

"Out and About"

All Saints Catholic Elementary School Council Newsletter

January / February 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS:

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 15TH 7 p.m. – The Loyola Catholic School Council is hosting “**Facebook 101**”, a presentation by **Chris Vollum** on the popular social networking site and the privacy issues surrounding its use. [A must see for parents!](#) All Saints has invited Mr. Vollum to come speak to our students during Catholic Education Week, but we feel that this is a very important presentation for parents to see as well. There is no cost, and no need to register in advance, just show up and be enlightened. The presentation will be in the Loyola cafeteria.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 16TH – Is our next Extreme Pita lunch date.

ALL SAINTS MATH NIGHTS 7 p.m. – 8 p.m. starting in the library
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 17 & TUESDAY FEBRUARY 22



FACING YOUR FEAR OF MATH HOMEWORK!



Our School Council applied for a government “**PRO**” grant (**Parents Reaching Out**) and were successful with our application for “**Facing your Fear of Homework**”. As parents, we recognize that the math curriculum, math vocabulary and teaching methods have changed since we were kids. These math nights are intended to update parents on some of those changes and offer opportunities to improve math literacy at home through games (primary) and web help (intermediate). All kindergarten and primary students will receive a math game kit and we will be demonstrating some of the games during the evening. The Intermediate information session will focus on the Dufferin Peel Catholic School Board’s math homework interactive website, where teachers answer questions on-line. The programs run at the same time, so if you have children that fit into both categories, parents may need to split up, or you can choose to attend both nights. Please return the RSVP slip so we can get an idea of the number of participants. Refreshments will be served. Many thanks to **Mr. Vecchiarino, Ms. Kosmirjl, Mrs. Huntsman and Mr. Castro** for their support in planning these evenings. Also, a very special thank you to volunteer parents **Charlene Durant and Jill Washington**, who took on the challenge of planning, purchasing and assembling the game kits.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 18TH 7 p.m. MOVIE NIGHT: “Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs”
Fresh popcorn, cookies and drinks will be available for purchase. If you can volunteer to help with set up, clean up, concessions and security, please contact Lori Graham at ldgraham@rogers.com. A reminder to all parents, that this is not a “drop off event”. Students must have at least one parent along with their group in order to attend.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

Thank you to all the families who donated warm clothing in January for **Dr. Simone's Canadian Food for Children Charity**. A group of our grade 8 students delivered the bags to the warehouse, loading them directly onto containers that will be shipped to South America. The plan is for all of the senior students to have a turn going to the warehouse to experience first hand, how Dr. Simone's charity reaches out to children and families around the world.

UPCOMING OUTREACH

Sharelife (Feb/March), Autism Awareness (April), and Soap for Hope (May)

SHARELIFE:

In February and March, our Outreach focus will be on collecting for the **St. Ignatius Loyola Sharelife Campaign**. Last year students presented Father Joe a cheque for just over \$3,000, and we hope to meet or beat that target this year. Students will be encouraged to donate money for various Spirit Days, the Sharelife hockey game (Intermediates vs. Staff) and the Sharelife Dance on March 11th. The whole premise of community outreach is to help those less fortunate, and the Sharelife campaign supports many Catholic charities. Rather than just hand over change to kids to support these fun events, encourage your children to reach into their piggy banks or help out at home to earn the money. Perhaps they would be willing to forgo a treat at the Dollar Store and donate the loonie instead! We hope to plant the seeds of empathy, generosity and kindness in our children at an early age so that they grow up believing in reaching out to others as Jesus taught us.

O.A.P.C.E. & D.R.A.P.C.E.

O.A.P.C.E. is the **Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education**. It is a non-profit organization that was founded in 1939. O.A.P.C.E. advocates for and is the voice of parents of children enrolled in publicly funded English Catholic education. Learn more about O.A.P.C.E. and find links to homework supports and faith resources at www.oapce.on.ca. D.R.A.P.C.E. is the Dufferin-Peel Regional Association of Parents in Catholic Education. This council represents schools in the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. Information on D.R.A.P.C.E. can be found on www.oapce.on.ca/drapce.

One of the major concerns these organizations address is the threat to Catholic Education through political change. Other provinces have lost the Government support for Catholic Education and we do not want that to happen in Ontario. Both organizations also host interesting speakers and information sessions which are outlined on their websites. One upcoming event, **March 4th**, is an evening for girls aged 12 -17 on "Dressing with Dignity" and the complicated issue of Friendship. A poster is on our community board and more information can be found on the websites above, registration is limited.

FANTASTIC FRIDAYS: To date we have raised over \$3,500 from our Fantastic Friday pizza program. Our goal by the end of June is \$7,000. Please drop off all ticket orders to the office in the basket marked Fantastic Friday. If you haven't already gotten one from the website, please fill out a ticket order slip from the basket. Each week, 2 tickets will be drawn from those submitted that day and the winners will receive a free slice of pizza the following week. Thank you for your support!

EXTREME PITA: The remaining dates for our Extreme Pita lunches are February 16th, March 23rd, April 20th, May 18th, and June 15th.



SPRING FUNDRAISER: KERNELS POPCORN

Once again we will be selling Kernels popcorn as our Spring Fundraiser. As per the Council budget that was sent with the December newsletter, we have to raise \$5000 in this fundraiser to achieve our budgetary goals. We have met that number in the past two years with the Kernels popcorn campaign and hope to meet them again in 2011. One of the only other options that could have raised this amount of money is a chocolate bar program, but due to changes in government and board regulations, it was determined not to be the healthiest choice.

Similar to last year, a form will be sent home asking you to confirm that you are taking a case of popcorn. The accurate count is needed as we are very restricted in allowable returns for this program. You may also order additional cases if desired. **If you do not return the form, you will receive one case of popcorn to sell.** There are 30 bags of popcorn (10 each of butter/salt, white cheddar and caramel) with the total value of the case being \$60. The Council would appreciate if you return a cheque for \$60 as soon as possible and then sell or consume the popcorn at your leisure. **If you do not wish to sell the popcorn and return the form opting out, please consider that we still need your contribution for a successful year!** The profit per case is \$25, and some families last year decided to make a cash donation in lieu of selling the popcorn.

KISS N RIDE

Many thanks to **Barry Derks, Mauro Di Domenico and Suzanne Rutherford** who take over the Kiss N Ride duties once the teachers go inside. Remember that they are VOLUNTEERS and they are out there in the cold, wind, rain, snow helping keep our focus on safety when entering the school. Please follow their directions in order to keep everyone safe: your children, their friends, colleagues and classmates and the parent volunteers as well. Please remember that Kiss N Ride is a very beneficial volunteer-based program; we ask that you be considerate of other drivers and our volunteers, and keep the children safe.

Also note we do not have a Kiss N Ride program in the afternoon. **We continue to request that you not park in the driveway when picking up students at 3:15 p.m.** Parking is available in the teacher lot on the south side of the school or keep in mind that many streets around the school have walkways through to the school. The school bus and several after school program vehicles do not have enough room to park and pick up students.

We hope that everyone enjoys the Family Day holiday on Monday February 21st. For all those travelling south around March Break, we wish you safe travels and a rejuvenating holiday.

God Bless,

Susan Baird

Council Chair

contact: susancurls@hotmail.com

School website: www.dpcdsb.org/ALLST.