



**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**  
Catholic Elementary School



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# October 2009

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**

Co-Chairs: C. Guilianelli and  
M. Cardinale  
905-951-8788



**QUOTE**

“ You’re not obligated to win. You’re  
Obligated to keep trying to do the  
best you can every day. ”

Marion Edelman

**PRAYER FOR THE SEASON  
OF THANKSGIVING!**



Father all powerful,  
Your gifts of love are countless  
and Your goodness infinite.

On Thanksgiving Day we come before You with gratitude  
for Your kindness.

Open our hearts to concern for our fellow children, women and men,  
so that we may share Your gifts in  
loving service.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
Your Son, Who lives and reigns  
with You and the Holy Spirit,  
one God., for ever and ever.

Amen!

During this season of harvest, let us pray for those in need of food, for those who see that  
others are fed, and for those who are made holy in the sharing of food.



**Monday, October 12 is Thanksgiving Day.**

**There are no classes on this day!**

**Enjoy the special day with your families.**

## ***FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK***

As we begin the second month of our 2009 - 2010 school year, I would like to thank all of the staff, students, and parents for their genuine efforts towards the positive start of this school year. Both good and challenging news was appreciated with the arrival of our EQAO results from last Spring. These results highlight areas of curriculum where additional focus is required and also indicate much hard work and dedication on behalf of our students, staff and parents. (see below for details)

As in all new beginnings, we have goals, dreams and hopes for the coming months. My hope and wish for all of our students is that they do their very best during their days, weeks and months here at St. John the Baptist Catholic School. I also hope and pray that our wonderful school staff and school council will continue to strive to make our school a safe and nurturing Catholic community for your children and families. We ask God for his help and guidance throughout the coming school year.

M. Cockburn

## **SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE**

It was great to see so many children and their parents participate in our recent school Open House and BBQ. The initial connection you make with your child's teacher at the beginning of the school year establishes a line of communication which is important throughout the whole year. I am sure that all of the students were proud and excited to be able to take their parents on a tour of their classroom and school.

Sincere thanks are extended to the members of our Catholic School Council and parent community who worked hard to make this event such a wonderful success.

## **EQAO RESULTS**

The Grade 3 and 6, primary and junior division, EQAO assessments measure how well students have met the expectations in *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1 - 8*. The assessments test what students know and how well they apply their knowledge and skills in reading, writing and mathematics in everyday situations by requiring students to read and respond to passages, to write and to solve mathematical problems.

EQAO assessments combine performance-based activities, requiring written responses, with multiple-choice questions. The results are reported in terms of achievement from Levels 1 to 4, with level 3 as the standard, which represents a high level of achievement.

The results for St. John the Baptist Catholic School, stated as the % of students meeting the Provincial standard (Achieving Levels 3, 4) are as follows for the 2008-2009 assessment.

	<b>Grade 3</b>	<b>Grade 6</b>
<b>Reading</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>69%</b>
<b>Writing</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>63%</b>
<b>Math</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>64%</b>

School results on the EQAO Grades 3 & 6 assessments indicate that the school-wide emphasis on reading and writing has produced very good achievement in our students' reading, writing and mathematical skills at the grade 3 and 6 levels. Our grade 3 results in reading and writing are above Board results. Our grade 3 results in math declined slightly from last year and are 1% below the Board average. The grade 6 reading results are consistent with results from last year and slightly below the Board results. Our Grade 6 results in writing and mathematics have declined somewhat from last year and indicate areas where further academic focus is necessary.

Staff and students will continue to focus on reading, writing and mathematical strategies and skills. Our primary and junior literacy rooms are established, we will continue "All Star Reading" for "at risk" readers and many staff will be participating in literacy focused school Board and Ministry of Education sponsored staff development initiatives. Data analysis from PM Benchmarks and CASI continue to inform instruction for divisional literacy goals.

## TERRY FOX EVENT



Our school Terry Fox charity event was a huge success on Friday, September 25. Student awareness of the work of the Terry Fox Foundation was heightened and our school raised a considerable amount of money that will be forwarded to the Terry Fox Foundation. The exact total collected will be reported in next month's newsletter. Sincere thanks are extended to Mrs. Vistica, Mrs. O'Donnell, Mrs. Gatti, Mrs. Marchi, Ms. Savoia and Mr. Graham for their assistance with this event and to all students, parents and staff who contributed to the fund raising effort.

## VIRTUES EDUCATION EMPATHY

During the month of October we will focus on the virtue of empathy. God has given us the ability to form connections with each other—to live together. Empathy helps us to connect and live together in a safe, caring and inclusive community.

An empathetic person believes that we all share one Spirit; that we are many parts of one body because we are all created in the image and likeness of God.

### An empathetic person ...

- Listens attentively
- Watches people's body language
- Notices and responds when someone is upset
- Can name her / his feelings
- Can see a situation from another person's point of view
- Knows that different people may feel differently about the same thing.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL 2009 - 2010

On September 28 the first Council meeting of the school year was held. At this meeting our new 2009—2010 Council was selected. Sincere thanks are extended to all members of last year's council for their hard work and dedication towards the betterment of our school community. Particular thanks are extended to our co-chairs C. Guilianelli and M. Ramos. The council continued to provide valuable assistance with important school decisions and funded very significant student centered initiatives. Their sincerity and commitment contributed much to the success of our council last year.

The 2009-2010 Council consists of:

**Co - Chairs:** C. Guilianelli and M. Cardinale

**Secretary:** T. Rosa and J. Busch

**Treasurers:** A. Lettieri

**Teacher representative:** A. Saragosa

**Parish Representative:** E. DePasqua

**Parent Members:** A. Mather, R. Carano, M. Ramos, R. Calderari,

**Vice Principal:** - M. Clarot      **Principal:** - M. Cockburn

Thank you in advance to all of our new and returning council members.

All parents in our school are welcome at our Council meetings. **The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the school library.**

## SCHOOL COUNCIL ANNUAL FUND RAISER



Our St. John the Baptist Catholic School Council is undertaking a number of fundraising activities this year to help our school meet the extra curricular needs of the students. The major fundraiser this year will be a Halloween Dance - a - thon. This dance-a-thon will take place on Friday, October 30, with all of our students participating. Through participation in this initiative, students will have the opportunity to win many amazing prizes. The three top fund raisers will win the following prizes:

**First place - ACER laptop computer**

**Second place - ipod Nano**

**Third place - Fugifilm digital camera**

In addition, many prizes will be raffled beginning Monday, October 26. Participants will receive one raffle ticket for every \$10 of pledges they gather. Pledges must be returned to classroom teachers by Wednesday, October 28.

**Students have been reminded that they are not to go "door to door" or approach any strangers in their efforts to obtain pledges.**



**PRIZES !!**





Sign up TODAY!

Parents and guardians of Dufferin-Peel Catholic students can stay up-to-date with the latest board news and information by joining the Dufferin-Peel eCommunity. Members will receive the latest news and information by email, including news releases, school activities and events, board meeting highlights, school and bus cancellations, plus useful tips for parents and students. Sign up online at [www.dpcdsb.org](http://www.dpcdsb.org).

### ZEHRS TAPES

Please continue to send your Zehrs grocery receipts to school with your children. The funds we gain from this initiative are very useful towards our School Council activities. School Council members recently received over \$900 from the Zehrs tapes submission.



### MAYFIELD SECONDARY SCHOOL

#### Information Night

For Grade 8 students and their parents  
 Interested in the  
 Regional Arts Program  
 will be held on  
 Wednesday, November 4, 2009  
 7:00—8:00 pm  
 Mayfield S.S. Auditorium

### PICTURE DAY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

Friday, October 16 is our scheduled Fall school picture day. Please review carefully the flyer that will be sent home from Life Touch Photography just prior to the picture day!



### THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Thank you very much to all of the students, families and staff members who contributed to our recent Thanksgiving Food collection. The amount of food donated was amazing and will be very much appreciated by needy members of our community. The food items were donated to the Caledon Community Services. Sincere thanks are extended to the following staff members who coordinated this initiative: **R. Covre, J. Commisso, A. Ciccocelli, M. Locantore, A. Savini, B. Vassallo and D. Zeni.**

### ALLEGY ALERT

As part of our ongoing efforts to provide a safe and healthy environment for all of our students, parents are reminded to **please not bring or send any food items to school with your children for distribution to other students.** The most common examples of this situation are students bringing food for class events or parties or for birthday events. Please keep these activities for “at home” occasions.

### 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. **For security reasons, please do not gather and wait inside the front vestibule as you wait for your child to pick up their lunch.**

### HINI UPDATE

As we approach the completion of our second month of school this year, our school Board and school have developed a heightened awareness of concern regarding HINI in particular and the flu in general. The school Board has worked with the regional health offices, the Provincial Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education to implement plans that will mitigate the risk factors related to this influenza. These plans include:

- Provision of hand sanitizers in classrooms that do not have running water
- Installation of new soap dispensers
- Enhanced school cleaning routines concentrating on hand and common surfaces
- Permitting students to carry hand sanitizers for use with adult supervision
- Display of posters and other reminders regarding hand washing, a primary defense against the spread of HINI

**Please remind your children to follow good hygiene practices and please keep your child at home if they are sick and exhibiting any flu like symptoms.**



