

# CHALK TALK

FOR TODAY'S CLASSROOM

$$Y + 2\frac{1}{15} = ?$$

$$Y = 7$$

$$x + 21^3 =$$



## CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION BULLETIN

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During the week of January 29th, 2012 catholic schools throughout the United States will celebrate **Catholic Schools Week**. The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2012 is "**Catholic Schools: Faith. Academics. Service.**" Schools in our Diocese will typically celebrate Catholic Schools Week with Masses, open houses and activities for students, families, parishioners and the community at large. This is a wonderful opportunity to share who we are as schools dedicated to excellence with the parish community as well as the broader community.

This year the Catholic Schools Week 2012 logo is a rectangle, with the words Catholic Schools in red across the bottom of the rectangle. The "t" in Catholic is a purple cross and from the right top corner of the T/cross is an undulating green banner with words in white lettering that proclaim, "Faith. Academics. Service."

The theme focuses on three priorities that Catholic schools establish that make them stand out from other educational institutions. **Children are taught faith** – not just the basics of Christianity, but how to have a relationship with God. **Academics**, which in Catholic schools are held to very high standards, help each child reach his or her potential. **Service**, the giving of one's time and effort to help others, is taught both as an expression of faith and good citizenship. (Source: [www.ncea.org/news/CatholicSchoolsWeek.asp](http://www.ncea.org/news/CatholicSchoolsWeek.asp))



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## Celebrating Valentine's Day February 14

The celebration of Valentine's Day has its foundation in legend and mystery. Who was St. Valentine and why do we celebrate his feastday with so much commercialism?

Who was St. Valentine? It is believed that he was a priest who rose to distinction after betraying Emperor Claudius in 270 AD by conducting wedding ceremonies. Claudius, it is reported, claimed that married men made poor soldiers and decreed that all marriages of younger citizens would be outlawed. Valentine, however, maintained that marriage was part of God's plan and purpose for the world. He continued to conduct marriages in secret between young people in the name of love.

In conducting these marriages, Valentine incurred the displeasure of Claudius. He was jailed and ultimately beheaded. Before his execution, it is believed that he passed a note to the jailer's daughter which read "from your Valentine."

This story blossomed into the tradition of Valentine's Day. Each year an estimated one billion cards are sent, making it the second largest card-sending holiday of the year behind Christmas. (Source: BBC. 2012)



Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Colossians 4:5-6



*"Turn away from sin and believe in the Gospel."*

"Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, prayer, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday."

"The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration the previous year. The ashes are christened with Holy Water and are scented by exposure to incense. While the ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts. His divine mercy is of utmost importance during the season of Lent, and the church calls on us to seek that mercy during the entire Lenten season with reflection, prayer and penance." (Source: [www.catholic.org/clife/lent/ashwed.php](http://www.catholic.org/clife/lent/ashwed.php))



God our Father,  
You formed us from the dust of the earth  
And brought us to new life in Christ  
Through the waters of Baptism.  
We ask you to change our hearts  
As we journey through these forty days of Lent.  
Help us to see Jesus in everyone we meet,  
And to serve him in all persons,  
Especially the poor, the sick and the lonely.  
By your grace, may our prayers and sacrifices this Lent  
Help us grow closer to each other and to you,  
As one family in Jesus.  
We make this prayer to you in His name.  
Amen.

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## How Will You Celebrate and Remember?

Check out the sites listed below for ideas on how you can celebrate Black history Month in your classroom...



- [www.educationworld.com/a\\_special/black\\_history.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_special/black_history.shtml)
- [www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/16-ways-celebrate-black-history-month](http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/16-ways-celebrate-black-history-month)
- <http://fun.familyeducation.com/black-history-month/holidays/32871.html>
- [www.asalh.org/blackhistorymonthorigins.html](http://www.asalh.org/blackhistorymonthorigins.html)
- <http://urbanext.illinois.edu/bhm/>

### Quote of the Month

"It is a greater work to educate a child, in the true and larger sense of the word, than to rule a state."  
William Ellery Channing

**Leap Year**  
(an extra day / 24 hours / 1440 minutes / 86,400 seconds)




What is Leap Day? Why do we have an extra day this year?

Here's the history: The Romans originally had a 355-day calendar. To keep up with the seasons, an extra 22 or 23-day month was inserted every second year. For reasons unknown, this extra month was only observed now and then. By Julius Caesar's time, the seasons no longer occurred at the same calendar periods as history had shown. To correct this, Caesar eliminated the extra month and added one or two extra days to the end of various months (his month included, which was Quintilis, later renamed Julius we know it as July). This extended the calendar to 365 days. Also intended was an extra calendar day every fourth year (following the 28th day of Februarius). However, after

## Feast Days in January & February

### January

January 24	St. Francis de Sales	
January 25	The Conversion of St. Paul	
January 26	St. Timothy and St. Titus	
January 27	St. Angela Merici	
January 28	St. Thomas Aquinas	
January 31	St. John Bosco	

### February

February 02	The Presentation of the Lord	
February 03	St. Blaise	
February 06	St. Paul Miki and companions	
February 08	St. Jerome Emiliani	
February 10	St. Scholastica	
February 11	Our Lady of Lourdes	
February 14	St. Cyril and St. Methodius	
February 21	St. Peter Damian	
February 22	Ash Wednesday	

Caesar's death in 44 B.C., the calendars were written with an extra day every 3 years instead of every 4 until corrected in 8 A.D. So again, the calendar drifted away from the seasons. By 1582, Pope Gregory XIII recognized that Easter would eventually become closer and closer to Christmas. The calendar was reformed so that a leap day would occur in any year that is divisible by 4 but not divisible by 100 except when the year is divisible by 400. Thus 1600 and 2000, although century marks, have a Leap Day.

The calendar we use today, known as the Gregorian calendar, makes our year **365.2425** days only off from our solar year by **.00031**. This correction amounts to only one day's error after 4,000 years." (Source: [www.mystro.com/leap.htm](http://www.mystro.com/leap.htm))

Some great fun facts for those of us lucky enough to be born on a day that comes around every four years.

- You have a 1 in 1506 chance of being born on February 29th
- About 200,000 people in the US & 4.1 million people in the World are Leap Day Babies based on the US Census Population Clocks
- Sunday on Feb. 29 has occurred only three times from 1900 to 2000: in 1920, 1948 and 1976. After 2004, the next year it will happen is 2032. Happens every 28 years. (Source: [www.mystro.com/leap.htm](http://www.mystro.com/leap.htm))

## Special Days in January

National Blood Donor Month!

January 24	Compliment Day
January 28	Fun at work Day!
January 31	Backwards Day

## Special Days in February

National Black History Month!

February 01	Nat'l Freedom Day	
February 02	Ground Hog Day	
February 04	Thank a Mailman Day	
February 10	Umbrella Day	
February 11	Make a Friend Day	
February 14	Valentine's Day	
February 17	Random Acts of Kindness Day	
February 20	Cherry Pie Day & Presidents' Day!	
February 22	Be Humble Day	
February 28	Nat'l Tooth Fairy Day	
February 29	Leap Day!	



## DID YOU KNOW?

- \* Leonardo Da Vinci invented scissors.
- \* Between 1931 and 1969 Walt Disney was awarded 35 Oscars.
- \* Most lipsticks contain fish scales.
- \* Instant coffee was invented in 1901.
- \* Dairy products account for 29% of all food consumed in the U.S.
- \* Before 1850 golf balls were made of leather and were stuffed with feathers.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

	<i>Elementary</i>
February 10	Early Childhood Workshop Ursuline Education Center 8:30am-2:30pm
	<i>High School</i>
February 06	H.S. Theology: Living as a Disciple West Side Irish American Club 8:30am-2:30pm
	<i>All Grades</i>
January 24	Cohort Meeting Master Catechist Office of Catholic Education 3:30pm - 6:30pm
February 07	Resident Educator - East Ursuline Education Center 4:00pm-6:30pm
February 08	Resident Educator - South St. Michael's Woodside 4:00pm-6:30pm
February 08	Cohort Meeting Master Catechist Office of Catholic Education 3:30pm-6:30pm
February 09	Resident Educator - West St. Joseph Academy 4:00pm-6:30pm
February 16	Cohort Meeting Master Catechist Office of Catholic Education 3:30pm-6:30pm
February 17	Digital Citizenship Academy St. Thomas More 4:00pm-6:00pm
February 17	Religion Curriculum: Live Session West Side Irish American Club 8:30am-2:30pm
February 23	Social Studies: Technology Integration Mary Queen of Peace 3:45pm

### Where to Register? Have Questions?

[www.oce-ocs.org/oce/register](http://www.oce-ocs.org/oce/register)  
Mary Polevacik, Administrative Assistant  
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### *Need Assistance? Have Questions or Concerns?*

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