

# NEWSLETTER - ST. PETER THE APOSTLE



## Virtue of the Month: Responsibility

### Do the Math!

It is our dream that St. Peter the Apostle will become a Board leader in Math and Science. To that end, we will be working towards creating authentic learning opportunities for our students. This week, we will be starting our Math Problem of the Week program, with recognition given to all those who participate. A hands-on Science station will be established, and teachers will be encouraged to offer STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) activities.

### Learning to Code:

We will be welcoming Mr. Greg Money Penny of PowerOfCoding.com to two of our classes (Ms. Lyon's 5/6 and Mr. Cogswell's 7/8) starting October 8, for four Tuesdays. From there, we are hoping that the lessons will spread to all other classes.

### From Mr. Money Penny:

"Coding is the more common name for computer programming. Computer programming is the process of using a programming language to instruct computers and other electronic devices to do what you want. The instructions are code and that computer code is very important. Almost every electronic device you use today relies on code.

In addition to the expected outcomes, such as the enthusiasm surrounding the use of computers, learning to code brings with it a number of other more significant benefits to students. Students become content creators as opposed to mere content consumers. Equally important benefits include: increased patience, perseverance, persistence and resilience, as well as an openness to collaborate with others and share constructive feedback. Students also demonstrate an improved ability to focus and concentrate, and a greater desire to apply critical thinking to solve problems. Finally, students leave with a better understanding of the use of code in everyday life and an increased awareness of academic and career path possibilities in the field of technology."

*Catholic schools which always strive to join their work of education with the explicit proclamation of the Gospel, are a most valuable resource for the evangelization of culture.*

Pope Francis

Welcome back! I hope you had a chance to spend time with family and friends this summer, and that you have had a smooth transition back to the school year.

Our school board is currently involved in a process to assess and update our multi-year strategic plan, Our Faith ~ Our Future. As part of that process, the strategic planning committee is conducting a survey to gather feedback from all of you. The following is taken from the survey:

*The Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board (SMCDSB) is committed to providing a rich inclusive education for our students rooted in the traditions and values of the Catholic faith. Currently, we are working on our strategic plan which will set the vision, direction and priorities for our Board for the next 5 years. This Strategic Planning Survey is an opportunity for you to share your voice as part of our education community (students, parents, employees, community partners, etc), and will help to inform our decision-making regarding the SMCDSB's vision, goals and priorities.*

Please visit [www.smcdsb.on.ca](http://www.smcdsb.on.ca) and click on "Tell Us What You Think". Your feedback will help us to make the strategic plan as relevant as possible for Muskoka and Parry Sound.

Once again this year, students and staff will be guided by the theme of "Called to BE our Story". Classes will explore the theme through the gospel, how we take care of our earth, our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation, and our celebration of the diversity that is one of Canada's greatest strengths.

October is such a beautiful month! I hope that each of you has a chance to enjoy the stunning area where we are blessed to live.

God Bless,  
Carol Corriveau-Truchon - Trustee



### Math Problem of the Week:

The answer is 24. What is the question? Please be creative and submit answers to Ms. Eccleshall's mailbox at the office. Don't forget your name, and your teacher's!