

NEWSLETTER  
JUNE  
2011



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## ST. RICHARD SCHOOL

“Think Clearly. Feel deeply. Act wisely. Follow Him closely.”

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### Summer Blessing

Let us put ourselves into the hands of the Lord, and pray that God will bless us and our families during the wonderful months of summer.

May each of us help to make our home a place of relaxation, joy, love, peace and safety.

May we be generous and considerate, Not thinking only about ourselves but helping others enjoy the blessings of the summertime.

Lord, bless each one of these, the students, the teachers, our families and friends.

Keep each one of us in your care during the summer and throughout our lives.

Guide our steps and strengthen our hearts as we say good-bye and end our year.

Let us end this year as we began it, as a faith filled, committed and caring, community of learners.

### End of Year School Mass

Friday, June 17, 2011

St. John of the Cross Church

10:00 am

ALL WELCOME!

### Bullying Prevention Education

JUNE'S THEME:

**The Importance of Effective Communication**

The theme for June focuses on communication skills – particularly assertive communication. Assertive communication is defined as behaviour that demonstrates an ability to stand up for oneself, express feelings and exercise rights while respecting the rights of others. Students need to learn the difference between assertive, aggressive and passive communication in addition to the verbal and body language components of assertive behaviour. Assertive communication skills help students deal independently with conflict, prevent situations from becoming bullying and stand up for others who are not assertive.

#### Tips for parents:

- Help your child practice using assertive behaviours (stand tall, make eye contact, speak clearly, use “I” messages)
- Role model assertive behaviour in your relationships with family and friends
- Encourage your child to deal with bullying by being assertive but also reporting to adults and accepting help when needed

### Another School Year Ends...

As the school year closes I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all the members of the St. Richard School community for working together to make our school the best it can be. To the staff, whose energy, dedication and commitment have provided countless opportunities for students to grow academically, spiritually, physically and emotionally. Your professionalism, caring and perseverance have enriched our 327 students. I extend a special appreciation and humble thank you to the members of this year's school council and parent volunteers who worked tirelessly offering their time and energy for the benefit of your children and supported staff in many ways. Your support and leadership has truly made a difference and is a shining example of the partnership we all strive for. Thank you to Father Leo, Father Joseph, Father Abraham and the St. John of the Cross Church staff who provided spiritual direction and guidance for our families and students, in particular those who celebrated a sacrament this year. I would also like to acknowledge those students who have volunteered during the year on a consistent basis in helping other St. Richard students in particular the student council. All of your efforts are true examples of what giving to others is all about. Finally I thank you the parents for your support of all our work especially in raising funds for our brothers and sisters in need. Your generosity is unmatched anywhere. May the Lord bless all of you and keep you safe throughout the summer holidays.

M. Araman  
Principal





## Virtues Education

This month we will celebrate the virtue of **fairness**. When we spend a lot of time immersed in a variety of different media – TV, movie, magazine, radio we can sometimes forget that life is *not* a competition. We are made by God to live together, to share and to help each other. You can't be a Christian alone. Christianity is all about living together in community – ideally, one big happy family. When the urge to be superior takes over a person's life then fairness can go out the window.

Fairness, the belief that everyone deserves an opportunity to succeed, is not always about making things exactly equal. Some people need a bit more time, space, and support to have an equal chance to succeed. And they deserve that chance. Jesus spent a major part of his time on earth showing us about the preferential option for the poor and weak. He spent an extraordinary amount of time showing how to follow God's rules, the rules of the kingdom. The sick, the lame, the blind, the bad sinners all need a fair chance to succeed – to overcome their disadvantages and disabilities they face.

A Fair Person...

- Listens to all sides before forming opinions
- Understands that being fair is not about making everything equal
- Knows that the same rules apply to everyone
- Refuses to twist rules to avoid consequences
- Works to bring about peaceful solutions to problems



## Changes to Contact Information

It is very important that the school be made aware of any change to home, business or cell numbers for all the contacts on your child's contact list. Please ensure that the school is notified **in writing** of these changes, so that our records can be changed immediately. It is also important that you have a network of support for your child in case we are unable to contact you and that you make sure we have these numbers as well.

## Are You Moving?

If you are moving to a new neighborhood within the St. Richard School area, please make sure to update your contact information so that we have accurate records. If you are moving out of the St. Richard School area we will miss you! To assist us in planning for the next school year, please inform us as soon as possible that your children will not be attending school here in September 2011.

## Volunteer Appreciation

We will be having a Volunteer Appreciation Tea on Tuesday June 29th from 11:20 to 12:20 for parents who have been volunteering their time to help with in-school activities. Thank you to all who supported our children with the following: School Council, All Star Coaches, Library Helpers, Sacramental Retreat Days, Healthy Snacks, and Pizza days.

***Your help was greatly appreciated!***



## Bus Transportation

In planning for your child's transportation to and from school in September, please keep in mind the school board guidelines regarding school bus eligibility.

Kindergarten	1 km or farther.
Grades 1-4	1.6 km or farther.
Grades 5-6	2 km or farther.
Grades 7-8	3.2 km or farther

Please note that unless students fall within these policy guidelines they will not be eligible for transportation in September. This might mean that a grade K-4 child is entitled to transportation, but a grade 5 sibling in the same home will not be. As in the past, parents/guardians will be able to apply under the 'Courtesy Seat' policy in October for those children who are not eligible for transportation on the first day of school. Seats will be granted on a case by case basis. Those of you who have children who were granted courtesy seats for the 2010-2011 school year are reminded that this entitlement expires on June 30. You are invited to re-apply in October. Please note that under no circumstances are schools able to grant courtesy seats until STOPR has finalized transportation routes for the entire board, usually in early October. Please visit the link below for other transportation news and information.

[www.stopr.ca](http://www.stopr.ca)

## 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Photo Ordering Information Last Chance!

In celebration of our 35th anniversary this year, a rooftop picture was taken in the fall of all staff and students in order to commemorate this special occasion. We are pleased to offer you the opportunity to order the colour version of this special portrait. A reduced black and white sample is shown below. Please cut out this box and use the order form. If paying by cheque, please make payable to St. Richard School. Please return to your child's teacher.

Size	Cost	Quantity	Total Paid
8 x 10	\$15.00	_____	\$ _____
11 x 14	\$22.00	_____	\$ _____
16 x 20	\$40.00	_____	\$ _____

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



### Be A Giving Source

Thanks to all your efforts we are pleased to report that our Lenten Social Justice project, Be A Giving Source (BAGS), was a great success. Your generous contributions yielded a total of 8 large bags filled with school supplies for needy children in Haiti. On behalf of all of us, we thank you again for taking care of our less fortunate brothers and sisters around the world.

## Dates to Remember

- June 17 End of Year Mass @ St. John of the Cross  
Mr. Sub lunch day
- June 22 School Council Meeting in the library @ 7:00 pm  
Talent Show
- June 23 Primary Play Day  
Pizza Lunch Day
- June 24 Board Track and Field Meet
- June 28** Grade 8 Graduation Mass @ 5:00 pm  
JK/SK celebrations @ 10:15 and 2:00  
St. John of the Cross Church  
**Report Cards sent home**
- June 29 Volunteer Appreciation in the library
- June 30 Awards Assemblies K-4 @ 9:00; 5-8 @ 10:15  
Last day of School
- Aug 29 School office re-opens
- Sept. 6 First Day of School**
- Sept 16 PA day – no classes for students
- Sept 22 Picture Day!

## Dress Code for the Warmer Weather

With the warmer weather approaching, we request that students are neat, clean and appropriately dressed for school. Clothing worn to school **MUST** be modest. Skirts and shorts should be longer than arm's length and midriffs must be covered. Spandex, cutoffs, bicycle shorts, halter tops, crop tops, tank tops and muscle shirts are not to be worn at school. Suggestive, violent and or inappropriate language or symbols are not permitted on clothing, hats or personal belongings. Students are encouraged to wear hats outside and use *sunscreen*. We ask for your continued support for this dress code which reflects a Catholic School as a place for serious work, accompanied by standards of sensitivity, politeness and decorum.

## School Council Meeting

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

6:30 p.m.

All parents are welcome!

## Opening Day Procedures

As has been the pattern in past years, we will continue to register students during the last week of August and into September. Therefore, class lists will not be finalized at this time and students will discover who their teachers are on the first day of school. We will be posting class lists in the gymnasium on the first day of school, **Tuesday, September 6, 2011**. The school doors will be opened at 8:15 a.m. Parents are invited to check the class lists in the gym and then take their child to class. After seeing your child to class, please leave the building in a timely manner.

J.K. students will have a staggered entry to school. Parents will be contacted prior to school commencing to schedule a date and time to meet with their children's teachers.

Bus lists will be posted on the front doors the last week of August. Students who rode the bus this year, using the Courtesy Seat Policy, will need to reapply.

The school office will be open on **Monday, August 29**.



*The staff of St. Richard School wishes each of you a safe and restful summer! See you again on September 6, 2011 for another exciting year.*

