

**ST. ALBERT of JERUSALEM  
School  
April 2010 Newsletter**

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Fr. Joseph Kalluvila

**Prayer For Spring**

*Blessed are You, Lord, for the glories of Spring.  
The world bursts with the signs of resurrection;  
Flowers stir in their winter beds,  
poking through the last traces of snow.  
The sun drenches us with its warmth,  
stirring the hidden and waiting life within the earth, within us.  
The world awakening reflects the movement of my heart and I am touched  
in the depths of my spirit.  
Art work in the power of Your hands,  
the spirit of drawing life from things both old and new.  
To be praised are You, Lord for the blessings of spring.*

*B. Arbour*

**April ~ Love**

This month we celebrate the virtue of love. God has given us many guidelines and examples of how to live our lives. He sent His Son Jesus to make sure that we could see what life could be like. Jesus made one lesson clear above all other lessons- the lesson to love. Love is not about us – it is about forgetting ourselves and looking out for the good of others. That's what Jesus did-He forgot about Himself on purpose. He chose to give up His life for the good of others – us!

A person of love ...

- that we are all unique and special
- the best for everyone
- deeply about others
- for the happiness of others

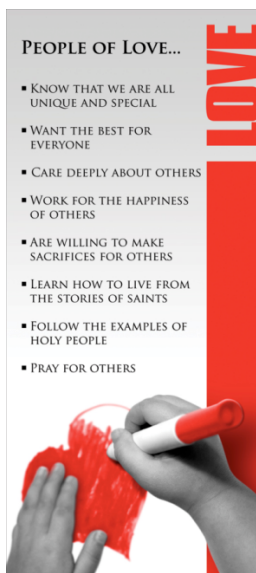
Knows

Wants

Cares

Works

Is



### CHARITY IN ACTION

On March 10, 2010 our grade three students were able to witness first-hand the remarkable acts of charity that occur within our community. Representatives from our local Rotary Club, with the support of the Peel Regional Police were on a mission to ensure that every grade three student received a personal dictionary. We are most appreciative of the volunteers who attended the school to speak about the good works of the Rotary Club: Ms. May, Mr. O’Hearn, Mr. Crawford and Mr. Jandu. We also extend our sincerest thanks to the Rotary Club for this very generous gift.



### CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

Catholic Education Week will be celebrated from **May 2– May 7, 2010**. During this week the Catholic community celebrates the unique and distinctive contribution that Catholic schools make to our students, our community and our province. Catholic Education Week is an opportunity to celebrate the Mission of our Catholic schools as they strive to integrate the Gospel values of Jesus Christ in every aspect of the school’s life and curriculum.



This year’s theme is  
**“Catholic Education: Rejoicing in Hope”**

### ST. ALBERT OF JERUSALEM HOSTS THE HARMONY MOVEMENT



In keeping with our virtue-centered focus to reduce bullying behavior, St. Albert of Jerusalem Catholic School is embarking on a new leadership program. The *Harmony Diversity Leadership Certificate Program* (DLCP) is a co-curricular leadership course that challenges youth to recognize and strengthen their leadership skills while positively affecting social and attitudinal change in the school and in the community. This innovative program is highly interactive and uses various multi-media resources to capture the attention of youth effectively. The program is an opportunity for both teachers and students to gain respect for others from diverse backgrounds, understand the complexities surrounding issues of inclusive schooling, and critically analyze the stereotypical aspects of youth culture as presented in the media

The DLCP aims to build upon program participants’ own values of diversity and self-esteem in order to help combat discrimination. Students are made aware of the issues behind prejudice and, throughout the program, are encouraged to develop personal strategies to address these issues. Developing a strong sense of identity and understanding of self are also core elements of the program.

The DLCP consists of six sessions held during the school day. Students are given assignments that encourage them to creatively address all aspects of diversity including race, culture, religion, ability, class, regionalism and gender. Media literacy, leadership, self-esteem building and presentation skills are all tools that are developed in these weekly sessions.

At St. Albert of Jerusalem School all grade seven students will participate in the program. This dynamic program began on March 29, 2010 and will finish with culminating presentations at the end of May.

## CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

### KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration for September 2010 began on Monday, February 8th. Thank you to all parents who came and registered their children! Did you miss this important date? It is not too late to register. If you have age appropriate children, please visit the school for a registration package. You require your child's birth certificate, baptismal certificate, immunization record, proof of address, and a parent's baptismal certificate. If you have any questions, please contact the school.



### INDOOR SHOES REQUIRED

Please ensure that students keep a pair of running shoes or other appropriate footwear at school, so that their feet remain dry and clean at all times. Because so many areas of our schoolyard can be quite muddy at certain times of the year, this really helps in keeping mud and dirt out of the classrooms. Also, in the event that we need to quickly evacuate the school, students will not have time to put on outdoor shoes, so having indoor footwear is most advantageous.



### PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

As part of our efforts to promote and maintain a positive Catholic climate in our schools, the Board Personal Electronic Devices (PED) Policy highlights the following: All PEDs must be kept out of sight, turned off and not used within school premises, during school activities or recess breaks. To prevent the loss or damage of PEDs, we encourage students to leave their PEDs at home as the school cannot assume responsibility for the safekeeping of these devices.

### SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE

Currently students who require additional program support are assisted by our Special Education teachers and Educational Resource workers. Student programs are supported in a variety of ways to develop and/or enhance learning opportunities. Periodically, students are presented at a school TEAM meeting for further consultation and planning. The following personnel may attend the Special Services TEAM meeting: Psychology staff member, Speech and Language Pathologist, Social Worker, Child and Youth Worker. At these meetings, staff summarize their observations, concerns and interventions and seek input regarding next steps. Possible outcomes could include: new strategies to try in the classroom; additional services that might be offered; referral for further assessment or intervention by one of the school Special Services personnel; referral to an outside agency for further consultation or assessment. The benefit of a TEAM meeting is the joint consultation which ensures that the best program is in place to meet the individual needs of each student. Staff will contact parents prior to these meetings and will report any recommendations to parents pending the outcome of the meeting.



### EQAO DATES FOR ASSESSMENT

Our Grade Three and Grade Six students will be participating in the Provincial EQAO assessments during the weeks of May 31<sup>st</sup> - June 11<sup>th</sup> 2010.

All **grade three** students will write the *Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, Primary Division* test during the week of May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

All **grade six** students will write the *Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, Junior Division* test during the week of June 7<sup>th</sup> to June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

It is very important that your child is present during these times. Parents and Guardians are encouraged to schedule appointments etc., outside of the assessment period.



## SPRING SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

The Spring Scholastic Book Fair will be held from Thursday, May 6 to Wednesday May 12.

Your support of the School Book Fair allows us to raise funds to refresh our current library collection. Please come out and instill the love of books and life long learning in your children!

Please remember gifts and donations of books from the Book Fair, to the Library and to individual classrooms are greatly appreciated and encouraged.



## PRIMARY SPRING CONCERT

Our Primary Spring concert will be held on Thursday May 13<sup>th</sup>. The concert times are 9:00 am and 1:00 pm, and all parents are welcome to attend. More information will follow.



## AUTISM SPEAKS: PUZZLE PIECE PROMOTION

Autism Speaks is dedicated to facilitating global research into the causes and treatments for autism. St. Albert of Jerusalem has a special opportunity to help raise funds for Autism Speaks and its research efforts. During the week of April 26 – 30, 2010 students can bring in a Toonie to buy a paper Puzzle Piece to support the Autism Speaks campaign. Their name will be placed on the puzzle and then posted in our school.



## BASKETBALL

Our junior basketball coaches have completed tryouts for the Junior Boys' and Junior Girls' Teams during the month of March. We anticipate an exciting season as these young athletes compete against other school teams within our division. Many thanks to our fabulous coaches : Ms. Maiato and Ms. Musznski.



### Junior Boys

Spencer G.	Dylan C.	Jacob T.	Justin V.
Michael P.	Jacob D.	Domenic L.	Kyle P.
Josh A.	Miguel Y.	Matthew A.	Odafe B.

### Junior Girls

Andrea N.	Calandra L.	Marezza A.	Monika R.
Lauren P.	Kara M.	Lauren M.	Sarina D'A.
Isabelle C.	Taryn C.	Rosemary G.	Madison C.
Charly H.	Stephanie M.		

## HOCKEY

After many cold, snowy morning practices our intermediate hockey team proceeded to their tournaments on February 22/23, 2010 and on March 23/24, 2010. The team showed phenomenal skill and sportsmanship. They lost their first game 5-1 to St. Cornelius. Game two they won 8-2 against St. Agnes with Alex M. scoring four goals and one assist. On day two of the tournament the boys beat Father Claire Tipping 8-3 advancing to the Silver medal game. In the silver medal game the boys ended regulation in a 3-3 tie. The shoot out went to the third and final shooter, and on a controversial call the boys lost 4-3. A special thank you goes out to our parent coaches Mr. McFadyen and Mr. Murray, our coaches Mr. Melo and Mr. Biffis and of course to our team... Congratulations on a great season.



### The St. Albert of Jerusalem Angels:

Delton A..	Tyler A.	Corrie A.
Michael Dav.	Michael D.	Joshua F.
Spencer G.	Alexander H.	Andrew K.
Alexander M.	Ryan McF.	Eric M.
Scott N.	Matthieu R.	Marco S.
Rebecca B.	Taylor C.	

## EARTH DAY APRIL 22, 2010

Earth Day is about general environmental awareness. Also, Canada's Pitch-In program runs April 18-24, 2010 calling Canadians to clean up waste uncovered by the melting snow and to dispose of items correctly (recycling, reusing or composting).

**This month, at St. Albert we will walk around the school yard on THURS. APRIL. 22, to pitch-in and pick-up any litter, acting as stewards of Love for our school and for the environment.**

### SAVE THE WORLD – ONE LUNCH AT A TIME

1. Pack a lunch that is kind to the planet
2. Pack a lunch with reusable containers and recyclable items
3. Buy products with the least amount of packaging e.g. fruits and veggies
4. Use cloth bags instead of plastic at the grocery store
5. Eat LOCAL foods! Find out where your food comes from.



**DID YOU KNOW?** Incandescent lamps waste about 90% of their energy by producing heat. YOU can bring your expired CFLs (Incandescent light bulbs) to any HOME DEPOT STORE. CFL bulbs should not be disposed of in regular household waste. Home Depot will assure each bulb will be recycled safely. A collection box is located at the front entrance of all Home Depot stores.

## INTERNET SAFETY/VIDEO GAMES

As parents you are encouraged to be vigilant about your child's use of the computer. Many of the students are using "Face Book" "Hotmail" "Blogs" and "MSN". It is important that you be aware of the messages your child may be sending or receiving. Some of the communication is inappropriate as are the names being used. Please discuss this very important issue with your child(ren). Many of the video games being played by our children are too violent and have an "R" rating. The Minister of Education calls this disturbing and distasteful. Also, in light of the many abductions of children via the internet we remind you to be fully aware of what your child(ren) is/are doing on the computer. Always be aware of whom your children are associating with and where they are at all times.



A few helpful tips:

- make regular checks of their accounts,
- check the computer screen often
- make sure the computer is set up in an area that is frequently supervised by an adult

## ART WORKSHOP

As a part of the fundraising activities of our grade seven, Camp Muskoka bound students... we invite all grades 1 to grade 6 students to participate in an art workshop April 21-23. Students will bring home an original piece of artwork based on curriculum expectations. The grade seven mentors will teach interesting lessons using a variety of techniques.

Students who participate in the workshop have been asked to donate \$4.00 (Gr 1-3) and \$5.00 (Gr 4-6). This fee will cover the cost of materials; any additional funds will support the grade seven students as they raise funds for their year-end trip. Thank you for supporting the grade seven students!



## EMERGENCY EVACUATION

In the unforeseen event that we should have an emergency at the school, we will evacuate to:

St. Therese of the Child Jesus Catholic School  
6930 Forest Park Drive  
905-785- 0066

### LISGAR RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The Lisgar Residents Association and Tim Horton's invite you to take part in their 5<sup>th</sup> annual Earth Day park clean up. The event will be held at Lisgar Fields Community Park on Sat. April 24<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 pm. High school students are welcome to volunteer toward their Community service hours. Please see [www.lisgar.com](http://www.lisgar.com) for more info.



### JUST FOR PARENTS

The recent receipt of a grant from the Ministry of Education has allowed us to provide a unique opportunity for all of the parents in our community. Speaker, Lorna Blumen of the Parent's Network has been invited to speak at St. Albert of Jerusalem School on Wednesday, April 21 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Discussion topics will include:

- Building cooperation with emerging teens
- Discuss more and argue less
- Homework, housework and hours
- Setting boundaries
- Using discipline, not punishment to solve problems
- Building respect in family relationships

Please see the attached flyer for more details.

### BOARD APPROVES 2010-11 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

At the March 23 Board Meeting, trustees approved the 2010-11 School Year Calendar. The calendar will be posted on the board website following approval by the Ministry of Education. Once approved, the calendar will be distributed to all families.

Please take of the following *tentative* key dates:

- The first day for students will be Tuesday, September 7, 2010.
- Christmas Break will be December 20, 2010 to January 2, 2011.
- March Break will be March 14 to 25, 2010.

### 2010/2011 SCHOOL ORGANIZATION PLANNING

Although it is only April, preparations are being made to ensure that our school is organized for the 2010-2011 school year. As such, in the coming months, teachers will be working hard on student class placements. As you can appreciate, many hours of meetings and consultations go into the class building process, to ensure the appropriate placement of each and every student.

When creating a class, teachers look at the following criteria:

- Student abilities and needs in the areas of academic, social, physical and emotional development.
- Balance according to gender.
- Learning style connected to required learning environments.
- Student/relationships
- Parental/Guardian input (see description below)

Parental/Guardians input are important to us. It will be considered along with the other criteria listed above. **Parental/Guardian input in the form of a letter to the principal should focus on the learning style of your child and the type of environment in which he/she best learns. Please include any other information you feel will assist us in making our decisions, i.e. has been in a split class. *Specific teacher requests will not be considered.***

Parents/Guardians who wish to submit a letter are asked to send them to **Mrs. Steer by Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>.**



### TIPS FOR PARENTS

There are many things a parent can do at home to support their children’s learning and to develop a positive attitude toward school:

- Talk with your child about school, their friends, and every day events. Show you are interested.
- Read every day with your child and/or encourage them to read for fun.
- Discuss what they have read.
- Monitor your child’s television viewing and talk with them about the programs they watch.
- Supervise homework, making sure your child has a place to work, a set homework time, and that their assignments are completed.
- Encourage your child to write.
- Encourage exercise and good nutrition.
- Provide learning experiences outside of school. For example, visit the library, museums, zoo, and historical sites.
- Communicate that education is important and encourage your child to do well.
- Promote good discipline. Children don’t know intuitively how to behave. parents must teach them.

### LITERACY CAMPS

Summer Literacy Camp for students in SK to grade six will be held at a variety of locations from July 5 – 30, 2010. Please visit [dpdsb.org](http://dpdsb.org) for more details. Contact your child’s teacher to discuss this possibility and obtain a registration form. The local Literacy Camp site for St. Albert of Jerusalem is St. Simon Stock School. There is a fee of \$200 for the first two weeks, \$200 for the second two weeks or \$380 for the full four weeks. Family discounts are available. Transportation is not provided.



### DATES TO REMEMBER:

- April 9:** Easter Celebration 9:00 am (Gr. 2,4,6,8, SK) and 10:15 am (Gr. 1,3,5,7,SK)
- April 10:** School Council Marketplace
- April 13:** School Council
- April 21-23:** Art Workshops grade 1 - 6
- April 26 – 30:** Autism Speaks Week
- April 23:** Grade 5 Ancient Civilization Presentation
- April 28:** Authors in the School: Mike Wade grades 3 -8
- April 29:** Junior basketball tournaments
- May 3 – May 7:** Education Week “Rejoicing in hope”
- May 11 – Volunteer Appreciation Social**
- May 19 – 21:** Grade 8 trip to Ottawa
- May 27:** Welcome to Kindergarten Orientation
- May 31 – June 11:** EQAO, Grades 3 and 6
- June 9 - 11:** Grade 7 trip to Muskoka Woods
- June 22:** Reports go Home
- June 24:** Grade 8 Graduation 7 pm, Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- June 25:** Grade 8 Graduation Mass, lunch and dance
- June 30:** Last Day of Classes

### SCHOOL COUNCIL

Please join us at our next School Council meeting on Tuesday, April 13, at 6:45 p.m.

### ARE YOU MOVING?



We are in the process of planning classes and staffing for the 2010 – 2011 school year. If you are planning to move anytime between now and September, please complete and detach this box and return it to your child’s teacher.

Child’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Move: \_\_\_\_\_

Location you are moving to:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**GO SLOW...NO PASSING!!!**

Make a point to stay in the drive through lane. It is not permissible or safe to pass on the right or left side of the Kiss & Ride. Passing and rushing is dangerous for drivers, children and volunteers.

Are your children ready to exit the car???

When you are near the volunteers, unbuckle seatbelts and ensure that backpacks are ready to go and on your child's lap. If your child requires assistance to unbuckle, please consider parking along Rosehurst rather than backing up the Kiss & Ride lane.

Gotta Love our Volunteers... But they did sign up just for 15 minutes, please try not to arrive after 8:25 am. Many days parents continue to drop off even well past 8:30 am. Please be considerate and arrive early. In the future, it may be necessary to close the incoming gates to the Kiss & Ride to prevent late arrivals.

**...HELP US OUT**

Please give our volunteers a smile and a big thank you. Better yet, come out and lend a hand.



**Good for you, good for the environment...**

**If you live within 1 km of the school, please consider walking... even on cold days. Not only will this help us manage the busy Kiss & Ride, it's also good for your child.**

Still frustrated with the wait... the busiest time of the morning drop off is between 8:25 and 8:30. Come right at 8:15, but please remember, if the Kiss & Ride volunteers or yard supervisors aren't visible, you may have arrived too early. Supervision only begins at 8:15. Children should not be left unattended prior to 8:15.

**Improving our Kiss & Ride**