

St. Albert of Jerusalem School
September 2009 Newsletter



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St. John of the Cross

Pastoral Team

Fr. Leo Huard

Fr. Abraham Kulanjiyil

Fr. Joseph Kalluvila

**Prayer for the Beginning of the
School Year**

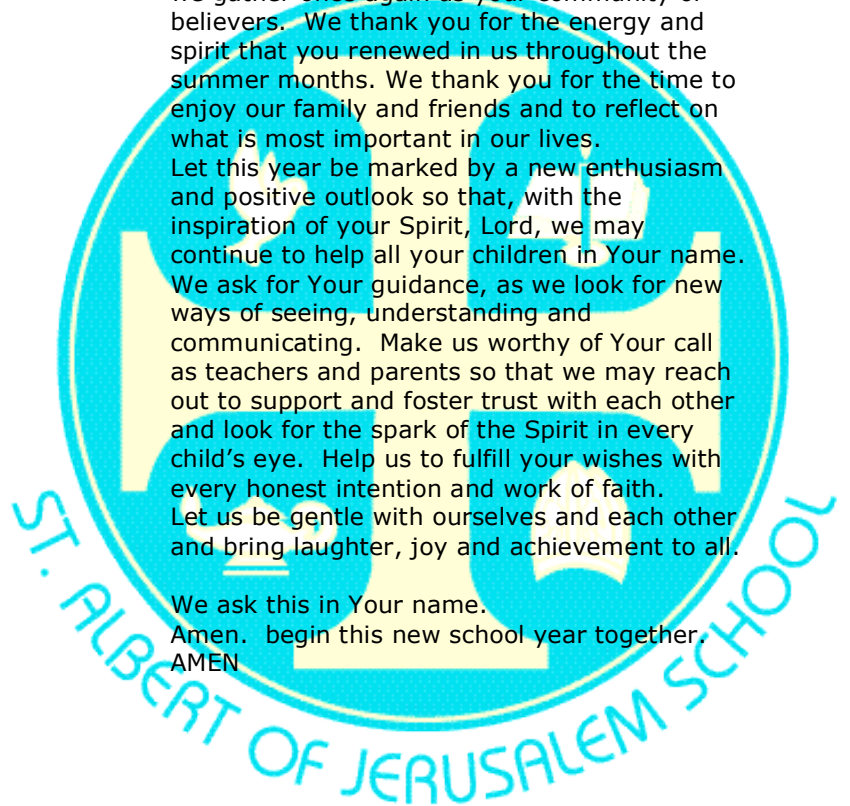
Dear Lord, as we begin this new school year, we gather once again as your community of believers. We thank you for the energy and spirit that you renewed in us throughout the summer months. We thank you for the time to enjoy our family and friends and to reflect on what is most important in our lives.

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 in Your name. 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.

We ask this in Your name.

Amen. begin this new school year together.

AMEN



“Upon our foundation, we continue to build the Spirit”

Our Virtue for September....Faith

To begin the new school year, we'll focus our attention on the first of our virtues – **faith**.

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
- Accepts the God-given worth of themselves and others



*Gracious and merciful God of all creation,
You have loved us since before we were born.*

*From our mothers' wombs
to our eternal place in heaven*

*You have given us the gifts to live and grow in
safety.*

*We come to You now asking for the grace and
strength to follow Your plan and to form a safe,
caring, inclusive community here at
St. Albert of Jerusalem Catholic School.*

*May our faith in You and Your plan lead us to know
and feel Your presence among us.*

*We ask this in name of Jesus, Your Son, who lived to
show us Your way.*

Amen.

Welcome Back!

Communication continues to be important to all of us at St. Albert of Jerusalem. Most issues that arise during the year can be resolved with direct communication to your child's classroom teacher. Please use your child's agenda as a communication tool or contact the teacher by phone. As well, administrators can be of assistance to answer questions. Staff will respond within a reasonable amount of time, either in writing or by phone.

One of our goals this year is **to decrease** the number of students who are late for school. This may mean that you will need to either send your child(ren) a few minutes earlier or drop them off closer to 8:15 a.m. so that they are ready to line up and enter the school with their class. Your cooperation with this will be greatly appreciated. Enjoy September, in particular, as we move into the cooler weather of fall.

School Organization

We have had a number of families move in and out of the St. Albert of Jerusalem community over the summer. Classes were set up based on projections done last May. The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board has set Friday, September 18th as the date for schools to reorganize, if it is needed. Direction will be provided over the next two weeks as to whether or not reorganization will need to take place at St. Albert of Jerusalem. Parents / Guardians will be notified if your child will be affected. If reorganization occurs, the new classes will begin during the week of September 21st. Please contact Mrs. Steer if you have any questions.

School Hours

8:30 Entry Bell
10:35-10:50 Morning Recess
11:00 JK/SK am Dismissal
11:30-11:50 Grades 1-8 eat lunch
11:50-12:30 Grades 1-8 Lunch Recess
12:30 JK/SK pm Classes Begin
1:55-2:10 Afternoon Recess
3:00 Dismissal

For our Parent Community

Parish Corner

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS

6890 Glen Erin Drive.
Mississauga, Ontario.
L5N 2E1

Tel: (905) 821-1331

Fax: (905) 858-8486

email: stjohnofx@rogers.com

Website: www.saintjohnofthecross.com

Please visit our website for the Sunday bulletin and other information about our parish.



PASTORAL TEAM

Fr. Leo Huard, O.Carm.

Fr. Abraham Kulanjiyil, O.Carm

Fr. Joseph Kalluvila

Kate Watkiss, Pastoral Associate

MASS TIMES

WEEKENDS

Sat. 5:00 p.m. Sun. 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.

WEEKDAYS

12:00 & 5:00 p.m.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Sacraments are parish, not school events. *Initial* preparation is done by the schools through the religion program. *Immediate* preparation is the responsibility of the parents and the parish. **CHILDREN DO NOT RECEIVE A SACRAMENT JUST BECAUSE THEY ARE IN A PARTICULAR GRADE AT SCHOOL. REGISTRATION FOR SACRAMENTS TAKES PLACE AT MEETINGS AT THE CHURCH.**

First Communion-Grade 2 (and above). Parent Meetings

First Communion: Sunday, September 13th @ 2:30 OR
Tuesday, September 15th @ 7:30.

First Reconciliation:

Sunday, September 27th, 2:30 pm OR
Tuesday, September 29th, 7:30 pm.

Confirmation-Grade 8 (and above)

Parents meeting and candidates:

Sunday, October 4th, 7:30 pm OR
Tuesday, October 6th, 7:30 pm.

St. Albert of Jerusalem School Masses 2009-2010

Opening Mass September 17th, 9:00/1:00 at the school

Advent Mass- December 7th 7:00 Church

Easter Mass-April 9th-9:00/1:00 at the school

Year End Mass-June 15th, 9:00/1:00 at the school

Graduation Mass-June 24, 2010.

School Council Elections

We invite all parents to consider becoming a member of the School Council. Please note that our School Council will be comprised of parents, school staff, a student representative, as well as community and parish representatives.

School Council nomination notices are available at the school office as of Tuesday, September 8, 2009. A brief nominee biography is to be submitted by September 22nd. In the event an election is necessary, it will take place during the evening of our Curriculum Night on the 22nd of September. Results will be published in our October newsletter.

The First Council Meeting will be held on October 6th, 2009, beginning after our last meeting for the 2008/2009 Catholic School Council.

Volunteers

Volunteers play an important part in the life of the school community. 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, educational games and in other activities that help to improve a specific needs area. Volunteers who are interested in sharing their time and talents with our students are asked to contact the main office.

In accordance with the Board policy, **all new volunteers having direct and regular contact with students and parents wishing to assist with school field trips** are required to provide a Criminal Reference Check. Returning volunteers will only need to sign a Criminal Offense Declaration Form. If interested, please review and complete the attached volunteer application form and return to the office.

Eden Food Bank

As always, we happily accept any food donations in support of the Eden Food Bank. Non-perishable items will be collected throughout the year, but especially up until October 1, in the hopes that we can offer a Thanksgiving bounty to those in need.



Safe Schools Initiatives

Kiss'n Ride

Parents/guardians who drive students to and from school are requested to use the Kiss 'n Ride lane (entering school property from the south only please, no left turns onto school property), which is accessed from the south entrance, go straight through the staff parking lot, turn at the end of the concrete island and drop your child off in the designated area. Then please follow the "one way" signs and exit at the north end of our property, turning right onto Rosehurst. **No left turn onto Rosehurst Drive during peak hours remains in place: buses excluded.**

Parents who utilize the Kiss 'n Ride lane are not permitted to park and leave their vehicles unattended.



The parking lot in Kiss 'n Ride is for staff members only. Please be mindful of the "no stopping" and "no parking" areas on the road and on school property, as bylaw officers often visit unannounced and ticket parking violators. As always, your continued cooperation is much appreciated and allows us to provide the safest and best environment for the children.

Family/Emergency Information

In the event that your child becomes ill at school or is injured in an accident, it is imperative that we contact you or a person designated by you as an alternate. Our information on file must be accurate and current. A student data form will be sent home for you to look over. Please update your information and return this form to the school as soon as possible, even if no changes are required.

Student Sign Out

In the interest of student safety, all visitors must report to the office, all students must sign out when leaving the building and sign in when they return; parents must report to the office when picking up their child during school hours and sign their child out; all bus students will remain at school for lunch, unless a parent or their designate, picks them up and follows the above procedure; all other students who normally stay for lunch may not leave the school during the lunch hour unless a parent or their designate, picks them up and follows the above procedure. Grade 7 and 8 students are permitted to leave the grounds at lunch time if they have a signed parent permission note clearly indicating the date and where they are going. Students may not carry food or drink back onto school property when they return.

Custody Of Children

On rare occasions, we are faced with difficult situations in which non-custodial parents arrive at school asking to visit their child or to take their child home after school. We are best able to serve and protect students when we are made aware of legal custody arrangements, visitation rights and other special instructions. If legal custody matters affect your family, please ensure that our office and classroom teachers are aware of any custodial arrangements that may affect your child during school hours.

School Messages


Our school secretaries will be pleased to relay messages to staff. The doors of St. Albert of Jerusalem School are open to parents who wish to visit or confer with staff, however, an appointment is necessary. Thank you for your support in keeping classroom interruptions to a minimum.

Visitors

For the safety of all children, visitors may only enter through the front doors and must sign in at the office in order to obtain a visitor's badge. Please remember, to your child you are a parent to the other children, you are a stranger.

Student Absenteeism

Attendance Verification Program

Please inform the school if your child  (ren) will be late or will not be attending school for the day. If you do not contact the school by 9:00 am, we will attempt to contact you.

Your co-operation in contacting the school, at 905 785-9298 before 8:30 am is appreciated. **Students are reminded that being on time is an important life skill. It is often difficult to "catch up" when the first part of the class has been missed.**

Emergency Protocol

Emergency response procedures in the event of a fire, bomb threat, serious accident/injury or an intruder have been established and are revised on an ongoing basis. All students and staff will participate in practicing emergency procedures. In the event that it is necessary to evacuate the school, our site for relocation is St. Therese of the Child Jesus School,

Sabrina's Law

Sabrina's Law is an Act to protect anaphylactic pupils in publicly funded schools in Ontario. Named "Sabrina's Law" in honour of an Ontario student who died following an anaphylactic reaction in 2003, the law became effective on January 1, 2006. This law requires that every school board establish and maintain an anaphylaxis policy. It also requires that principals develop individual plans for pupils at risk of anaphylaxis.

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Peanut / Nut Free School



School can be a very frightening environment for a child with a severe allergy to peanuts or nut products. In an effort to further promote a safe and secure environment for all of our children we ask your support in supporting a school-wide nut free, peanut free school. Approximately 2% of our school population suffers from this life-threatening allergy. At first glance this may appear a small percentage. However, we must take into consideration that these children are not isolated to any particular grade level and, like all students, utilize the computer lab, washrooms, library and physical education equipment. We ask that you place careful consideration to school lunches and snacks and refrain from sending in items that are made of, or contain, nuts or peanuts. We offer our heartfelt thanks for your support.

As we transition to a nut-free environment, we will continue with our previous protocols and will send letters home with the students whose classroom members have specific allergies. Please check with your child, and in their backpack, for letters regarding the type of allergy and products to be avoided. Students who bring nut or peanut products to these classrooms will eat these items in a safe area outside of their classroom. They may return to the class when they have finished eating and have washed their hands.

Valuable Property at School

The school cannot assume responsibility for private property. Children are discouraged from bringing valuable items to school. If you wish for your child to have a cell phone while at school, please provide the office with a signed permission note. However, students are reminded that cell phones must remain powered off while on school property and be stored in their backpacks out of sight. If your child rides their bike to school, please remind them to lock it up.

Policy On Cell Phones And Mp3 Players

Although cell phones and MP3 players have become the accessory of necessity for many of us, they do not enter into our world without a problematic flip side.

In some cases, unregulated use of Personal Electronic Devices (PEDs) has facilitated illegal activities in the school environment or during school-sanctioned activities. It has become an unfortunate reality that the promotion of academic excellence and the preservation of academic integrity can be compromised by the mis-use of PEDs during the instructional day, at assessment times and on formal exam days.

In this regard, it has recently become Board and school policy that all PEDs must be kept out of sight, turned off and not used within school premises (including portables) or during school-sanctioned activities such as retreats, field trips, sports events, etc. To prevent the loss or damage of PEDs, we encourage students to leave their PEDs at home or in their school bags.

School 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
- 2) Photocopy the form and fax it to Reliable Life at 1-905-522-7211 or 1-800-463-KIDS (5437)

Parents alone have the right to insure their children.

Medication at School

School staff cannot dispense medication of any kind without the proper authorization and a properly labeled container, (i.e. prescriptions bottle or original over-the-counter container). Medication brought to school in baggies, film canisters, etc. pose a risk to other students and will be secured in the office and returned to the parent. Staff cannot modify or adjust any medication under any circumstances. Additionally, staff cannot medicate a child. Therefore the child must be able to take the medicine as prescribed on their own with staff supervision.

Please drop by the office for an authorization from before your child brings medication to school.

Around the Halls

Reorganization

Due to growth and/or transfers out that may occur, please remember that our classes are tentative for the first month of school. Should adjustments need to be made, be assured that we take into consideration the needs of each student and will keep you informed of any changes.

Lunch Drop Off

If you drop a lunch off at school for your child, please ensure that it is labeled with your child's name and room number. Lunches may be left on the lunch table in the front hall. In order to avoid classroom interruptions, students will not be called from class before 11:25 am.

Lost and Found

Found clothing is stored in the bin in the lower forum. Please stop by the office for a "visitor" sticker before you check the box.

Curriculum Presentations and Family Night

Our school's curriculum and family night will be held on **Tuesday, September 22nd, 2009** in the evening. Staff from Special Education and French departments will also be on hand to provide information on their respective programs. More information from the School Council and school administration, will follow shortly.

School Agendas for Grades 1-8

Student agendas were pre-ordered last spring for this school year on a cost-sharing basis between school council and parents. Please complete the agenda request form that has been sent home during the first week of school. Additional agendas for new registrants have been ordered and are available for purchase through the office. First consideration is given to new students, as quantities are limited. Agendas assist in teaching students organizational skills for life, including study/work habits. Please review the student agenda with your child. In particular, please refer to the beginning pages, which provide pertinent information on our school.

Recess Breaks

Recess breaks serve a special purpose in the daily life of a school. Students are expected to go outside for fresh air and exercise. If your child is sick, he or she should be at home recuperating and not spreading their flu or cold virus throughout the classroom. Remember, there is no indoor supervision at recess.



Indoor shoes



All students are required to have indoor shoes at school. Outdoor shoes are not allowed into the classroom, in order to keep the children's work environment clean. In the event of sudden evacuation, students will not have time to put their outdoor shoes on to leave the school, as this impedes the timely and efficient evacuation protocol.

Special Services Support

The responsibility for student programming rests primarily with the teacher. However, when there are concerns regarding the learning needs of a student, the teacher may choose to consult the school's Special Service Team.

Should you have concerns about your child's progress, you are invited to, first speak with his or her classroom teacher. If you want to express your concerns further, please contact the administrator in charge of your child's level as listed below:

Primary Division (JK/ SK, Gr. 1 to 3)
Special Education
Mrs. Golin

Junior Division (Gr. 4, 5, 6)
Mrs. Carpe

Intermediate Divisions (Gr. 7 and 8)
Mrs. Steer

Up and Coming

Terry Fox Walk

A single dream. A world of hope

St. Albert of Jerusalem school will be walking on Friday, September 25th, 2009. More information to follow.



All Star Reading



Our primary students and teachers would like to thank our parents for their outstanding commitment to our All Star Reading Program throughout the school year. Our primary students and teachers would like to invite additional parent volunteers to participate in our All Star Reading Program.

Picture Perfect!!!

Calling all students, bring on your smiles. Picture day is scheduled for Wednesday, September 23, 2009. Student photos will be delivered to parents in plenty of time for Christmas! Picture retakes for students who missed photo day or for photos that have serious flaws will be taken on October 27, 2009.

School Year Calendar

Please pay particular attention to the final pages of this newsletter... the school year calendar has been attached. Dates for upcoming PA Days and our holiday schedule are noted.

Dates to Remember:

September 18th:	PA Day for the purpose of reorganization, No School
September 17:	School Mass
September 23:	Picture Day
September 22:	Community Barbeque and Curriculum Night
September 25:	Terry Fox Walk
September 30:	Early Release Day, no afternoon classes, dismissal at 11:30 am
October 6:	First Day for Lunch Ladies First School Council Meeting 6:30 pm
October 23:	Picture Retake Day
November 16:	PA Day for the purpose of report card writing, No School
December 1:	First Term Report Cards go home
December 3:	Parent, student, teacher conferences
December 4:	PA Day for the purpose of parent teacher interviews, No School



PLASP operates Before, Lunch and After School Programs for children up to 12 years of age, at St. Albert of Jerusalem

Registration now taking place.

Want to know more? See the PLASP staff at this school, or call the PLASP head office 905-890-1711, or visit our website at www.plasp.com



St Albert of Jerusalem's Fall Scholastic Book Fair will be held from **Wednesday, September 23rd to Tuesday, September 29th** and will be open from **6:30 pm to 8:00 pm on Curriculum Night (September 22nd)**.

Your Book Fair support returns to the school in the form of Scholastic product and funds for growth of our Library collection. So please come out and instill the love of books and life long learning in your children!

Please remember, gifts and donations of new books or books in good condition, to the Library and to individual classrooms, is greatly appreciated and encouraged.

MasterCard, Visa, American Express, Cash and cheques made out to St Albert of Jerusalem School are accepted.

A Good Book Is A Good Friend!

