



FATHER CLAIR TIPPING CATHOLIC SCHOOL
25 Mountainberry Road,
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Home of the Titans

SEPTEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

*Excellence
Every Day
Every Chance
Every Way*

SUPERINTENDENT

Paul McMorrow
Tel: 905-890-1221

TRUSTEE

Scott McLauchlan
Tel: 905 -890 -0708
Ex# 24295



PARISH

St. Marguerite d'Youville
Tel: 905-792-7497

PASTOR

Fr. Patrick O'Dea

ASSOCIATE PASTORS

Fr. Steven Dickson
Fr. James Tobin

PRINCIPAL

Brian Coulson

VICE-PRINCIPAL

Kevin Dolan

SECRETARIES

J. Burgoyne
E. Frisolli

September 2011

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

DEAR LORD

YOU GIVE US THIS NEW SCHOOL YEAR. WE ARE EXCITED TO
BE BACK WITH OUR FRIENDS AND TEACHERS.
HELP US TO MAKE THE BEST OF A NEW BEGINNING

GUIDE US TO MAKE WISE DECISIONS AND
TO DO THE BEST THAT WE CAN. HELP US TO MAKE
THIS A HAPPY YEAR. LET US SHARE WITH OUR FRIENDS
AND TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS FEEL WELCOME.

BLESS OUR TEACHERS WITH THE GIFTS OF WISDOM
AND PATIENCE AS THEY GUIDE US IN OUR
JOURNEY OF LEARNING.

BLESS OUR PARENTS SO THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE
TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT US WITH THEIR
GENEROUS HEARTS.

TOGETHER HELP US CREATE A COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS THAT
TEACHES US NOT ONLY SKILLS FOR SUCCESS BUT ALL
THAT WE NEED TO LIVE OUR FAITH FULLY IN THE WORLD.

AMEN



Principal's Message

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year! I hope that your summer holiday was a safe and enjoyable one. This year promises to be year full of great growth and excitement. I wish to extend a special welcome to all of our new families and students who have moved into our community over the summer months.

As we begin another school year, it is important for staff, parents and our parish team to work together to create a safe, caring, and positive learning environment that reflects our Catholic values and traditions. We hope that you consider volunteering at the school. Volunteers enrich our school environment and can contribute to the growth of our students in many important ways.

Ongoing communication between the school and home is essential to supporting your child's progress and success. As parents/guardians, please feel free to contact the school at any time if you have any questions or concerns.

Our staff has been working hard these past few weeks preparing for the beginning of the new school year. Thank you to the teachers who have spent a great amount of time preparing both their curriculum and their classrooms. Also, a great big thanks to our secretary, Mrs. Burgoyne and our temporary secretary, Mrs. Frisolli, and our custodial team, Mr. P. Thomas, Ms. V. Baldacchino and Mr. J. Polcz, for doing such a wonderful job in preparing our school to welcome back our students.

Tentative School Staff

The following is a tentative list of our staff for the 2011-2012 school year. Staffing is based on a **‘projected’ student enrollment that is calculated each spring by the School Boards’ Assessment and Planning Department. Classes are tentative until September 16th, at which time classroom reorganization may be needed to meet ministry requirements for class size.**

| <u>Teacher</u> | <u>Grade</u> |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Mrs. V. Pompili | JK/SK AM JK PM |
| Mrs. E. Giancola | JK/SK AM SK PM |
| Mrs. U. Burke | 1 |
| Mrs. R. Bastasin | 1/2 |
| Mrs. M. Eaton | 1/2 |
| Mrs. L. Fusca | 2 |
| Mrs. P. Bowles | 2/3 |
| Mrs. M. Sequeira | 3 |
| Mrs. J. Williamson | 3 |
| Ms. H. Mitropoulos | 4 |
| Mr. G. Pelaia | 4/5 |
| Mrs. L. Kane | 5 |
| Mrs. A. Sassine | 5/6 |
| Mrs. J. Serrentino | 6 |
| Mrs. R. Najem | 6 |
| Mrs. P. Capone | 7 |
| Mr. R. Simunec | 7/8 |
| Mrs. A. Belmonte | 8 |
| Mr. A. Grabowski | Planning Time |
| Mrs. A. Onorati | Planning Time |
| Mrs. T. DeFaveri | ESL |
| Mrs. M. McKnight | SERC / SERT |
| Mrs. V. Viola | SERT |
| Ms. A. Mitrovic | FSL |
| Mrs. B. Cibulka | FSL |
| Mrs. C. Di Federico | Teacher-Librarian |
| Mrs. S. Sorochan | ERW |
| Mr. K. Virgilio | ERW |
| Mrs. S. Wright | Social Worker |
| Mrs. C. Giles | Speech Language |
| Mrs. J. Marcinkowski | Child Youth Worker |
| Mrs. S. Gates | School Psychologist |
| Mr. P. Thomas | Head Custodian |
| Mrs. V. Baldacchino | Night Custodian |
| Mr. J. Polcz | Night Custodian |
| Mrs. E. Frisolli | Temporary Secretary |
| Mrs. J. Burgoyne | Head Secretary |
| Mr. K. Dolan | Vice-Principal |
| Mr. B. Coulson | Principal |

Special Welcome to Mr. Thomas, Mrs. Frisolli, Ms. Cibulka, Ms. Eaton and Ms. Sassine who are coming to Father Clair Tipping as new or temporary staff.

School Day and School Yard Supervision

Yard Supervision begins at 8:15 a.m. For safety reasons, please do not send your child to school until then. Our supervisors wear orange vests when they are out so that they can be easily visible to a child in need. For reasons of safety, students are expected to go home at the end of the school day, unless supervised by a parent or staff member for a scheduled school activity. If there are any changes to dismissal arrangements, please contact us the evening before or with a note to the teacher.

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| 8:15 am | Supervision in the yard begins |
| 8:30 am | School day begins |
| 8:30 – 11:00 am | Kindergarten am |
| 10:35 – 10:50 am | Recess |
| 11:30 am - 12:30 pm | Lunch |
| 1:55 – 2:10 pm | Recess |
| 3:00 pm | Dismissal |

Calendar Dates

The school will be sending home reminders and more information for some of the dates listed below:

September

- 6th - First Day of School
- 16th - PA Day (School Re-Organization)
- 19-23rd - Scholastic Book Fair
- 21st - School Council Nomination Forms Due
- 22nd - Open House Barbecue (5:15 – 7:15 pm)
- 27th - Opening Mass (9:30 am at the School)
- 28th - QSP official Kickoff
- 28th - School Council Elections (if needed)
- 30th - Terry Fox Walk

October

- 5th - First School Council Meeting
- 10th - Thanksgiving Day (Civic Holiday)
- 19th - Parent Information Night & Registration for First Reconciliation at 7:00 pm St. Marguerite dYouville Parish

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAY
Faith/Curriculum & Reorganization Day
Friday, September 16, 2011
No School for Students



Parish Team



We look forward to working closely with Father O'Dea and the parish team at St. Marguerite D'Youville Parish (905-792-7497)

Mass Schedule:

Weekday Masses – Mon 9:15 am, Tues 7:00 pm, Wed 9:15 am, Thurs 7:00 pm, Fri 9:15 am
Saturday Mass – 5:00 pm
Sunday Masses - 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:30 pm, 8:00 pm

School Opening Mass is September 27th at 9:30 am. at Father Clair Tipping. As always, we invite parents to celebrate with us.

Our Virtue for September is Faith

Faith is the great virtue of believing in God and trusting that God is with us.

A *faithful* person believes that we are created, guided by and destined to be reunited with God. A *faithful* person believes that God's plan for us includes the right to be safe, especially at school.

A *faithful* person ...

- Prays regularly and reverently
- Learns from Scripture stories
- Honours people's God given names
- Assumes that there is good in everyone

Open House, BBQ and Book Fair

Thursday, September 22nd 5:15-7:15 p.m. is the date for our Open House and Barbecue. The School will be providing parents, students and teachers an opportunity to meet informally for BBQ dinner in the yard of the school, from 5:15- 6:15 p.m. Staff will then go to their classrooms so the students can show their parents their classroom and meet the teacher. We hope you will have an opportunity to join us on that evening. More information will be forthcoming in the near future.

The Scholastic School Book Fair is taking place from September 19th to September 23rd including the night of our Open House. Check out the great books and school supplies to start up your child for the new school year.



Professional Activity Days

Friday, September 16, 2011 has been designated as a Professional Activity Day for Re-organization. There will be no classes for students that day.



Please refer to the page called "2011-2012 School Year Calendar" for other Professional Activity days and public holidays.

Pizza Days

We hope to once again organize pizza days for our students. This year all schools in Ontario must follow nutritional guidelines set out by the Ministry of Education. We will be finding a pizza vendor that meets these requirements. Students will be reminded when these pizza days will begin. If you would like to volunteer to help out on Friday with the pizza days please let the office or a member of our Catholic School Council know.

Q.S.P. MAGAZINE ORDERS

Save On Your Subscriptions!

The QSP Magazine Program will be returning to our school. We will be having **our official kickoff on September 28th**. Please save your magazine orders (new or renewals) and order them through



our school program. Magazine subscriptions or renewals can make a terrific Christmas Gift! If you can't wait until our schools' program runs, you can start early and still support us today by shopping on-line! It's easy...just visit www.qsp.ca.

School Council

Information regarding our Catholic School Council Nomination forms and Election Process for the new school year will be distributed shortly to all families. Please think about becoming involved and sharing your time in making our school even better. You can pick up a nomination form in the office which is due to the school office by **Wednesday, September 21, 2011**. Parents can nominate themselves or another parent in school community. As always, parents of students in the school are invited to council meetings. Our first meeting will be held on **Wednesday October 5th at 7 p.m.** in the school library. The dates of future meetings will be included in the monthly school newsletters.

Visitors To School

For safety reasons, we are reminding the school community that it is **Board Policy** that all visitors, including parents and former students, must come in the front door and report to the office and sign in. Remember – to your child you are the parent...to the other students you are a stranger.

If you bring a lunch or book to school, we request that you leave it on the lunch table near the front office with your child's name on it.

All students must be signed out at the office by a parent/guardian when leaving the building and signed in at the office when they return. If it is a regular dismissal, please wait outside the appropriate exit doors of the building to avoid disruption of classroom routines.

We welcome you to meet with the teacher whenever you have concerns or questions. Please call for an appointment in advance as staff is very busy during the day with classes, duties, calls to parents, extracurricular activities and meetings. They are seldom able to meet with you on a drop-in basis.

Cooperation in following these routines helps ensure our student's safety.

Student Attendance Verification

Daily attendance and punctuality are very important. If your child is unable to attend school, please inform the school. Messages can be left on the school attendance line at any time.

Your child's safe arrival to school is imperative and must be verified by the office,

Our school's phone number is **905-789 1741**.



Emergency Information



It is most important that we are able to contact you during school hours. We should have on record: telephone numbers for home, work, cell and an emergency contact person and number. In order to keep our records up-to-date, please inform the office of any changes that may be relevant.

Valuables

Students are requested not to bring valuables items of importance or personal money to school (ie. CDs, game boys expensive sports equipment, expensive personal jewelry, etc.) The school cannot assume responsibility for any valuables brought to school that are lost or stolen.

Fire Evacuation Policy

We have a detailed fire/emergency evacuation policy. We will be practicing evacuation procedures many times over the course of the school year.

In addition we will be reviewing and practicing "Lock-Down Procedures."

REMINDER: Students are expected to wear shoes in the school building at all times. If the fire alarm goes off, students will not be permitted to stop to put on shoes, coats, hats, etc. Please ensure that your child has an extra pair of shoes at school during the winter months.

Sports Equipment & School Yard Safety

Father Clair Tipping continues to promote safe and cooperative play in the school yard. We will be introducing the PALS program during recess to model cooperative play and games. With the support of our School Council we will also be purchasing appropriate soft utility or nerf balls for outdoor games.

For safety reasons, we will not allow students to bring or play with any hockey sticks, hard balls, skateboards, scooters and other inappropriate equipment in the school play yard. These items may result in serious injuries. We ask you cooperation in ensuring that these items are not brought to school.

Insurance

As required by the Education Act and the Ministry of Education, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board annually provides parents with information about cost-effective student accident insurance coverage via student courier. An insurance package will be sent home with your child(ren) in the near future. Although enrolment is voluntary, the Board encourages parents to take advantage of the inexpensive insurance that is available to them. **The school Board does not carry accident insurance for students. Insurance forms will be coming next week and sent out to each home.**

Enrolment is required in writing -- there are two options for enrolment:

- 1) Complete the traditional form and mail it in
- 2) Photocopy the form and fax it to Reliable Life at 1-905-522-7211 or 1-800-463-KIDS (5437).

Please do not return envelopes to the school

Parking/Kiss 'N' Ride

We will continue using the system from last year for dropping children off in the morning and picking them up in the afternoon. The driveway at the side of the school is the designated "kiss 'n' ride area when you drop off you child or when you pick them up in a safe and effective way. Please follow the arrows in the driveway up to the unloading/loading area. Please do not let your child get out of the car before you arrive at the unloading area – having a child walk across the parking lot full of moving cars would be extremely dangerous.

Please understand that the kiss 'n' ride lane is not a parking area where parents can watch the children while they are playing in the playground. Directly after your child has left the car, we ask that you continue through the drop off area and proceed to exit the school grounds. In the interest of the safety of all children, please drive slowly and carefully.

A reminder that the lane closest to the front of the school is used for bus and emergency vehicles. Unauthorized vehicles parked may be ticketed.

Transportation

Eligibility

We thank you in advance for your cooperation regarding the transportation of your child. Please remember that only eligible students may take the bus:

| | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Jr/Sr Kindergarten & Gr. 1 | 1.0 km |
| Grades 2 - 4 | 1.6 km |
| Grades 5 - 8 | 2.0 km |

The distance criteria is determined by the Dufferin-Peel Boards of Education.

Bus Safety Rules have been reviewed with your child and a copy distributed to all students. Please take a moment to review these important guidelines.

Busing Online Access for 2011-2012

Please be advised that you can track your children's bus stop, pick up, drop off time, delayed buses, and cancellations, etc. at the following website:

<https://businfo.stopr.ca>

Inquires and Requests Bus Transportation

Please note that the school is not involved in determining transportation eligibility or stop locations. All enquires are to be directed to the Transportation Department at:

905-890-6000

As with each new school year, the Student Transportation of Peel Region (STOPE) staff will be receiving numerous parental inquiries and requests regarding school bus arrangements. The annual service requests and adjustments will be addressed under the following priority.

1. Ensuring that all students, eligible for transportation, are provided with transportation service to and from school
2. Reorganizing bus runs and bus routes to resolve over capacity circumstances, late school arrival/departure situations, and incorrect bus stop arrival times
3. Transportation eligibility challenges, bus stop location adjustments and determination of empty seat availability for ineligible riders

Courtesy Rider Policy (Empty Seat Policy)

Every year we get numerous calls from parents who do not live within the transportation areas as established by the Board, requesting permission for their child(ren) to ride the bus by accessing the Courtesy Rider Policy. In accordance with Board Policy, we will not be giving permission for students to ride the bus using the Courtesy Rider Policy until October. Requests should be made in writing, dated and addressed to the Vice Principal, Mr. Dolan.

Terry Fox Walk/Run

We will be holding our annual Terry Fox Walk/Run on Friday, September 30th. We are proud to be part of this important and national event to help raise money for cancer research. All students will be participating and we are asking that each student bring in a "Donation for Terry." Pledge sheets will also be available for those students who wish to gather more donations. Please support our students in this worthwhile cause!



Excursions & Field Trips

Educational trips, which extend learning opportunities, are a wonderful means by which curriculum can be developed and expanded. For your child to participate in any field trip. **The school requires a permission form signed by parents/ guardians.** If on the day of an excursion, your child did not return his/her form, and the parents/guardians cannot come into the school to sign the permission forms, the student will remain at the school with an assigned curriculum for the day.

Distribution and Storage of Medication

Please contact the office for the appropriate forms to be completed if your child is required to bring medication to school and administered during school hours. If medication must be administered by a designated staff member, signed request/authorization forms from the parents/guardians and the supervising physician must be obtained whenever a prescription is initiated or changed. The required authorization forms and the medication are to be returned to the office.

All medication with the exception of epi-pen will be housed in the office. Medication must not be kept on the child's possession (ie. pocket, back pack, etc.) or in the classroom. Please be advised that we will not permit any student to attend any off site activity without the required medications and *Authorization for Storage and Administration of Prescribed Medication* forms being completed and filed in the office. This is the parent's responsibility to ensure prior to any school excursion.

Ministry Food & Beverage Policy

As part of its Healthy Living Policy, all schools are expected to comply with the nutritional standards set out by the Ontario Ministry of Education for the September 2011 school year. The nutrition standards embody the principles of healthy eating outlined in [Canada's Food Guide](#) and are intended to ensure that the food and beverages sold in schools contribute to students' healthy growth and development. The guidelines restrict the selling of foods that have high amounts of trans-fats, sugar and sodium, which are known to contribute to various health conditions such as obesity, diabetes and high-blood pressure. Schools are allowed up to 10 "special-event" days throughout the year, where they are exempt from the standards but they are encouraged to provide healthy options. For more information on about these guidelines including resources and healthy food options for parents, please visit the following website:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/healthyschools.html>



Nut Allergies

We have a number of children in our school who have severe life threatening allergic reactions to nuts, peanuts, peanut butter, peanut oils and any peanut by-products. For some children, even the smell of nuts can bring on a severe attack.

We need your cooperation! We do not want to put any child at risk, therefore we are making the following request: **NUTS, NUT BUTTER, NUT OILS AND ANY NUT BY-PRODUCT ARE NOT TO BE BROUGHT INTO THE SCHOOL.**

Your understanding, support and cooperation regarding this matter are greatly appreciated.

School Policy - No Food for Birthdays

We are asking parents/guardians to ensure that their **children eat only the food they bring home (and not share food)** and that they do not send or bring food for other children to celebrate birthdays or other special events. When food is sent to school, it may be shared without the consent of other parents, which is problematic as it may not always be nutritious and **because classmates may have potentially life-threatening allergies. As an alternative** we recommend that parents consider providing non-food loot bags if they wish to celebrate their child's birthday with other students in the classroom.

A number of school sponsored events will be held throughout the year by the school council and school such as pizza days and sub-days and we will ensure that these products meet the nutritional and safety standards.

Physical Education

All students J.K.-Gr. 8 are expected to return the signed Element of Risk and Medical Information Form to participate in the Physical Education Program. To participate in Physical Education Activities students in Grades 5-8 will be required to bring a change of clothes for Physical Education. Students from J.K.-4 are required to wear comfortable clothing on Gym days as well as appropriate running shoes (non marking shoes with ankle support).

Lunch Policy

The following lunchtime guidelines have been established for students having lunch at school:



- eat in their assigned class room
- remain seated while eating
- not to share food. This is a necessary precaution as so many students now have food allergies.
- chat quietly to their neighbours
- dispose of all garbage in the proper receptacle before they leave the lunchroom

Thank you for going over these expectations with your children and for supporting us in our efforts to make eating lunch at school a pleasant experience for all.

Volunteers

Volunteers play an important part in the life of any school community. At the school level, they help to enhance the learning opportunities available to students. They can make a difference in the academic life of a student. They assist students with reading, writing, academic drills and reinforcement, education games and in other activities that help to improve specific areas of need. Please contact the school if you are interested in volunteering.

Anyone working in our school that has regular contact with children as an employee or volunteer must have a **criminal reference check completed by Peel Police.**

Board Policy for Personal Electronic Devices

A reminder to our students and visitors that personal electronic devices such as cell phones, ipods, cameras, etc are not to be used on school board property or during school related activities (such as retreats, field trips, sports events, etc.) Students who carry cell phones for safety reasons must have these turned off and stored away out of sight during school hours. Failure to comply with this policy may result in the confiscation of the PED and/or disciplinary action as outlined in the Catholic Code of Conduct 2001. Repeat offenses will necessitate parents coming to the office to get the confiscated cell phone or ipod etc. The school and board assume no responsibility for the loss, recovery, repair or replacement for any PED brought onto school property.

Web Sites:

Father Clair Tipping School Web Site
<http://www.dpcdsb.org/FCTIP>

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board
www.dpcdsb.org

Peel Health
www.peelregion.ca

Ontario Ministry of Education
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca>

City of Brampton
<http://www.city.brampton.on.ca>

Tips For A Successful Year!

1. Keep in regular contact with your child's classroom teacher. Positive and ongoing communication will support your child's learning.
2. Establish clear expectations and routines for completing homework at home.
3. Identify an area at home that will provide an effective place for your child to work (minimize distractions and good lighting).
4. Review your child's homework and agenda frequently to monitor their progress and ensure completion of important assignments.
5. Encourage your child to read and share their interests and topics.
6. Monitor your child's use of the internet and television and establish guidelines for using electronic devices safely and appropriately.



