



November 18, 2011

Dear Parents,

On Friday, November 25, 2011, our school, along with all schools in the Edmonton Catholic district will be commemorating the first annual Holodomor Memorial Day. This recalls the genocide inflicted upon the people of Ukraine in 1932 and 1933 that resulted in millions of deaths through starvation. St. Martin will also commemorate this event in a special way. We hope to have our students not only recall the events and pray for the victims, but also in a symbolic way, get a sense of what it's like to truly be hungry. In consultation with the School Parent Society, we will be remembering the victims of the Holodomor as follows:

On Friday, November 25, 2011, we ask that students not bring any recess snacks, nor a regular lunch. Instead, all staff and students will take part in a "Hungry Lunch". We ask that each child and staff member bring a lunch **of only one of the following** three choices:

- 1) A rice cake and a piece of cheese.
- 2) Three crackers with a piece of cheese
- 3) One slice of bread with or without butter

Only water will be allowed as a drink on this day. If a child requires certain nourishment during the day for medical reasons, please inform the classroom teacher with a note or through email.

Knowing this is for the duration of only one day, and that by late afternoon, children will be able to eat as they would normally, we as your school leaders believe that the memory of the victims of Holodomor, especially the children, will be properly remembered. We hope to have 100% participation. The day will also include a formal Holodomor Memorial Day program from 9:45 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

- ❖ Entrance Procession with candles and a prayer.
- ❖ Pan Podilsky to say a few words explaining the Holodomor.
- ❖ Grade 6 reads the story *Enough*
- ❖ Introduction of Guest Speaker
- ❖ Guest speaker – Holodomor Survivor Leonid Korowyk
- ❖ Explanation of Words to the Music Video *Svicha*
- ❖ Music Video *Svicha* by Oksana Bilozir
- ❖ Moment of Silence with Final Prayer
- ❖ Children will quietly leave. On the way out, for a recess "snack", children will receive one piece of cracker and a medicine cup size cup of water

Children and staff are to wear dark clothes on this day (black is preferred) in honour of the victims of Holodomor

Parents, grandparents and friends are welcome to join us. Please call if you have any questions

Thank you,
Pan Podilsky – Principal St. Martin School