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ST. RICHARD SCHOOL

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

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February Prayer

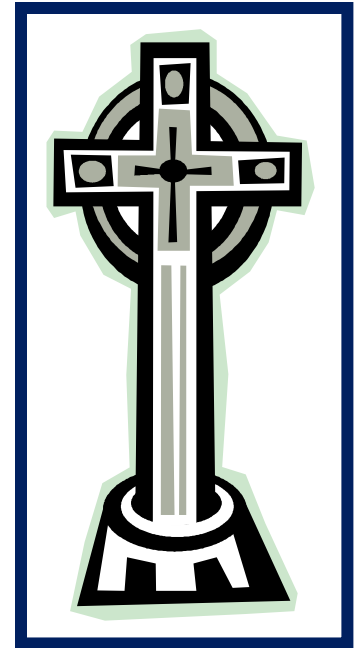
Dear God,

You have done such a marvelous job of creating us and the world around us. Among your greatest gifts are our friends and acquaintances. They are the yeast in the dough of life. They make life lively and interesting.

We come to you now asking for the grace and strength to keep a sense of respect. We hope that by recognizing and honouring the shared Spirit in everyone we meet, we can contribute to making our school a safer, more caring, more inclusive community.

May your gift of respect help us to live each day with the confidence that we are in company of people who are not strangers but who are our spiritual brothers and sisters.

We ask this in name of Jesus, our brother,
who lived to show us your way.
Amen.



Virtues Education

This month we will celebrate the virtue of **RESPECT**.

God has given us the gift of friends and companions to keep us company and to help us out along the way. Every person in our lives carries the Spirit of God – and so every person is our brother or sister through Jesus Christ. As brothers and sisters who share one Holy Spirit, we are all valuable to God. We all deserve to be shown courtesy, consideration, sensitivity and thoughtfulness, which are different ways of saying *respect*. That respect should come first and foremost from ourselves. We have to respect our selves and then we will be able to respect others. We should also be able to expect to be treated with respect by everyone we meet – our brothers and sister in Jesus. Through prayer and concentration, we can get better at respecting ourselves as well as respecting those around us.

A respectful person...

- **Treats himself/herself and everyone else with equal consideration and courtesy**
- **Uses a positive tone of voice and body language**
- **Avoids swearing, name-calling, put-downs, and inappropriate gestures**
- **Says 'Excuse me', 'Please', 'Pardon me'**

Bullying Prevention Education

February – Telling an Adult about Bullying is Not Tattling

This month we focus on the difference between tattling and telling. In dealing with bullying situations, students are encouraged to use the strategy, ‘telling an adult’. Although this sounds simple and logical, there are many difficulties and roadblocks associated with this strategy. Younger children struggle to understand the difference between telling and tattling, while older children struggle with their desire to deal with situations independently. The goal of telling an adult is to keep children safe.

Tattling/rattling is defined as telling in order to get someone into trouble, or telling when there is no one being hurt and no rule being broken that could result in a dangerous situation.

Telling is defined as reporting unsafe behaviours to an adult in order to get help for someone – to get someone out of trouble.

Tips for parents:

- use incidences where one child is telling you about sibling behaviour to help children identify whether they are tattling or telling
- practice with your child how to ‘tell an adult’ about bullying (what happened, how they feel, what help they desire)
- develop awareness of the ‘reasons’ children state for not reporting bullying to adults

Healthy Snacks Schedule February

Wednesday	Friday
1 Bagel Pizza & Celery	3 P.A. Day
8 Bagel Crisp and Applesauce	10 Muffins & Peppers
15 Pretzel and Carrot	17 Bear Paws and Orange
22 Oatmeal Cookie and Fruit	24 Bagel and Veggie
29 Trail Mix	2 Muffins & Apples

JK Registration Reminder

A reminder that JK evening registration for the 2012-2013 school year takes place on **Monday, February 6** in the St. Richard School Foyer from 7- 9 pm. Please bring the child’s baptismal and birth certificate, proof of address and immunization cards. Registration is also open Wednesday to Friday from 9-11 am and 1-3 pm. If you have any questions please call the school.



1st Term Achievement Awards Assemblies

To recognize the many outstanding achievements of St. Richard Students, three assemblies have been scheduled on

February 17 in the school gym.

All are welcome to attend any or all the following awards assemblies:

- JK/SK and grades 4, 5 and 6: 9:00 am
- Grades 1, 2 and 3: 10:25 am
- Grades 7 and 8: 11:00 am

Black History Month

Dr. Carter Woodson started Black History Week in February 1926. He chose February because this month features the birthdays of two great personalities of American History who had a huge influence on changing the status of African Americans. They are Abraham Lincoln and Fredrick Douglas. Since then we recognize Black History each February. This is a time to celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Black Canadians, who throughout history have done so much to make Canada the culturally diverse, compassionate, and prosperous nation we know today. It is an opportunity for our youth to learn about the experiences of Black Canadians in our society and the vital role this community has played throughout our shared history. To make our learning challenging and fun, grades 4-8 students at St. Richard will participate in a month long “history” contest in which classes will submit answers to questions based on the achievements of the Afro-Caribbean Canadian of the day. Our younger students will answer questions drawn from their curriculum as well as the world of sports, entertainment.

Transportation News

The school board's bus transportation services are operated by Student Transportation of Peel Region (STOPR). This is a consortium, or partnership, between the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board and the Peel District School Board. The Ministry of Education requires school board bus transportation consortiums to improve efficiency. One initiative promoted by the Ministry of Education, that is designed to improve efficiency is known as integrated ridership. In integrated ridership, students from both Dufferin-Peel and Peel schools will ride on the same buses, where feasible. A number of school boards across the province have successfully implemented integrated ridership. All eligible students continue to be transported on runs where integrated ridership is implemented. Integrated ridership is designed to create a more effective and efficient operation of service, is more environmentally friendly and reduces traffic in our communities. Integrated ridership may also result in higher transportation funding levels for school boards.



Integrated ridership works best in situations where schools are located close to one another and the number of students involved helps achieve better organized bus runs. The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board has approved the implementation of integrated ridership, where feasible, starting last September, 2011. During the next few months, STOPR staff will be looking at areas where integrated ridership would work best. It should be noted that integrated ridership does not work well in all areas and, as a result, there may be only a few areas that will have this program. STOPR will provide additional information regarding the selection of schools where integrated ridership will be implemented. Once a school is selected, there is a possibility that school start and dismissal times may be altered from the current times. STOPR will keep you informed through regular updates in school newsletters over the upcoming months. As always, please check the school board website – www.dpccdsb.org – for cancellation information during inclement weather. A list of radio stations was provided in the January newsletter which can be accessed on the St. Richard School website - <http://www.dpccdsb.org/RICHA>.

Canada Flag Day

The National Flag of Canada was raised for the first time on February 15, 1965. To celebrate this the 46th anniversary of our national flag, staff and students will gather outside at 8:50 am on Wednesday, February 15, 2011. We will sing O Canada together as we raise our own flags. Please join us if you can!



Pediculosis (Head Lice)

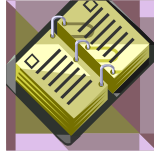
Head lice can be quite a nuisance whenever there is close head-to-head contact, in particular amongst children. What are head lice? They are Insects that live and breed on your head and feed by biting your scalp. They are a nuisance – **YES** – but not a health hazard. The signs of head lice are: a tickling feeling of something moving in the hair, Itching and sores on the head caused by scratching. Many treatments are available from your local pharmacy. Talk to the pharmacist regarding treatment options.

The school's response to new cases is as follows:

- Parents are notified and the children should be picked up
- A notification letter is sent home with all the students in the class
- Parents should obtain and follow treatment procedures
- Before returning to class, the child needs to be examined by office staff to ensure that treatment has been successful.

Dates to Remember

Feb 6 – JK Registration from 7 to 9 pm
Feb 9 – Public Speaking Contest
Feb 10 –Rosary
Feb 10 - Pizza Lunch Day
Feb 13 –RAID program
Feb 13 - School Council Meeting @ 7 pm
Feb 17 –Awards Assemblies in the gym
Feb 17 –Sub Lunch Day
Feb 20 –Family Day – School Closed
Feb 22 –Ash Wednesday Liturgy – 2:15 in the school gym
Feb 24 –Pizza Lunch Day
Mar 2 - Lunch Moms Day
Mar 7 - Lenten Mass @ St. John of the Cross 9:30 am
Mar 9 – Rosary
Mar 9 – Pizza Lunch Day
Mar 9 – Last Day of Classes before March Break
Mar 12 to 16 – March Break



School Council Meeting

Monday February 13, 2012

7:00 p.m.

All parents are welcome!

St. John of the Cross Parish

Please visit:

<http://www.saintjohnofthecross.com/>

For parish news and events.

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 .**



Sexual Abuse Prevention Program – Grade 4



An important part of the Grade 4 Family Life Curriculum is a unit of study that deals with teaching children about sexual abuse prevention. Parents/guardians of Grade 4 students are invited to attend a Parent Awareness Evening which will take place at 7:00 pm on February 15th at the Catholic Education Centre in Room 301. This information session will focus on the sexual abuse unit of study. Grade 4 have already received a personal invitation in a separate memo.

Ash Wednesday-Lent

On Wednesday, February 22, St. Richard staff and students will celebrate Ash Wednesday with a liturgy in the gym at 2:15. The distribution of ashes reminds us of our own mortality and calls us to repentance. In the early Church, Ash Wednesday was the day on which those who had sinned, and who wished to be readmitted to the Church, would begin their public penance. The ashes that we receive today are a reminder of our own sinfulness, and many Catholics leave them on their foreheads all day as a sign of humility. It is also the first day of Lent, the season in which we prepare for the glory of the Resurrection at Easter. Lent is a special time when you can share the concepts of prayer and giving with your children. Take family time each day to offer devotional prayers. Consider as a family how you might help others in need by giving of your time or resources. Even very young children can understand and will enjoy participating in the process. As a parent, carve out time in your day for your own special prayer time. This may involve time spent away from a favorite hobby or activity.

