

St. Christopher School



Issue 6
February 2012

Principal's Message

A heartfelt thank you to the teachers, students and parents for continuing to work hard in order to make St. Christopher an exemplary school.

Applause goes out to Mrs. Hladun, Mrs. Dell'Orso and Mr. DaCosta. Due to their excellent submission St. Christopher is the proud recipient of an Innovation Grant. The focus of the application was on how our school would strengthen school, parish, home links through local activities aimed at fostering greater collaboration.

Mr. Stesky and Mr. DaCosta were busy filming the successes of the school as we prepared for our District Review Process.

February brings us the celebration of friendship and love on Valentine's Day. The Student Parliament is diligently preparing for the Valentine's Dance-a-thon to kick off our annual Share Life Campaign.

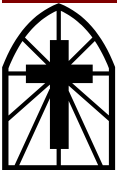
The intermediate students are co-operatively researching "Black Historian and Heroes" so that they can share a daily brief synopsis during morning announcements as well as promote understand-

ing of diversity in our community.

Our grade 5 and 6 classes are reflecting and preparing for Virtue Assembly on Respect. Through prayer and concentration, we can get better at respecting ourselves as well as respecting those around us. Every person in our lives carries the Spirit of God.

Our Liturgical Season of Lent begins with the distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday and continues until Easter. This is a time of remembering Christ's love and His giving of himself for us. May the Holy Spirit bless us.

Virtue of the Month- Self-Control



This month we celebrate the virtue of Respect. God wants us to treat all people with the respect

they deserve.

A respectful person...

-Treats himself /herself and

everyone else with equal consideration and courtesy and avoids gossip

-Uses a positive tone of voice and body language

-Avoids swearing, name-calling, put-downs and inappropriate gestures and says "Excuse Me", "Pardon Me",

when necessary.

Our February Virtue Assembly on Respect will be held on **Friday, February 24, 2012 at 12:30 p.m.**

Our Bullying Prevention Theme for this month is "Telling an adult about bullying is not tattling.

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Inserts

Principal

L. Hughes

Vice Principal

A. Capuano

Secretary

C. Camacho B. Meo

Custodial Team

M. Grech D. Thompson L. Defrate

Superintendent

C. Saytar 905 890 1221

Trustee

S. Hobin 905 890-1221

Cell 905 301- 1210

sharon.hobin@dpodsb.org

St. Christopher Parish

Fr. Scott Young 905 822-1171

Celebrating our Faith



Our liturgical season of Lent begins with our “Celebration of Ashes” on February 22nd and continues until Easter. We are

encouraged to say “yes” to God and “no” to our own selfishness. We can make a fresh start too, and try to keep in touch with God, to be less selfish and more generous. What Lenten promises will you and your child(ren) try to follow? The emphasis should be on doing things for Jesus, rather than simply on giving things up.

The St. Christopher community is invited to our **Ash Wednesday Mass to be held at the church at 12:30 p.m. on February 22.** The primary Division are taking the lead in preparing this Liturgy.

We thank the choir for their continued dedication and practice as they prepare for our Lenten Mass.

Our school community will once again continue the important commitment to our Catholic charity of **Share Life** and encourage everyone to support our activities as best as they can. We look forward to our Lenten journey together, a strengthened and renewed faith in God’s will.

Black History Month

February is Black History Month. We look forward to enlightening the students as we continue to treasure the diverse individuals who have graced the pages of our history throughout the world.

Spirit of God

In the month of appreciating
The Gift of your children of African descent
May we be inspired to see your kingdom’s
Mystery
In the facet of the jewel
Of our Human Family’s descent.
Fr. Clarence Williams, CFFS

Academic Expectations and Responsibilities

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.

Please call if your child is going to be absent.



905-822-0721

Press 2

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

Safe School Strategic Planning

As part of a Safe School Plan, St. Christopher continues to working to establish community partnership to create and sustain a safe, inclusive and healthy learning environment. Working with parents develops a faith filled school community that values healthy relationships, high academic standards, gospel values and virtuous living. Together students,

parents and teachers continue to learn how to protect the community from a variety of forms of bullying while building student self-esteem and awareness.

Healthy Tips –Peer Pressure

Peer Pressure affects everyone. We all want to fit in or be accepted by the people we spend time with.

School-aged children are affected by peer pressure as friends and relationships become more important. To feel accepted by their friends, children make choices they think will be approved by their peers.

Tips for Parents:

- Nurture your child’s abilities and self esteem so they can build positive friendships
- Help your children make decisions for themselves, starting at an early age
- Encourage independence, but remind them of family values and rules
- Spend quality time with your child
- Encourage your child to develop more than one group of friends.

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



The next **pizza day** is Thursday, February 16th. Extra special thanks to Mrs. Ellis-Smith for taking the lead on this and organizing our

pizza days.

Sub-Day

Our next **Sub-Day** is Wednesday, February 1st.

We will have a special **Sub-Day** for our **Share-Life** Campaign on Tuesday, February 14th.

Primary Literacy Program

Our parent community and teachers continue to work together to enhance students from SK to grade 3 achievement

by providing opportunity to practice their phonemic awareness, fluency and reading strategies. The literacy coaches provide 108/15 minute slots a week to support our younger students.

A special thank you to all of our parents Mrs. Vos and Mrs. Perdue for taking the time to work together and support achievement at St. Christopher School.



Valentin'e Day Dance-a-thon

Let's Dance

The entire school will be participating in our Valentine Day's Dance this year. Everyone will have a time to dance.

Parents we ask that you do **not** send any treats in with your children on Valentine's Day due to allergies in the school. Thank you .

Mississauga South Public Speaking

Our grade 4–8 are currently busy writing speeches on a variety of topics. The top

two speeches from each class will participate in our upcoming speech competition on Thursday, February 16th. Details to follow. The winner from each division will be chosen to represent out school at the Mississauga South of Schools Public Speaking Competition on Thursday, February 23, at St. Francis of Assisi School.

Leaders of Tomorrow Essay Contest

Students in the intermediate division are encouraged to participate in the **Leaders of Tomorrow Essay Competition Contest** sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. The theme this year is "Volunteerism". The program termination date is midnight April 1, 2012. Details have been provided to all grade 7 and 8 students.

Primary Skating

The primary classes are looking forward to their skating days on February 10th and March 6th. The trip is part of the St. Christopher electives, as teachers and students from grade one through three will enjoy their afternoon skating.

School Parliament News

Student Parliament Newsletter

As the seasons move head and our year moves along, Student Parliament is also moving right along and, along with out other initiatives , planning a **Valentine's Day Dance-a-thon**.

The dance will take place February 14, 2012, and the whole school will have a chance to participate. The Valentine's Day Dance comes with the heartfelt initiative of donating to Share Life—this year the donation will be \$10 per family. Every family that donates will have their kindness noted on a pink heart, which will be displayed throughout the school. We are hoping that our walls turn pink and we "show the love!". On this students are encouraged to wear red, pink and white to get into the "Valentine

Spirit".

Along with our rosy start to the year, we continued to support and collaborate on our green programs throughout the school. Let's continue to bring in pop can tabs to recycle for wheelchairs, plastic milk bags for Haiti, to make mats, litterless /boomerang lunches, and let's keep on remembering to turn off the lights when possible and re-use single sided paper. In the spring we plan to beautify our peace gardens and grounds, and perhaps take on more outdoor projects as the season unfolds.

We look forward to spring and some more new and upcoming activities!.

Milk Bags for Haiti

Milk bags 4 Haiti is a volunteer initiative to get plastic milk bags out our landfills and reuse them to make useful sleeping mats for children in Earthquake ravaged Haiti.

We are asking that families COLLECT the OUTSIDE of COLOURED MILK BAGS and please ensure that they are clean and dry! Submit the milk bags to your child's teacher.

Milk bags will be collected on Fridays by our Student Parliament and delivered to appropriate location and then sent to Haiti.

We will be collecting bags until the end of the year.

Student Parliament News



Eco School Update

On January 13, 2012 our Eco-Team, Mr. DaCosta and Ms. Halchuk took on a pretty revolting task, The Waste Audit. We sorted through our school's garbage and recycling to determine how we needed to improve and minimize our waste and recycling. We took any items that were recyclable from the garbage bags and took the waste out from recycling. From there we evaluated how much of our garbage could have been recycled and vice versa. Our re-

sults showed that only 50% of our garbage was actually waste, the 50% consisted of recyclables and food waste. Most of the misplaced items included juice boxes and **WHOLE SANDWICHES**. The total weight of our garbage was 21.8 Kg, which by the end of the school year is 4229 Kg of waste! Our recycling was much better, about 10% of our recycling was garbage and food waste. The total weight of our recycling tat day was 15.46 Kg, which by the end of the school year is about 3000 Kg! We concluded that

we really have to pay attention to what we're throwing in the garbage. We must remember what is recyclable and what's not, and to tell our parents what we enjoy for lunch rather than wasting our food and money. We're confident that by the end of the year we will be able to have all of our garbage and recycling in the right places!

Monique M. & Rachel N.

Community News

Junior & Senior Kindergarten Registration for 2012 -2013

Registration for the 2012-13 Junior and Senior Kindergarten will take place at St. Christopher School on the following days:

Monday, February 6, 2011

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.*

*Snow Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2012
- 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, February 8, 9, & 10 2011

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Junior Kindergarten - Children must be 4 years old by Dec. 31, 2012

Senior Kindergarten - Children must be 5 years old by Dec. 31, 2012

Parents/Guardians should bring the following documents when registering their child:

- proof of age
- original Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate (for parent and child) or Baptismal Certificate of other rites in communion with the Holy See of Rome (if the child has not been baptized, and the parent or guardian is a baptized Roman Catholic or is baptized in another rite in communion with the Holy

See of Rome, the parent/guardian should bring their own baptismal certificate).

- updated immunization records
- proof of Canadian citizenship or of Landed Immigrant status
- proof of address (utility bill, bank or credit card statement)

For schools in Caledon and Dufferin County: emergency rural address numbers for identifying your property



For more information, call St. Christopher School or visit www.dpcdsb.org

Extended French

Please see the Registration letter and information insert on page 7.

S'il vous plaît voir la lettre d'inscription et l'encart des informations sur la page 7.

The deadline for submission of Application to Extended French at St. Christopher is **3:00p.m. on Wednesday February 8, 2012.**



Catholic Ratepayers

If you are a Catholic ratepayer, we urge you to check your property tax bill to ensure that your support is directed to your local Catholic School Board, in our case, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. If you are a tenant, you can verify your support by contacting our Admissions Department at 905-890-0708 Ext. 24511 or your local municipal office. By ensuring that you are accurately recorded as a Catholic school supporter, you can help deliver a powerful message to the government about the level of support that exists for publically funded Catholic education in Ontario. In order to be eligible to vote for your local school board trustee, you must be registered a separate school supporter.

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.

Parent council meets six-seven times per year and we encourage you to join us at our meetings. We always welcome new members as we continue to make suggestions and recommendations for the St. Christopher School Community.

Please consider attending one of our meetings and enjoy meeting other parents in our relaxed meeting environment.

Council Meeting

Our next School Council meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2012 at **6:30 PM** in the Library.

Our trustee Sharon Hobin will be in attendance. We will also show a movie credited to showcase the good work happening at St. Christopher. This movie was created in response to a requirement by the Superintendent to participate in the District Support Review for the Ministry of Education. All are welcomed.

QSP Update

A reminder that you can still order magazines online at www.qsp.ca. Our group number is **8329**. When renewing or ordering magazines through QSP on line you can support our school.

Fun Fair

Our Annual Fun Fair will be on Saturday May 26th. Please mark the date on your calendar.



Sports Update

Intermediate Girls Basketball

Congratulations to the following students who made the Intermediate Girls Basketball Team: Abbey SA, Kasaundra F, Kristy M, Rachel N, Michelle W. , Monique M, Julia W, Jelena V, Emma L, Brooklyn J, Camille L and Julia R. The team just won their first game against St. Luke and look forward to facing more challenging teams. Thank you to the coaches Mr. Stesky, Mrs. Morris and Ms. Moreira.



Gian, Paul, Alex, Martin, Nikwain, and Jordan for making the Intermediate Boys Basketball Team. The boys soundly defeated St. Luke School for their first game. They look forward to more wins even when they come across tough competition. Thank you to Mr. Ahern and Mr. DaCosta or coaching the team. We wish them all the best.

Intra-Murals at St. Christopher

A lot of energy and enthusiasm is felt in the gym during Monday's and Wednesday's lunch time recesses.

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

February 6 - February 27 - Junior

March 5 - March 28 - Primary

April 30—May 16—Junior

May 23—June 11 - Primary Games

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

Intermediate Hockey Team

Congratulations to the hockey team on winning the Tier 2 championship at the All Saints Tournament. Jacob, Alex W., Alex R., Eric, Mitch, Matthew, Alec D. , Connor, Seth, Brian, Justin, Luke, Ryan, Kenny, Adam, Abbey, Lucas, Sean, Alex J. played like true Crusaders—clean, skilful and fast. Thank you to the coaches Mrs. Wos, Mrs. Perdue and Ms. Halchuk.

Intermediate Boys Basketball

Congratulations to the following students Aren, Jax, George, Connor, Kuba, Jordan,

Catholic Education Update

The theme for Education Week this year is "Walking in the Light of Christ". At St. Christopher we strive as a school community to work with you and for you in providing excellence in Catholic Education in our community. We will be having a Spring Concert and a Wellness Day. The Wellness Day will involve all the classes participating in Physical,

Emotional and Nutritional activities. As a school we will reinforce the importance of Wellness also in our curriculum.

At this time as we prepare for this special day we are asking if any parent would like to share their talents with us in any of the above mentioned areas

i.e. yoga demonstration, self-esteem workshop. Please contact Mrs. Capuano if you are able to help. We thank you in advance for your support in making our Wellness Day a success.

St. Christopher Community

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:

Dates, Dates, Dates...

February 1st—Sub Day

February 2nd— Parent/Teacher Conferences in the evening

February 3rd —PA Day—Parent/Teacher Conferences –No school for students

February 16th—Public Speaking Junior/Intermediate Competition

February 20th —Family Day

February 23rd—Family of Schools Pub-

lic Speaking Competition

March 12th—16th —Mid-Winter Break

April 6th - Good Friday

April 9th —Easter Monday

May 7—11- Catholic Education Week

May 8th and 9th—Spring Concert

May 11—PA Day—Faith Development

May 21—Victoria Day

June 11—PD Day—Assessment and Evaluation of Pupil Progress

June 27th - Grade 8 Graduation

PA Day

A reminder that there will be no school on **Friday , February 3rd**. It is a Professional Activity Day. The teachers will be conducting Parent-Teacher Conferences.



Transportation

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.

Transportation Phone Numbers

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Attridge | 905-855-7771 |
| 2. 1st Student— Hawkestone | 905-275-1675 |
| 1. Stock | 905-829-2040 |
| 2. Trott | 905-826-6629 |
| 3. 1st Student—Hawkestone | 905-270-0561 |
| 6. CEC | 905-890-0614 |

Transportation Cancellations

During the winter months inclement weather may cause disruption of bus transportation and regular school operations.

Information is available on the transportation website <https://businfo.stopr.ca>.

A decision to cancel school transporta-

tion and /or close school is usually made by 6:00 a.m. and will be announced on the following radio stations.

99.9 FM	102.1 FM	100.7 FM
1010 AM	1540 AM	102.1 FM
103.5 FM	590 AM	97.3 FM
680 AM	98.1 FM	1540 AM

CITYPULSE GLOBAL NEWS CBC

If buses are cancelled in the morning, they do not run in the afternoon. **If buses are cancelled, the school remain open.**

There will be a special announcement stating that the offices and school are closed. Only than are school closed.



Registration Information—Extended French



Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

40 Matheson Boulevard West, Mississauga, Ontario, L5R 1C5 • Tel: (905) 890-1221 • Fax: (905) 890-7610

November, 2011

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

RE: 2012 REGISTRATION FOR EXTENDED FRENCH

Any student who is eligible to attend a Dufferin-Peel Catholic school and who is presently a Grade 4 student is eligible to enroll in the Extended French program for Grade 5 in September, 2012.

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board offers the Extended French program at the schools listed on the reverse side. Transportation is provided for eligible students in the program *if they attend the centre designated for their region*. (Both transportation and Extended French Centre locations are subject to board annual review and therefore subject to change.)

The Extended French program starts in Grade 5 with 50% of the program taught in French. The subjects taught in French are: *French Language, Social Studies, Science and one of Visual Art, Music, Drama or Physical Education*. The grades 5, 6, 7 and 8 Extended French programs lead into Extended French at the secondary level. There is a sequence of four courses in *Extended French Language Arts* and another three courses taught in French (*Géographie* in Grade 9, *Histoire* in Grade 10 and *Les Grandes Religions* in Grade 11). In order to obtain a certificate in Extended French, successful completion of all seven credits is required. This program offers an excellent opportunity for becoming functionally bilingual in later years and has been found to be very successful. Over 300,000 students are enrolled in Extended French or French Immersion annually across Canada. More detailed information will be available at parent(s)/guardian(s) meetings to be held at all Extended French locations. **The dates are listed on the reverse side. Please mark these dates on your calendar.**

SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

Completed applications, containing all required documentation, will be accepted at the Extended French school office over a period of two weeks following the parent/guardian information meeting, up to a deadline of 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 8, 2012.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) will be expected to complete the requirements of obtaining signatures and comments through contact with the classroom and FSL teaching staff and the school administration. The student wishing admission will also continue to participate in the process through submission of his/her section, stating why Extended French is his/her wish. In this way, participation in Extended French will continue to be through an informed choice. A copy of the application will be given to the parent(s)/guardian(s) at the time of submission. There will be no numbering of applications.

LOTTERY PROCESS

A lottery will be held at a pre-determined and advertised date if, and only if, the number of applications received at the school exceeds the places available. In other cases, all children will be placed. Parent(s)/guardian(s) are urged to attend the Information Meetings or to contact the principal of the Extended French school for more details.

Sincerely,

Sheila McWatters
Superintendent of Program

SM:MG:drc