

NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER
2011



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Principal

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Fr. L. Huard
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ST. RICHARD SCHOOL

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

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A Blessing for this School Year

Loving God, extend your blessing over our families this new school year.
May our homes be filled with love, joy and hope.
Let trespasses be forgiven, wounds be healed, and conflict melt into harmony.
May our children grow in knowledge, understanding and wisdom;
May they be strong in mind, body and spirit;
May they have the courage to follow your ways.
Finally dear God, may home, parish, and school work together
to create a world where our children can help build a civilization
to be proud of for years to come,
Amen



Welcome Back!

As we begin a new and exciting school year, we would like to extend a warm welcome to students and families new to the St Richard School community. Here you will find a warm and inviting atmosphere where learning is fun and exciting. All returning students and families to St Richard School Community are also welcomed. We look forward to an exciting school year.

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 2011-2012 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.

The staff at St Richard School wishes for all of our students a successful and rewarding experience as we embark together on our journey.

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 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>

I 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

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 and leave your car unattended** in the Kiss and Ride Lane. 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.

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.

Transportation Information

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. For this school year the following eligibility criteria are used by STOPR (for information visit: www.stopr.ca)

JK – Grade 1 1.0 km

Grades 2 – 4 1.6 km

Grades 5 – 8 2.0 km

In early October, student numbers will be confirmed. At this time we will implement the Board's **Courtesy Seat Policy** by allocating any empty seats to those who request them. If you wish to access an empty seat, please write a letter to the principal clearly stating the reason a courtesy seat is required. Be sure to print your name and the child's name and grade. Empty seats will be allocated in October. Individual needs will be considered but not all requests will be approved. Priority is given to the youngest students who live farthest from the school. 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 2011-2012 school year.** If you have any questions please call the school.

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 privileges.

NEW! Revised School Hours

Please note the following minor changes (**bold lettering**) particularly during the lunch hour (11:20-12:20):

8:25	Bell Rings-Students to be in line
8:30	Entry Bell Rings – Students Enter
10:00-10:15	Morning recess
8:30-11:00	Morning Kindergarten
11:20-12:00	Lunch Recess
12:00 -12:20	Students Eat Lunch
12:30-3:00	Afternoon Kindergarten
1:40-1:55	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.

Picture Day

Student school photographs will be taken on:
September 22, 2011



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Possible Reorganization of Classes

St. Richard's school staffing for 2011-2012 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 possible at St. Richard although we cannot at this time be certain. 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 19th.

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.

Open House

Our Open House to meet your child's teacher takes place on Wednesday, September 22, 2011 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm

School Council Meeting

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

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.

St. Richard Catholic School Council 2011-2012

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 2011-2012, you are invited to pick up a nomination form at the school office between 8:00 am and 3:30 pm from Monday, September 13 – Monday, September 20. 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 23, 2011.

If by September 23th 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 Thursday, September 29, between 8:30 am and 6:00 pm in the front foyer. Results of the election will be posted on Friday, September 30, 2011. 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 Wednesday, October 12, 2011 at 7:00 pm in the library.

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.

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. In addition, there are students who are allergic to insect bites and other types of food.

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. 9	2010 School Council nomination forms available in the front office
Sept. 14	School Council Meeting @ 7:00 pm in library
Sept. 16	PA day – no classes for students
Sept. 21	Opening Mass @ St. John of the Cross 9:30
Sept. 22	Open House
Sept. 23	School Council nominations closes
Sept. 23	Hepatitis B, Meningitis, HPV vaccines
Sept. 26	Terry Fox Run
Sept. 28	School Council Biographies due if needed
Sept. 30	2010 School Council Elections if necessary: 8:30 am to 6:00 pm
Oct. 3	2011-2012 School Council Posted
Oct. 6	Provincial Election Day
Oct. 10	Thanksgiving Day – School Closed
Oct. 12	Thanksgiving Mass @ St. John of the Cross 9:30
Oct. 12	1 st meeting of the 2010 – 2011 School Council 7:00 pm in the School Library

Staff Changes

Over the summer, Mr. O'Brien, our grade 5 teacher, retired. We wish him all the best in his retirement and thank him for years of contribution to the St. Richard community. As well, Ms. Savage will take on new responsibilities at another area school. We are sad to see her go but wish her all the best in her new challenges. It is our pleasure to welcome the following staff: Mr. Cardamone is teaching one of the grade 5/6 combined classes. Ms. DeMelo is welcomed as our Education Resource Worker and Mr. Berthiaume will take on the responsibilities of Child and Youth Worker.

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. common targets for theft. These items are very expensive and are much safer if left at home. The school does not accept responsibility for lost or stolen items.

Visitors/Volunteers

Be reminded that all visitors, including parents, must report 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.

If you are able to volunteer your time for a variety of school functions, please contact the front of office.



Student Monitor Needed!!

If you are interested in earning a little money by supervising students during the lunch hour (11:20 to 12:30) please contact the school.