

St. Christopher School



Issue #2
October 2010

Principal's Message

October finds us well settled into the routines of another school year. We welcomed many new families to our community as well as new staff members: Mrs. Poirier, Ms. Gabrielli, Ms. Saldanha, Mr. DaCosta and Ms. Ponziano. I would like to thank the St. Christopher community for your patience as we worked through the school reorganization. Mrs. Leal is our temporary secretary.

Students set a very positive tone for the year by demonstrating that they were an excellent and re-



spectful audience during our opening week assembly. Rules and expectations were reviewed for example the importance of attentive listening, co-operation, mutual respect and good work habits.

It was wonderful to see so many St. Christopher families at our barbeque and Open House. This gave teachers and parents a chance to connect and to pick up curriculum information. Keeping the lines of communication open throughout the year is very important. I invite you to contact the office also with any questions or concerns. We are partners in your

child's education.

Staff at St. Christopher continues to work hard to offer students many opportunities for extra-curricular involvement. Boy's and girls' volleyball, teams are busy practicing for their up-coming tournaments. The "Peer Helpers" and Student Parliament have been actively involved through the participation of different activities and the sound of music continues to be heard during lunch recess for regular rehearsals.

From the St. Christopher School Staff, we wish you a blessed Thanksgiving.

Virtue of the Month - Empathy

In October we celebrate the virtue of 'empathy'. We understand empathy to mean the ability to identify with, and feel other people's concerns. We believe that in a faith community, we build on a foundation of relationships.

An empathetic person:

Listens attentively
Watches peoples body language

Notices and responds when someone is upset

Can see a situation from another point of view

Can name his or her feelings, and know that different people many feel differently about the same thing



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Principal

L. Hughes

Vice Principal

A. Capuano

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St. Christopher Parish

Fr. Scott Young 905 822-1171

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.

School boards across the province have implemented the ministry document titled "Growing Success" that clearly places expectation and responsibility on students for their work at school.

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.



EQAO Results 2010-2011

School results on the Primary and Junior EQAO reading ,writing and mathematics indicated strength in all areas.

Our students scored above the levels achieved in the Board and in the province. You can access a detailed report online at: www.eqao.com

Attached is the chart showing the percentage of St. Christopher Students in grades 3 and 6 the grade who scored at and above the provincial standard.

Parents of these students have received their child's individual results. Should you have any questions please feel free to call the school.

Gr. 3 Reading	Gr. 3 Writing	Gr. 3 Math
79	94	76
Gr. 6 Reading	Gr. 6 Writing	Gr. 6 Math
89	85	92

Virtue Assembly Let us be Thankful

Our Virtue of Faith/Bullying Prevention Assembly will be held on Friday October 7 at 12:30 pm. We will celebrate the Virtues of Faith and Empathy. Our bullying Prevention Theme for this month is: Everyone Has the Right to be Safe at School.



Let us be thankful for the blessings we receive.

Let us be thoughtful of others.

Let us remember dear and close friends. Let us have faith in tomorrow.

Let us live life as a Golden Rule. Let us find sunlight through the clouds.

Let us believe Let us be the people we

have the ability to be. Let us have understanding. Let us say this thanks in prayer To, God for the gifts He has given.

Amen



Finalized Staff 2010-2011

Kindergarten	M. Hrelja	SERT	L. Perdue	Planning Time	A. Ponziano
Kindergarten	B. Goping	EF 5	A. Saldanha	ERW	Z. Matesic
Grade 1	S. McNeilly	EF 5	E. Inglese	ERW	R. De Santis
Grade 1/2	L. Poirier	EF 6	T. Morris	Head Custodian	M. Grech
Grade 2	K. Cardoso	EF 6	J. Roddy	Evening Custodians	D. Thompson
Grade 2/3	M. Hewitt	EF 7	M. Hladun		L. De Frate
Grade 3	H. Ohori	EF 7	G. Esguerra/C. Dell'Orso	Head Secretary	C. Camacho
Grade 4	T. Collins	EF 8	M. Moreira	Vice Principal	A. Capuano
Grade 4/5	L. Gabrielli	EF 8	D. Ahern	Principal	L. Hughes
Grade 6	C. Dombrady	FSL	S. Filipowich	CYW	S. Hasrouny
Grade 7	S. Stesky	Library/ ELL	D. Halchuk	Social Worker	T. Gomes-Romano
Grade 8	G. DaCosta	Planning Time	L. Chartrand	Speech/Language	L. Moeser
SERC	L. Wos	Planning Time	V. Vingelis	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. It is my great pleasure to announce and introduce the St. Christopher School Catholic School Council for 2011-2012 Please note, that all members were acclaimed- no election was required.

Chair Nadine Gilmour
Co- Chair Leanne Gigone
Secretary Ann McKenna
Treasurer Rita Reid
Parish Rep Pamela Ann Larmondin
Teaching Reps: Joanne Roddy Rodrigues
Fundraising Chair: Katherine McKinnis and Carla Cappuccitti

Parent Reps: Heather McCartney; Sandra Boucher; Mareka Ellis Smith; Jenny Silva; Isabel Mennano; Pam Robson and Frances Elliot

Our next School Council meeting is scheduled for **November 2nd at 7pm** in the Library.

All are welcome.

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 two successful fall fire drills and plan to have our lockdown practice on Wednesday October 12.

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 announce-

ment 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.

Halloween

Students may choose to wear costumes to school on October 31st.. 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.

School News

Hot Lunches

All children should have received information about **Lunch Moms** 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.

Pizza Days



Our first pizza day of the year is set for October 6th. Extra special thanks to Mrs. Ellis-Smith for taking the lead on this and organizing our pizza days. The next pizza day is October 20th.

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 905 822-0721 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.

Literacy Volunteers:

Please join us on October 12 at 12:30pm in the Primary Literacy Room. We will begin our primary literacy support program for this year.

If you have some time to volunteer on a weekly basis as a literacy coach please join us. We will discuss all the aspects of the volunteer program: Phonemic Awareness, All Star and Fluency.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call Lillian Wos (Resource Teacher) 905-822-0721. We look forward to working with our dedicated volunteers as we continue to make the lit-

eracy program at St. Christopher a great success

Smart Boards

Over the summer we had an additional three SMART BOARDS installed at our school. With gratitude to School Council for support, we are pleased to have access to this fabulous technology. The Boards were installed in Mr. Dombrady's grade 6 class, Mrs. Roddy's Grade 6 class and Ms. Inglese's grade 5 class. Teachers are working hard to develop expertise in using the technology. Our students are excited to support the teachers in their learning.

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 Halloween, 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.

Buy your St. Christopher School Water Bottle

In keeping with our efforts to be environmentally conscious, and our Recycling Program here at St. Christopher School, the Eco School Team and Student Parliament will be selling re-usable plastic water bottles. All proceeds will go towards purchasing outdoor recess equipment for the students.

You may purchase a re-usable plastic water bottle for your child beginning next week. Order forms will be sent home. The cost of each re-usable water bottle is \$5.00. It comes with the St. Christopher name on it, a twist-on lid with a flip-top drink opening, and is BPA-free AS plastic. A minimum order of 200 water bottles must be filled in order to proceed with the school order.

World Teacher Day

On October 5th, Dufferin-Peel will join the chorus of voices world-wide to acknowledge the key role teachers play in guiding children, through the learning process. World Teacher Day gives us an opportunity to recognize and thank the dedication and value of our teachers at St. Christopher school.

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 by October 13th. Donations will be forwarded to Compass Food Bank. Thank you for your anticipated support and generosity.



Let us be Thankful

School News

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!

Student Parliament



St. Christopher School Parliament is now again in session- and looking forward to a busy and exciting year. We have already started planning several events into the fall. We are thrilled that the grade seven and eight Student Parliament members will have the privilege of attending our Youth Faith Rally in October, which last year proved to be very inspirational to all. We have planned our yearly Thanksgiving Food Drive and a Halloween Dance with any donations going to ShareLife. We will also be clearing up and beautifying our gardens. Also another initiative will be selling BPA-free water bottles. We look forward to many initiatives as the year progresses.

We are proud to announce the names of the new Prime Minister and Cabinet Members:

Prime Minister: Rachel N. **Deputy Prime Minister:** Nicholas R. **Minister of Communication:** Olivia G. **Minister of Finance:** Erin L. **Minister of School Culture:** Samantha B. **Minister of Christians in Action:** Michael M, **Minister of**

Sports: Julia W. **Minister of Special Events:** Magda L. **Minister of Environment-** Monique M. **Minister of Education-**Isabella S.

Class Reps: Madeline M. Maryssa W. Jessica U. Marissa S. Julia S. Silena K. Jacqueline G. Christina N. Jeremy T. Jake S. Joanna M. Mitch W. Hannah A. Oscar N.

Special thank you to **Ms. Hladun, Mr. Stesky, Ms. Esguerra, Mrs. Dell’Orso, Mr. DaCosta, Ms. Moreira and Mr. Ahern** for their work in supporting the work of our vibrant Student Parliament.

Terry Fox—Walk, Run. Raise Funds for Cancer Research

A single dream and a world of hope. This year we tried to keep Terry’s dream alive. Our Terry Fox Walk was a huge success. In the morning, our primary students came together, and tried to put themselves in the shoes of Terry Fox. They walked a few laps around the schoolyard, and really got into the spirit. After morning recess it was the junior and intermediate turn. Whether they were walking or running the students of St. Christopher really kept Terry’s dream alive. Together, as a community, we raised a huge amount of money, which will be donated to the Terry Fox Cancer Organization. Great job St. Chris! We really made a difference.



Celebrating Our Faith

Special thanks to all who joined us for our opening School Mass. We were fortunate to have Vice Chair & Trustee, Sharon Hobin in attendance. As always, Fr. Scott enjoyed the children and blessed our upcoming school year.



Beginning this Advent, 2011, there will be some changes in the way we celebrate the mass. For example, when the priest says “The Lord be with you”, we will respond with “And with your Spirit. “. We will be able to follow along with the small changes in our responses and prayers in the new missalettes. Each junior and intermediate teacher received one copy of the booklet designed for teens that explains the changes. You are welcomed to borrow this resource by contacting your child’s teacher. You are encouraged to contact your priest if you have further questions.

SAVE THE DATE!!



Our third annual Family Advent Mass will be celebrated on December 14, 2011 at 7pm at the church. Please plan to join us. Reception to

follow mass.

A reminder that there will be no school on Thanksgiving Day Monday, October 10th.

Sports Update

YMCA Program

Intermediate Boys Volleyball

The Intermediate Volleyball season is about to begin. The boys team has been practicing hard to prepare for their upcoming games. The boys will be playing against St. Helen, St. Louis, St. Luke and St. Francis of Assisi. Good luck to George F. Martin T. Jordan W.P. Eric S. Jordan B. Jordin P. Justin P. Lukas S. and David M.

Thank you to Mr. Stesky and Mr. DaCosta for coaching the boys team this season.

Go Crusaders!



Intermediate Girls Volleyball

The Girls' Intermediate Volleyball Team are excited about their new season. They have been practicing their drills, their serves and their sets during the lunch hour and after school. They will be playing against St. Luke, St. Louis, St. Francis of Assisi and St. Helen. The top two teams will then participate in the Family Tournament that will be held at St. Martin's High School on October 25th. Mme. Chartrand and Miss Drotlef are enjoying coaching Kasaundra, Caroline, Rachel, Julia W. Olivia, Abbey and Jessica. Good Luck girls! Thank you to Ms. Chartrand for coaching.



Intra-Murals at St. Christopher

Athletic Council and the St. Christopher staff have teamed up for a fun and exciting year of intramural sports and fun for all students of the school.

This year intra-murals will take place on Monday and Wednesday' during lunch hours for all students who would like to participate in a number of organized athletic games for each division of the school.

We look forward to seeing all of our St. Christopher students participate in intra-mural sports this year.



The following dates are set for the remaining intra-mural season:

- October 3 –October 24 - Intermediate
- October 31 - November 16 - Junior
- November 21 - December 7 - Primary
- January 11 - January 30- Intermediate
- February 6 - February 27 - Junior
- March 5 - March 28 - Primary
- April 2–April 23 - Intermediate
- April 30–May 16–Junior
- May 23–June 11 - Primary Games

A special thank you to athletic council members and staff for taking the time to organize this special event for the students.



YMCA

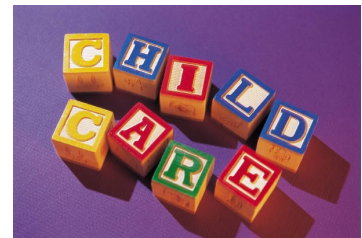
Before and Afternoon Program

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



Transportation

Many of our students are eligible for bus transportation. 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.

The Student Transportation of Peel Region (STOPR) has implemented a new software for the 2010/2011 School Year. This new software that has been implemented in the Peel Region has established new boundaries and new bus routes. The new boundaries are as follows:

JK - Grade 1: residing more than 1 km from designated school of attendance

Grade 2 - 4: residing more than 1.6 km from designated school of attendance

Grade 5 - 8: residing more than 2km from designated school of attendance

This month we have been currently accepting "Courtesy Request" forms from students who wish to be a courtesy rider on a bus.

School administration will review all

courtesy requests forms and will determine successful applications based on the following criteria:

- Age of student
- Number of seats available on the bus (determined by Student Transportation of Peel)
- Mitigating Factors

Should your "Courtesy Seat" application be successful, a letter will be sent home with your child within the next week. Please **DO NOT** place your child on a bus until you have received authorization from the school. Student Transportation of Peel must have all "Courtesy Riders" on their data base prior to students riding the bus.

Student Transportation of Peel has indicated that once a bus reaches it's full capacity, there is to be no new students placed on these buses.

Should you have any questions please call Student Transportation of Peel Region at (905) 890-0614 or visit www.stopr.ca

On October 5th all **bus monitors** will be attending a training session at Peel Safety Village. The training is designed to have students become familiar with the duties they will be performing to help prevent accidents and injuries.

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.



Dates, Dates, Dates.....

October 6th - Pizza Day

October 7th - Virtues/Bullying Assembly

October 10th - Thanksgiving - No School

October 20th - Pizza Day

October 25th - Interim report Cards go home

October 27th - Interim Report Card Conferences as required

November 1st - Photo Retakes

November 17th - Pizza Day

November 18th - PA Day No school for students

December 8th - Pizza Day

December 14th - Family Advent Mass at 7:00 p.m. at the church

December 26th-January 6, 2011 - Christmas Holidays

January 16 - PA Day No school for students

January 31st - First Term Report Cards go home

February 2nd - Report Cards go home - Parent/Teacher Conferences

January 31st - PA Day - Parent/Teacher Conferences

June 27th - Grade 8 Graduation



St. Christopher Community

Marketplace

Saturday December 3rd, 2011

Mark it on your calendar! This is the day that our Catholic School Council will present the **THIRD 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.



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 3th, 2011 from 9am –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.dpcdsb.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 NEXT 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 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 ADDRESS:

