

ST. ALBERT OF JERUSALEM SCHOOL FEBRUARY 2010 NEWSLETTER

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Pastoral Team

Fr. Leo Huard
Fr. Abraham Kulanjyil
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A Prayer For The Virtue Of Respect

*Dear God,
You have done such a marvelous job of creating
us and the world around us. Among your
greatest gifts are our friends and acquaintances.
They are the yeast in the dough of life—they
make life lively and interesting.
We come to You now asking for the grace and
strength to keep a sense of respect. We hope
that by recognizing and honoring the shared Spirit
in everyone we meet, we can contribute to
making our school a safer, more caring, more
inclusive community.
May Your gift of respect help us to live each day
with the confidence that we are in the company of
people who are not strangers but who are our
spiritual brothers and sisters.
We ask this in the name of Jesus our Brother,
who lived to show us your way.*

Amen

February ~ Respect

This month we will celebrate the virtue Respect. God has given us the virtues of friends and companions to keep us company and to help us out along the way. Every person in our lives carries the Spirit of God – and so every person is our brother or sister through Jesus Christ. As brothers and sisters who share one Holy Spirit, we are all valuable to God. We all deserve to be shown courtesy, consideration, sensitivity, and thoughtfulness, which are different ways of saying respect. That respect should come first and foremost from ourselves. We have to respect ourselves and then we will be able to respect others. We should also be able to expect to be treated with respect by everyone we meet – our brothers and sisters in Jesus. Through prayer and concentration, we can get better at respecting ourselves as well as respecting those around us.

A Respectful person...

- Treats himself/herself and everyone else with equal consideration and courtesy
- Uses a positive tone of voice and body language
- Avoids swearing, name calling, put downs, and inappropriate gestures
- Says 'Excuse me', 'Please', 'Pardon me'
- Avoids gossip

The Meaning of Lent

When you send forth your spirit you renew the face of the earth. Psalm 104:30

What does the word “Lent” mean? Why have we given this name to the time of preparation before Easter? Lent comes from an old word meaning “springtime.” During the spring of the year, daylight increases, trees begin to bud and flowers start to appear. The new life that comes to the world each spring is like the renewal of life that comes when we pray and try harder to follow Jesus.

Lent consists of two parts: the first being the forty days between Ash Wednesday and Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday). The second part of Lent is the time of Passiontide or Holy week. This year the Liturgical Season of Lent begins on February 17th with Ash Wednesday.

The ashes we receive serve two purposes:

1. They symbolize, and remind us, that something must die in order to bring about new life.
2. Historically, ashes were a symbol of sorrow and repentance for sins committed. Ashes were placed on peoples’ forehead as a sign of repentance.



Ash Wednesday

On Wednesday, February 17th 2010, all students from JK to grade 8 will participate in Ash Wednesday liturgies. Students will receive ashes, reflect on readings and pray together as a faith community in preparation for Lent and the Easter season.

Reminders:

February 15th Family Day Holiday
March 1st PD Day
March 15 – 19th March Break Holiday

Haitian Relief Fund

Attention St. Albert community. We are asking for your support to assist those in need in Haiti. As a Catholic Faith community and a supportive school we would like to work together to raise funds to assist the Catholic community in Haiti and to reach out to those left with nothing. We are asking for any monetary donation each St. Albert family can give from now until Feb 12th! You can also help out by supporting our fun filled Spirit week.

Feb 8th – Pajama Day

Feb 9th - Sports Day

Feb 10th – Crazy hair or hat day

Feb 11th - Dance –a-thon – wear red, pink and white

Feb 12th - Backwards Day

Please remember your **\$2.00** donation to Haiti in order to participate in this week of fun!

Virtue Of The Month

This month we celebrate the virtue of
RESPECT.



Volunteer Corner

Thank you to all our volunteers for their valued Efforts in All Star Reading, Fluency Friends, Mini-Matheletes and Talk About It programs. We are currently looking for additional volunteers For our All Star Reading and Talk About It Programs. If you have your Criminal Reference Check completed and can offer one or more Mornings a week for volunteering we would be Happy to speak to you about an opportunity to Participate in one or more of these programs. Thank you in advance.

What's Happening at St. Albert

Our Students and teachers have been active, not only in the classroom, but in the gym, hallways, and library. Some of the activities that students are currently involved in include:

- Chess For Grades 2 to 8
- Grade 7 & 8 Basketball teams
- Library helpers
- Spelling Bee
- School choir
- Speeches
- Grade 7 & 8 Hockey Team
- Student Council
- Staff –Student hockey & Staff-Student volleyball games

Intermediate Yearbooks

Each year our Yearbook committee works hard to keep those special memories alive through a full –colour book. Your child will be able to look back and reflect upon candid moments shared with friends, school activities, school teams and clubs. The 2009 -2010 Yearbook is available to our Grade 7 & 8 students and can only be pre-purchased. The cost is \$16.00. All orders must be returned with full payment by Friday, February 19th 2010.

Black History Month

February is “Black History Month.” This is a time to celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Black Canadians, who throughout history have done so much to make Canada the culturally diverse, compassionate and prosperous nation we know today. It is also an opportunity for the majority of Canadians to learn about the experiences of Black Canadians in our society and the vital role this community has played throughout our shared history.

CANDY GRAMS!

Candy grams will once again be on sale at St. Albert for \$1.00 each! Students will fill out their candy gram each morning. Completed Candy Grams will be delivered to friends, siblings or teachers! The money raised will go in support of our own hockey team!

GO ANGELS!



Spelling Bee

On Wednesday, January 14th, St. Albert held its 3rd Annual Spelling Bee. The twenty final contestants “spelled it out” for the St. Albert title. It was a fierce competition and our spellers worked very hard in preparation for the BEE. Congratulations to our twenty contestants and to Niranjana T. in Grade 7 who won the St. Albert 2009 Spelling Bee. He will continue on in the next round of the CanWest CanSpell Spelling Bee.



Public Speaking for Grades 4-8

Once again, as part of the Language Arts Curriculum, our students in Grade 4 through 8 will be involved in planning, preparing and presenting speeches. A student from each classroom will be selected to represent their classmates in the gymnasium. Our school competition will be held Monday, February 22nd, 2010. The Intermediate competition will be held in the morning and the Junior grades in the afternoon. One entrant from each division will be selected by a panel of judges to proceed to the Mississauga North Family Competition scheduled for Tuesday, March 2nd, 2010.

Currently all students are diligently preparing their speeches. Good luck to all.



Forest of Reading Program

Beginning the week of February 1st, all Kindergarten and Primary classes will be encouraged to take part in the Blue Spruce program available in the library. Blue Spruce is part of the Forest Of Reading program organized and sponsored by the Ontario Library Association. Ten engaging picture books will bring your child closer to Canadian authors. Ask your child about what they have read and what book is their favorite so far. In early April your child will be voting on their favorite book and we will be submitting our tallies, as a school, to the Blue Spruce voting website. The results will be announced in early May. Junior students will have the opportunity to participate in the Silver Birch program and will have an opportunity to vote on their favorite novel, as well.

School Hours

Morning Supervision begins at 8:15 am. In the interest of Health and safety please do not drop your child off before supervision begins.

Friendship Strategies

Parents can be helpful in addressing positive behaviors that will allow their child to build lasting friendships. Helping children understand how to treat one another and how to value and make friends are important, positive steps in eliminating isolating behaviors.

The Top Ten Ways To Keep Your Friends

1. Show them kindness and respect.
2. Stick up for them.
3. Be supportive when your friends need help and advice.
4. Tell the truth but be kind about it.
5. If you hurt a friend, say you're sorry.
6. If you make a promise, keep it.
7. Put some effort into friendships: otherwise your friends might feel neglected.
8. Don't try and change your friends; accept them the way they are.
9. If a friend hurts you and apologizes, accept the apology.
10. Treat your friends the way you want them to treat you.



Occasional Lunch Time Supervisor Needed

If you are hoping to assist at the school on a very occasional basis, love children and the outdoors, please keep reading. St. Albert would like to hire a occasional Lunch Time Supervisor who can help out when our regular supervisors are absent. If you are interested, please submit your name to the office. This is a paid position and you will need to have a Criminal Reference Check. This is an on-call relief position. Working hours would be 11:30 am-12:30 pm.

**Night School Secondary School
Credit Winter 2010**

**Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board
SECONDARY NIGHT SCHOOL CREDIT
COURSES**

**WINTER SESSION 2010
February 10th to May 16, 2010**

MISSISSAUGA LOCATIONS

**St. Aloysius Gonzaga S.S.
2800 Erin Centre Blvd.
Philip Pocock S.S
4555 Tomken Rd**

BRAMPTON LOCATION

**St. Marguerite d'Youville S.S.
10815 Dixie Rd. Brampton**

<http://www.dpcdsb.org>

School Council

The next school council meeting will be held on
Wednesday, February 9th, 2010.
All are welcome to attend!



**Junior & Senior Kindergarten
Registration for 2010-11**

Registration for the 2010-11 school year will be held at all Dufferin-Peel Catholic elementary schools on the following dates:

Monday, February 8th, 2010 - 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.*
*Snow Date: Tuesday, February 9, 2010 - 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, February 10, 11 & 12 2010.

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Junior Kindergarten - Children must be 4 years old by Dec. 31, 2010

Senior Kindergarten - Children must be 5 years old by Dec. 31, 2010

Parents/Guardians should bring the following documents when registering their child:

- Proof of age
- Original Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate (or Baptismal Certificate of other rite in communion with the See of Rome) for child and 1 parent
- updated immunization records
- Proof of Canadian citizenship or of Landed Immigrant status
- Proof of address (utility bill, bank or credit card statement)
- For schools in Caledon and Dufferin County: emergency rural address numbers for identifying your property

For more information, contact your local Catholic school or call the Admissions Department at 905-890-0708 ext. 24500.