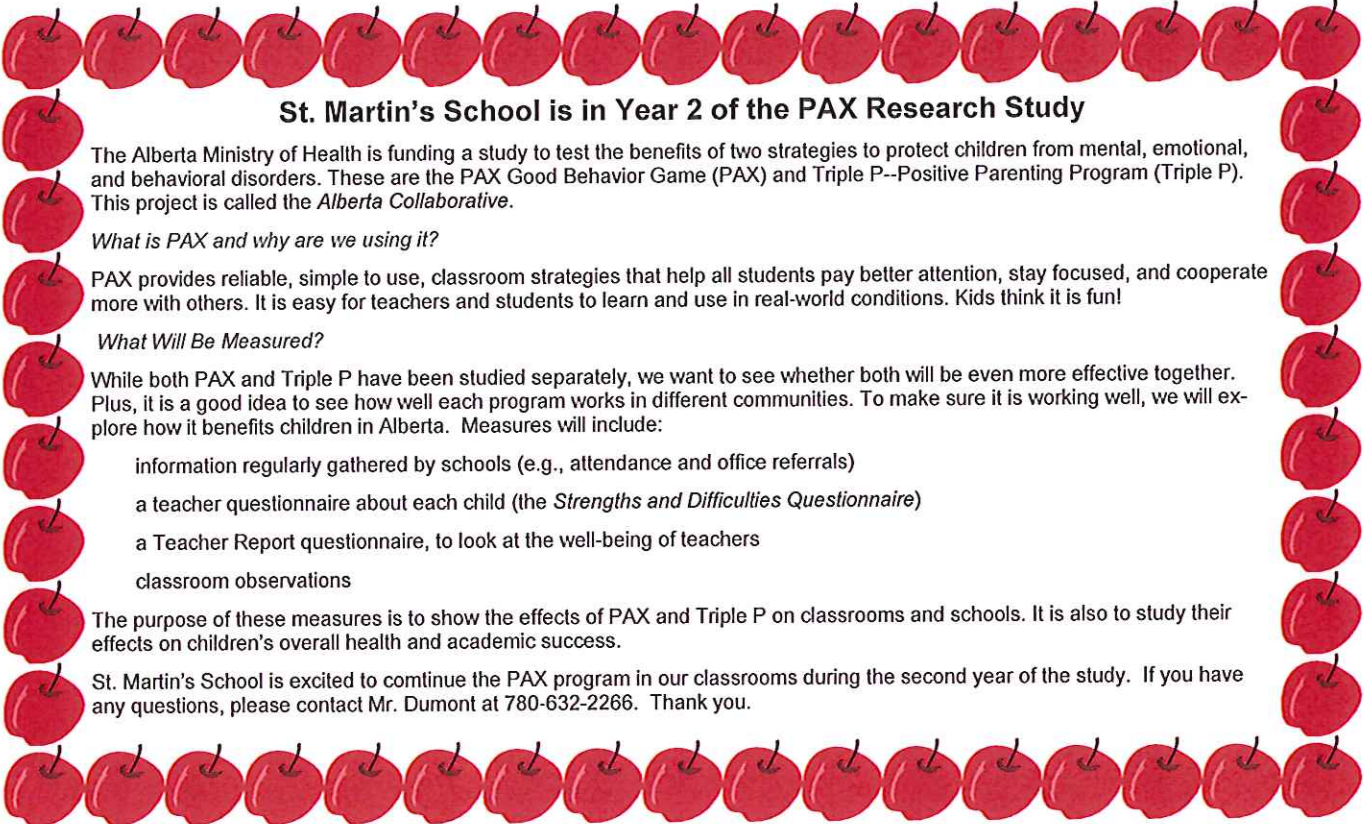
Join Little Mozarts
for a music class
from 1:00-1:45 in
meeting room 2 for
only \$2

Brought to you by the Vegreville Preschool Association



Terry Fox Run

Great job to St. Martin's School for all of their hard work in the community
Terry Fox Walk/Run on Sept 23rd! Our students were amazing!!!



St. Martin's School is in Year 2 of the PAX Research Study

The Alberta Ministry of Health is funding a study to test the benefits of two strategies to protect children from mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders. These are the PAX Good Behavior Game (PAX) and Triple P--Positive Parenting Program (Triple P). This project is called the *Alberta Collaborative*.

What is PAX and why are we using it?

PAX provides reliable, simple to use, classroom strategies that help all students pay better attention, stay focused, and cooperate more with others. It is easy for teachers and students to learn and use in real-world conditions. Kids think it is fun!

What Will Be Measured?

While both PAX and Triple P have been studied separately, we want to see whether both will be even more effective together. Plus, it is a good idea to see how well each program works in different communities. To make sure it is working well, we will explore how it benefits children in Alberta. Measures will include:

information regularly gathered by schools (e.g., attendance and office referrals)

a teacher questionnaire about each child (the *Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire*)

a Teacher Report questionnaire, to look at the well-being of teachers

classroom observations

The purpose of these measures is to show the effects of PAX and Triple P on classrooms and schools. It is also to study their effects on children's overall health and academic success.

St. Martin's School is excited to continue the PAX program in our classrooms during the second year of the study. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Dumont at 780-632-2266. Thank you.

St Martins Parish News

- ◆ First Reconciliation may register by calling the Parish office at
 - ◆ 780-632-3272.
 - ◆ Mass times as follows:
 - ◆ Wednesdays at 9:00am Saturdays at 4:30pm
 - ◆ Every first, and third Sunday Mass at 9:00am
 - ◆ Every second and fourth Sunday Mass at 11:15
 - ◆ Fifth Sunday's at 11:15

Holy Trinity Parish News

- ◆ Mass times as follows:
 - ◆ Saturdays 5:00pm
 - ◆ Sundays 9:00am(in Ukrainian)

St Martins Catholic School

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