



# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

## Catholic Elementary School



299 Landsbridge Street

Bolton, Ontario

L7E 2K4

Phone (905) 951-8788

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# September 2011

## A PRAYER FOR A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Dear Lord,

As we begin this new school year, we gather once again as your community of believers. We thank you for the energy and spirit that you renewed in us throughout the summer months.

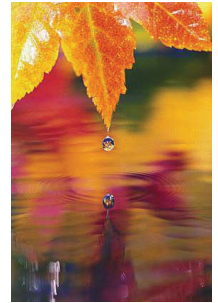
We thank you for the time to enjoy our family and friends and to reflect on what is most important in our lives.

Let this year be marked by a new enthusiasm and positive outlook so that with the inspiration of your Spirit, Lord, we may continue to help all your children.

We ask for your guidance as we look for new ways of seeing, understanding and communicating. Make us worthy of your call as teachers and parents so that we may reach out to support and foster trust with each other and look for the spark of the Spirit in every child's eye.

Help us to fulfill your wishes with every honest intention and work of faith. Let us be gentle with ourselves and each other and bring laughter, joy and achievement to all.

Amen



Principal: K. Barton  
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

Fr. L. Leger  
Fr. S. Hernandez  
905-857-1938

#### ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Chair:  
905-951-8788

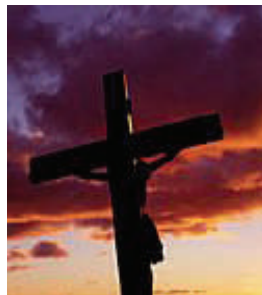
Please visit our website at  
[www.dpcdsb.org/JBAPT](http://www.dpcdsb.org/JBAPT)

## Virtue of the Month: Faith

A virtue is a habit or established capability to perform good actions according to a moral standard. In other words, a virtue is a habit that shows people and God that we are good people.

This month we celebrate the virtue of **Faith**.

Let us pray for the grace and strength to be people of faith, people who can truly believe that God's plan for us includes the right to be safe at school



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Hello St. John of the Baptist School!

I am excited and honoured to be joining the St. John of the Baptist School Community. I have already been impressed by the welcoming and friendly nature of all staff, parents and students I have met so far.

My vision as an administrative leader includes a focus on student achievement, and the development of virtues in action in the school. As a Catholic School, it is imperative now, more than ever, that we demonstrate by our actions what it means to be Catholic. The Baptist Faith Friends (BFF) supports this philosophy, and the "I Can Make a Difference" Campaign, which is new this year, will continue to highlight virtues in action.

The "I Can Make a Difference" campaign involves 10 hours of community service within the school or community for our grade 5 to 8 students. As followers of Christ we are asked to be servant leaders. This initiative gives the opportunity for students to experience the joy and personal pride of doing acts of kindness without financial reward. In the words of Mother Teresa, "We can not all do great things, but we can do small things with great love." More information about this will be sent home with your child in late September.

For the past few years, the school has been focusing on literacy. This year we will continue to focus on literacy, but Math, and specifically the Three Part Math Lesson will be a focus for our primary division.

One of our Eco-School initiatives this year will be to get all of our parents receiving newsletters and reminder notices by email. We will be starting with our kinder students and working our way up! This is a great time and money saver for the school as well as an environmentally friendly way to get important information home to you! Stay tuned!

Welcome to our returning staff S. Viola and A. Hamill who are back from maternity leave. We also welcome Ms. Russo, Ms. Scalamogna, Ms. Ciccocelli, Ms. Sanna, and Mrs. Daniele who will be filling leaves this year.

Have a great start to the year!

**September  
16th  
Is a P.A. day  
No School for  
Students.**

## BUSSING FOR 2011—2012

The board has a system to determine eligibility using a GPS software system. We request that you visit the website, <http://businfo.stopr.ca>. Once on the site, you will have to change the school year to 2011-2012 and then enter your address, grade level of your child and School Board, and it will inform you if your child is eligible for bussing for 2011.

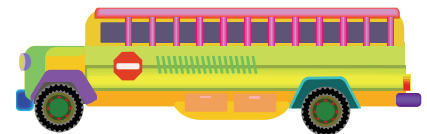
Your child may be eligible for transportation to and from school if you live beyond the following distances:

JK /SK/gr 1	1.0 km
Grades 2 - 4	1.6 km
Grades 5 - 8	2.0 km

As per board policy, any courtesy seats will be granted mid October, 2011. Application forms can be picked up from the office.

As well, if your child is attending a daycare, please send us the specific information as soon as possible so that we can input it into the transportation data base.

For eligible students, bus pick up and drop off times are available using your OEN number (this is on your child's report card every year). Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school or if you have specific questions regarding transportation, please contact the Transportation Department (1-800-668-1140 or 905-890-6000) directly.



## SCHOOL COUNCIL AND BBQ/MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT

Sincere thanks are extended to all of the members of our 2010-2011 School Council and to the other parents who attended our meetings throughout the year. The existence and support of the School Council is essential to the successful operation of our Catholic school community.

The first meeting of the school council will occur on September 27th at 7:00 pm and selection/election of executive positions will occur at this meeting. If you are interested in a position, Nomination Forms will be available in the office the first week of September. Dead line for the forms is Sept 23rd 2011.

Many vital programs are funded and made possible by the work of our school council and hot lunch committee members. These programs include the following: resources for our school literacy and numeracy programs, outdoor recess equipment, grade 8 and SK graduation, school presentations (ie. authors and drama

presentations), and special school projects. Discussions are ongoing as to how best to support our school community during this school year.

The annual BBQ and "Meet the Teacher" evening will occur Thursday September 22nd. The BBQ will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 and teachers will be available to meet you in their classrooms from 6:30 to 7:30. If you would consider helping with the BBQ, there is a meeting at the school on September 8th at 7:00.



## NUT FREE/SCENT FREE SCHOOL



Safety for all our students at St. John the Baptist is our number one priority. We have many students and staff who suffer from severe allergies, including nut and nut products. Even if someone in the class doesn't have the allergy there are many

students who visit different classrooms and left over residue can cause them to have a **life threatening reaction**. Therefore, it is the **school policy that no food be given out to the class for any special occasions** (e.g. birthday, class parties). Students are to bring their OWN treats for their personal consumption for these occasions. If parents want to bring something for the class we suggest bringing pencils or erasers, or some other non-edible treat for

the students instead of food. Thank you to everyone for your cooperation with this policy.

**Please note the school is also SCENT free.** Many students can have respiratory distress from scents, including spray deodorants. No perfumes, body sprays, or spray deodorants are allowed. **Roll on** deodorant should be used by students during gym classes.

Scent Free  
**ZONE**

### DROPPING OFF LUNCHES

Whenever possible, we encourage students to go home for a hot lunch and a break if possible. If you child is staying at school we kindly ask, if parents are dropping off lunches at the school for their child, that they label the lunch with the student and teacher's name and **leave it on the lunch table**. We ask that parents **do not wait in the foyer** for their child to pick up their lunch as it blocks visibility of who is entering or exiting the building and the noise level interferes with the running of the office. Students will not be allowed to pick up their lunch from you by going out to the Kiss and Ride line as there is no one to supervise them. **Please park**, and deposit lunch on the lunch table. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

### LOST & FOUND

Each year a great number of misplaced items are found. We try to return these items to their rightful owners, but it is often difficult because they are not labeled. We are asking you to please label articles of clothing, lunch bags, boots etc. with your child's last name. If this is done, then we have a much greater chance of returning the lost items to their owners.

### Student Attendance Verification

In the interest of your child's safety, it is very **important to inform us if your child will be late or absent from school**. We have a 24 hour answering machine for parents to leave this information at any time. **It is the school's safe arrival program that necessitates that the school will call your home or business** if a message is not left on the machine explaining the absence by 8:30 am.

To record your child's absence:

Please call 905 951-8788 (24hrs) and leave the following information on the tape.

- 1) Your Child's name
- 2) Your Child's teachers name
- 3) Date and time of absence
- 4) Reason and duration of absence

**School Picture Day**  
**School Picture Day will occur on October 27th and 28th.**



### NEWSLETTERS

**Newsletters will be sent home with the youngest and only child once a month. Please look for the newsletter in your child's bag the first week of the month. Newsletters will also be posted on the school website. Emailed newsletters coming soon!**



### Emergency Information

It is important that we are able to contact someone in the case of an emergency. Please fill out and return the emergency student verification sheets that will be sent home soon with your child. Remember those people you list as contacts are the **ONLY** people who have permission to pick up your child from school.

### Drop off/Pick up Procedures

It is important when you are dropping off your child in the morning that you enter the Kiss and Ride lane and **proceed to end of the lane before allowing your child to get out of the car**. Students must exit from the right hand side of the car (closest to the school) and parents should remain in the car. Parents may then enter the "drive thru" lane to exit the parking lot. At the end of the day, if you are pulling into the Kiss and Ride lane, please **do NOT leave your car**. Students will be directed to enter the car by the teachers on duty. If you need to come into the school, you must park on one of the local side streets, but not on Landsbridge in front of the school. These rules are enforced by the Town of Caledon and you could be fined if not abiding by the rules.

If walking your child to school in the morning or picking them up at the end of the day, parents are asked to remain either **behind the black fence by the parking lot**, or **behind the kinder fence** closest to the park. This is for **your child's safety** as teachers on duty can not distinguish parents from "strangers" in the yard with such a large school.

**Only bus students** may exit the school through the front door, all other students, go through their class exit doors. Students walking with siblings are asked to have a **meeting spot** at the back of the school.

Thank you for your cooperation for student safety.

## Instructional Times

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

8:30-8:45	Student supervision begins in the yard. There is <b>NO supervision for students before this time</b> so please do not drop off your child before this time. We suggest if you are using the kiss and ride lanes, that 8:30 is the fastest time for drop off and exit.
8:45	School Day begins
10:10-10:25	Recess gr 1-8
11:15	Kindergarten dismissal
11:45-12:45	Lunch
12:45	Afternoon Classes begin
2:10-2:25	Recess grades 1-8
3:15	Dismissal—students are encouraged to make their way straight home after school



## Visitors and Parents in the School Sign in Procedures

As a precaution against trespassers and to ensure the safety of all our students and staff, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board requires that all visitors must identify themselves at the office. Should you need to take your child home early, **you must report to the office** to meet your child and sign them out.

If you can send a note with your child in the morning to inform the teacher what time your child should be in the office, we will do our best to have them in the office for your arrival.

**Parents and visitors are not allowed to go into the school yard, or through the school to the classrooms at any time.**

Students will be called down to the office. Remember, to other children, you are a STRANGER and staff have been directed to approach and stop anyone from entering the yard or school for EVERYONE's safety.

Students need to report to the office for a late slip if they are arriving late in the morning or in the afternoon.



### **Backup Lunch Monitors needed!**

If you are interested in filling in for our lunch supervisors periodically, please contact the school secretary for more information.

## Communicating with Staff

Should you have any concerns regarding your child's progress or issues in the classroom, please do not hesitate to call and leave a message for your child's teacher with some times that are convenient to reach you. Please do not let problems fester. A quick phone call, or note in your child's agenda asking the teacher to call you can help put your mind at ease.

## Dress Code

We respectfully remind parents that all Catholic schools in Dufferin Peel have a dress code. Students are expected to dress in a manner that reflects the school as a serious place for work accompanied by standards of sensitivity, politeness and decorum. Tight clothing, short shorts, (shorts should extend past finger tip length, or tights need to be worn underneath) short or revealing tops, and clothing with inappropriate sayings are not allowed at school. Failure to comply will result in parents being called to bring a change of clothing, and in some cases, disciplinary action.

## Bus Safety

Whether your child rides the bus daily, or for school trips, it is important that they are aware of the safety rules on the bus.

Students are required to:

- Listen to the bus driver at all times and report any problems or injuries to him/her
- go directly to their seat and remain seated during the entire bus ride
- Do not eat, drink, swear, fight or chew gum on the bus
- Do not put arms out the window, or throw items or garbage out the window
- If any damage to the seat or bus is caused, students will be held responsible
- Be at least 5 minutes early at your bus stop.

Improper conduct on the bus will be dealt with at the office. Repeated or serious incidents can result in bussing privileges being suspended or removed.



## Head Injury Policy

When a student receives an injury/bump to the head (however minor), it is a Board Policy that we inform parents. Either a note will be left in your child's agenda, or a phone message will be left at one of your contact numbers. This is precautionary only and we ask that you check your child when they get home for any signs of a concussion or illness. Agenda's should be checked by parents **daily** for this reason, as well as to check for any notes from the teacher or office.

## Lost library books/textbooks

Each student will be assigned library books, and intermediate students, textbooks, during the school year. Textbooks will be assigned a number and students are required to take care of and return the same number at the end of the year. Any lost or damaged books will be the responsibility of the student, and can be costly.

## 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. Although enrolment is voluntary, the board and school recommends parents take advantage of this inexpensive insurance coverage, especially if your child participates in sports or field trips, or if parents do not have dental insurance coverage. A Chipped tooth, or broken glasses can happen unexpectedly.

Please complete the forms the school provides and mail it or you can apply on line at [www.insuremykids.com](http://www.insuremykids.com).

## Distribution of Medication

Any child who has an epipen or puffer that needs to be taken at school, medical forms are required by the office. **The forms must be filled out by you and signed by a doctor.** These forms are required to be updated at the beginning of every school year.

Please note, that students are required to **SELF-administer** medication. Even kindergarten students can be taught to administer a puffer.

Students with puffers or epipens are required to have one in the office and one in their knapsack or on them at all times.

If there are any medical concerns or allergies, please let both the teacher and the office know ASAP.

## Board Policy on Personal Electronic Devices (PED's)

Just a reminder to students and visitors to the school that PED's such as cell phones, cameras, i-pods, electronic games etc are NOT to be used on school property or during school related activities, such as field trips or sporting events. If students have a cell phone for use on the way home after school, **it must be turned off and stored away out of site in their knapsacks** during school hours. The first time students will be warned, then parents will be called, and then the device will be confiscated, and parents will be required to pick it up from an administrator.

## Student Agendas

Students in grade 2 to 8 will be using student agendas to organize their work and as a tool to communicate with parents. Students are required to use their agendas daily, and parents should be checking the agendas nightly for homework, upcoming assignments and notes from the teacher. The cost of the agenda will be \$5.00

## Student Reorganization

St. John the Baptist staffing is based on "projected" enrollment that is calculated each spring. This projected number attempts to take into account any new students who are moving into our school as well as any students who may be moving out of the area. There is a possibility of some class reorganization occurring before the end of September, due to a difference in our "actual" versus "projected" student enrollment. You will be informed if your child is effected.

## No Child Without-Medic Alert



This charitable program **MedicAlert's No Child Without Program is at Our School**

The **No Child Without** program offers a free MedicAlert membership to students who attend our school and are between the ages of 4 up to their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medication on a regular basis then you should consider a MedicAlert membership through this program. MedicAlert is your child's voice in an emergency,

MedicAlert membership;

- Gives emergency first responders immediate access to a your child's medical information on their MedicAlert bracelet or necklet
- Enables first responders to quickly obtain up to date medical information by means of the child's Electronic Health Record through the **24 Hour Emergency Hotline**.
- Communicates with the parent or emergency contact upon activation of the **Hotline**

Allows free updates of the child's medical record as needed

MedicAlert identification can alert school staff, friends, coaches and others about your child's medical condition should an emergency occur.

For further information come to the office for a brochure or go to [www.nochildwithout.ca](http://www.nochildwithout.ca)



## Volunteers

Volunteers play an important role in the life of our school community. They help to enhance the learning opportunities available to students and make a difference in the academic life of our students. If you can spare some time to read with students, help teachers in the classroom (other than your own child's) assist in the literacy room, photocopy, count money for special events etc., we need you! If you are interested in volunteering within the school, please contact Mrs. Cecchetto who works to coordinate our volunteers school wide. If you wish to volunteer with our parent council, please contact Mrs Letterri.

Please note that anyone working or volunteering in our school must have a criminal reference check completed by the local police service before volunteering can begin. Please contact the secretary for forms if you are interested.

## Child and Family Services Act

Please be aware that 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. This is our legal obligation.

## Use of School Phones

Students will only be permitted to use school phones **in the case of an emergency**. An illness or injury is considered an emergency. Calling home for someone to bring forgotten homework or projects, or to retrieve gym clothes, or to get permission to go to a friend's house is NOT considered an emergency.

We appreciate your assistance in helping to reinforce this policy with your child. Together we are teaching our children to be responsible.



# SEPTEMBER 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Welcome Back!	7 Nomination Forms for Parent Council positions can be picked up at office	8 BBQ volunteer meeting 7:00 at school	9	10
11	12	13 Silvercreek—Russo gr 4 class	14 Silvercreek—Scanlan gr 4 class	15	16 P.A. Day—No school for children	17
18	19	20	21	22 Open House BBQ 5:30-6:30 food, 6:30-7:30 class visits Grade 8 Confirmation Meeting 7:30	23 Nomination Forms for Parent Council Due Picture Day	24
25 Grade 8 Confirmation meeting 2:00 pm	26	27 Parent Council Meeting 7:00 in library	28	29	30 Vaccination Gr 8 girls and gr 7 and 8 boys and girls	

# OCTOBER 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3 First Communion Meeting 7:30	4	5 Gr 8 Retreat Day	6 First Communion Meeting 7:30	7	8
9	10 Thanksgiving—No School For students	11	12	13 Power of One Presentation 1:00 and 1:55	14	15
16	17	18 Bullying Presentation for parents 7:00 at the school	19	20	21	22
23	24 Gr 6 Muskoka Trip	25 Progress Reports sent home Gr 6 Muskoka Trip	26 Gr 6 Muskoka Trip	27 School Photo Day Interview Evening for Parents	27 School Photo Day	29
30	31					

