

St. Christopher School



Issue #2

October 2009

Principal's Message

September certainly was a very busy month. We welcomed many new families to our community at our very successful Open House and BBQ. We welcomed new teaching staff, Mr. M. Brennan and Mr P. Basran, Ms. R. DeSantis and Mr. W. Brunton, our new Vice Principal.

Autumn is in the air and we are looking forward to Thanksgiving. As a Catholic commu-



nity we give thanks for God's blessings. We offer our support to the less fortunate in our community through our school Food Drive. All families are asked and encouraged to bring in non-perishable food items that our Student Parliament will collect and ensure are delivered to the Compass Food Bank. Food items may be brought in up until October 7th.

Our extra curricular activities have begun. We are so blessed to have such a dedicated and committed

staff who willingly and regularly give of their time to offer our students activities beyond the walls of the classroom. Encourage your children to participate where appropriate.

Communication is the key to successful relationships. I encourage you to be in touch with your child's teacher. I invite you to contact the office also with any questions or concerns. We are partners in your child's education. Working together is critical for success.

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Principal

L. Hughes

Vice Principal

W. Brunton

Secretary

C. Camacho

Custodial Team

A. Godin; P. Ristancev, L. Defrate

Superintendent

C. Saytar 905 890 1221

Trustee

S. Hobin 905 890-1221

Cell 905 302- 1210

sharon.hobin@dpcdsb.org

St. Christopher Parish

Fr. Scott Young 905 822-1171

Virtue of the Month- 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 and 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.

A empathetic person:

Listens attentively

Watches peoples body language

Notices and responds when someone is upset

Can name his/her feelings

Can see a situation from another point of view



Academic Expectations and Responsibilities

Research has shown that children perform better in school if their parents are involved in their education. We as a staff at St. Christopher School welcome and encourage parental involvement. Become familiar with the curriculum. Contact the teacher with questions or concerns. Work in partnership to support your child's learning.

Students and parents can expect to be informed of due dates for assignments and summative tasks via the agenda. Teachers will ensure that all students have an opportunity to record daily homework in the agenda. Parents should check the agenda daily and monitor homework completion. Parents are encouraged to be proactive in communicating concerns about homework or assignments to their child's teacher. If extenuating circumstances prohibit homework completion, it is the parents responsibility to inform the teacher. If an extension of a due date is required, parents are responsible for requesting the extension in writing, explaining the reason, well in advance of the due date.

Students are responsible for ensuring that they

are adequately prepared for tests and that they complete all tasks to the best of their ability. Students are encouraged to seek assistance as required.

Regular attendance is critical for success. Although we encourage you to keep your child home when he/she is ill to avoid the spread of illness, we do also encourage you to avoid making appointments and planning vacations during regular school hours. Much of the learning that takes place in the classroom is through discussion, interaction with teacher and peers and through in class tasks. These experiences cannot be duplicated. If you choose to take your child out of school for a holiday, the classroom teacher will provide you with the topics being covered, but cannot be responsible for the daily lesson planning.



St. Christopher School has a **late arrival policy**.



After three documented lates, students will be required to remain in at morning recess as a late detention. Late arrivals will not include a late bus or a train track delay. Parents are welcome

to sign in their children after unavoidable appointments and this late arrival will be accepted. Keep in mind that recording and tracking late arrivals demands Mrs. Camacho's time, and prohibits her from beginning the critically important task of ensuring safe arrival of all students, by checking attendance folders and placing calls to homes where students have not been reported as absent. Late arrivals distract classmates and interrupt the classroom activities that have already begun.

Our learning time is valuable and we are counting on your support to ensure that we maximize our opportunities for instruction.

We appreciate your support and cooperation in ensuring that your child attends school regularly and punctually.

FINALIZED Staff 2009-2010

Kindergarten	M. Hrelja	EF 5	S. Johnson	ERW	R. De Santis
Grade 1	P. Metallo	EF 6	T. Morris		
Grade 1/2	L. Wos	EF 6	J. Roddy	Head Custodian	A. Godin
Grade 2/3	H. Ohori	EF 7	V. Vingelis/ E. Howard	Evening Custodians	P. Ristancev
Grade 3	K. Cardoso	EF 8	M. Moreira		L. De Frate
Grade 3/4	T. Collins	EF 8	L. Chartrand	Head Secretary	C. Camacho
Grade 4/5	M. Brennan	FSL	S. Filipowich	Vice Principal	W. Brunton
Grade 5/6	M. Inglese	SERC/PT	L. Perdue	Principal	L. Hughes
Grade 7	S. Stesky	SERT	L. Rahkola	CYW	S. Hasrouny
Grade 8	P. Basran	Library/ PT	D. Halchuk	Social Worker	M. Papadogianis
Grade 8	C. Dell'Orso	ESL/Planning Time	M. Piller	Speech/Language	L. Moeser
EF 5	S. Dufton	ERW	Z. Matesic	Psychology	N. Krane

Catholic School Council Information

Thank you so very much to the many dedicated parents who have committed to serving on our school council this year. We are so very fortunate to have so many parents able to be so actively involved in supporting our school activities. Thank you to our Trustee, Sharon Hobin, for joining us at our inaugural meeting and sharing important information. It is my great pleasure to announce and introduce the St. Christopher School Catholic School Council for 2009-2010. Please note, that all members were acclaimed- no election was required.

Co- Chairs-	Leanne Gigone
	Nadine Gilmour
Secretary	Ann McKenna
Treasurer	Dan Lapierre
Parish Rep	Pam Larmondin
OAPCE Rep:	Karen Duffy
Teaching Reps-	Paul Basran
	Helen Ohori

Fundraising Chair: Katherine McInnis

Parent Reps: Krista Jones, Adam Bricklyn, Katherine McInnis, Isabel Mennano, Pamela Ann Larmondin, Pam Robson, Mareka Ellis-Smith, Jenny Silva; Elaine Timmins; Nelia Trojko; Aloma Pragasm; Bernadette Jarvis

Our next School Council meeting is scheduled for **October 28th at 7pm** in the Library. All are welcome.

Student Parliament

Congratulations and a special thank you to ALL students who stepped forward to run for Student Parliament Office. We are proud of your desire to serve in our school, your leadership and the courage you showed in seeking office.

On September 23rd, the elections were held and we are proud to announce the names of the new Prime Minister and Cabinet Members:

Prime Minister: Ola P.

Deputy Prime Minister: Joey K.

Minister of Communication-Lauren B.

Minister of Finance- Josie P.

Minister of School Culture: Alex M. and Sylvia A.

Minister of Christians in Action: Kaitlyn F.

Minister of Sports- Olivia T.

Minister of Special Events- Charleigh H.

Minister of Environment- Erin M.

Class Reps:

Jake S., Kayley H., Christina N., Jake S., Tyler A., Nicholas R., David K., Martina C., Aren A., Sean M., Olivia O., Jamie R., Philip M., Sophie D., Damien S. Connor E.

Special thank to Mrs. Dell'Orso and Mrs. Howard for their work in supporting the work of our vibrant Student Parliament.



Terry Fox- Walk, Run Raise Funds for Cancer Research

On September 25, all staff and students participated in our annual Terry Fox, Walk for Cancer Research. Wearing red and white, the children assembled by divisions in the yard. Our grade eight students under the direction of Mr. Basran, Ms. Halchuk and Mrs. Perdue, led a spirited warm up and the children then walked or ran the marshaled course set up in the school yard. Music played and spirits were high. The challenge to raise

\$1000 was on with the promise of Mrs.



Hughes being able to shave Mr. Brunton's head if the goal was met. In the usual St. Chris spirit, the goal was met with resounding success and more. The total collected was \$2534.70. Congratulations to all and THANK YOU!! Mr. Basran's class raised \$251 and were awarded a "special prize". On October 8th at 1:45 join us in the gym and watch Mrs. Hughes shave Mr. Brunton's head!

Fire Drill, Evacuation and Lockdown Practice

We are required to conduct three fire drills in the fall and again in the spring, as well as one lockdown practice in preparation for events we pray will never occur. We have had our successful fall fire drills and plan to have our lockdown practice on Wednesday October 14th.

During lockdown practice, children

will be instructed to move as far away from the doors and windows as possible. They will be on the classroom floor, lights out and window blinds drawn. Children will be expected to be quiet during this practice. There will be an announcement made instructing everyone to "initiate lockdown procedures" followed by ringing of the school bells.

Once declared safe, another announcement will be made ending lockdown procedures.

Teachers will go over the procedures and try to minimize anxieties around the need for this type of drill.

We ask for your support in helping children understand the need for this type of practice.



YMCA Before and Afternoon Program at your Door

Did you know that there is a YMCA Program which provides a discovery based learning approach for children between the ages of 6 and 12 years, in your school? Our program offers quality care after school, and we currently have spaces available. We provide stimulating learning experiences in a safe and secure environment. Children are given opportunities to investigate, study, explore and then make hypothesis around their findings. These experiences prepare and equip children so they are better able to formulate conclusions as adults.

Our program is government licensed and adheres to all regulations and standards set by the Day Nurseries Act.

For more information about opportunities available for your child please call St. Christopher YMCA Before and After School Program at 647-203-3900

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Celebrating birthdays with friends is important to all. At school we announce the birthdays of all students on a daily basis and invite the “birthday child” to come to the office to pick up a Birthday Card and a pencil to acknowledge their special day.

Some families choose to have special celebrations and invite friends to their homes, or out to a special location for parties. We do have requests from some to parents that birthday treats be shared with classmates. We are happy to assist with the sharing of **NON FOOD treats ONLY**. Due to a significant number of students who suffer from life threatening allergies, we are asking you to **refrain from sending food to be shared** with classmates.

When we have special occasions to mark, such as Hal-lowe’en, Christmas and Valentine’s day, teachers will communicate with you about the events planned for your child’s class. You may be invited to send a special treat for your own child to enjoy.

We ask for your support and cooperation in this important matter.



HOME SCHOOL AND PARISH COMMUNITY OUTREACH

St. Christopher and St. Mary Star of the Sea Parishes have agreed together to sponsor seven refugee families. These families have moved from Iraq to Canada in hopes of finding a better life.

Father Scott has approached our school and has asked us to encourage our students to donate change to the cause of helping these families settle in Canada. Our Student Parliament met and discussed how we can support the cause. They agreed that we would collect “Pennies from Heaven”. All children are encouraged to bring in their change and add it to the collection jar that we will have in each classroom. Thank you for your consideration.



THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Our Student Parliament has initiated the Thanksgiving Food Drive. All families are encouraged to participate by sending non perishable food items, or hygiene products to school. Of particular need is canned meat. These items will be collected by Parliament members and donated to the Compass. Please have your contributions at school by October 7th. Thank you for your anticipated support and generosity.

Student Absences

Student safe arrival at school is our first priority. If your child is going to be absent, **PLEASE** call the school attendance line at 905 8220721 and press 1. Leave the necessary information on the answering service. This helps us to streamline the morning routine and ensure quickly that our students are safe at school or at home. Late arrivals must check in at the office before going to class. Your cooperation will be appreciated.

St. Christopher School Choir

Our School Choir has started! students in Grade 4 and up are invited to rehearsals on Wednesdays and occasionally Fridays. Mrs. Morris and Mme. Filipowich will be running the choir. The role of the choir is to support liturgy by encouraging everyone to sing, to participate in assemblies where appropriate, and to occasionally to participate in choir-related activities not related to St. Christopher, as long as parent permission is given. No experience required– come on out and get involved!



Clarkson Community at Peace

Clarkson Community at Peace is back in business after a brief summer vacation and we look forward continuing our work in the Clarkson Community. We are pleased to announce that the Clarkson Spring Fling was a huge success! A special thanks to all our volunteers, participants and to everyone who came out and enjoyed the event! We hope to see you there again next year! If you would like to find out more about Clarkson Community at Peace, we invite you to attend our next meeting on October 7th. At this meeting we will discuss our proposed plans for 2009/2010.

Meeting Details: October 7th, 2009 at 7:00, Hillside Sr. Public School.

For more information, please email clarksonpcc@yahoo.ca.

ALL STAR Reading

We are thrilled to announce that Ms. Rahkola and Mrs. Piller have teamed up with our Parent Coordinator of the All Star Program to ensure that this important support for our Primary children is available.

Mrs. Gilmour, our Parent Coordinator, has connected with a team of parents who volunteer their time to help our younger students further develop their reading skills. This important program supports the good work that is happening in our classrooms. The partnership between the classroom staff and the parent team is an integral part of our students' reading skill development. We are very grateful to the parents for their involvement.

Fluency Program

Mrs. Piller, Ms. Rahkola and our Program Department Consultant, Mrs. Laurie Reid are have had the opportunity to work with and train a team of dedicated parent volunteers, including Mrs. Gilmour, Mrs. Gigone, Mrs. McKenna in Fluency Skill Development for our younger students. Our program last year, saw the children who participated gain significant confidence and improved comprehension over the six week program. With the involvement of our committed parents, we can extend the program to reach more of our young readers. Our Superintendent has supported us in the purchase of the necessary resources for the program. We are very excited to be able to offer this opportunity to our students.



Family Fun Night Learning Together!

Free workshops for
families offered by the Region of Peel

Family Fun Night is for families with children aged 0 – 6 years. Families come together for story times and activities. Come and join us! Research from the University of Toronto has shown this program has shown improvements to a child and their family's literacy levels.

The program will be held in the library on Tuesday nights, from 6.30 – 8.00 pm for six weeks, starting October 20th and ending November 24th.. There will be another six weeks after March Break. We welcome all families with children under 6yrs, as well as older children in your family. Please register by calling 905 791 1585 ext. 7222 or visit our website at www.peelregion.ca and click on Child Care.

We hope to see you there – come and learn how to build a love of reading in your child.

Support Our School

When renewing or ordering magazines through QSP on line you can support our school. The website is www.qsp.com and our school number is 8329. Last year we had many subscriptions and renewals giving us a profit of 1033.77

Please consider using this website!!

School Mass

Our first school mass will be celebrated on Tuesday October 6th. Our Junior Division will be responsible for organizing this Thanksgiving Mass. Father Scott will celebrate mass beginning at 12:30 at the church. All parents are invited and encouraged to join us.

HALLOWE"EN

Students may choose to wear costumes to school on October 30th. There are some requirements that must be followed by all:

SAFETY is the first consideration. Students must be able to participate in all regular school activities, including recess while in their costume.

Costumes are to be worn to school. Students will not have an opportunity to change at school.

No masks are to be worn.

No props should be brought to school.

Costume theme must be non violent and non threatening.

The school cannot assume any responsibility for wear and tear on costumes.

Individual classroom teachers will send home information regarding classroom activities, as appropriate for this traditional day.

We Give Thanks

Our Father in Heaven,
We give thanks for the pleasure
Of gathering together for this occasion.
We give thanks for this food
Prepared by loving hands.
We give thanks for life,
The freedom to enjoy it all
And all other blessings.
As we partake of this food,
We pray for health and strength
To carry on and try to live as You would have us.
This we ask in the name of Christ,
Our Heavenly Father

Amen



TRANSPORTATION

Many of our students are eligible for bus transportation. All who are eligible have met with Mr. Brunton to go over behaviour and safety expectations. He has also worked through the Courtesy Seat Policy to address requests by parents whose children were not eligible to ride the bus. At this time, we need to remind everyone that our school buses are at capacity. Students are to ride the bus to which they are assigned. **We cannot allow students to change buses, or go home by bus with friends for social reasons, or to work on homework.**



Transportation arrangements for after school get together are the responsibility of parents. Your understanding and support of this will be appreciated.

Find us on the Internet
<http://www.dpcdsb.org/CHRIS>

General Interest Courses for Adults

Discover a new talent, explore a new interest, put a hop in your dance step... come join us! Various General Interest courses are available... look for General Interest information in our Adult & Continuing Education flyer or call the Adult & Continuing Education department at 905-891-9263. Courses begin October 5.

Dates, Dates, Dates.....

- October 6th-** Thanksgiving Mass-12:30pm
- October 7th-** Cyberbullying Presentation-7pm- All parents are welcome
- October 7th or 8th-** Confirmation Meeting- 7-8:30 pm at St. Christopher Church. Parent AND child MUST attend.
- October 8th-** Pizza Day
- October 12th -**Thanksgiving- No School
- October 20th -** School Photos
- October 21st-** Cyberbullying Presentation Part 2 @7 pm- All parents are welcome
- October 29th-** Gr 7 and 8 Parent Info Night (more to follow)
- November 16th -** PA Day- Assessment and Evaluation- No School For Students
- November 19th-** Photo Retakes
- December 4th -** PA Day- Reporting to Parents
- December 9th and 10th -** See Hear Screening
- December 21st-January 1st, 2010-** Christmas Holidays



Hot Lunches

All children should have received information about **Kidssentials** hot lunches. This independent company selected by School Council offers hot lunches on Mondays and Fridays. All lunches must be preordered. **On inclement weather days, lunch WILL NOT be delivered. A credit will be issued.**

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

Many St. Christopher students are bused to school. We are serviced by several bus companies. Below is the list of our bus numbers and the corresponding provider.

AM

Bus #1	Attridge
Bus #2	First Student (H)
Bus #3	Attridge
Bus #4	Attridge
Bus #5	(First Student (W))
Bus #6	Attridge
Bus #7	Attridge
Bus #8	Attridge
Bus #9	Stock
Kindergarten	
Take Home Bus #1 WHC	
Kindergarten	
Drop off Bus #1 First Student (W)	
PM	
Bus #1	Attridge

Bus #2	First Student (H)
Bus #3	Attridge
Bus #4	Stock
Bus #5	Attridge
Bus #6	Attridge
Bus # 7	First Student (W)
Bus #8	Attridge
Bus #9	Stock
<u>Transportation Dept</u>	
905 -890-6362	
<u>First Student (Hawkestone)</u>	
905-275-1675	
<u>First Student (Wolfedale)</u>	
905-270-0561	
<u>Stock</u>	
905-829-2040	
<u>Trott</u>	
905-825-6629	
<u>Attridge</u>	
905-855-7771	

KISS AND RIDE

PLEASE, do not allow your child to exit your vehicle unless you are beside the curb. Your child should exit through the car door immediately adjacent to the curb. Please remain in the line of traffic to exit the school parking lot. We realize that everyone has a busy schedule to follow, but in the interest of the children's safety, we ask that you slow down, **follow the routines and be patient in waiting to exit the school Kiss'n'Ride lane.**

Please DO NOT BACK UP in the Kiss 'n' Ride lane to get around vehicles.

Parents are reminded **NOT to park** in the kiss and ride lane. If you wish to stand with your child, you are asked to park in the church parking lot.



St. Christopher Community Christmas Marketplace



Saturday December 5th, 2009.....Mark it on your calendar! This is the day that our Catholic School Council will present the first ever **St. Christopher Community Christmas Marketplace**, to be held right at our school.

You will be able to purchase a wide variety of incredible products from 50 different vendors, including jewelry, crafts, clothing, Christmas items and more.

Your children can come and have their faces painted and have their picture taken with Santa.

You can join us in the tea room for some delightful baked goods and a warm cup of tea, coffee or hot chocolate.



Over the next few weeks you will have the opportunity to pre order MacMillans frozen baking products, cookie mixes and pies, to help you manage the hectic pace of the Christmas season. You will also be able to order from a variety of fresh balsam wreaths from Nova Scotia to help you with your decorating. These goods will be available for pick up at the Christmas Marketplace.



Be sure to mark, Saturday December 5th, 2009 from 10am -3pm on your calendar.

It will be a great community day!



Sign up TODAY!

Parents and guardians of Dufferin-Peel Catholic students can stay up-to-date with the latest board news and information by joining the Dufferin-Peel eCommunity. Members will receive the latest news and information by email, including news releases, school activities and events, board meeting highlights, school and bus cancellations, plus useful tips for parents and students. Sign up online at www.dpccsb.org

THE FINAL WORD.....

THANK YOU TO THE FAMILIES WHO HAVE AGREED TO RECEIVE SCHOOL NEWSLETTERS ELECTRONICALLY. WE HAVE CREATED A DISTRIBUTION GROUP—WITH ALL OF THE EMAIL ADDRESSES THAT WERE PROVIDED. THIS NEWSLETTER WILL BE SENT ELECTRONICALLY THIS MONTH AS WELL AS IN HARD COPY TO ENSURE THAT ALL RECEIVE. PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT OUR GROUP, **ST. CHRISTOPHER INFO**, IS NOT SENT TO YOUR SPAM. IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE THE ELECTRONIC VERSION, AND YOU DID SEND IN YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS, KINDLY SEND US YOUR EMAIL AGAIN. THERE WERE A FEW THAT WERE SOMEWHAT CHALLENGING TO READ AND WE MAY HAVE ENTERED THE ADDRESS INCORRECTLY.

IF YOU DID NOT ORIGINALLY AGREE TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTERS ELECTRONICALLY, AND WOULD NOW LIKE TO JOIN THE 80% OF FAMILIES WHO ARE DOING SO, PLEASE SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS AND WE WILL ADD YOU TO THE DISTRIBUTION GROUP. THIS WILL HELP SAVE PAPER, MONEY AND MRS. CAMACHO'S VALUABLE TIME. YOUR CONSIDERATION IS APPRECIATED.

CHILD (REN)S NAME(S): _____

FAMILY EMAIL ADRESS: _____

