

NEWSLETTER  
OCTOBER  
2011



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## ST. RICHARD SCHOOL

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

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### Prayer

Loving God we thank you  
For each new morning with its light,  
for rest and shelter of the night,  
for health and food,  
for love and friends,  
For everything Thy goodness sends.  
Amen

### Terry Fox Update

On Monday, September 26, 2011, our students participated in the Terry Fox walk in support of cancer research. Thanks to your tremendous support, we are able to contribute over \$1100.00 to the Terry Fox foundation.

### THINK GREEN

Please consider having our monthly newsletters and other key memos and reminders sent directly to your email inbox. This will help reduce our expenditures for both paper and photocopying fees and will also contribute to environmental stewardship. Please visit the Newsletter section of the school website and print a registration form. The form can be returned to your child's teacher. Both the school newsletters which are published monthly and the School Council newsletters are also posted on the school website:

<http://www.dpcdsb.org/RICHA/>

### 2011 Catholic School Council

Your new Catholic School Council members are listed below. Please remember that parents are welcome to attend meetings, but only active members may vote. Congratulations to the new council members and on behalf of the St. Richard community I thank you for your dedication in support of our students.

#### Members

Sue D'Angelo  
Magda Kaniewski  
Lillian Mendoza  
Eva Omes  
Mark Strozyk  
Jaya Mootoo-Szypulewski  
Richard Tanabe  
Susan Tanabe  
Judi Torrao

Next School Council Meeting  
**Wednesday, October 12, 2011**  
In the library.

### The Reporting of Student Achievement

The 2011-2012 student achievement reporting dates are as follows:

**Progress Report Card: October 25, 2011**

Parent teacher Interviews: October 27, 2011.

**1<sup>st</sup> Term Report Card: January 31, 2012:**

Parent teacher Interviews: February 2, 2012  
(3:00 – 9:00 pm)

Parent teacher Interviews: February 3, 2012  
(9:00 am – 12:00 pm)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Term Report Card: June 26, 2012**

### October 6<sup>th</sup> Provincial Election

Please be advised that St. Richard School will be used as a polling station for the upcoming provincial election on October 6, 2011. Rest assured that we will be diligent in restricting voters to the school gym. This is also a good time to ask for your continued cooperation in signing in if you are visiting the school for any reason.

## Bullying Prevention Corner

Our monthly newsletters will feature information based on the Region of Peel Bullying Prevention Program. Each month features a focused theme for discussion and exploration. Please take a few moments to read and review the following key message with your children.

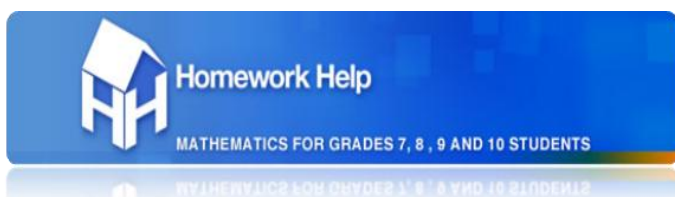
### October – Bullying is Not Acceptable

The theme for October focuses on the definition of bullying. The key message is *“bullying is not acceptable”*. Students should understand the vast array of behaviours that can be bullying (physical, verbal, social) and explore the emotional impact of those behaviours on others. Students develop the ability to understand and apply the definition of bullying through constant exposure, repeated use and consistency. Using the same definition of bullying throughout the school and at home allows both students and adults to more effectively prevent and deal with bullying situations.

*Bullying is: Being mean to others, on purpose, to hurt them or their feelings. Bullying behaviour: is intended to hurt, is repeated and involves unequal power and control*

#### Tips for Parents:

- review the definition of bullying with your children (*see the school policy document for more detail on the definition*)
- talk with younger children about inside and outside hurts
- talk with older children about intimidation, gossip, rumours and cyber bullying
- encourage children to share their feelings about bullying behaviours that they have experienced, witnessed or engaged in



Homework Help is now operational. The tutor chat rooms opened Sunday and students from across the province have begun to take advantage of this free online math support from the Ministry. Every student in grades 7 to 10 is eligible. To use the site students can:

- Use their existing account from last year and if they've forgotten their login and password the site has a FORGOT PASSWORD link that will help them retrieve their info.
- New students can register on the site following the instructions.

<https://homeworkhelp.ilc.org/index.php>



## Ontario Educational Resource Bank

This Ministry run resource site continues to grow with now over 26 000 resources that include lesson plans, assessments, video clips and interactive learning tools. The site supports grades K to 12. Resources can be accessed by teachers, parents and students. Login information is listed below:

<http://resources.elearningontario.ca>

#### Students and Parents:

Username: dpcdsbstudent

Password: oerbs



## Lunch Time Student Monitors Needed

We are in need of lunch hour student monitor to work the lunch hour as well as a person who can fill in on an “on call” basis in the event one of the full time lunch time supervisors is ill. If you are able to assist in any of these positions please contact the office. You would need to be available for student supervision duty between 11:15 am and 12:30 pm Monday to Friday. Both are paid positions.



## Virtue of the Month: Empathy

This month we will focus on the virtue of **empathy**.

God has given us the ability to form connections with each other - to live together. Empathy helps us to connect and live together in safe, caring, inclusive communities.

We understand empathy to mean the ability to identify with and feel other people's concerns. We believe that in a faith community we are nothing without relationships. Relationships that grow in a spirit of communion- an understanding that we share an identity based on being created in the image and likeness of God and being imbued with one Spirit. We are many parts of one body.

An *empathetic* person believes that we all share one Spirit; that we are many parts of one body because we are all created in the image and likeness of God.

**An empathetic person...**

- **Listens attentively**
- **Watches people's body language**
- **Notices and responds when someone is upset**
- **Can name her/his feelings**
- **Can see a situation from another person's point of view**
- **Knows that different people may feel differently about the same thing**

Try to reinforce and acknowledge empathetic behavior at home.

## Healthy Snack Program

Our school has been given a grant from a ministry supported organization known as Breakfast for Kids. The amount given supports approximately 50% of the cost of our program for an entire school year. In order for our program to be successful we are looking for support from local community businesses that can assist us in funding this excellent program. If you are a business owner who would like to sponsor our snack program, please contact the office. Your business would receive a tax receipt for your contribution. In addition donations from families are also needed and welcome. The Healthy Snack Program will begin sometime in October. If you are interested in us providing a healthy snack for your children twice per week, please complete and return the enclosed registration form by October 19, 2011.



## Playground Supervision

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Playground supervision begins at 8:15 am.

**Parents should not drop off their children prior to 8:15.** Please remember that the school day begins at 8:30. Late students disrupt classes and miss important announcements. For Kindergarten p.m. classes, supervision in the kindergarten yard begins at 12:20pm. **For your child's safety, we request that he/she not be on school property until scheduled supervision times.**

## Allergies

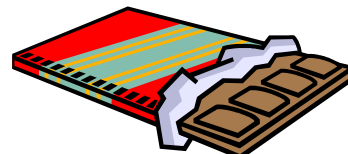
If your child has an allergy to any foods, materials, insects or plants, it is vital for the school to be made aware. Please contact the office with this information if it pertains to you. Where an epipen is required in the event of an allergic reaction there are specific forms that **MUST** be completed by the parents and your family doctor. Again, please contact the office for details.

Parents are also asked to avoid sending lunches containing nut products as a courtesy to students with severe allergies to nuts.

## FUNDRAISING

We are launching our annual fall fundraiser on October 3<sup>rd</sup> with an information pep rally for students. Please consider helping us to raise essential funds for our school. With your help, we know we can have a successful campaign. This year, we are selling the delicious **LAMONTAGNE Nut-Free DESTINATIONS BOUTIQUE** - a delicious assortment of 30 chocolates selling at \$2.00 each. If each family sells only one Boutique we will reach our financial goal but of course, selling more than one will help exceed it. The profits of this fundraiser will help to cover the costs of student agendas, numeracy and literacy resources, buses for field trips and many other important endeavors.

Every family who participates will automatically be entered into our grand prize appreciation draw (all money must be returned by October 14<sup>th</sup>). Any family that returns their money by Friday October 7<sup>th</sup> will be entered into the EARLY BIRD PRIZE draw. Please help us by selling to as many people as you can - friends, family and co-workers. We appreciate all of your efforts during this fundraising drive.



## Dates to Remember...



- Oct 6 Provincial Election
- Oct 7 Pizza Lunch Day
- Oct 12 Thanksgiving Mass @ 9:30 at the church
- Oct 12 School Council Meeting @ 7 pm in the library
- Oct 13 Cross Country Meet @ Erindale College
- Oct 14 Rosary Apostulate in the school
- Oct 14 Extreme Pita Lunch
- Oct 20 Scientists in the School – grade 3
- Oct 21 Grade 1 trip to Springridge Farms
- Oct 21 Pizza Lunch Day
- Oct 25 Progress Reports sent home
- Oct 27 Picture Retake Day
- Oct 27 Parent-Teacher Interviews: 3:15 to 8:30 pm
- Oct 28 Submarine Lunch Day
- Nov 10 Rosary Apostulate in the school
- Nov 11 Remembrance Day Memorial in gym @ 10:40 am
- Nov 18 PA Day – No classes for all students

## 2011 EQAO Test Results

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We are very impressed and proud of last year's grade 3 and 6 students who wrote the primary and junior assessment of reading, writing and mathematics. Results indicate steady improvement in literacy and numeracy skills. At the school level we will continue to reinforce literacy development as we begin to focus our energy on developing effective strategies to teach math. The results of the EQAO assessment are shown below.

### Grade 3 Results

	Reading	Writing	Math
<b>School</b>	80	86	86
<b>Board</b>	68	76	69
<b>Province</b>	65	73	69

### Grade 6 Results

	Reading	Writing	Math
<b>School</b>	72	84	59
<b>Board</b>	77	78	62
<b>Province</b>	74	73	58

## Recess

Recess is an opportunity for all students to get some fresh air and exercise. All students are expected to dress appropriately for weather conditions and go outdoors for recess. Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the season and weather of the day. For many children, a spare pair of socks, gloves or clothing may save you a trip to the school. In the event of inclement weather or extreme cold temperatures, students will be kept indoors. During recess, all students know that that they are to stay in the supervised schoolyard areas. If your child is not well enough to participate in outdoor recess, they may not be well enough to be at school. 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.

Morning Recess: 10:00 – 10:15 am

Lunch Recess: 11:20 – 12:00 am

Afternoon Recess 1:40 – 1:55 pm



**Happy  
Thanksgiving**