



St. Dominic School

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2009

September Newsletter

Principal:

S. Wolf

Secretary:

C. Ross

Superintendent:

E. McGuire

Trustee & Chair

M. Pascucci

Pastor:

Fr. Philip Jones

The mission of the St. Dominic School Community is to promote and foster Catholic attitudes, values, and beliefs in a supportive and caring learning environment. Together with dignity and respect, we strive to inspire life-long learning and encourage students to attain their full potential as Christians.

Dear God...as a new school year begins, fill the hearts of our students with an eagerness to learn about the world, about themselves and most of all about You.

Bless our teachers and school staff with the gifts of wisdom and patience that they may help each student to find the truth and to develop to their full potential.

May our school's parents, guardians and other care-givers be blessed with generous hearts to encourage their children to always do their best and to reflect God's love in all they do.

Help us all to work together to continue to foster a Catholic community that reaches out to its members and to the world.

Amen



Principal's message

The staff of St. Dominic Catholic School extends a very warm welcome to all of the new families and to those returning to St. Dominic this year. A special greeting is extended to our Junior Kindergarten children, who are beginning school for the first time. We hope that everyone has enjoyed a restful summer with opportunities to rest, relax and enjoy family and friends.

Every new school year is filled with hope, excitement, and challenges. As we journey together may we continue to be respectful of one another and know that God is with us.

The remarkable staff at St. Dominic is committed to working in partnership with students, parents and the St. Dominic Church team to support the students' spiritual, academic, social and emotional growth. Our goal is to promote a safe, caring, healthy and inclusive learning experience for all our students.

Welcome back!



Student Information Forms

A package of Student Information forms has been sent home with your child. It is very important that all forms be completed. Please return the forms promptly to your child's classroom teacher. A package of forms needs to be completed for each child.

2009-2010 School Hours

Our lunch time and recess time have changed this year. Please note the changes below.



Schedule

Supervision Starts:	8:15 a.m.
School Starts:	8:30 a.m.
Recess:	10:30 a.m.
JK/SK Dismissal	11:00 a.m.
Lunch	11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.
JK/SK	12:30 p.m.
Recess	2:00 p.m.
Dismissal	3:00 p.m.

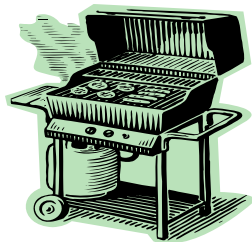
Dance-a-thon



We will be hosting a Dance-a-thon on October 30, 2009. The host for this interactive dancing event will be from Presswood Entertainment. Students will be receiving pledge cards and are encouraged to get sponsors who are friends, relatives or neighbours. **Students are not to go door to door to obtain sponsors.**

Students will be invited to come down to the gym for a scheduled time and to dance to various songs of their choice. Money raised from the dance-a-thon will go towards school needs.

Open House Barbeque Night and Meet the Teacher



On September 17th our Annual Open House BBQ and meet the teacher night has been scheduled. The BBQ will start at 6:00 p.m. in the playground. Teachers will be in the school yard to meet with you. Classrooms will be open so you will have an opportunity to visit.

Bus Transportation

In planning for your child's transportation needs in September, please keep in mind the board guidelines regarding eligibility.

Kindergarten	1 km
Grades 1-4	1.6 km
Grades 5-6	2 km
Grades 7-8	3.2 km



Parents are responsible for making arrangement for their children's transportation unless they are eligible for bus transportation.

In October, when it has been established that there is space on the bus, students who do not meet eligibility requirements may apply for a seat in accordance with the "Empty Seat Bus Policy". If you wish to be considered for an empty seat, please indicate this in writing to the principal, stating the name of your child, grade and address. Seats will be awarded by considering first come, siblings and grade level (e.g. younger students will receive preference).

School Agendas

Students in Grades 1—8 will be using school agendas to help develop their organizational skills. The cost of the school agenda is \$6.00. Please take some time to look over your child's agenda. The agenda contains important information outlined in the front section. The agenda is used daily to help assist your child with organization. It is also an effective vehicle we use to keep parents informed on what is happening in class and in the school.

Professional Development Day/ Early Release

Friday September 18th is a Professional Development Day for teachers. There will be no classes held on this day. Please make sure you mark your calendars and make appropriate arrangements. There is also an Early Release Day scheduled for September the 29th in the afternoon.

School Council Elections

We would like to invite all parents to consider being a member of our school council. The aim of the council is to support school activities and students through involvement and fundraising. Nomination forms for the 2009-2010 School Council are included in this newsletter or you may pick them up at the office. Nominations are due by September 22nd in the office. If necessary, elections of the new school council will take place on September 29th at the school. It is important that we all work together to make our school a better place to grow and learn.

Virtue

A Catholic Faith Community is rooted in a set of common beliefs which are inspired by the life mission and teaching of Jesus. As a Catholic community we are called to learn, to grow and to become more like Jesus in the way we see and treat others. Our Catholic faith plays an important role in helping us shape schools that are safe, caring and inclusive. Catholic School education provides us the opportunity to integrate virtue formation into all areas of our school life within the context of our faith. St. Dominic will be continuing the "Virtues Program" this year. This program is designed to help us nurture virtue and character development in the lives of our students. Each month, the entire school will focus on a different virtue. Classroom activities, school wide activities and assemblies will all focus on the nurturing of a specific virtue. We would appreciate your support in discussing these virtues with your child and encouraging behaviours that would demonstrate these virtues. Here is a list of the virtues we will be nurturing this school year: September—Faith, October—Empathy, November—Conscience, December—Hope, January—Self Control, February—Respect, March—Kindness, April—Love, May—Acceptance & June—Fairness.



Sabrina's Law—Anaphylaxis Reaction

As we begin the new school year, we would like to inform you that St. Dominic School is an allergen aware school. There are pupils in attendance at our school who suffer from severe and life threatening allergies to certain foods, such as peanut, nut products and fish. Exposure to the smallest quantities can cause severe and life threatening allergic reaction. The most common allergen triggers are food, insect stings, medications, exercise and latex. An anaphylactic reaction involves symptoms from two or more body systems. We would appreciate the cooperation of the entire school community by NOT sending any lunches or snacks that contain peanuts, peanut products or fish. We want St. Dominic to be a safe environment for all students. Thank you for your assistance with this initiative.

Attendance

Parents, please make sure you call the office and let us know if your children are absent. Please call us at 905 276 9821

Picture Day

Student pictures will be taken on October 19th by Life Touch Photographers Please remember to come to school looking your best on this day. Flyers will be sent home.

Terry Fox Run

On September 25th, St Dominic School will participate in the National School Run Day. On this day students will participate in a school walk/run to commemorate Terry Fox's efforts on Cancer Research. Pledge forms and detailed information will be sent home in the near future.

Opening Mass

On Sept. 22nd St. Dominic will have its Opening school mass at 9:15 a.m. Parents are invited to attend. Students will walk to St. Dominic Church.

Dress Down Day

St. Dominic School Faculty participates in Dress Down Fridays. The staff will donate money to the United Way/ Share Life charities each Friday that they wear their casual clothes to school

Criminal Reference Check

Anyone working in our school as a new employee or volunteer must have a Criminal Reference Check completed by Peel Police. CRC are free of charge for volunteers. Forms are available from the office

Drills

Throughout the year, various drills are initiated to ensure that in case of emergencies our students are aware of the various procedures for their safety. They are actively involved in the practice of these drills with the view that if there is an emergency, their rehearsals will allow for prompt and safe actions which will enhance their safety. We ask that you spend some time discussing the necessity for these drills with your child and address any fears they may have.

Dates to Remember

Sept. 17	Open House & BBQ
Sept. 18	P.A. Day
Sept. 22	Council Nominations Due
Sept. 22	School Mass
Sept. 25	Terry Fox Run
Sept. 29	Early Release Hepatitis B
Sept. 29	First Council Meeting
Oct. 19	Picture Day
Oct. 30	Halloween Dance-a-thon

Student Accident 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. Although enrolment is voluntary, the board encourages parents to take advantage of the inexpensive insurance coverage, especially if their child/children participate in sports or if parents do not have dental insurance coverage. Enrolment is required in writing.

Medication at School

Please contact the office to obtain the appropriate medical forms if you require the school to store and distribute your child's medication during the school day. These must be completed by the parent and doctor. If your child has a severe medical condition or allergy, please meet with school administration to provide up to date information.

Visitors in the School

In order to ensure the safety of students and staff, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board requires **ALL** visitors (including parents, guardians, volunteers) to use the front door and come to the office to sign in and pick up a visitor's sticker.

