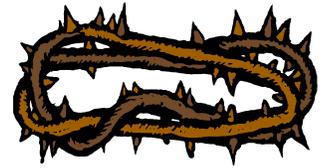




## From Mrs. Albert's Desk

March 2019



### Helping Children Understand Lent

-Adapted from "A Kid's Guide to Lent"

Easter is when we celebrate the rising of Jesus after his death on the cross. It is a great day: because of Easter, we don't have to be afraid, and we never have to be apart from God. But at one time, we were apart from God. To help your child understand this time and why Jesus died on the cross, we need to help them understand the holy season of Lent.

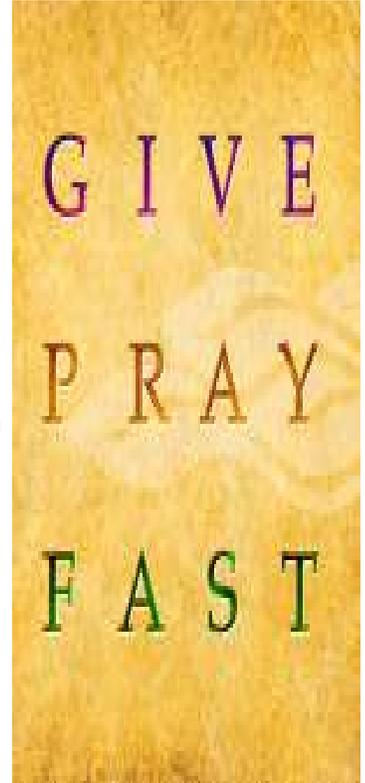
With our help, children

can understand that when we do things that are hurtful to others or God, that we are not close to Him. But on the first Easter Sunday, God said, "Even though people have done wrong and are far from me, Jesus has let himself be punished for the wrongs of other people." Jesus died to save us from sin, but through the resurrection He is alive again. Now when we do something wrong and feel far from God, we can run to Jesus and this will bring us closer to God.

During Lent we can help children remember what

what God did for us.

Even young children can see that if we clear away some of our "comforts", we make more room for God. Help your child select a comfort to give up during Lent, perhaps TV, treats, or video games, to provide the time and room for God. Children can use this time for quiet prayer, reflection, or charity work to help others. With our help, children will see that Jesus was the only one strong enough to overpower death, and that is why God sent him to save us!



### St. Patrick's Day Celebrations

Kingston Catholic School will observe St. Patrick's Day in several important and fun ways!

Kingston's annual Shamrock Run will kick off the St. Patrick's Day Parade which will be held on Sunday, March 10th. KCS will once again be joining in the fun by sponsoring a school team in the Shamrock Run, and having a division of walkers as well. KCS walkers will meet at Academy Green at 12:45. The run presents a unique opportunity for Kingston Catholic to not only get out and show our school pride, but to also let the community see that Catholic education continues to flourish in

Ulster County.

On Friday, March 15th the elementary school will come together as a school community of faith to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a school Mass at 9:00am. The Ancient Order of Hibernians will provide their beautiful bagpipers for the celebration and Father Burke will celebrate Mass. All of our KCS families and friends are welcome to join us.

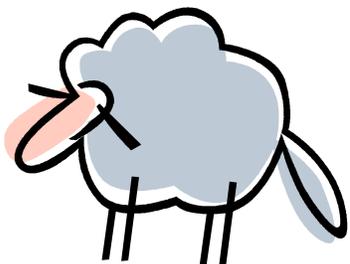
Monday, March 18th is a "Wearing of the Green" ~jeans and sneakers dress down day to benefit the Technology program at

Kingston Catholic. A donation in any amount will enable the students to participate in the fun. (Reminder: Middle School students may **not** wear leggings in place of jeans.)

We hope you will join us for the run on Sunday, March 10th. Please remember that children at the race must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and, we're sorry, but **pets are not permitted to join us on the race route.** As always, KCS families are encouraged to bring a friend from outside of our school community to join in the fun!



...in like a lion  
out like a  
lamb!



# Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math Projects Excite Young Minds

STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education takes many forms at Kingston Catholic. Each year, our program expands to include new stand alone events, clubs, and classroom projects.

Coding abounded at KCS this fall. "Girls Who Code" took place at the middle school, while a "Dot-Dash" robot was adopted by kindergarten, and Mr. Schuon, Ben and Colin's dad, hosted an elementary after school coding club. Learning to code improves problem solving ability, instills perseverance, and expands creativity.

Our 1st and 2nd grade students honed their spatial relationship, construction, and planning skills during Lego Club this fall. Look for the next session coming soon, for students in grades 3 and 4.

Mad Science returned to the elementary school this winter for students in grades 3 and 4. For the next session, look for sign-ups for 1st and 2nd graders in the family envelope on-line.

During Catholic Schools Week, the National Junior

Honor Society hosted a building competition that limited the competitors to dry spaghetti and marshmallows as building materials. The students created several impressive structures with these raw materials.

In music class, our third and fourth graders will learn to use wind instruments with the introduction of recorders. Mr. K. will be teaching his young charges the basics of these instruments including how air produces sound, and how pressure can change that sound.

Come spring, we will also have the joy of bringing our science studies outdoors to our school garden. Our younger students will take over the primary responsibility for the garden this spring. To start the process, students in grades Pre-K through four will soon begin seedlings in their classrooms to be transplanted outside. Donations of vegetable seeds, starter pots and trays, and potting soil are always appreciated.

At the middle school, Mrs. Balcanoff and Mrs. Dott are getting ready for Trout in the Classroom. Each year our

7th graders hatch, study, and release trout back into their natural habitat.

An exciting new middle school addition this year, are our Virtual Reality Goggles. With these goggles the students can travel around the world, inside the human body, or to outer space. Mrs. Balcanoff will pilot these new devices with her students this year, and come fall they will be available to all of our teachers and students. It is rewarding to offer our students so many STEM opportunities and watch them soar.



The production of this spring's musical is now in full swing! Ms. Tarcza and our talented students have been rehearsing non-stop and the results are already extraordinary! As a matter of fact, we all got a sneak peek of this talented cast in action during the February Family Assembly, and the students sounded great!

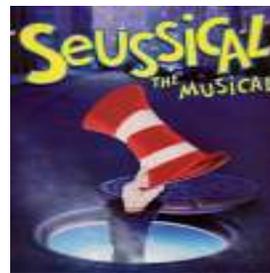
On the production end, our show is really beginning to take shape. Under the watchful eye of our set manager, Mrs. Hagerty, and with a helping hand from KCS friend, Mr. Pag-

notta, the sets are beginning to take shape.

As we have come to know, the costume committee is creating stunning costumes for our talented cast, the concession team is busy planning for before the show and intermission snacking, and the merchandising team is selecting show themed souvenirs. Lighting and sound bring the show to life, while the ticketing and house committees work on crowd control, and publicity seeks to spread the excit-

ing word of our show.

All of these committees need your help. If you wish to lend a hand, even if you do not have a child in the cast, please call us at 331-9318 and Mrs. Germano will gladly put you to work on this amazing show!



## Reading Between the Lines

Learning to infer, or "read between the lines," is one key to good reading comprehension. Consider the following tips from *Reading Connection* to help your student learn to make inferences when she reads. Pick a book, and read a few sentences to your child. Leave out words that name the setting. For example, "Sand stretched in all directions, cacti dotted the land." Can your child tell where the story takes place? Read fables with your children. After discussing the moral, ask your student to point out where in the story the moral is implied. When reading together ask questions that start with "Why do you think so...," or "How do you know...?" If your child is able to tell you how she knows the main character is lonely, happy, or confused, she can make inferences!