

St. Pio of Pietrelcina Elementary School

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January, 2012 Newsletter

Principal's Message

Welcome back! I hope that you had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday season with your family. We would like to thank everyone in the St. Pio of Pietrelcina community for bringing the true meaning of Christmas to our school through the 'Angel Tree' and 'Food drive' campaigns. Because of your continuous generosity, you have allowed us to do Christ's work in the St. Pio of Pietrelcina Community. On behalf of all of the recipients of the Angel Tree, Christmas Food Drive and other outreach programs this year, thank you!!!

Our school Christmas Concert was a huge success. Children from Kindergarten to grade 5/6 spent many hours preparing musical celebrations to share with families and friends. We had a packed house of adoring and appreciative fans. It was a wonderful time that helped keep the spirit of Christmas alive. We hope you enjoyed it! The staff and students extend their thanks once again this year to Santa Claus who visited classrooms with treats for the students. This annual tradition made it a very special day at St. Pio of Pietrelcina!

On behalf of the staff of St. Pio of Pietrelcina, I wish all students, parents, parish and community members a happy and healthy new year.

P.A. Day

Monday, January 16, 2012
(no school for students)

Prayer for a New Year

*Come, Holy Spirit,
Spirit of God, Spirit of the
Risen Christ,
Be with us today and always.
Be our Light, our Guide,
our Comforter
And our Sanctifier.
May this New Year be a time
of deep spiritual growth for
us,
A time for welcoming Your
graces and gifts,
A time for forgiving freely
and unconditionally,
A time for growing in virtue
and goodness.
Come, Holy Spirit.
Be with us today and
always.*

Amen

Virtue of the Month – Self-Control

This month we will celebrate the virtue of self-control. Self-control helps us to resist the temptation to do something that we will regret. Self-control helps us to resist the temptation to do something that will harm ourselves or others. Self-control is one of the marks of a spiritually mature person. When we use self-control, we can be sure that our school will be a safe, caring and inclusive place to live and to learn.

SAFE SCHOOL INITIATIVES

Before School Hours Supervision

For your child's safety, we request that he/she not be on school property until supervision begins at 8:30 a.m. Thank you!

REMINDER: PARENTS, PLEASE STAY OUT OF THE YARD...

What We're Asking...

When you arrive at the schoolyard during the supervised times, we ask that you leave the supervision to those who are assigned that task. We are asking that you kindly remain just off the paved area so that the assigned supervisor can effectively monitor the children's safety in the yard. Please wait on the paved sidewalk, and refrain from wandering into the yard. For the Kindergarten parents, you are most welcome to stay, all we ask is that you remain on the outside of the fenced area.

If you must walk through the yard, we ask that you do so quickly without interaction with students.

Why We're Asking...

We are charged with the responsibility of caring for the safety of all children who are in the schoolyard during the supervised times. The principal is responsible, (under Section 265m of the Education Act) to establish and maintain a safe supervision system for the students.

While we understand that you have a vested interest in ensuring your child's safety, please understand that while your child knows you, other people (including other children and supervisors) may not. **Your concerns about others may be the same as their concerns about you.**

- Staff members on duty may recognize some of you, but definitely not all of you. If you, or other adults are in the schoolyard, staff members need to watch the adults in order to protect the children.
- Children need an opportunity to develop independent skills. Staff members act as independent mediators and can intervene in an unbiased way.
- Adults in the schoolyard may have a difficult time separating the safety and needs of their own child from those of others. We are responsible for the safety and well-being of all the children.

Thank you for your attention to this.

Personal Electronic Devices

A reminder that Personal Electronic Devices (cell phones, ipods etc.) are not to be used on school board property according to the DPCDSB policy. Students who carry cell phones for safety reasons must have them turned off and stored away out of sight. Any infraction of this rule will include confiscation and return at the end of the day. Repeat offenses will necessitate parents coming to the office to get the confiscated cell phone, ipod etc. Please review this policy with your child.

Allergen Awareness Alert

As there are a number of students in our school who have a severe life threatening allergy to nuts, we ask our families to refrain from sending to school any food, etc. that contains nut products (i.e. peanut butter sandwiches, snacks with nuts, etc.). While we cannot guarantee a "Nut Free" or "Allergen Free" environment, you can help to reduce the risk to our students by not sending in peanuts, nuts of any kind, products containing nuts, nut oil, or nut by-products, foods that MAY have come in contact with nuts or nut products and fast food or commercial snacks where the content or exposure to nuts of commercial foods or snacks is unclear (i.e. Timbits). **In addition, edible birthday treats will not be shared with students at school. Please do not send cakes, cookies etc. for distribution.**

A written communication has been sent to the parents of children notifying them of the nature of a life threatening allergy when it is specific to their child's classroom. Your continued cooperation in support of our efforts to create a safe and healthy learning environment for all is greatly appreciated!

Kiss and Ride Reminders

Children should use the passenger doors only to exit vehicles – this will ensure that students will be dropped off safely on the school sidewalk.

Please be patient and wait to drop your child off safely where there is a supervisor. Some parents are stopping at the bottom of the hill and allowing their children to exit where there is no sidewalk or teacher to supervise. This is unsafe – especially in the winter when the road is slippery and cars may slide as they are making the corner to go up the hill.

I would also like to remind parents that if you must park **you are not to use the school parking lot in the morning.** By doing so, you are walking through our Kiss and Ride lanes – not only is this unsafe, but it also slows down the whole process for everyone else – because you have to back out into the oncoming traffic! If you feel it necessary to accompany your child to the school, you can choose to park on the street or in the Huron Heights Park parking lot.

Winter Dress

Parents are reminded that students should be dressed appropriately for winter weather conditions. Recess is considered a part of the school day and students in attendance are expected to participate in this activity.

If your child is ill or has not fully recuperated from an illness, consideration must be given to keeping the child at home so that he/she may recuperate fully. We do not have the resources to provide supervision indoors when all other students are out for recess. Please note that children who are ill are not in a learning state and may very well infect others around them. We thank you in advance for your consideration in this matter.

Snow Stays on the Ground

The winter weather and the wonderful pleasures that come with winter have begun. Students are reminded that “Snow Stays on the Ground”. Frequent reminders are made on the morning announcements. Students are encouraged to

constructively use the snow that winter brings to build snowmen, or snow sculptures. Please assist us by reviewing with your child the dangers of throwing snowballs and the importance of preventing injury to other children. Together, we will create a school yard which is safe for all during winter. Another important element of constructive play is respecting the efforts of others. At St. Pio, students are reminded to respect the efforts of others and to leave snow forts or snowmen standing for all to enjoy.

Indoor Shoes

Wet floors can be a hazard. Please help keep our classroom floors dry and safe by sending a pair of indoor shoes to school.

ECO School News

The ECO team is beginning to implement their strategies to help us in achieving our goal of becoming an ECO school. This month, GOOS boxes will be distributed to each class for scrap paper to be reused. The ECO team will be promoting reusable water bottles, waste-free lunches and a recycling awareness campaign. Students will also begin to monitor energy conservation with a “turn off the lights” campaign. Students have been working very hard in the planning stages and we are looking forward to all of the changes they hope to bring with all of their wonderful ideas!

Bus Cancellations

During the winter months, inclement weather may cause disruption of bus transportation and regular school operations. A decision to cancel school transportation and/or to close schools is usually made by 6:00 a.m. and will be announced on the following radio and television stations:

CKFM99.9	CHUM AM1050	
CFTR 680 AM	CFNYFM102.1/AM640	
CJCL590AM	CBC99.1	
CHFI FM98.1	CFRB AM1010	
EZ ROCK 97.3 FM	CJBC (FR) AM860	
Z103.5 FM	93.1 FM	
Q107 FM	CHIN FM100.7/1540 AM	
CITYPULSE	GLOBAL NEWS	CTV

If buses are cancelled in the morning, they do not run in the afternoon. Please listen carefully for closure information.

School Council Update

A **St. Michael's Majors Community Event** is being planned by our School Council. Please come out and support the team and the school choir which will be performing at the **Mississauga St. Michael's Majors game against Erie on Sunday, February 26th, 2012.** Tickets will be on sale again in the next few weeks.

In addition, School Council will be kicking off our Jump/Shoot Hoops for St. Pio fundraiser on Friday, January 27th. This fun event will take place on Friday, February 10th in our gym. Thank you for your continued support.

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday, January 17th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Pio of Pietrelcina School.** All are welcome.

FRENCH IMMERSION INFORMATION

MEETING

Senior Kindergarten parents/guardians, who wish to enroll their child in a Grade 1 French Immersion class for September, 2012 are invited to attend an information meeting at:

School: *St. Gertrude School*

Address: *815 Ceremonial Drive*

Date: *Thursday, January 12th, 2012*

Time: *7:00 p.m.*

The deadline for submission of Applications will be *2:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 8th, 2012.*

Full-Day Kindergarten Registration for 2012-13

Monday, February 6, 2012*

7:00-9:00 p.m.

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

**Wednesday, Thursday & Friday,
February 8, 9 & 10, 2012**

9:00-11:00 a.m. and 1:00-3:00 p.m.

EXTENDED FRENCH INFORMATION MEETING

Grade 4 parent(s)/guardian(s), who wish to enroll their child in a Grade 5 Extended French class for September, 2012 are invited to attend an information meeting at:

School: *San Lorenzo Ruiz School*

Address: *100 Barondale Drive*

Date: *Wednesday, Jan. 18th, 2012*

Time: *7:00 p.m.*

At the present time, the above mentioned school is the designated centre for our area. Applications will be accepted at that centre until *3:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 8th, 2012.*

Dates to Remember

Jan. 16 – P.A. Day (report card writing – no school)

Jan. 17 – School Council meeting

Jan. 25 – French Café

Jan. 27 – Kick off assembly- fundraiser

Jan. 31 – Report cards are sent home

Feb. 2 – Interview evening

Feb. 3 – P.A. Day – reporting to Parents –(no school)

Feb. 10 – Jump/Shoot Hoops for Pio – Major fundraiser

Feb. 16 – Grad Photos

Feb. 20 – Family Day (no school)

Feb. 21 – Shrove Tuesday

Feb. 22 – Ash Wednesday – Lent begins

Mar. 12 – 16 – MARCH BREAK

Mar. 27 – Spring Photos