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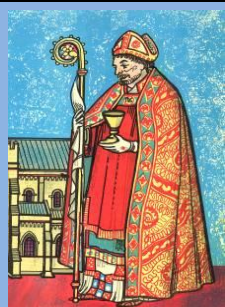
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## ST. RICHARD SCHOOL

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

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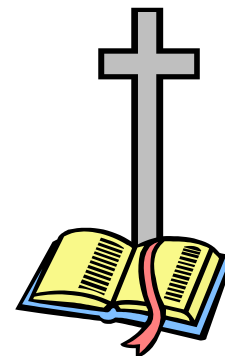
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### January Prayer

God of our yesterdays, our today, and our tomorrows.  
We praise You for Your unequalled greatness.  
Thank You for the year behind us and for the year ahead.  
Help us in Your new year, Father, to fret less and laugh more.  
To teach our children to laugh by laughing with them.  
To teach others to love by loving them.  
Knowing, when Love came to the stable in Bethlehem, He came for us.  
So that Love could be with us, and we could know You.  
That we could share Love with others.  
Help us, Father, to hear Your love song in every sunrise,  
in the chirping of sparrows in our backyards,  
in the stories of our old folks, and the fantasies of our children.  
Help us to stop and listen to Your love songs,  
so that we may know You better and better.  
We rejoice in the world You loved into being.  
Thank You for another new year and for new chances every day.  
We pray for peace, for light, and for hope, that we might spread them to others.  
Forgive us for falling short this past year.  
We leave the irreparable past in your hands, and step out into the unknown new year knowing You will go with us.  
We accept Your gift of a new year and we rejoice in what's ahead, depending on You to help us do exactly what You want  
Amen



### Library Book Fair

During the week of Monday, January 30 to Monday, February 6, St. Richard School will be hosting a book fair. Students will have opportunities to preview a wide selection of books during their scheduled library time. Once students have previewed the book fair, they will have the opportunity to make purchases. In addition, the library will remain open late on our interview evening (Thursday, Feb. 2) for parents and kids to drop in, browse and purchase books. The final day to make purchases will be Monday, February 6. This is a wonderful opportunity to support the school library and enrich your children. Thanks to Mrs. Duivestyn for organizing and running the book fair.



# Virtues Education

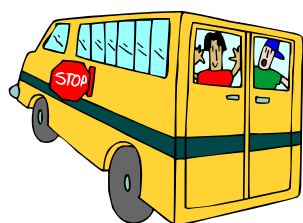
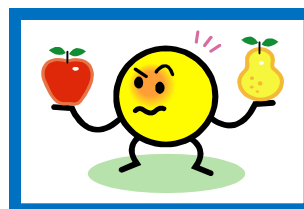
## Self-Control/Decision Making

**God wants us to do what it is we know and feel is right. (Prov. 25:28)**

**Self control** is regulating your thoughts and actions so that you stop any pressures from within or without and act the way you know and feel is right. Developing loving habits helps us to respond lovingly to others in our choices and actions.

### People of Self Control

- Follow their conscience
- Are patient with themselves and others
- Share and take turns
- Are able to use prayer to calm themselves down
- Think before they react
- Look for peaceful ways to solve conflict
- Try to do what's best for everyone
- Have the power to stand up for what is right



### Cancellation of Bus Service

During the winter months inclement weather may cause disruption of bus transportation and regular school operations. A decision to cancel school transportation and/or to close schools is usually decided by 7:00 a.m. and will be posted on the Dufferin Peel website, [www.dpcdsb.org](http://www.dpcdsb.org), and announced on the following radio stations:

CHUM 1050	CKFM 99.9	CFRB 1010	CFNY 102.1	TALK 640	CBC 740 FOXY 88.5AM
CHEZ 297.3	CJCL 590	CJBC (FR) 860 AM		CFTR 680	CFHI 98.1ENERY FM 93.1
CHIN 100.7/1540 AM		CJMR/CHWO 1250			

In the event that school busses are cancelled, St. Richard School will remain open for students. The school will be closed only if the Board decides to close all schools due to poor weather conditions or anticipated poor weather conditions. Please note that when schools are closed to students they are also closed to staff.

## 2011 JK/SK Entry Planning for Students with Special Needs

On Tuesday, January 17, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board's Special Education and Support Services Department will host a Kindergarten entry planning information session. This meeting is for parents and guardians of children with special needs which affect their learning, such as vision, hearing, physical, developmental or autism, who are entering Junior, Senior or Full-Day Kindergarten in September 2012. The meeting will be held at the Catholic Education Centre from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. For more information about this session, call 905-890-0708 ext. 24011.

**January 17, 2012**  
**7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Room 301**  
**Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board**  
**40 Matheson Boulevard West, Mississauga, ON. L5R 1C5**

### Emergency Preparedness

The possibility of an emergency arising in the school or the community at large is very real. Police investigations in the neighborhood, accidental fire, gas leaks, water damage or electrical failures would require a well planned and coordinated action plan to effectively deal with. In order to ensure the safety of all students, we regularly practice lock down and emergency evacuation procedures.



# BULLYING PREVENTION EDUCATION

## January – Conflict is Inevitable. BULLYING IS NOT.

The key message in January is “*conflict is inevitable, bullying is not*”. Students need to learn to differentiate bullying from the daily conflict situations they face. Everyone faces conflict in daily life and through it can learn to negotiate and build relationships. Bullying is a form of violence that leaves no room for negotiation and seeks to tear others down rather than build relationships.

### Tips for Parents:

- help your children apply the definition of bullying to determine if a situation is bullying or conflict  
*Does one person have more power than the other? Is the behaviour intentional / on purpose? Does it keep happening? (Answering yes to these questions indicates bullying; answering no indicates conflict)*
- use teachable moments and ‘what if’ scenarios with your children to help them differentiate bullying and conflict
- talk with your children about the difference between being passive, aggressive or assertive
- encourage the use of assertive communication such as “I-messages” in your family
- use ‘teachable moments’ (family situations, media, and movies) to explore empathy with your children and help them relate to and understand how others are feeling

## 2012 JK/SK Registration

If you have children of kindergarten age (born in 2008 for JK) and are considering registering them at St. Richard School for the 2011-2012 school year, please make note of the following registration dates here at the school.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2012 6:30 TO 9:00 PM**

NOTE: In case of severe weather, the evening registration date will be Tuesday, February 7 at the same time. Daytime registration dates are Tuesday, February 7 to Friday, February 10, 2012 at the school from 9:00 am to 11:30 am and from 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm. Please bring the following:

- The child’s baptismal certificate
- The child’s birth certificate
- The child’s immunization record
- The parents’ baptismal certificate
- Proof of address (a utility bill)

## Custody of Children

On rare occasions, we are faced with difficult situations in which non-custodial parents arrive at our school asking to visit with their child or take their child home after school. We are best able to serve and protect the child when we are made aware of legal custody arrangements, visitation rights and special instructions. If legal custody matters affect your family, please ensure that our office and classroom teachers are aware of custodial agreements between parents. In order to comply with any special circumstances as indicated above, we require a copy of all legal documentation which would be filed in the child’s Ontario Student Record folder. Please note that we are unable to deny access to a parent without legal documents directing us to do so. For further information please contact the school office.



## Parent information Meetings Reminders

### French Immersion

Parents of SK students interested in enrolling their child in a Grade 1 French Immersion Class for September 2012, are invited to attend an information meeting at:

**St. Margaret of Scotland  
Wednesday, January 11, 2012 @7:00 p.m.**

For more information:

<http://www.dpcdsb.org/CEC/News+and+Info/Latest+News/French+Immersion+Info.+Meetings.htm>

### Extended French

Parents of grade 4 students interested in enrolling their child in a Grade 5 Extended French Class for September 2012, are invited to attend an information meeting at:

**St. Therese of the Child Jesus  
January 18, 2012 @ 7:00 p.m.**

For more information:

<http://www.dpcdsb.org/CEC/News+and+Info/Latest+News/Extended+French+Info.+Meetings.htm>

## Important!! Change to Lunch Hour!

In order to properly distribute pizza during pizza lunch days the students will eat from 11:20-11:40 instead of the usual 12:00 – 12:20. **Please note this change applies only on Pizza Fridays .**

## Dates to Remember

Jan 11 - Gr. 5 and 6 to Queen's Park

Jan 13 – School Rosary

Jan 13 – Official last day of 1<sup>st</sup> term

Jan 13 - Submarine lunch day

Jan 13 - Grade 3 trip to Pioneer Village

**Jan 16 – PA day for Report Card Preparation-no classes**

Jan 17 – Official beginning of 2<sup>nd</sup> term

**Jan 19 – School Council Mtg in room 104 @ 7:00 pm**

Jan 20 – Pizza lunch day

Jan 23 – Reduce Abuse in Drugs (RAID) – grade 6

Jan 27 - Lunch Moms day

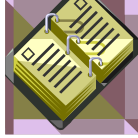
Jan 31 – Report Cards Sent Home

Feb 1 - Constable Giordano – class visits grades 5-8

Feb 2 - Constable Giordano – class visits grades 1-4

**Feb 2 – 1<sup>st</sup> term parent teacher interviews 3:15 to 8:30 pm**

**Feb 3 – PA day for 1<sup>st</sup> term parent teacher interviews – no Classes for students**



## Injuries at School

It is the goal of school staff that students enjoy both indoor and outdoor activities at school while remaining safe at all times. Unfortunately however, accidents do happen and injuries must be dealt with quickly and efficiently. There are always a few staff members who have current First Aid certification. This ensures that we always have trained staff available to deal with issues as they arise. Our school policy is to communicate minor injuries such as small cuts, scrapes and bruises to parents via the agenda. Please note that phone calls will not be made to report such minor injuries. Phone calls will be made by the school secretary in the event of more serious injuries such as blows to the head or suspected bone fractures. Please be assured that decisions governing outdoor play and adequate supervision are made to enhance student safety at all times.

## Snacks and Special Treats

Our students continue to enjoy their snacks and drinks after recess. By eating snacks indoors we avoid problems with litter and seagulls and reduce the incidence of wasp stings in the fall and spring. As you are aware many of our students suffer from allergies. The parents and students of St. Richard School have been extremely careful and supportive in promoting a nut aware environment and are also aware of students who suffer from less common food allergies, such as dairy and fish. With a safe environment in mind we ask that you continue to support our efforts by avoiding the presence of nut containing foods in your children's snack and lunch containers. Furthermore we ask that you consider an alternate to food way of sharing the celebration of birthdays, such as offering a colorful or funny pencil, stickers for each child, or a book for the classroom collection. We thank you for your support and diligence.

## Looking Ahead!

Believe it or not, preliminary planning for the 2012-2013 school year has already begun. Decisions such as staffing and school budget are directly related to the number of enrolled students. Please advise the office if you are planning a move that will require you to register your children at a school other than St. Richard as soon as possible. You are also asked to update phone numbers if and when they change during the year.



## Winter Weather



During the cold winter months of December, January, February and March, many parents are concerned about school policy as it applies to outdoor recess. Our primary goal is to ensure that students receive a fresh air break at each of the 3 recesses scheduled throughout the day. It is our expectation that all students are dressed appropriately for the season, despite the uncharacteristically mild conditions so far. Far too many students are not well prepared for cold conditions. We ask you, the parents, to ensure that boots, gloves/mittens, hats and a warm coat are part of your child's daily apparel. Furthermore, if and when snow covers the field, our younger students enjoy building and playing in the snow. In order to keep them warm, and avoid a phone call home requesting a change of clothes be brought, you are urged to provide snow pants and have a spare set of socks and pants available in their school bags. The general practice regarding cold temperatures is:

0 to -20°C: Students are expected to play outside for the duration of the recess blocks. (A shortened lunch recess may be considered depending on wind strength).

-21°C or colder: Students will be kept indoors for the duration of the recess.