

St. Therese of the Child Jesus School

6930 Forest Park Drive
Mississauga, Ontario
L5N 6X7
905-785-0066 Ph.
905-785-0075 Fax

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THE THERESE TIMES

November 2009



A Moment to Reflect

*O God of Love,
we thank you for what you have
given us to enjoy,
for healthy minds and bodies,
for love, for family, for friendship,
for every gift of happiness.
We praise you for those who help
us by their example and
encouragement, especially those
who have given their lives
to the cause of justice and
freedom.
Help us appreciate the efforts that
were given.
Make their sacrifice worthwhile
by the way we live our lives in
loving others.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen*

PRINCIPAL:

T. DeClerico

V. PRINCIPAL:

M. D'Andrea

SECRETARIES:

J. Lusk

M. Williamson

PARISH:

St. John of the Cross
Church
Father Leo Huard, Pas-
tor
905-821-1331

SUPERINTENDENT:

D. Oude-Reimerink

TRUSTEE:

Esther O'Toole

905-812-5163



Congratulations for Your Amazing Charity!!

Since the beginning of this school year we have held events to support 3 separate charities. In all 3 instances the St. Therese of the Child Jesus School Community has gone above and beyond!! Below is a summary of the 3 charities we have participated in to date and our record of support:

1. Terry Fox Run/Walk- the final tally was \$6400 plus online donations was raised! Thank you to Mrs. Donnelly.
2. Thanksgiving Food Drive- 30 boxes of food were delivered to St. Vincent de Paul (They were overwhelmed with the donation!) Thank you Mrs. Langfeld for organizing this
3. Halloween Fling for Charity Dance in support of Share Life.

Thank you for your awesome participation and for helping to set such an excellent example of giving for our children.

The giving continues...

Eden Food Bank Toonie Tuesday- November 17

On Tuesday, November 17 all Dufferin-Peel Catholic and Peel Public schools in the area are once again holding a Toonie Tuesday to raise funds for the Eden Food Bank. The money raised will be used to supplement food donations received by the Food Bank.

Together we can make a difference in our own neighbourhood!! If everyone helps a little, we can make a big difference. (see attachment)

Canadian Tire \$ Collection

During the month of November, our school will be collecting unwrapped new toys and Canadian Tire money to help purchase and contribute to Christmas gift baskets for our needy families in the Meadowvale area. Our goal is to sponsor 5 families. Last year, through your generous support, we were able to give each family clothing, a few books and toys. Thank you in advance for your generosity. Thank you to Mrs. Armstrong, for organizing this charitable event.



Remembrance Day Assemblies

An assembly to mark the importance of Remembrance Day will be held in the gymnasium on Wednesday, November 11 at 11:00 a.m. All are welcome to join us!

The Advent Mass for Families

Our school community Advent Family Mass is scheduled for Tuesday, December 8 at 7p.m. at St. John of the Cross Church. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

We will be inviting students in grades 3 and 4 to join the Advent Mass Choir. Please note participating students will have to commit to full attendance at all practices in order to be in the choir on December 8.

The Advent Mass will be preceded by a choral presentation by our JK's & SK's and Grade Ones singing, 'Take a Walk to Christmas'. Our Youth Faith Ambassadors will be assisting primary students in various roles.

Our grade two's will present Jesse Tree symbols following Communion.

Students from all grades will be participating in some capacity. It is truly a community event. It is guaranteed to get you in the 'spirit' and help all of us remember the primary 'reason for the season'. See you there!

Virtue of the Month

November—Conscience

A person of conscience....

- Chooses to do the 'right thing' and feels good about it
- Can see how his/her actions may hurt others
- Admits his/her wrong-doing and feels badly
- Says sorry and tries to make up for mistakes
- Keeps promises

Youth Faith Corner

At our Catholic school, we are striving to take our gospel based faith and turn it into action. This year promises to be an exciting, faith-filled year for our school with the help of our elected Executive Catholic Faith Ambassadors. The elected executive hosted our first Virtues Assembly, where they invited any student in grades 6-8 to be Youth Faith Ambassadors. We had an excellent turnout responding to the call. Under the leadership of the elected executive, we are privileged to report that more than 60 students have become our newest Youth Faith Ambassadors of St. Therese.

One of the missions of the Faith Ambassadors will be promoting the Virtues Program. At monthly assemblies, we will educate the whole school about the virtue of the month, and

motivate them to be aware of and include the virtue in their everyday lives. We will also celebrate the students' achievements each month by recognizing two students from each class who have exhibited that particular virtue. Each student recognized at the assembly will receive a Virtues Certificate, and a pencil engraved with the virtue that they are being recognized for. A special thanks goes to the School Council for donating the funds necessary for these pencils, as well as agreeing to support some of our other initiatives throughout 2009-2010.

Continuing with our understanding that *'Faith is nothing unless followed by action'*, our Faith Ambassadors will initiate and assist with charitable activities such as the Jelly Bean Contest and the Halloween Candy Drive. The St. Therese Community responded to the call for candy donations by sending in, by volume, a total of 267.6 litres of candy on November 2nd and 3rd. The candy collected was donated to a warehouse operated by Dr. Simone's *Canadian Food For Children* in Mississauga. The candy will then be sent off to third world countries to help "nourish" sick children who are too sick to take medications. Thank you to all students and families for your generosity. Thanks to all the teachers involved. Mrs. D'Andrea, Mrs. Firhoj, Ms. Lanza, Mme. Markic, Mr. Murray, Mme Pires, and Mrs. Ramlogan.

Kiss 'N Ride Safety Reminders

We encourage parents to drop off and pick up children at the designated area in the north parking lot. For the safety of all please respect the rules of the Kiss 'N Ride Program as follows:

- the curb lane is for drop off/pick up only. Students must be dropped off at the sidewalk for safety. Do not park your car or leave it unattended in this lane;
- drivers, do not get out of your car;
- children should enter/exit the car on the passenger/curb side only;
- the outside lane is for passing/exiting only.
- When you are exiting please use the Kiss and Ride lane only and do not drive by the front of the school
- Only kindergarten parents use the parking lot at the south end of the school.

Reporting to Parents First Term/ Interviews

Letters will be distributed to all students on Monday, November 17, requesting that parents call the school to book a first term Parent-Teacher Interview. Appointments will not be booked prior to the distribution of this letter. By booking appointments centrally we can co-ordinate interviews for all your children. Confirmation slips will be included with your child's report card so that you have a record of your scheduled interview time.

Please note: we are unable to accept interview appointments left on the school answering machine. Please speak directly with either Mrs. Lusk or Mrs. Williamson to schedule.

Your child(ren) will bring home their report card on Tuesday, December 1, 2009. Interviews will be held during the evening on Thursday, December 3, and during the day on Friday, December 4. (This will be a Professional Activity Day to accommodate Parent-Student-Teacher Interviews.)

The Parent-Student-Teacher interview is designed to complement the Ontario Report Card. The interview is an opportunity for parents to communicate with teachers, to offer useful information, and ask relevant questions about their child's progress in order to support their child's learning. Evaluation must be collaborative. For this reason, we encourage all parents to try and make time for this very important date. We also encourage you to bring your child to their interview. This way the child can participate in the conversation about their learning and in the process take ownership for their success.

Parents are asked to complete the third page of the Ontario Report Card. The Parent-Student Response Form is a vehicle for parents and students to comment upon student achievement. This is also an opportunity for parents to express their personal commitment to helping their child achieve set goals. When parents return this form to the school it will be placed in their child's Ontario Student Record (O.S.R) file.

EQAO Results

The Grades 3 and 6 assessments measure how well students have met the expectations in The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1 - 8. The assessments test what students know and how well they apply their knowledge and skills in reading, writing and mathematics in everyday situations by requiring students to read and respond to passages, to write and to solve mathematical problems. The results are reported in terms of achievement from levels 1 to 4 with level 3, which represents a high level of achievement, as the standard.

School results from the most recent EQAO Grade 6 assessments in reading, writing and mathematics indicate levels of student achievement that surpass both Board and Provincial averages.

School results on the most recent EQAO Grade 3 assessments in writing and mathematics indicate levels of student achievement that surpass both Board and Provincial averages.

Students, now in grades 4 and 7, who participated in the May 2009 EQAO provincial assessments deserve to be congratulated on a job well done!!

GRADE 6	School	Board	Province
Reading	90	72	69
Writing	89	72	67
Mathematics	93	65	63

GRADE 3	School	Board	Province
Reading	76	62	61
Writing	80	70	68
Mathematics	87	70	70

(% Students Achieving the Provincial Standard Levels 3 & 4)

Administration of EQAO for grade 3 and grade 6 students this year will be May 31- June 11, 2010. Please do not plan dental or doctor visits or vacation at that time as we need to preserve the integrity of the assessments.

EQAO- Individual Student Results (ISR)

The Individual Student Results (ISR) for grade 3 & 6 students who participated in last May's Provincial EQAO Assessment were sent home in October. Parents who have questions about their child's individual results may contact Vice-Principal M. D'Andrea.

School wide results are available to the public at large, now, on the EQAO website. Individual school profiles will also be posted on the Dufferin Peel C.D.S.B. & school websites in November.

QSP MAGAZINE FUNDRAISER RETURNS

Our QSP Magazine Fundraiser is well on its way. Student packages were given out and many have been returned. Once again you can order online or via a manual order form.



Junior and Intermediate Cross Country

Congratulations to the Cross Country Team for its fine effort at the Mississauga North Family Meet on October 8. The following students qualified for the Board Meet held on Wednesday, October 28 at Heart Lake Shynice W., Avery G., Melissa O., Sofia M., Tayah R., Madison C., Beniah L., Megan C. Julia M., Bradley H., Shalya B., Spencer G., Nikita P., Reuel L., Joseph L., Rachel F., Anthyn S., Sarah L., Lindsay H.

Once again congrats to everyone and GO THUNDER! These are impressive results considering runners were competing against a field of 70 to 100 other runners!!!! Thank you to our dedicated coaches E. Lanza, and L. Stephen.

Board Cross Country Meet

Congratulations to all runners who participated in the Cross Country Board meet at Heart Lake. Everyone who participated ran with a great deal of enthusiasm and drive. St. Therese had a number of top ten finishers who represented our school.

Shynice W. placed 2nd in the board overall

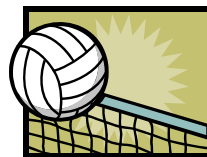
Avery G.P. - 3rd

Melissa O. - 4th

Sofia M. - 6th

Tayah R.- 8th

Once again congrats to everyone and GO THUNDER!



Intermediate Volleyball

Both our boys and girls intermediate volleyball teams made it into the semi-finals at the Family Tournament on October 27th. Congratulations! Thank you to coaches C. Dinis, N. Dorner, D. Knapp and J. Bortolotto.

Science Club

Once again Mr. Bortolotto is running the Science Club with help from the Engineers in Residence Program. The first meeting is on November 4th.

School Council

The next School Council meeting will be held on Thursday, November 25 at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome! Please note that this is a new date.

Picture Retake Day is Wednesday., November 18.

If any students wish to have individual pictures retaken they must send a note to request a retake, with their child's original photograph/proof to your child's teacher, prior to retake day.

Information Night - Iona Catholic Secondary School- Arts & Culture Pathway is scheduled for Thursday November 12 at 7p.m. at Iona.

Information Night—Cawthra Park SS—The Regional Arts

Program is now accepting audition registrations. Please contact Cawthra Park for details.

P.A. Day in November

On Monday, November 16 there will be a Professional Activity Day for teachers. There will be no school for students on this day. Teachers will be engaged in reporting and evaluating activities.

Reminder to Buy Student Accident Insurance

With all the activities that take place at school, in the playground, in the gym and in sports, accidents happen. Dental injuries can occur when two children accidentally bump heads or fall in the playground. Parents should understand that the school board does not carry accident insurance for students. You are encouraged to purchase student accident insurance for your children, if you have not already done so. Apply on line through Reliable Life Insurance Company at www.insuremykids.com.



Birthdays Are Special!

Many parents like to bring treats to school to celebrate their child's birthday. Often this includes a cake, plates, forks, drink boxes, loot bags, etc. While we understand birthdays are a special time, we have had to refuse entry of these special birthday treats due to allergies in a specific class, lack of awareness of food contents, or absence of advance notice.

Without advance notice and conversation with your child's teacher, distribution of food can not always be accommodated as the class may be engaged in a specific learning exercise, test or activity that cannot be rearranged. We ask that you use the following guidelines when planning to bring treats to school to celebrate a birthday :

- i) Consult with your child's teacher at least a day prior to bringing special occasion treats to school;
- ii) Consider bringing nonedible treats. There are many alternatives to bringing in food for birthdays and special occasions. Some suggestions are: stickers, gift certificates, pencils, stuffed toys, etc.
- iii) If you insist on bringing edible treats do not bring an item, like a cake, that requires plates, forks, cutting, and serving. Bring individual items such as cupcakes.
- iv) If you insist on bringing food, it must be accompanied by a list of all ingredients for the classroom teacher to ensure that the food is free of allergens or it will not be permitted for distribution.

- v) Students with anaphylactic reactions will not share in the food without advance parental consent even if the ingredients are free of potential allergens.
- vi) Students with an anaphylactic allergy are encouraged to bring in their own treats for special occasions.



Cold and Flu Season

Please use discretion in keeping your child home to recover if they are ill. A child who is coughing, wheezing, etc. is not in a state to learn and will only infect others. As well, please understand that if your child is well enough to attend school, they should be well enough to go outside at recess. It is impossible for supervision and safety to have some students inside and the others outside. Please be sure to continue to encourage your children to wash their hands frequently. Good hygiene is the best preventative measure. Also using a tissue when coughing or sneezing, or your sleeve if without a tissue, refraining from sharing pencils, erasers, scissors and snacks.

Safe Arrival

If your child is late in arriving, please send them through the front doors to check in at the office.

Lunch time routines

All children grades 1-6 are to stay at school for lunch unless being picked up by a parent to take out. Students in grade 7 and 8 may be permitted with parent permission to go home for lunch. Only students with written permission will be permitted to go out for lunch. No permission will be granted over the phone with last minute plans. If your child has brought a lunch, to change plans because friends are leaving is not appropriate. These plans need to be established in advance. Please remember you are assuming responsibility for your child leaving school property if they do so for lunch. The school resides close to a busy intersection and there are many high school students at the Tim Horton's and other establishments at the near by strip mall. **No students should be returning to the schoolyard with treats, lunches, drinks due to allergies by other students.**

Phone Messages

If there is a change to your child's routine, please note it in the child's agenda or send a note to the classroom teacher. Trying to process phone messages for families that have multiple siblings is very difficult and takes away office staff from possible emergencies.

Winter Dress

It is imperative that all students come to school ready to participate in all activities, including outdoor recess. Please ensure that your children come to school with hats, scarves, gloves, winter outerwear and boots. As well, all students should have indoor footwear at school. This is imperative in case of an emergency evacuation since the students will not have time to put on their boots if they need to evacuate the building in a hurry.

Jr. & Sr. 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 22, 2010 - 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.*

**Snow Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 - 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.*

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, February 24, 25 & 26, 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 December 31, 2010

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

Christmas Holiday Reminder

The dates for the Christmas Holiday this year are: December 21 to January 1, inclusive. Students return to school on Mon. Jan. 4, 2010.



**Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Peel**

The Power of An Hour! Be an In-School Mentor!

Make a difference in the life of a child in as little as one hour a week by volunteering to be an In-School Mentor. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Peel in partnership with the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board matches elementary girls and boys with a caring adult mentor. Matches meet for one hour each week from September - June during school hours and on school property to share in fun activities such as playing board games, baking or playing sports. The result - increased self esteem, better grades and improved relationships with family and peers.

Children are in need of mentors in our schools and we need your help. You can make a significant difference by volunteering or encouraging your friends and family to mentor a child in a school in their neighborhood.

The In-School Mentoring Program is currently offered in 25 DPCDSB schools across Peel. Call 905-457-7288 or visit www.bbbspeel.com for more information.

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.

