



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Catholic Elementary School



299 Landsbridge Street

Bolton, Ontario

L7E 2K4

Phone (905) 951-8788

Fax (905) 951-8798

September 2009

Dear God of New Beginnings

Bless the community of St. John the Baptist Catholic School and all its members:

students, parents, school staff, administrators, our pastoral team and trustee.

Help us to know how much we need each other,

and to always remember how much we need you.

Make this school a home of truth and wisdom, of faith and goodwill toward all.

May it truly be a place of compassion, peace, joy and hope.

Through the prayers of St. John the Baptist help us to realize your kingdom of justice,

light and peace.

Loving Father, listen to our prayer which we offer to you,

through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

As we collectively begin a new school year, I wish to extend a sincere welcome to all students and their families. I am starting my third year as principal here at St. John the Baptist Catholic School with much continued excitement and positive anticipation. I am looking very much forward to furthering my role as part of a school community where students, staff, parents and our parish team work together to create a safe, caring and positive learning environment that reflects our Catholic values and traditions.

Each day of this school year will bring with it the miracle of a new beginning. The year will be filled with the excitement of new learning as each continues to embrace their learning / teaching with passion and conviction. Many of the moments ahead will be marvelously disguised as ordinary days, but each one of us has the opportunity to make these days into something extraordinary.

I hope that you and your families had an opportunity to rest and rejuvenate, enjoy quality time with family and friends and grow closer to God during the summer months. A special and warm welcome is extended to families joining our St. John the Baptist Catholic School community this year and trust that you will soon feel comfortable in your new surroundings. I look forward to meeting all of you over the next few weeks as we start our new school year together.

May God bless you and your loved ones with health, happiness and above all help us to make this school a home of truth and wisdom, of faith and goodwill toward all.

M. Cockburn
Principal

Principal: M. Cockburn
Vice Principal: M. Clarot
Secretaries: L. Grant and
N. Cavaliere

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

P. McMorrow
905-890-1221

TRUSTEE

F. DiCosola
905-951-8898

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

Rev. L. Leger and
Rev. S. Holandez
905-857-1938

ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Chair: C. Guilianelli
905-951-8788



QUOTE

"Leave the world a little better.
Never doubt the power of one
person to make a difference."

Charlotte Diamond

VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE

As we begin a new school year we would like to inform you that St. John the Baptist School, is an allergen aware (Nut Free) school. There are pupils in attendance who suffer from severe and life threatening allergies to certain foods, such as peanut and nut products. Exposure to the smallest quantities can cause severe life threatening reactions. Anaphylaxis is a severe and life threatening allergic reaction. The most common allergen triggers are food, insect stings, medications, exercise and latex. An anaphylactic reaction involves symptoms from two or more body systems. **We would appreciate the cooperation of the entire school community by NOT sending any lunches or snacks that contain nuts, nut oils or derivatives (eg. peanut butter, peanuts, or peanut oil) which could potentially harm a pupil.** Please avoid send-

ing food for birthday or special occasions. There are many alternatives such as stickers and pencils.

If you have any questions please talk to your child's teacher or the school staff.

We look forward to our co-operation in making this a safe year for all our pupils.

Please see attached anaphylaxis school plan for more details regarding this very important issue!



ATTENDANCE VERIFICATION PROGRAM

If your child is going to be absent from school, please call our office to report his/her absence before 8:30 am on the day of the absence. You may call at any time and leave a message on the answering service. Thank you for your assistance in this student safety initiative.

905-951-8788

PA DAY

Friday, September 18 is a PA day and there will be no school for students on this date. The day will be used for reorganizing classes, if necessary, and for curriculum and faith development for staff.

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

The school classroom organization and student placements have been completed as per school board projections from last spring. Final school organization and staffing decisions are based on September enrolment numbers. If enrollment numbers are significantly different from projections, classroom reorganization may be necessary. This process involves some students being reassigned to different classes and teachers. If this reorganization is necessary, more detailed communication will be forwarded to parents later this week.

NEWSLETTERS

Newsletters will be sent home with the youngest or only child in the family once a month during the course of the school year. The only exception will be the month of March. Due to March Break we will send out a combined February/March Newsletter.

Newsletters are meant to serve as a means of communication between home and school. They will inform you about various school activities, programs, routines, reminders and so forth.

The newsletters will be supplemented by letters concerning special events, trips, religious celebrations, etc.

Newsletters will be sent home on the **FIRST FRIDAY** of each month.

If you do not receive one, please ask your child(ren) where they have put it. If they have lost it, please call the school and we will send another home with your child.



WHAT'S NEW ?

Every school year brings changes. We thank those teachers and staff members who have left St. John the Baptist Catholic School and who gave excellent service to the students entrusted to their care over the years they were here.

Welcome to **Mr. P. McMorrow**, our new Superintendent of our Family of Schools and **Mrs. Clarot** our new vice principal. We wish them well and much success in their new roles.

A special welcome to the following staff new or returning from leave to St. John the Baptist Catholic School:

- Mrs. Hogeveen - Junior Kindergarten
- Mrs. Morizio - Grade 3
- Mrs. Quarato - Grade 6

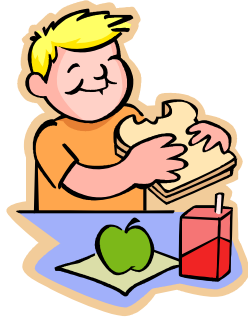
We thank them in advance for their dedication to the students of our school.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Special thanks to **Mr. Ciccone**, **Mrs. DiBiase**, **Mr. Thomson** and **Mrs. D'Arpino** for their hard work in making the school look great for the students. Please encourage your children to help keep our school clean and tidy for all to enjoy! Sincere thanks are also extended to **Mrs. Cavaliere** and **Mrs. Cafagna** for all of their assistance in our school office during this very busy time.

LUNCH DELIVERIES

When delivering your child's lunch to school, please advise your child in advance that you will be doing so and write his/her name and the teacher's name on the bag. A table to accommodate these lunches has been set-up in the front foyer of the school. Your child can come down during his/her lunch hour to pick up with minimal disruption to the class. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.



SCHOOL PICTURE DAY

Individual student and class pictures will be taken on Friday, October 16. Further information will be forthcoming closer to this picture day.



EARLY RELEASE DAY Monday, September 28

SEPARATE SCHOOL TRUSTEE

The Separate School Board Trustee for our school is Mr. Frank Di-Cosola. If you have a concern regarding School Board Policy or how it affects you as a Separate School Supporter, you may reach him by calling the num-

ber which is listed under the Serving Our Community Section found on the front cover of the Newsletter.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

An active and enthusiastic School Council is essential to the success of any school. Sincere appreciation is extended to all those parents who participated in the School Council last year. Your efforts have contributed to the education and development of all of our students here at St. John the Baptist Catholic School.

Elections and/or the selection of executive positions for the 2009-2010 School Council will be conducted at the first council meeting of this year on **Tuesday, September 29, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.** Self nomi-

nation forms will be available in the office during the period of September 21 - 25 for anyone interested in being part of the School Council executive for the school year 2009-2010. **The deadline for submission of these forms is 4:00 pm on Friday, September 25.**

Please mark these dates down in your calendars and do come out and participate.

YOUR PARTICIPATION IS VERY MUCH NEEDED!

SAFE SCHOOLS IN DUFFERIN-PEEL

Initiatives and efforts will continue this year to make St. John the Baptist Catholic School a safe environment for all of our students. Procedures are in place to ensure that strangers do not have access to our school and the comprehensive approach to minimize bullying will be continued. This approach includes participation from public health professionals, police officers, child service agencies, students and school staff. Teachers will continue to incorporate lessons from the Region of Peel and Town of Caledon program to teach students non violent approaches to solving problems. Please cooperate with and support our various safe school initiatives.



Our annual school "Open House" / "Meet the Teacher" evening is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 23**. Again, this year we plan on holding a BBQ to begin our Open House. The BBQ will be held from 5:30—6:30 p.m. and teachers will be available to meet parents in their classrooms / resource rooms from 6:30—7:30 pm. Please be reminded that the intention of this evening is for parents to meet their child's teacher (s) and to become informed about grade level curriculum and classroom routines. This format does not allow for detailed individual discussions with teachers about how your child is progressing. Please mark this date and time on your calendars and we look forward to seeing you here at your child's school.

FAITH—OUR VIRTUE FOR SEPTEMBER

Faith is the great virtue of believing in God and trusting that God is with us. A faithful person believes that we are created, guided by and destined to be reunited with God. A faithful person believes that God's plan for us includes the right to be safe, especially at school.

A faithful person ...

- Prays regularly and reverently
- Learns from Scripture stories
- Honours people's God given names
- Assumes that there is good in everyone

TERRY FOX SCHOOL WALK / RUN DAY

The Fall of 2009 marks the 29th anniversary of the amazing and courageous charity run of Terry Fox. A Terry Fox charity event will be held here at St. John the Baptist Catholic school on Friday, September 25.

Further details will be sent home with students soon.



PROMOTING A HEALTHY AND SAFE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT DROPPING OFF CHILDREN

Thank you very much to all those parents who are using our front driveway drop off lane as it was intended. **Please be reminded that cars should never be parked or left unattended in the front lanes of our school.** If you need to escort your child to the school or yard, please park in the visitor parking area or on a local side street.

EXCURSIONS AND FIELD TRIPS

Educational trips which extend learning opportunities in curriculum areas do take place. Teachers need to follow appropriate Board procedures. A limited number of trips may be planned by teachers.

BY LAW the school must have on file permission forms which must be signed by the parents/guardians. If on the day of the excursion your child did not return his/her form, and the parents/guardians cannot come into the school to sign the permission forms, the student will remain at the school. VERBAL TELEPHONE PERMISSION IS NEVER ACCEPTABLE.

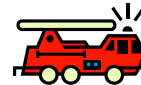
CCAT TESTING

During the week of October 19—23, the grade 4 students will be administered the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test. The results of this test are used to identify students who may be eligible for academic challenge programming. These tests will be conducted within the regular classroom environment.



EMERGENCY INFORMATION

It is important that we are able to contact you during school hours. We have on record telephone numbers for home, work and an emergency contact person. In order to keep our records up-to-date, please update the Student Verification Sheet that will be sent home soon with your child.



EMERGENCY INCIDENT POLICY

We have a detailed fire/emergency evacuation and lock-down policy. We will be practicing many times over the course of the school year. **You need to know that in case we have to evacuate the school, our evacuation site is Allan Drive Public School.**

A REMINDER: Students must wear shoes in the school building at all times. If the fire alarm goes off, students will not be permitted to stop to put on shoes, coats, hats etc. Their safety is our first priority. **Please ensure that your child has an extra pair of shoes at school during the winter months.**

WEB SITES

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

www.dpcdsb.org

Peel Health

www.peelregion.ca

Ontario Ministry of Education

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca>

INSTRUCTIONAL TIMES



The following is the daily instructional schedule for St. John the Baptist Catholic School:

8:30 am	Student supervision by staff begins in the school yard. Please do not drop off or send your children to school prior to 8:30 am.
8:45 am	Entry and school day begins
10:12-10:27 am	Recess Grades 1 - 8
11:15 am	Junior kindergarten dismissal
11:47 am - 12:47 p:m	Lunch break
12:47 p:m	Entry and afternoon Instruction
2:12 - 2:27 pm	Recess Grades 1 - 8
3:15 pm	Dismissal

Please note: Our lunch hour and morning and afternoon recess times have been slightly changed to better accommodate our daily instructional schedule. There has been no change to our start or end times.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Every effort will be made by your child's teacher to keep you informed of his/her progress and involvement in class. If you wish to speak with a teacher, a note sent with your child requesting a call is usually sufficient. If, however, you wish to contact a teacher by telephone, please telephone the office. If the teacher is not available you are asked to leave a message.

We also ask your consideration in NOT dropping into classes unannounced during school hours. **If your child is late and you are bringing him/her to school, or if you come to school to meet your child or to pick him/her up for an appointment we respectfully request that you check in at the office and SIGN your child IN or OUT. The SIGN IN BINDER is located in the office.**

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL AND SIGN-IN PROCEDURES

FOR SAFETY REASONS WE ARE REMINDING THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY THAT ALL VISITORS MUST REPORT TO THE OFFICE AND SIGN IN. THE SIGN-IN BOOK IS LOCATED IN THE OFFICE. PLEASE DO NOT GO INTO THE YARD OR TO YOUR CHILD'S CLASSROOM WITHOUT SIGNING IN FIRST AND RECEIVING APPROVAL.

REMEMBER, TO YOUR CHILD YOU ARE THE PARENT....TO THE OTHER STUDENTS YOU ARE A STRANGER. SO ONCE AGAIN...PLEASE REPORT TO THE OFFICE FIRST AND SIGN IN.

STUDENTS MUST SIGN IN OR OUT WHEN:

- THEY ARE LATE ARRIVING TO SCHOOL IN THE MORNING OR AFTERNOON
- THEY HAVE A NOTE FROM PARENTS ASKING THE SCHOOL TO DISMISS THEM EARLY FOR APPOINTMENTS ETC.

NO STUDENT IS TO BE DISMISSED DIRECTLY FROM THE CLASSROOM BY TEACHERS OR PICKED UP AT THE CLASSROOM BY PARENTS/GUARDIANS ETC.. ALL MUST COME TO THE OFFICE AND SIGN IN OR OUT.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers play an important part in the life of any school community. At the school level, they help to enhance the learning opportunities available to students. They can make a difference in the academic life of a student. They assist students with reading, writing, academic drills and reinforcement and other activities that help to improve specific areas of need. (Please see the "All Star Reading" attachment of this newsletter.) **Any one working/volunteering in our school must have a criminal reference check completed by the local police service.** Please contact the school office if you are interested in volunteering.

DRESS CODE

It is not our intention to usurp your responsibility for determining appropriate grooming and dress for your children. At the same time, there is an expectation that all students be clean, neat and appropriately dressed.

Students should dress in a manner conducive to good behaviour and to the creation of a good educational atmosphere in the school.

We ask for your continued support for a dress code which reflects the school as a place for serious work, accompanied by standards of sensitivity, politeness and decorum.

DISTRIBUTION OF MEDICATION

Should you require that the school store epipens for your child please contact the office. There are forms that need to be completed by you and your doctor. **IF YOUR CHILD HAS A LIFE THREATENING ALLERGY, PLEASE CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY. WE NEED TO KNOW!**



CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES ACT

Within our school system, every person who has reason to believe that a child is or may be abused or neglected must report his / her suspicions directly to the Children's Aid Society.

Please read the attached letter for further details of this legal matter.

BOARD POLICY FOR PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES (PEDS)

A reminder to our students and visitors that personal electronic devices such as cell phones, i-pods, cameras, etc. are not to be used on school board property or during school related activities, such as field trips and sporting events. Students who carry cell phones for safety reasons must have these turned off and stored away and out of sight during school hours.



BUS SAFETY

Ensuring student safety is a very important goal to all working with students. You are asked to review carefully the following rules for students while riding the school bus.

Students are required to:

- be at the bus stop at least 5 minutes before the pickup time.
- listen to the driver when getting on or off the bus, especially when a road must be crossed.
- go directly to their seat and stay seated until they are let off the bus.
- follow all instructions from the bus driver, especially where they put their belongings
- not eat or drink, fight, swear or engage in other types of poor behaviour
- not open or close windows unless the driver permits

- keep all belongings inside the bus
- keep arms, hands, heads etc. inside the bus
- not damage the bus seats (students will be held responsible)
- respect private property

Every effort must be made to maintain a high standard of discipline and safety in the operation of the school busses.

When improper conduct is reported:

On the **FIRST** occasion, the Principal/Vice-Principal will speak to the student.

On the **SECOND** occasion, a letter or phone call will be made to the parents.

On the **THIRD** occasion, the Principal/Vice-Principal will restrict / suspend bus privileges.

TRANSPORTATION: COURTESY RIDER (EMPTY SEAT) POLICY

Every year we get numerous calls from parents who do not live within the transportation areas as established by the Board requesting permission for their child(ren) to ride the bus by accessing the Empty Seat Policy.

In the very near future, we will be distributing empty seat applications. If you want to apply for an empty seat for your child(ren), please have your child pick up the forms at the office.

PLEASE NOTE: If new students register who are entitled to transportation, and the bus is loaded to capacity, then students that have accessed the Empty Seat Policy will be removed from the bus.

STUDENT "ON TIME" ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL

Parents are asked to ensure that their children arrive at school before the beginning of classes in the morning and afternoon. Students arriving late lose valuable organizational time at the start of instructional time. We continue to designate the time from 8:45—11:00 am as our Literacy Block for our language arts programming.

STUDENT AGENDAS

Again this year students (grades 2 - 8) at St. John the Baptist Catholic School will be using school agendas / organizers to help develop organizational skills and encourage timely completion of assignments. This year students will be required to pay \$5.00 for their agendas.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

"As required by the Education Act and the Ministry of Education, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board annually provides parents with information about cost-effective student accident insurance coverage via student courier. Although enrolment is voluntary, the board encourages parents to take advantage of the inexpensive insurance coverage, especially if their child/children participate in sports, excursions/field trips, or, if parents do not have dental insurance coverage.

Enrolment is required in writing -- there are two options for enrolment:

- 1) Complete the traditional form and mail it in. Brochure was sent home with students during first week of school.
- 2) Apply on-line at www.insuremykids.com

Parents alone have the right to insure their children. "

STUDENT LUNCH DAYS

The first "Just Catering" lunch day will be scheduled soon and the School Council organized lunches will be available again this year. As part of our continuing efforts to provide the best possible service to our students, we will also be trying a new lunch provider, in the month of October. Order information will be sent home with students in the near future! Thanks to all those parents who help with these initiatives.



STUDENT USE OF SCHOOL MATERIALS

The school will provide your child with many of the regular school materials such as pens, pencils, workbooks and textbooks. It is important that children learn to make proper use of these materials. Your child's teacher will explain our expectations in this matter.

One of our expectations is that students will be responsible for the replacement of lost books or damaged materials including texts or library books, both of which are quite expensive.



STUDENT DISMISSAL & 3:15 PM

Please be advised that students will not be dismissed from class early at the end of the day to meet a sibling in a different class. If older students need to pick up younger siblings, they can do so at 3:15 pm. This policy is necessary to ensure students are being supervised at all times when they are in the school building. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2009-2010 School Calendar
2. Anaphylaxis Plan
3. Child in Need of Protection letter
4. All Star Reading Program Flyer
5. New Homework Policy

ITEMS RECENTLY SENT HOME

1. Student accident insurance brochure and application
2. Holy Family Parish newsletter
3. School Agendas letter

September 2009

