

NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER
2010



**M. Araman
Principal**

**G. Falotico
Secretary**

**R. Tanabe
School Council Chair**

**A. Walker
Custodian**

**D. Oude-
Reimerink
Superintendent
of Schools
(905) 890-1221**

**E. O'Toole
Trustee
(905) 812-5163**

**St. John of the
Cross Church
Fr. L. Huard
Pastor
(905) 821-1331**



ST. RICHARD SCHOOL

"Think Clearly. Feel deeply. Act wisely. Follow Him closely."

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A Prayer for Our School

God, our Father and Creator

Be with us in our school as we begin a new year. Help us to treasure Your gift of life and treat one another with care, dignity and respect. Let us always remember that we are all created in Your image.

Come, Lord Jesus, and be with us in our school. Guide our teachers. Guide our parents. Lead us to recognize You in all people.

Come, Holy Spirit, and be with us. Give us the vision, determination and perseverance for shaping a faith-filled future, and help us to preserve our awesome Catholic School System. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen

Welcome Back!

On behalf of all St. Richard staff, I would like to welcome our returning students and parents as we begin the 2010/2011 school year. A warm welcome is extended to those of you who have joined the St. Richard community over the summer months and to our Junior Kindergarten students as they embark on a new journey at St. Richard! We also welcome new staff members Mrs. Colgan, teaching the morning kindergarten class and Mrs. Frackowiak, who will be helping our special needs students.

It is my pleasure to join this wonderful school community and I look forward to spending time with our students, collaborating with staff and meeting with parents throughout the school year. This will be an exciting and historic year as St. Richard School celebrates 35 years of Catholic education. Details of this event will be communicated to the school community soon.

Staff members have been working diligently over the past few weeks in preparation for the new year. We thank Mrs. Falotico our secretary for many hours of organizational work and our custodial team of Mr. A. Walker and Mr. Peczkowski for their hard work in preparing the school for our students. The school is sparkling clean, so let us all do our best to ensure that it continues to look as good as it does now. In the days ahead we look to make new friends and re-acquaint with old friends. We hope to rekindle a love for learning as we begin an exciting 2009-2010 school year. As in the past, we will continue to encourage and build a cooperative partnership with home, school, community and parish to promote a positive learning environment for our students.

In order to keep in touch with events important to our school community, you are encouraged to read the monthly newsletters. These will be sent home, but are also available on our website. Please bookmark us and visit often: <http://www.dpcdsb.org/RICHA>

In addition, the opportunity to have our newsletters and other school communications sent directly to your email inboxes will be available in the near future.

I look forward to serving in my capacity as principal and wish you all a successful school year.

Mr. M. Araman
Principal

Student 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 enrollment:

- 1) Complete the traditional form and mail it in.
- 2) Apply on-line at www.insuremykids.com

Parents alone have the right to insure their children.

Kiss and Ride Program

Thank you to the many parents who access the Kiss and Ride Drop off each morning. Students should be dropped off between 8:15-8:25. Please **NOTE:** there are only 2 lanes, a **Kiss'n Ride** lane and a **Drive Thru lane**. Please try to assist us in making it safe for all children by cooperating and making use of the Kiss'n Ride lane. **The drive thru lane must be left clear for emergency vehicles.** If you are entering the school please park your car in an appropriate and legal spot. Do not park (leave your car) in the Kiss and Ride. Thanks for your cooperation in this matter.

Volunteers are needed for Kiss'n Ride, if you can help, please contact Jim Carr – (647) 500-6998 or email – me@jimcarr.ca.

Terry Fox Marathon of Hope

St. Richard is pleased to be hosting the Terry Fox "Marathon of Hope" on Thurs. Sept. 27, 2010. All funds raised through our event will be forwarded to the Terry Fox Foundation to further the cause of cancer research.

When Terry Fox ran in 1980, he asked everyone to get involved in finding a cure for cancer. Today, thousands of schools have accepted this challenge.

We are delighted to be counted as one of these amazing schools that will begin the 2010-2011 school year in the spirit of courage, endurance, generosity, and hope for the future. Our school's spirit is heightened when we have good will towards others. We gain hope and unity when we work together for a cure.

Students are encouraged to wear red and white and look as wacky as they can. We will be sending home pledge sheets and **ask** that they be

School Hours

8:30	Classes begin
10:20-10:35	Morning recess
8:30-11:00	AM Kindergarten
11:20-12:20	Lunch
12:30-3:00	PM Kindergarten
1:45-2:00	Afternoon recess
3:00	School day ends

Personal Electronic Devices

To promote respect for the dignity of all members of our school community and to enhance student achievement and safety, the use of a PED is strictly prohibited in the school or during school related activities (such as retreats, field trips, sports events, etc.).

Failure to comply with this policy may result in the confiscation of the PED and/or disciplinary action. The school and the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board assume no responsibility for the loss, recovery, repair or replacement for any PED brought onto school property.

It is the policy of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board that PEDs are to be kept out-of- sight, turned off and not used within school premises or during school sanctioned events. To prevent the loss or damage of PEDs, the school encourages students to leave their PEDs at home.

Combined Classes

Based on the number of students in each grade level, and after considering factors such as class organization and number caps, it is often necessary to create combined classes. In populating combined classes, a number of varieties are considered to ensure that the best possible learning environment for students is maintained. A wide range of both academic and social/emotional student development and student needs can be found in any class, whether combined or single grade. Teachers are experienced in effectively programming for individual student needs in regular and combined classes. In order to deal equitably with this issue, every attempt is made to avoid placing a student in a combined class 2 consecutive years. However it should be noted that depending on actual numbers, there may be no choice. Please contact your child's teacher or the principal if you have any questions.

Open House & BBQ

Join us for a barbecue and meet your child's teacher on Thursday, **September 30** between 5:00 and 7:00 pm

School Council Meeting

Tuesday, Sept.14 at 7:00 pm
in the Library.
All parents are welcome.

Transportation Information

September has arrived and school is in full swing. If your child qualifies for transportation, the bus routes and times have been posted on the front doors of the school. Throughout September, bus routes and times may change due to variances in student population. By early October, student numbers will be confirmed. At this time we will implement the Board's **Courtesy Seat Policy**. If you wish to access this policy, please obtain a request form from the office and return it as soon as possible. Empty seats will be allocated in October and will be allocated to students with special needs, distance and age (youngest students will be given priority). The empty seat policy is valid for one year only. If your child was awarded a Courtesy Seat last year you need to re-apply for the 2010-2011 school year. If you have any questions please call the school or Transportation at 905-890-0614.

Bus Rules

All bus students must follow the bus rules in order to have a safe ride to and from school. Students are to remain seated, facing the front at all times. Food and/or drinks are not permitted on the bus. Students are asked to sit quietly so that the bus driver can focus on the drive. Failure to follow the rules may result in the loss of bus privilege.

Possible Reorganization of Classes

St. Richard's school staffing for 2010 -2011 is based on a 'projected' student enrollment that is calculated each spring. September staffing is based on these projections. However, staffing and class organization are re-assessed in early September based on actual student numbers. Additional pressure for reorganization in September comes from the government-mandated cap on primary class sizes (20 students per class in gr. JK-3). Some reorganization of classes is likely at St. Richard although we cannot at this time determine the exact outcome. All school organization plans will be reviewed at the Board level for approval in the next week. If any class reorganization is required it will be implemented effective September 21st.

Picture Day

Student school photographs will be taken on:
September 28, 2010



Teaching Your Child to be Responsible

If you are dropping off your children in the morning or getting them ready for school, please try to have them at school for 8:25. Let your children know that it is important to be on time for school each day and let them be responsible for making sure everyone is on time in the morning. School begins at 8:30 am sharp and ends at 3:00 p.m. Lunch is from 11:20-12:20. Students going home for lunch are expected to return by 12:20.

Catholic Student Agendas

Once again this year we will be using commercial school agendas for students in grades 1 to 8. We will be sending them home with the children at the beginning of school. Remember to review the agenda daily with your child and keep the home to school communication link strong and hopefully this will help to improve your child's chances for success at school. The agenda also contains the Catholic Code of Conduct. Please review the Code of Conduct with your child. Thank you to School Council for the agenda purchase.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL 2010-2011

Contributing your time to the school council is a great way for you to become actively involved in the school and your child's education. The council meets regularly and is active in local school issues as well as board and provincial educational priorities.

If you are interested in being a part of the St. Richard Catholic School Council for 2010-2011, you are invited to pick up a nomination form at the school office between 8:00 am and 3:30 pm. Self-nomination is acceptable. School Council membership is a one year term.

ALL NOMINATION FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 3:15 PM ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2010.

If by September 17th the number of candidates exceeds the maximum number for the composition of the School Council, an election will be held. All candidates would then need to submit a brief biography which will be posted at the school for voters to read. The election will take place on Tuesday, September 28 between 8:30 am and 6:00 pm in the front foyer. Results of the election will be posted on Friday, October 1, 2010. If the number of candidates does not exceed the maximum, there will be no need for the election and candidates will be acclaimed. The first meeting of the new council will take place Tuesday, October 5, 2010 at 7:00 pm in the library.

Lunch Hour Procedures

During the lunch hour all students who stay for lunch are expected to remain at school, and all students who go home for lunch are expected to go home every day. If there is a change in the regular lunch hour procedure for your child, parent/guardians are asked to provide the teacher with a note explaining the change. A consistent procedure will make the lunch hour less confusing for your child. Please complete and return the appropriate form.

When delivering your child's lunch to school, please advise your child in advance that you will be doing so and write his/her name on the bag. Your child can come down to the front foyer at 11:20 to pick it up with minimal disruption to the class. It would be much appreciated if you would help us out with this matter.

Virtues Program

The goal of The Virtues Program is to foster positive Catholic values in our schools and create a Safe, Caring and Inclusive School Community.

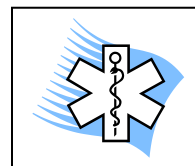
Each month we will focus on a different virtue as a school community. We will identify the virtues and observe how they are happening in our school. Our goal is to continue to grow in our faith and become good ambassadors for our faith in our community.

The virtue for September is FAITH, and for October, EMPATHY. Parents are encouraged to talk to their children about the importance of developing faith and empathy and the role each of these virtues plays in character development and building care, tolerance and acceptance for others.

Medical Alert/Medication

We have several students at St. Richard School with severe life threatening ALLERGIES. In most cases these allergies prevent students from coming into contact with any kind of nuts or products with nut by-products. Students are encouraged to bring snacks and lunches that are nut free.

Parents are responsible for ensuring that all medication and forms are updated annually. If your child requires medication please have the necessary forms completed and returned with the medication as soon as possible.



Dates to Remember

- Sept. 12 – Initial 1st Communion Meeting for parents @ St. John of the Cross 3:00 pm
- Sept. 13 – 2010 School Council Nomination forms available in the front office
- Sept. 13 – All Candidates meeting for trustee elections 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm at Ruth Thompson Middle School – 5605 Freshwater Drive
- Sept. 14 - Initial 1st Communion Initial Meeting for parents @ St. John of the Cross 7:00 pm
- Sept. 14 – School Council Meeting
- Sept. 17 – PA day – no classes for students
- Sept. 17 – 2010 School Council forms due by 3:30 pm
- Sept. 22 – Opening Mass @ St. John of the Cross 9:30
- Sept. 24 - School Council nominee biographies due if necessary
- Sept. 26 – Parent and Candidate Meeting for Confirmation @ St. John of the Cross 7:30 pm
- Sept. 27 – Terry Fox Run/Walk at School
- Sept. 27 – **EARLY RELEASE** – students dismissed at 11:20
- Sept. 28 – 2010 School Council Elections if necessary: 8:30 am to 6:00 pm
- Sept. 30 – Open House and 35th anniversary
- Sept. 30 – Parent and Candidate Meeting for Confirmation @ St. John of the Cross 7:30 pm
- Oct. 1 – 2010 School Council election results posted
- Oct. 5 – 1st meeting of the 2010 – 2011 School Council

Student Absences

Please call the school when your child **will be absent or late**. **This is a safety precaution.** Our 24-hour attendance line is 905-826-5572, option 1. When reporting the absence please state the following:
Date of absence
Student's full name
Grade level and teacher
Reason for absence
Date of return if known.

Valuables

Students are requested not to bring valuables or items of importance to school. Electronic devices such as I-pods, cell phones, Gameboys etc. are not to be brought to school. These items are very expensive and are much safer if left at home. The school does not accept responsibility for these items.

Visitors/Volunteers

Be reminded that all visitors, including parents, must come to the office, sign in and pick up a volunteer/visitor badge. Please enter through the front doors only. Students and staff are instructed to report **ANY** person entering St. Richard School who does **not** stop at the office and have a **visitor/volunteer badge**. OUR CHILDREN'S SAFETY IS A TOP PRIORITY. Thank you for your cooperation in supporting a safe environment.

VIRTUES PROGRAM

other words, a virtue is a habit that shows people and God that I AM A GOOD PERSON. The goal of The Virtues Program is to foster positive Catholic values in our schools and create a Safe, Caring and Inclusive School Community.

Each month we will focus on a different virtue as a school community. We will identify the virtues and observe how they are happening in our school. Our goal is to continue to grow in our faith and become good ambassadors for our faith in our community.

The virtue for September is FAITH, and for October is EMPATHY. Parents are encouraged to talk to their children about the importance of developing faith and empathy and the role each of these virtues plays in character development and building care, tolerance and acceptance for others.

Virtues by Month

September	-	FAITH	February	-	RESPECT
October	-	EMPATHY	March	-	KINDNESS
November	-	CONSCIENCE	April	-	LOVE
December	-	HOPE	May	-	ACCEPTANCE/TOLERANCE
January	-	SELF-CONTROL	June	-	FAIRNESS

First Communion and Reconciliation Schedule:

First Communion Initial Meeting – Sunday, September 13 @ 2:30 pm
 First Communion Initial Meeting – Tuesday, September 15 @ 7:30 pm

First Reconciliation Meeting – Sunday, September 27 @ 2:30 pm
 First Reconciliation Meeting – Tuesday, September 29 @ 7:30 pm

Confirmation Schedule 2009-2010

Parent & Candidate Meeting – Sunday, Oct. 4 or Tues., Oct. 6 @ 7:30 pm



Welcome to Our New Superintendent Denise Oude-Reimerink and Farewell to Michael Prospero, Mississauga North Family of Schools

From: Trustee, Esther O'Toole, Ward 9, 10

Michael Prospero who has been the Superintendent for the Mississauga North Family of Schools for the past six years has announced his retirement. Mr. Prospero has been a key leader in this Family and has played an integral role in the growth, successes and challenges of this large Family of Schools. We wish Michael the Lord's blessings as he moves on to this next phase in his life and thank him for all of his contributions to our schools in Mississauga North.

We are very pleased to welcome Mrs. Denise Oude-Reimerink as the new Superintendent of the Mississauga North Family of Schools. Mrs. Oude-Reimerink has been a Principal at both the school and Board Department levels. She has played important roles on many of our Boardwide Committees including our Strategic Review Committee, Management of Information for Student Achievement, and the Boardwide Speaking Contest just to name a few. She will bring her many talents to the Mississauga North Family of Schools and we look forward to working with Mrs. Oude-Reimerink as your Trustees.

We wish you all a great start to the school year. We hope to meet you at School Council Meetings or as we visit the schools this year. May the good Lord bless you and your family as we move into another great year for Mississauga North and for Dufferin-Peel.