



MFO MARCH NEWSLETTER

2026

◆ Leapin' Leprechauns! ◆

Throughout the month of March, our students will be hunting for four leaf clovers. Let the adventure begin! ◆ Also, join us in celebrating the arrival of spring!



ADMINISTRATION'S MARCH MESSAGE



Prayer



Fasting



Almsgiving

LENT

As each grade continues their "Lenten" journey and activities, we are reminded of the many blessings that are bestowed upon us. We will 'open our hearts' daily and remain focused on our gifts. It is in our compassion, understanding, and forgiveness for one another that we release the potential in all of us.

Through the sign of ashes, we received on Ash Wednesday, we are reminded that we have been called to be followers of Jesus. It is time for us to listen to life's questions, to reflect upon a different way of living, and to enter into a deeper relationship with God, and one another. This will be the central message we will carry in our hearts during the Lenten season. The students, and staff of MFO will find many ways to reach out and touch the lives of others. Let our light shine forth and may we ignite a light in others during our Lenten journey.

We ask for God's blessing as we continue our journey of "Belonging."

Principal Lily Kucy; Assistant Principal Robert Madunicky; Assistant Principal David Kiryluk

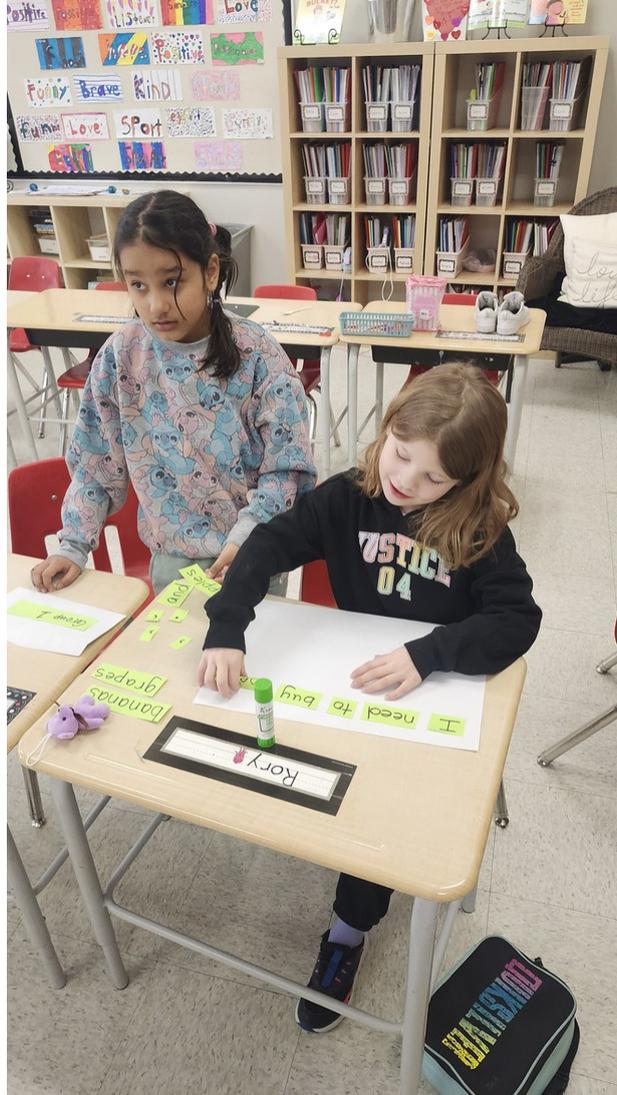
**EVERY CHILD,
EVERY DAY,
NO EXCEPTIONS**

2025/2026 SCHOOL FEES

💰 PAYING FEES PLEASE 💰

School Registration Fees support the operational decisions made and we are dependent on this financial support to carry out the educational goals set for the school year. **If you have not already paid the 2025/2026 School Registration Fees, please check your PowerSchool account for any outstanding balances.** Parents can access "Parent Portal" by going to the website <https://powerschool.ecsd.net>. Thank you for your immediate attention to this request. Thank you kindly.

💖 FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS 💖



ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE COACH MRS. LECKNESS

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

February was filled with a variety of hands on, high engagement lessons that build language and vocabulary along side curricular outcomes.

In grades 2 and 3A, 3C we have been strengthening math vocabulary and communication skills through Number Talks. During these discussions, students explain their thinking, listen to others' strategies, and solve problems in creative ways, all based on a visual prompt. These conversations build confidence, critical and creative thinking, and strong problem-solving skills.

In grade 3B & 3C, we focused on **conventions in writing**. Students worked together in small and large groups to unscramble broken sentences. Through this group work, students not only strengthened knowledge of the conventions of writing, but developed teamwork skills.

In grade 5, students learned about the **properties of Matter** through exploring and playing with slime. Through this sensory activity, students practiced using words such as *texture*, *density*, *compressibility*, and had fun identifying slime as a solid or liquid. Engaging with materials in a fun and interactive way helps students understand and confidently use new academic vocabulary.



INSTRUCTIONAL COACHES (I.C.'S) MRS. WOOLLEY; MRS. WALKER

IC'S FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

A NOTE FROM ERIN AND JEN

NOTE ABOUT FEBRUARY, a short month, but definitely not short on lots of fabulous learning happening around the school. Continue to sign up with us for support as we prepare for demo of learning. We are happy to help support and brainstorm more ideas of things to showcase. Please see some highlights below from February.

MOUSEBOTS MATH PROJECTS IN GRADE 5

- STUDENTS COMBINED COMPUTER SCIENCE OUTCOMES, ART, AND MATH TO CREATE GAME BOARDS TO SHOWCASE THEIR MATH FLUENCY SKILLS AS WELL AS THEIR CODING SKILLS.

SCHOOL-WIDE LENTEN PROJECT

- STUDENTS FROM ALL GRADES ARE PARTICIPATING IN A SCHOOL-WIDE LENTEN SOCIAL JUSTICE PROJECT WHERE THEY REFLECT ON THE THREE PILLARS OF LENT, AND TOGETHER WE CREATE A GIANT SCHOOL QUILT

READERS THEATRE IN GRADE 2

AFTER CONSULTING WITH OUR ELAL CONSULTANT, GRADE 2'S ENGAGED IN READERS THEATRE ACTIVITIES THAT WORKED ON FLUENCY AND EXPRESSION. THEY WERE SO PROUD OF THEIR PERFORMANCES!

CODING IN GRADE 6

GRADE 6 TEACHERS EXPLORED VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES IN TERMS OF BRINGING CODING ALIVE IN THE CLASSROOM AND LINKING IT TO CROSS CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

MORPHOLOGY IN GRADE 4

GRADE 4 TEACHERS HAVE BEEN WORKING ON ESTABLISHING BEST PRACTICE ROUTINES IN ELA, INCLUDING BOOK CLUBS, MORPHOLOGY AND VARIOUS WRITING PROJECTS

JUNIOR HIGH SCIENCE

JUNIOR HIGH TEACHERS CONTINUE TO WORK ON REFINING THEIR VISION FOR OUR FIRST EVER MFO JUNIOR HIGH SCIENCE FAIR. MORE DETAILS TO COME!

BRINGING THE OLYMPICS TO LIFE IN GRADE 1 AND 5

BOTH GRADE 1 AND 5 STUDENTS USED THE OLYMPICS AS A PLATFORM FOR INQUIRY-BASED PROJECTS, TYING IN LITERACY, MATH, ART AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION.



Important Dates Ahead in March

- March 9th - 2nd Carousal with ELAL and Math Consultants for Grades 3,4,5,6
- March 12th - Demo of Learning/Open House
- March 17th - St. Patrick's Day
- March 19th - SpacesEDU presentation for all staff
- March 26th- Full Day
- March 27th - Half Day -Spring Break begins!

IC's

February Highlights from our Instructional Coaches:

School Wide Initiative

- Lenten social justice project: reflecting on the three pillars of Lent and creating a collaborative school quilt.

Grade 1 & 5

- Olympics-themed inquiry projects integrating literacy, math, art, and Physical Education and Wellness.

Grade 2

- Reader's Theatre to build fluency and expression, supported by ELAL consultant.

Grade 4

- Focus on ELAL best practices: book clubs, morphology routines, and writing projects.
- Creating supportive writing resources for diverse learners.

Grade 5

- Mousebots project blending coding, math fluency, and art through game-board design.

Grade 6

- Exploring ways to bring coding alive through cross-curricular activities.

Junior High

- Science: Developing the first MFO Junior High Science Fair.

MATH INTERVENTIONIST EDUCATOR MRS. STEPHENS

MATH GAMES

During February, Mrs. Stephens continued her targeted math intervention work while also visiting Grade 3 classrooms to introduce a math game called Pickle, a number-comparison game that reinforces place value understanding. Grounded in the idea that games are to math as books are to reading, these classroom sessions gave students meaningful opportunities to think strategically, compare multi-digit numbers, and communicate their reasoning. Games also provide valuable practice time, allowing students to review and strengthen their learning in a supportive, interactive setting. Bringing this experience into the classroom supported students' confidence and strengthened the numeracy skills they continue to develop during intervention.



INSTRUCTIONAL INCLUSIVE COACH MRS. SWEETLAND

GRADE 2 PATHWAYS TO READING SUCCESS RESEARCH PROJECT

For the last 18 - 20 weeks, selected grade 2 students have been participating in a small group, word reading intervention project. We are so proud of their hard work and have seen their confidence grow in reading.



⚽ WINTER INDOOR SOCCER OLYMPICS ⚽



SOCIAL JUSTICE

This month, a group of junior high students demonstrated remarkable leadership, initiative, and commitment to our Catholic call to build community through service. A group of students organized a "Winter Olympic" themed intramural soccer tournament, taking it upon themselves to sign up students in each grade to form teams, assign countries, create game schedules, and ensure that all participants played in an atmosphere of joy, fairness, and respect.

What makes this project especially meaningful is the way it reflects our Catholic social justice teachings. By promoting inclusion and teamwork, these students live out Gospel values in a tangible way. This tournament is more than just a series of games, it is building community with one another. Students encourage one another, welcome peers of all skill levels, and create a space where everyone could participate and feel a sense of belonging. In a world that often emphasizes competition, our students model what it means to serve others with generosity of spirit. Their efforts are bringing our grade 6 students and junior high community closer together. The students are heading into playoffs soon and the top three teams will be awarded the GOLD, SILVER and BRONZE medals. We await in anticipation!





Indoor Soccer



Competitive



Fun





FEBRUARY SPOTLIGHT~ SERVICE AS ACTION

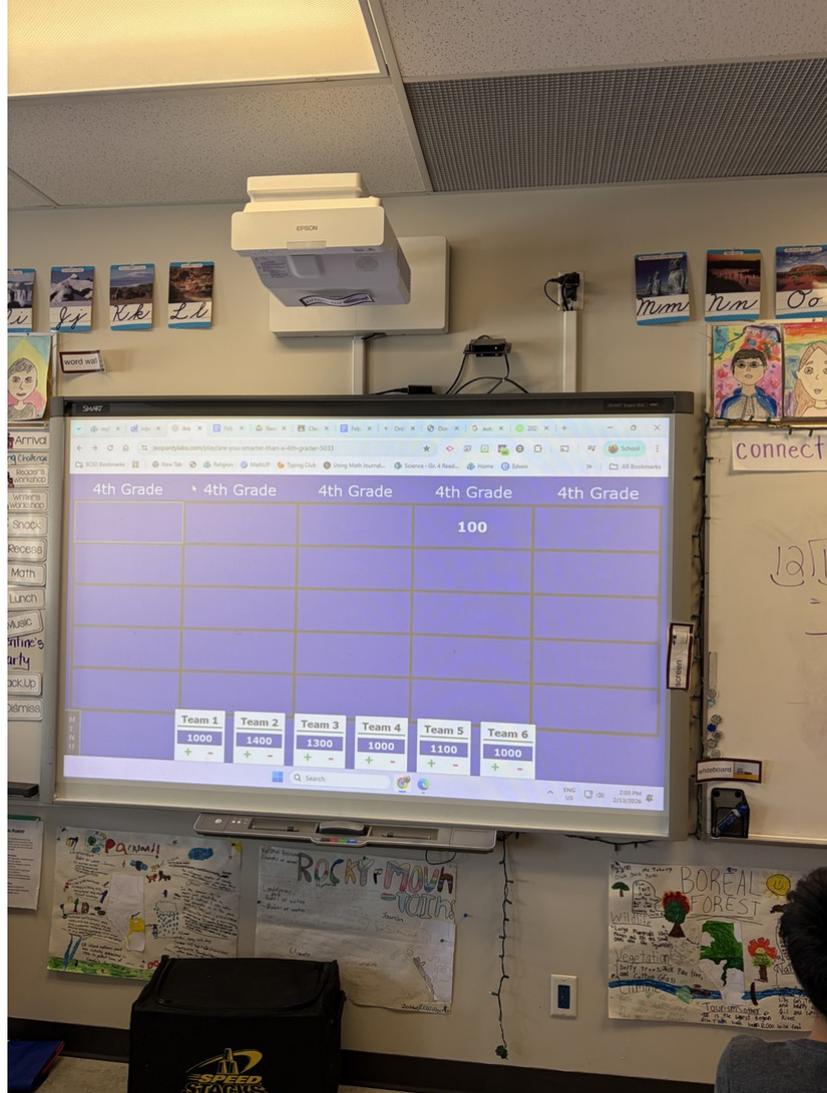
SPOTLIGHT ~ 📌✂️ GRADE 6C & GRADE 1C 🏠🏢

During Random Acts of Kindness Month, our 6C students engaged by spreading kindness in the city of Edmonton. The students engaged in a discussion regarding organizations and groups throughout our community and beyond who devote their time and services to others. In promoting learner agency, students facilitated and led the dialogue regarding what organization(s) they wanted to thank. Students created and designed personalized and inspirational kindness cards to bring joy and smiles to the seniors at the St. Joseph Auxiliary Hospital. These beautiful moments of love that were shared show us all that we truly are leaders of hope. Also, our primary students in grade 1C thoughtfully prepared and shared inspirational messages and uplifting quotes with the staff at MFO. Their heartfelt gestures brought joy, and encouragement to our community. We are grateful for their kindness and the positive impact their words had on our staff. Overall, these real life Random Acts of Kindness demonstrate how we bring joy, love, and a lived faith experience to others.





VALENTINE'S DAY ACTIVITIES & JUNIOR HIGH FLEX SESSIONS

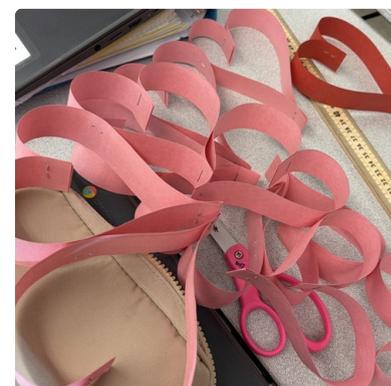


📅 FEBRUARY 13 💖

We were delighted to celebrate Valentine's Day with engaging activities across the school. Our elementary classes participated in a variety of themed centers, and games that brought so much joy to the day. For example, our grade 4 students engaged in "Are you Smarter than a 4th Grader?"

In Junior High, our FLEX sessions were a huge success as well, offering students opportunities to collaborate, explore their interests, and enjoy meaningful, hands on experiences connected to the Valentine's theme.

It was an exciting day for our entire school community, and we are grateful to our staff for their thoughtful planning and to our students for bringing such positivity and enthusiasm to the day.



Creating



Games



Foods



Fun Times



Centres



Junior High Students

SHROVE TUESDAY

February 17

With the support of School Council and school funds, we provided each student in Kindergarten through Grade eight with two delicious pancakes to recognize Shrove Tuesday as an important part of our faith calendar. Students began to feast on this day by enjoying some delicious pancakes topped with butter and syrup. "Shrove" is the past tense of "shrive," which means to gain absolution of sins by confession and repentance. Pancakes were traditionally eaten on the day before Ash Wednesday because they were a way to use up eggs, milk, and sugar before the fasting season of the forty days of Lent. Liturgical fasting during Lent emphasizes eating plainer food and refraining from foods such as meat, dairy and eggs in preparation for Easter. A massive thank you to our Parents, Mr. Madunicky and Mr. Kiryluk who helped deliver the delicious pancakes to all classrooms.



Delivering Pancakes



Sitting with Friends



Delicious Pancakes



ASH WEDNESDAY CELEBRATION

FEBRUARY 18

We entered the season of Lent on Wednesday, February 18. Ash Wednesday is a sacred and meaningful observance that sets the tone for the Lenten season. This significant day marked the beginning of the Lenten season, a time of reflection, repentance, and spiritual growth. Traditional Lenten practices include fasting, symbolizing self discipline and reliance on God; increased prayer,

deepening our connection with God; and almsgiving, demonstrating love and compassion towards others. These acts become a collective expression of our commitment to our faith and social responsibility. For our Ash Wednesday liturgy, we were blessed to have Fr. Julian as our celebrant. He took a moment to share how impressed he was with our students, noting their reverent behaviour and offering them heartfelt compliments. We are deeply grateful to the staff who planned and organized this beautiful and prayerful ceremony. A special thank you to our Grade 4 and Grade 5 teachers, Mrs. Harbin, our school chaplain, the Glee Club under the direction of Mr. Oberst for their uplifting music ministry, and our wonderful student lectors who proclaimed the Word.



🍀 MARCH ACTIVITIES 🍀

MFO STUDENTS HIGHLIGHT BEING PRINCIPLED FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH

PRINCIPLED

Being principled means that we act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.

How can parents help to develop students who are Principled at home?

We encourage families to continue these conversations at home by:

- Talking with your child about the importance of honesty and fairness.
- Praising responsible behaviour, such as completing chores, following routines, or resolving conflicts respectfully.
- Discussing real-life examples of principled actions in your home or community.

Together, we can help our students grow into young people who consistently choose to do what is right.

FATHER MICHAEL McCAFFERY GRADE 9 REGISTRATIONS

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

We want to inform our grade 8 families that the students will be visited by representatives from Fr. Mike McCaffrey on the afternoon of Friday, March 6 (12:30 pm). During this visit, students will be registered for Grade 9 courses. This is an essential step in ensuring a smooth transition for our students as they progress in their academic journey. Please ensure that your child is present. Students are asked to bring their completed Course Selection sheets with them that day to expedite the registration process.



📖 MARCH SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR 📖

📅 📖 📅 MARCH 10-12 📖 📅

Get ready, readers! The **Scholastic Book Fair** will be at **Monsignor Fee Otterson** once again from **Tuesday, March 10 to Thursday, March 12!**



The Book Fair is a great way for students to discover exciting new stories, favorite series, and all the latest must reads. Each class will visit the Fair during school hours, so your child will have a chance to explore and find books that spark their imagination!

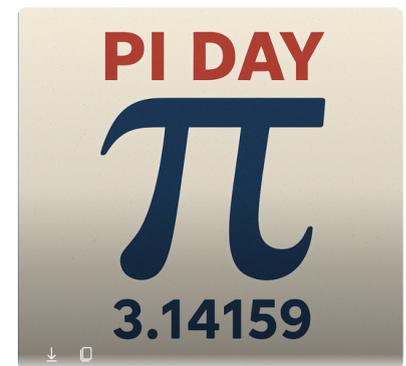
When you shop at the Book Fair, you're not only encouraging your child's love of reading but you're also helping our school earn new books and resources for our classrooms and library.

Thank you for supporting our readers and our school. We can't wait to see you at the Book Fair!

🍌 Pi DAY MARCH 14 🍌

MFO CELEBRATES WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

Pi Day is an annual celebration of the mathematical sign π . March 14 was selected because the numerical date (3.14) represents the first three digits of pi, and it also happens to be Albert Einstein's birthday. On Wednesday, March 11, there will be some activities related to Pi Day, and wearing costumes that are Pi related. We really encourage all students and staff to be creative in wearing Pi attire. We will be celebrating Pi Day on Wednesday, March 11, as our junior high students will be away on a field trip on Friday, March 13, and we will be hosting our Demonstrations of Learning on Thursday, March 12



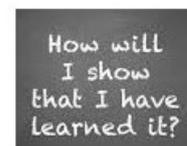
DEMONSTRATION OF LEARNING/OPEN HOUSE PARENT ENGAGEMENT EVENING



DEMONSTRATION OF LEARNING



KINDERGARTEN & JUNIOR HIGH OPEN HOUSE



EVIDENCE OF LEARNING

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

DEMONSTRATION OF LEARNING

MFO's Demonstration of Learning will take place on **Thursday, March 12 for all Kindergarten-Grade 8 students**. Our goal is to provide our students an enriching and empowering opportunity to demonstrate their learning and gain even more confidence with expressing what they are coming to know about themselves and the world around them. They are becoming engaged participants in shaping their own future.

A reminder that this evening is not a conference with teachers but rather student led, and therefore a wonderful opportunity for your child(ren) to showcase their learning, growth, and challenges.

OPEN HOUSE (6:00-7:30 pm)

MFO's Open House will take place on the same day as our Demonstration of Learning evening, **Thursday, March 12**. This event is designed to welcome families with children entering **Kindergarten** as well as those with students transitioning into **Junior High**. We will begin with a brief gathering in the **gymnasium**, where families will receive a short overview of school programming, supports, and learning environments. Families will then be invited to move through the school and visit classrooms, where they will have the opportunity to observe student learning in action (as they share **evidence of their growth, strengths, and their celebrated achievements**) and engage with teachers..

This combined event not only highlights the vibrant learning culture at MFO but also allows families to experience firsthand the instructional approaches and collaborative community that define our school.

Further details and scheduling information for both Demonstration of Learning and Open House will be shared in the coming days.



JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS AT MILLENNIUM PLACE



FRIDAY, MARCH 13

MFO junior high students will be heading to **Millennium Place** for an exciting, action packed field trip! Throughout the day, students will have the opportunity to enjoy a variety of indoor sports and recreational activities, engaging in movement, teamwork, and fun in a dynamic facility. This full day experience supports physical wellness, healthy living, and positive social interaction in an energetic environment. We are looking forward to a wonderful day of activity and school spirit! please ensure that your child comes prepared for the day. Students must **bring a packed lunch** and any additional snacks they may need.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY



WEAR GREEN



◆ TUESDAY, MARCH 17 ◆

This year, St. Patrick's Day is on Tuesday, March 17. We look forward to the possibilities of the "wee folk" visiting us in celebration of the Irish and in honor of St. Patrick's Day. In the spirit of St. Patrick's Day, we are asking everyone to be dressed in their favorite shade of green.



Find the Gold Coins



Chocolate Coins



**Find the Dancing
Leprechaun**

St. Patrick's Day Spirit! ◆



"May your troubles be less, and your blessings be more, and nothing but happiness come through your door."
- Old Irish Blessing

🍪HEALTHY HUNGER MARCH 17🍪

🍪CONFETTI SWEETS COOKIES FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY🍪

CONFETTI SWEETS COOKIES

SUNDAY, MARCH 12: DEADLINE

TUESDAY, MARCH 17: COOKIES



FR. MICHAEL MIREAU DAY

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

The Grade 8 students from our school will take part in Father Michael Mireau Youth Faith Day at St. Charles Parish for a full day. The annual ECSD event sees students gather for prayer, music, learning, and a celebration of our Catholic faith. This year's theme, Serve Like a Superhero, encourages students to use their God given strengths in service to others. This event, named in honour of the late Father Michael "Catfish" Mireau, has long been a meaningful experience for students. Known for his engaging use of pop culture, including lightsabers and superheroes, Father Michael left a legacy of reaching young people in ways that helped them see faith as joyful, approachable, and alive.



📚SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL/PARENT FUNDRAISING ASSOCIATION MEETING📚

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

Our next School Council meeting will take place on **Wednesday, March 25 at 6:30 pm** in the staffroom. Your voice matters, and your perspective plays an essential role in shaping the experiences and opportunities we create for our students at MFO. By participating, you help strengthen our school community, support collaborative decision making, and ensure that diverse viewpoints guide our work. We truly hope to see you there.

☀️🌻 **SPRING BREAK** ☀️🌻

🗓️ **MARCH 30-APRIL 3** 🏠🌳

Thursday, March 26 - FULL DAY OF CLASSES

Friday, March 27 - DISMISSAL AT NOON

There will be **no classes** for students from **March 30- April 3**
Happy Spring Break... Enjoy your time with your family!



Smore

Beautiful class updates in a snap

