

St. Therese of the Child Jesus School

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Volume 1, Issue 2

THE THERESE TIMES

October 2009



Be Thankful

Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire.

If you did, what would there be to look forward to?

Be thankful when you don't know something, for it gives you the opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times. During those times, you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations, because they give you opportunities for improvement.

Be thankful for each new challenge, because it will build your strength and character.

Be thankful for your mistakes, they will teach you valuable lessons.

Be thankful when you are tired and weary, because it means you've made a difference.

It is easy to be thankful for the good times. A life of rich fulfillment comes to those who are also thankful for the setbacks.

Gratitude can turn a negative into a positive. Find a way to be thankful for your troubles, and they can become your blessings



PRINCIPAL:
T. DeClerico

V. PRINCIPAL:
M. D'Andrea

SECRETARIES:
J. Lusk
M. Williamson

PARISH:
St. John of the Cross
Church
Father Leo Huard,
Pastor
905-821-1331

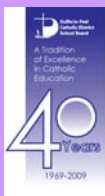
SUPERINTENDENT:

D. Oude-Reimerink

TRUSTEE:

Esther O'Toole

905-812-5163



FAITH COMMUNITY

Parish News

St. John of the Cross Church
6890 Glen Erin Drive, Mississauga
905 821-1331

Reconciliation

Students in grade 2 and up are invited to the parish preparation program for Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Please note the following dates:

Registration	Wed. Oct. 14 - 7:00 p.m.
Reconciliation Mtg.	Wed. Oct. 14 - 7:30 p.m.
Reconciliation	Tue. Nov. 17 - 7:00 p.m.
Reconciliation	Thu. Nov. 19 - 7:00 p.m.
Reconciliation	Tue. Nov. 24 - 7:00 p.m.
First Communion Mtg.	Sun. Jan. 17—2:30 p.m.
First Communion Mtg.	Tue. Jan. 19—7:30 p.m.
Enrolment	Feb. 6 & 7—all masses
Enrolment	Feb. 13 & 14—all masses
FIRST COMMUNION	- April 11—May 2nd—all masses

Confirmation

Students in grade eight are invited to join the parish preparation program for Confirmation. The schools will continue to do the initial preparation in the religion classes, but immediate preparation will take place in the parish. Information meetings for **parents and candidates** to learn about the preparation process at St. John of the Cross Parish were held at the church on September and October. Registration Meetings for parents and candidates who have attended the information meeting will be held October 14 and 15.

Parent/Candidate Mtg.	Sun. Oct. 4—7:30 p.m.
Parent/Candidate Mtg.	Tue. Oct. 6—7:30 p.m.
Parent/Sponsor/Cand. Mtg.	Sun. Oct. 25—7:30 p.m.
Parent/Sponsor/Cand. Mtg.	Tue. Oct. 27—7:30 p.m.
Rite of enrolment	Nov. 7 & 8 - All masses
Rite of enrolment	Nov. 14 & 15—All masses
Retreat & Reconciliation	Sat. Feb. 13—9:30-12:15
Retreat & Reconciliation	Sat. Feb. 20—9:30—12:15
Retreat & Reconciliation	Sat. Feb. 27—9:30- 12:15
Retreat & Reconciliation	Sat. Mar. 6—9:30—12:15
Rehearsals	Tue. Apr. 20 - 7:30 p.m.
Confirmation	Sat. Apr. 24—10:00 a.m.
Rehearsals	Tue. Apr. 20—8:30 p.m.
Confirmation	Sat. May 1—10:00 a.m.
Rehearsals	Tue. May 4 - 7:30 p.m.
Confirmation	Sat. May 8—10:00 a.m.
Rehearsals	Tue. May 4—8:30 p.m.
Confirmation	Sat. May 15—10:00 a.m.

Please note that students do not celebrate sacraments 'automatically' because they are in a particular grade. Registration for all sacraments takes place at meetings at the church.



Thanksgiving Food Drive

The annual Thanksgiving Food Drive runs from Monday, September 28 to Friday, October 9. Thank you to Mme. Langfeld and her Grade 6 Extended French class for organizing the collection of canned foods for needy families in our community.

AROUND THE SCHOOL

Congratulations!!

Congratulations to the Spadafina family for a beautiful, bouncing baby boy. Both baby and mom are doing very well and in excellent health. Another congratulations goes to the Timpano family for another beautiful, healthy baby boy. We are blessed that both Mrs. Spadafina and Mrs. Timpano are enjoying the fun of motherhood. We would like to extend our very best wishes for these new additions to their families and a wonderful future together!



School Picture Day

Edge Imaging will be at St. Therese of the Child Jesus for school pictures on **Thursday, October 14, 2009.**

Correction

In our last newsletter we regret missing Ms Dorner's name as one of our grade 3 teachers in our staff list for 2009-2010. We are sorry Ms. Dorner, and students, for this oversight.

Scent Awareness

While the Board does not have a formal Scent Awareness Policy we ask for your co-operation. As you can appreciate there are children and adults who are sensitive and may be allergic to scents and fragrances. It would be appreciated if students and parents could reduce their use of these strongly scented perfume and deodorant type products in the school building. Thanks

PALS—Playground Leaders

The Playground Leaders are once again inviting all Grade 1 to 4 students to join them in some organized fun during lunch recesses. This year, the PALS leaders are: Natalia B., Michelle W., Kasia M., Jake H., David B., Valentina V., Tiffany C., Austin F., Noah C., David C., Joseph S., Alfonso D., Kristen R., Sandra S., Sarah L., Rohan N., Victoria B., Marilyn H., Cassandra R., Sydney L., Denise M., Caitlyn A., Melissa O., Kenny R., Chelsea D., Cynric B., Olivia P., Natalia B., Alexia F., Gregory Y., Lauren V., Cassandra B., Sarah B., Annesha M.,

Thank you to Mrs. Firhoj and Ms. Austin for organizing this initiative.

New Health Initiative at St. Therese

We are excited to announce the creation of a health and fitness team at St. Therese of the Child Jesus School. The team is made up of teacher volunteers who will be promoting health and fitness activities at the school year-round.

This month we are pleased to hold our second annual Fruit and Vegetable eating contest. Thank you parents for sending your children to school with raw fruits and vegetables for snack and lunches.

On October 5 and 6, we offered CPR training for interested staff. Through donations from staff and the school we raised \$100 for the Lifesaving Society.

A special thanks to Mr. Powers for spearheading this health initiative. Stay tuned throughout the year for other health and fitness activities being held at the school.

Terry Fox

The St. Therese of the Child Jesus Community has once again been awesome in their generosity. On Friday, September 25, 2009, students, staff and parents enthusiastically participated in our annual Terry Fox Walk/Run. A final tally of donations is still being calculated as additional pledges are being submitted this week but early indications show donations in excess of \$6214.00. This is very impressive! A huge thank you goes out to everyone!! A particular note of thanks to Ms. Donnelly for co-ordinating this initiative.



Hallowe'en Fling for Charity

On Friday, October 30, (as Hallowe'en is on Saturday) all students, staff and parents may dress in costumes for our Halloween Fling for Charity. Throughout the day, all JK to grade 8 students will come to the gym to dance for ShareLife. See schedule below. Thank you to School Council for covering the cost of the DJ for this event. A \$2. donation will be collected from each student and staff and all proceeds will be forwarded to St. John of the Cross Church during the ShareLife Campaign. Please ensure all costumes are age appropriate, Catholic school appropriate, no masks, no props, and that any makeup used is applied at home. Parents are welcome to join us!

Individual classes will communicate with parents about any special Halloween activities planned. Please remember many of our students have life threatening allergies to nuts and nut byproducts. No treats with nuts will be allowed into the classrooms. Any edible treats must have a list of ingredients available. If you are considering sending treats to school with your child to share with their class, it is recommended nonedible items be sent instead (i.e. stickers, etc.) Thanks!!

9:15-9:45a.m.	JK/SK
9:45-10:45a.m.	Gr. 1, 2, 3 & 4
11a.m.-12p.m.	Gr. 5 & 6
1:15-1:45p.m.	JK/SK
1:45-3:40p.m.	Gr. 7 & 8

School Council

The 2009-2010 School Council members are:

Co-Chairs	I. Holmes & A. Hill
Treasurer	E. Guinyou
Secretary	P. Lattimore
Principal	T. DeClerico VP: M. D'Andrea
Teacher Rep.	L. Austin/ T. Singh
Non Teacher Rep.	J. Lusk
Parish Rep.	J. Lobo
Fundraising Chair	t.b.a.
OAPCE Rep.	Patrick Mendes
Parents at Large/Community Reps	E. Fenech, A. Haley, J. Dean, V. Konewka

School Council Meetings are scheduled for Oct. 26, Nov. 26, Jan. 12, Feb. 9, Apr. 8 & May 31. All parents are welcome to attend. Meetings start at 7p.m., unless otherwise stated, and are held in the school library.

Magazine Subscription Renewals

Last year our major fundraising event involved magazine subscriptions. There have been a number of requests for subscription renewals. Renewals of these subscriptions give the school a percentage which would be very beneficial to subsidize school activities such as school trips or art supplies. You will be receiving a package soon outlining details on how you can renew your subscriptions or purchase new subscriptions .

Executive Catholic Youth Faith Ambassadors

This year we are launching a new initiative which in the past was known as Student Council. They now will be known as "Executive Catholic Youth Faith Ambassadors". The students from Grade 7 and 8 voted for candidates that were running for various positions and we now have our new executive.

These students will be doing many of the same things as student council did last year but we will be engaging them in more diverse activities. Last year we had students in Gr 6 to 8 fill out an application to be a faith ambassador and we are doing that again. The students will be involved in " head" (inform), heart(form), hands (transform) leadership & outreach opportunities. The Youth Faith Ambassadors will be involved with the safe schools initiative, virtues assemblies and other activities around the school. The executive will take the lead in all these various roles. We are attempting to demonstrate to the student body through the ambassadors' leadership initiative, that you can have a strong faith and have fun. Students in grade 6 to 8 can still be

very much a part of the program without taking a leadership role.

Our Executive Catholic Youth Faith Ambassadors are as follows:

Prime Minister:	Reuben C.
Deputy Prime Minister:	Kenzia D.
Ministers of Communications:	Andres R., Althea F.
Secretary:	Kathleen E.
Ministers of Finance:	Parvin C., Lindsay H.

CONTINUING ED COURSES

As you know, the Adult & Continuing Education program offers a wide variety of programs, including General Interest and International Language programs.

General Interest Courses for Adults

Discover a new talent, explore a new interest, put a hop in your dance step... come join us! Various General Interest courses are available... look for General Interest information in our Adult & Continuing Education flyer or call the Adult & Continuing Education department at 905-891-9263. Some courses have begun as of October 5.

International Language Classes

Language ability is of growing importance in our international community! International Language classes are available Saturday mornings to students in grades JK to 8 (non-credit courses) and grades 9 to 12 (credit courses). No prior language experience is necessary. International Language programs comply with the Ministry of Education curriculum. Please contact the Adult & Continuing Education office at 905-891-9263 for information regarding language offerings at specific International Language sites. It's not too late to join.

STAFF—SPECIAL SERVICES

Special Services staff provide resource to the school for a variety of services. We are pleased to have available the following personnel:

Speech Language	M. Montini
Social Work	D. Thompson
Psychology	J. Stewardson
CYW (Child & Youth Worker)	B. Rivers/Y. Reid



Boy's Team: Reuben C.; Andres R.; Daniel C-R; Alex P.; Michael M.; Bryan K.; Benjamin C.; Russell G.; Tristan S-D.; Mitchell D.; Nick D.; Justin O.; Anthyn S.; Saleem N.; Noel D.

Girl's team: Lindsay H., Elizabeth M., Cachet L., Georgina O., Danielle L., Tiffany T., Stephanie D., Taylor P., Shayla B., Jasmine W.,

X-Country Team is Off & Running!

The members of this year's x-country team are:

Jr. Cross Country: Martha B., Matthew C., Megan C., Isabel D., Connor D., Angela D., Matthew F., Dana F., Megan G., Dominik H., Jacob H., Marilyn H., Bradley H., Matthew I., Victoria J., Youssef K., John-Raymond K., Sarah L., Sofia M., Denise M., Melissa O., Conner P., Nikita P., Mya P., Lucas S., Ania S., Michelle V., Christopher Z.

Int. Cross Country: Damahli B., Patrick B., Shayla B., Jalourd C., Daniel C., Madison C., Katherine C., Mitchell D., Rachel F., Avery G., Russell G., Spencer G., Katie H., Aimee H., Lindsay H., Ana Maria I., Noah K., Sierra K., Beniah L., Joseph L., Reuel L., Nicolas L., Julia M., Matthew M., Danielle N., Taylor P., Andres R., Tayah R., Ivania S., Andrew S., Ian S., Anthyn S., Diana T., Shynice W., Renz Y.

E. Lanza and L. Stephen have begun training with the team. We look forward to the Mississauga North X-Country Meet at Erindale Park on October 8, 2009. If our team does well, they may proceed to the Board Meet on Wednesday, October 28 at Heart Lake.

Intermediate Volleyball Teams

The Intermediate Boys Volleyball team has completed try-outs and practices will be taking place: Monday at lunch, Tues., Wed., and Friday morning and Thursday after school.

Our game schedule is as follows: Monday Oct. 5th vs St. Albert of Jerusalem (home) ; Tuesday Oct. 13th vs St. John of Cross (away) ; Wednesday Oct. 14th vs St. Rose of Lima (away) ; Monday Oct. 19th vs St. Teresa of Avila (away)

Best of luck to members of this year's intermediate volleyball teams.

The season is underway with games starting the first week of October. Thanks to coaches J. Bortolotto, D. Knapp, N. Dorner & C. Dinis.

Safe, Caring and Inclusive School Communities

St. Therese of the Child Jesus continues to work at creating and sustaining a 'safe, caring and inclusive school community'. One component of our school plan continues to be a focus on teaching students anti-bullying strategies. With this in mind, in addition to teachers routinely integrating bullying prevention into the regular curriculum, when appropriate, we have co-ordinated schedules with Constable Whittingham from Peel Regional Police to have presentations on Oct. 19, 20, 21, 23 and Nov. 3. The topics which the youth officer will speak to are drawn from the following list: (age appropriate)

Community Helpers K-1

Bullying 1-8

Street Proofing 2-5

Internet Safety 3&6

Intro to Drugs / Tobacco 4-5

Drug Abuse Prevention 6-8

Youth Crime 6-8

Cyber Bullying 7-8

Cyber Cops 7-8

Youth Gangs 7-8

Visits will continue throughout the year. Also, we have booked an antibullying presentation called, "Stand Up Against Bullying" for later in the year, a date to be confirmed.

Piano Lessons

Mrs. Skarecky still has some openings for new piano students on Mondays and Thursdays. The lessons take place at the school after 4p.m. For more information please contact her at jana.skarecky@utoronto.ca or (905)692-9696.

Indoor / Outdoor Shoes

All students should have a pair of indoor shoes to wear at school in class and for gym. Outdoor shoes/ boots will be kept for outdoor use only and out of the classrooms in order to reduce the amount of dirt and mud brought indoors. This will assist Mr. Dias and staff in keeping the school clean. Thank you for your co-operation.



Lock Down & Fire Drills

During the month of September and October we have been rehearsing and will continue to rehearse with students a number of emergency response situations including lock down and fire drills. All schools are required by Board policy to practice these procedures throughout the year. We have these 'rehearsals' for precautionary purposes only so that in the event of an actual emergency, students will be prepared to respond in a safe and responsible manner. Our Lockdown drill date is October 23 a.m. The outer doors will be locked for the time of the drill, not allowing anyone to enter, and an emergency protocol will be followed. The day will continue as normal following the drill. Thank you for your patience.

Pupil Progress

Parents and teachers are encouraged to contact each other immediately if there are problems or areas of concern. **Do not wait for interviews!** We hope that you will find our doors open and that constructive dialogue is welcome.

Dogs on School Property

Please do not bring your dogs, or other pets, onto school property. Even if on a leash and normally passive/friendly, your pet may respond in an unexpected manner if surrounded by a large group of curious children. While most of us are pet lovers some youngsters are frightened by animals and may get nervous or anxious when approached by one. Also, other children in our community suffer from allergies that are often triggered by pet fur or pet dander. Your co-operation in this matter is appreciated.

Pediculosis

Although it may seem early in the school year, we would like to bring to your attention a problem which occurs from time to time in each school. This problem is an infestation of head lice also known as pediculosis. Pediculosis is in no way connected with poor hygiene or dirt. Anyone can become infested. In order to control these pests we will follow these procedures and request your full cooperation and understanding. If cases are found in the classroom, we shall inform the parents of that class. We would ask that you check your children's hair and if you find it to be infested, please notify the school and we will advise as to the appropriate treatment. If a child is infested he/ she will be kept out of school until they have been treated with the correct shampoo and their hair is entirely clear of both lice and nits (eggs). Information on head lice may also be obtained from your family doctor or pharmacist.

HAVE YOU RETURNED YOUR CHILD'S UPDATED STUDENT VERIFICATION FORM? Please ensure we have accurate and up-to-date contact information. We must have a number that is available during the day to contact you in case of emergency. Please give alternate numbers of someone you trust (i.e., other family member, neighbour, babysitter) in case you are not available for a call. We should have a minimum of 3 numbers.

Yard Supervision

Please remember teacher/adult supervision, in both the main yard and kindergarten yard, does not commence until 15 minutes prior to start time. For gr. 1 to 8 students, in the main yard, supervision is provided commencing at 9 a.m. in the morning, throughout the lunch and at recesses. For JK/SK students, in the kindergarten yard, supervision is provided commencing at 9 a.m. and again at 1 p.m. Parents are asked **not** to drop off children prior to these times. Also, we ask, for safety reasons, that siblings of JK/SK students remain outside the fenced area designated specifically for JK/SK students only. Thank you.

Leaving School Property at Lunch Time

Please note that at recess (a.m. & p.m.) no student is permitted to leave the school grounds at any time. At lunch time the expectation is that all students in grade 1 to 6 stay at school for lunch unless they have written permission from their parents stating otherwise. Parents must sign their child out and in when taking them for lunch. In grades 7 & 8 some parents checked the "No" option on the annual permission form. Please remember, if you have given your child blanket permission to leave the school property at lunch time, or give them specific permission in writing on individual days to leave school property at lunch time, the school cannot assume responsibility for their supervision once off school grounds. Some intermediate students choose to go to the plaza at the corner of Forest Park and Derry for lunch, necessitating that they cross a very busy intersection. Safety tips have been reviewed with the Grade 7 & 8's so that they can remain alert and safe while off school property. Your help in reviewing your lunch hour expectations with your children and discussing safety issues would be helpful.

Student Dress Code

The Board's Appropriate Dress Code Policy charges all schools, within the jurisdiction of the Dufferin-Peel C.D.S.B., to adopt a dress code for students, which is in keeping with the Board's Mission Statement and Catholic social teachings. Students are expected to dress in a manner suitable for the occasion and appropriate to the school environment. Clothing is expected to be modest, neat and practical. There shall be adequate coverage of the body. Short shorts, bare chests, halter tops, tube tops, bare midriffs (no portion of the stomach or navel should be showing), mesh or sheer garments are not considered adequate coverage. Clothing which portrays any unsuitable or offensive logos and/or language will not be permitted. Proper footwear must be worn at all times ie. Running shoes for gym, indoor shoes for class, boots for rain and snow. It is unsafe for students to walk around in socks or bare feet. Hats and sunglasses should be removed upon entering the building. The use of make up is discouraged and, if worn at all, be natural looking. Student dress code expectations were reviewed with all students at Behaviour Assemblies held the first week of school. Your support in encouraging compliance is much appreciated.

School Property

If you are driving your child to school, please use the Kiss and Ride program at the north side of the school and exit on the North side. The parking lot at the south side is for Kindergarten parents. Please be sure to honour the one way signs for student safety. Please do not use the front of the school as a drop off. It is a bus loading zone as well as a fire route. There are 30 minute parking spaces at the front of our school for your convenience if you need to come in for an appointment. During inclement weather, the Kiss and Ride area for drop off is ideas there is a door for students to enter close to the drop off zone. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Safety is our utmost concern.

Looking Ahead to November

As you are well aware, November is traditionally the month we remember all those who have defended freedom in our country and around the world. We will have our annual Remembrance Day Assemblies on Wednesday, November 11. We would like to include the participation of a veteran. If you have a parent, grandparent or great grandparent who is a war vet and who might be able to join us at St. Therese on November 11, please contact Ms. DeClerico for more information. In addition, we will continue the tradition of displaying the St. Therese of the Child School 'Memory Book in the front foyer'. Students and their parents are invited to submit stories and pictures of themselves, relatives and/or friends who have been touched by war or participated in war. Submissions can be brief and are best if accompanied with a photograph.

St. Therese T-Shirts

A few years ago our school council purchased St. Therese t-shirts for every student in the school. St. Therese has continued this and has supplied every new student with a t-shirt. If you wish to purchase a t-shirt, we have a very limited supply at a cost of \$8.00 each.

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.

The Loyola School Council is presenting Michael Reist on Thursday, November 26 at 7:00 p.m. at Loyola. His topic "Raising Kids in a New Kind of World" This presentation is free and is open to parents, teachers, trustees and administrators in Dufferin-Peel.

This month's virtue is Empathy...

People of Empathy...

- Can understand and name their feelings
- Care about other's feelings
- Listen carefully to others
- Listen for clues in tone of voice
- Watch expressions and body gestures for messages
- Notice when someone is upset
- Can see and respect how others look at things
- Know that others may feel differently about things than they do
- Respond generously to help other

Change in Dismissal or Lunch Routine

If your child is changing their routine for dismissal or lunch time,(i.e. they are not taking the bus or someone else is picking them up), please inform your child's teacher in writing. Older students can use their agendas and kindergarten parents can use a letter. It is too difficult to recall verbal instructions amidst the many bits of information processed during the school day. If it is in writing, the new routine can be addressed more effectively. Phone calls are also not the best way to communicate this information. Not only are there interruptions to important instructional time but often it is time consuming to locate a student who may be in the gym, library, computer lab or outdoors. Arrangements for dismissal and lunch time should be made in advance if possible. Emergencies are different and we will try to accommodate as best we can. Thank you for your cooperation.

