

"Out and About"

All Saints Catholic Elementary School Council Newsletter

October 2011

TIMELY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

COMMUNITY MEETING: Just a reminder that All Saints will be hosting an information meeting with representatives from Peel Police and the Neighborhood Watch organization. The meeting will be held in the school gym on **Tuesday November 1st from 7 – 8 p.m.**

CANDY FOR KIDS: We will be collecting extra Halloween Candy this week that will be donated to Dr. Simone's **Canadian Food for Children**. Our grade 8 students will be delivering the candy this **Friday November 4th** to Dr. Simone's warehouse. The candy is used to stimulate the appetite of starving children in South America, so they will be more inclined to eat the healthier items like rice and beans. All Saints does a lot of work over the course of the year for Dr. Simone and we are proud that our grade 8 students are able to go to the warehouse and work alongside other volunteers at Canadian Food for Children.

MR. SUB: Our next Mr. Sub lunch is on **Wednesday November 9th**, orders are due into the office on **Thursday November 3rd**. Additional order forms are available in the office.

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR:

Well, we survived the crazy month of September getting our kids back on a routine and into school, getting all the programs at the school up and running and the frenzy of preparation for the All Saints Fun Fair. I'd like to thank the Council Members and parent volunteers who have gotten us off to a great start.

Elections were held on Wednesday September 21st and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the School Council for the 2011 – 2012 school year. Returning members: **Lori Graham** (Vice- Chair), **Carolyn Simpson** (Fundraising / Special Events), **Belinda Dei** (now Secretary), **Barry Derks** (Parish Rep), **Eva Lehman** (Education Rep), **Adrianna Stranges** (Community & Safety), **Rosanna Marotta** (OAPCE Rep), **Diane Rogers** (Parent Rep), **Roosevelt Fernandes** (Treasurer) and **Susan Baird** (Chair). New members include **Suzanne Rutherford** (Parent Rep), and **Christine Sbrocchi** who will assist with Fundraising/ Special Events. The Teacher Representative is **Mrs. Falconi** and the non- Teaching rep is **Mrs. R. Caves**.

I would also like to thank **Mirella DiDomenico** who after three years as Council Secretary has stepped down this year. Mirella, we thank you for your contribution – and would love to have your carrot cake recipe!

Council Meeting Dates:

November 8th January 10th February 21st April 10th May 8th

Meetings occur in the school library at 7 p.m. and all parents are welcome to attend. Please note that the June meeting date and location are TBD.

As Council Chair, I will try to communicate any updates on programs, community outreach and events through this monthly newsletter. It will now go out electronically but hard copies will be available in the office for those that need them. Every year before the School Administration or Council can send out information electronically, Mrs. Caves must reconcile the email addresses and permission forms that go home with all students on the first day of school. It is a tedious job and we are supremely blessed to have Mrs. Caves in the office not only for her administrative skills but also for the compassion and love she shows the children each and every day.

The ability to communicate electronically is not only environmentally friendly but it saves money (paper and copying costs) and we hope to reach more parents by having a direct link. Please note that Council newsletters, order forms and event announcements can be referenced at your convenience on the All Saints Catholic School website www.dpcdsb.org/ALLST. Click on the "School Council" heading to find these items and you can print them off at work or home if necessary.

CARS & THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS:

In September of this year, a young student riding his bike to school was hit by a car turning into the driveway. By the grace of God, a good helmet and the high carriage of the SUV, the child was not seriously hurt. However the trauma his parents and other witnesses experienced that day will last a lifetime.

When the Kiss N Ride **volunteers** are out there every morning directing traffic, it is for the safety of all the students. Please follow the Kiss N Ride guidelines, obey their directions and practice the virtue of patience. If your child can't exit the car on their own, parents should park on the road and assist them as necessary. As the drop off traffic always increases on bad weather days, please give yourself lots of time in the morning.

After school, there is to be no parking in the driveway with the exception of school buses and after school program vehicles. There is only one teacher to assist students onto the bus, and no other monitors available to watch out for the children's safety. In recent weeks, we have seen an increase in the number of cars parking illegally in the driveway at 3:15 p.m. In the last week or so, I have been out front asking parents to move their vehicles out of the driveway and I thank you for your compliance. Parking is available on the streets in and around the neighborhood and in there are a limited number of spaces in the south parking lot of the school. **The safety of the students should always trump parental convenience.**

We encourage families to dress for the weather and walk to and from school. While this is not always an option for some families due to distance, work or activity timing, please consider relieving some of the car congestion when you can. Also there are many parents that have infants or toddlers in the car and we want you to know that most of us have been there! Bundle the little one up for the weather to pick up siblings or get to know some of the other parents who are around at 3:15. Perhaps you will find a neighbor or another parent who can walk your child to the car.

FALL FUN FAIR:

The 5th annual Fall Fun Fair was a success once again and I would like to thank Co-Chairs **Christine Derks and Belinda Dei**. The committee and volunteers worked hard to make the day a great one in the community. A letter outlining the Fair fundraising results, thanking the volunteers and acknowledging our donors will be sent home shortly. Please make note of the local vendors who sponsored the All Saints Fair, as their generosity greatly impacted our success.

We also thank the families of All Saints for their silent auction donations and for coming and enjoying the Fair despite the cold weather. While chilly, there was something for everyone and it was nice to see so many families enjoying their day together.

FANTASTIC FRIDAY:

We got off to a rough start with the whole wheat pizza but I am pleased to report that orders are back up to normal. We thank you for your patience as we worked with the vendor to improve the offering. We have had a lot of positive feedback from students, staff and parents. We would like to continue to encourage families to buy tickets as it makes the ordering process a lot quicker for volunteers on Friday mornings. Order forms are available online or in the office at \$15 for a sheet of 10 tickets. Ticket orders are usually filled by volunteers on Thursdays.

FROZEN YOGURT:

Strawberry/ Banana and Vanilla/Chocolate Swirl frozen yogurt is also available on Friday mornings at a cost of \$1.25. Tickets sheets can be purchased for \$15 for 12 tickets. Order forms are available on line or in the office.

MILK:

The lunch milk program is underway and we are finding that sales are down over last year. While we know the price has gone up by \$0.05 to \$0.80 per carton, we were hoping that parents will continue to choose this healthy option for their kids. The drink machine that carried bottled water and 350 ml canned juice is no longer in service. Any juices sold through the school must be 100% juice and no larger than 250 ml.

If you missed the milk order deadline, please note that you can join the program anytime throughout the year. Also parents don't have to order milk daily to participate in the program, you may select any or all days of the week. This is a prepaid program and order forms are available on line or in the office. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Arbour at kathyarbour@rogers.com

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Thank you to the families of All Saints for your generosity during our Thanksgiving Food Drive. All of the food was boxed and will be picked up by the Eden Community Food Bank. As mentioned on the first page, November's outreach is a global one. We are collecting Halloween treats this week for Dr. Simone's Canadian Food for Children, which will be delivered by our grade 8 students on Friday November 4th.

Our December outreach has traditionally been local, the **St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Basket Campaign**. We have gotten word from the St. Vincent de Paul representatives at the Church that the donation requests will be changing this year to gift cards only. My understanding is that the intention is to empower the parents to purchase appropriate gifts for their children for Christmas. We don't have all the details yet but we have the Parish reps coming to our Council meeting on November 8th to give us more information on the process. We will update you as soon as this information becomes available.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS:

As always, the programs we run are successful due to the parent volunteers that give their time. Police checks are a requirement for volunteers that will have interaction with students; forms are available from Mrs. Caves and can be dropped off at our community police station at Glen Erin/The Collegeway. If you have completed a criminal reference check in the past for All Saints, you will need to sign the annual declaration and confidentiality letters for 2011/2012. These are available in the office from Mrs. Caves or Lori Graham. For more information on various volunteer opportunities, please contact Lori Graham at ldgraham@rogers.com

Susan Baird – Council Chair: contact at susancurls@hotmail.com

