

St. Thomas More Catholic School

September 2011

Address
3270 Tomken Road
Mississauga, Ont.
L4Y 2Y7
905-279-6472

Principal
M. Cloutier McCann
Vice Principal
M. MacDonald

Secretary
A. Rago

Superintendent
C. Blanchard
905-890-1221

Trustee
Mario Pascucci
Mississauga Wards 1&3
(905) 302-3096
(905) 890-0708 x20161
mario.pascucci@dpcdsb.org

School Council Chair
Jane Latimer

Pastor
Rev. John Facey
St. Patrick's Church
905-270-2301

Welcome Back!

On behalf of the entire staff at St. Thomas More, I would like to welcome back both students and parents to the start of a new school year. We hope that you and your children enjoyed a relaxed and happy vacation time this summer. We extend a special welcome to our new families in the community and trust that you will soon feel comfortable in your new surroundings. St. Thomas More School has much to offer and we are confident that your children will quickly adjust to the warm, friendly and caring environment that exists at our school.



September's Virtue - FAITH

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.

Gracious and merciful God, may our faith in you lead us to know and feel your presence among us.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son, who lived to show us your way.
Amen.

STM receives Silver EcoSchool Certification- Help Us Be a Greener School

School newsletters go home monthly and are sent by the first Friday of the month. Did you know that our school newsletters are posted to our school website at <http://www.dpcdsb.org/TMORE?> Would you like to help us reduce our carbon footprint? If you do not require a monthly paper copy, please indicate so on the Student Information Form (YELLOW page) attached to this newsletter and return it to your child's teacher. Please be assured, you will continue to receive hard copies of all other school and board communications.



School Hours

8:00 School office opens
8:45 Supervision begins
in the yard students are not permitted in the yard prior to 8:45 a.m.
9:00 Morning Bell - classes begin
11:09-11:24 Recess
12:04 -1:04 Lunch
2:27-2:42 Recess
3:30 Dismissal
4:00 School office closes



Welcome New Staff

M. MacDonald
L. Almeida
T. Bielecka
P. Casale
J. Grogen
D. Marszalek
P. Moreira
A. Rampado
M. Wong

In This Issue

- School Hours
- School Safety
- Driveway Safety
- Staffing Information
- Medication at School
- Dates to Remember

Attachments:

- Achievement Fall 2011
- 2011-2012 School Year Calendar

Forms to be Returned:

- Student Information Form
- Lunch Routines/Dismissal Arrangement
- Physical Education permission form
- Walking Excursion
- St. Thomas More School BBQ order form



STAFFING INFORMATION

Our current school organization for opening day, September 6, 2011 is based on projected enrolment established through the School Board. Within Ontario, all schools are bound by a strict teacher student ratio. This is particularly evident in grades 1-3 where a hard cap of 20:1 is compulsory. This cap as well as the fluctuating population of St. Thomas More, means that combined grades will continue to be a reality.

If our actual enrolment does not reflect projected enrolment, reorganization of the classrooms may occur. Please note that your child's class placement is tentative and no changes will be made until reorganization plans are finalized. If reorganization is necessary, it will take place during the Professional Activity Day scheduled for Friday, September 16, 2011. If your child's placement or classroom teacher changes, you will be notified.

We thank you in advance for your understanding and patience.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

We would like to thank the members of the 2010-2011 School Council for their incredible support,



hard work and dedication on behalf of the St. Thomas More School community. The members along with tireless volunteers have worked hard to make our school community a happy, safe, fun and positive place for our staff, students and their families.

The **first meeting of the 2011-2012 School Council** will be on **Monday, October 3rd, 2011.**

Applications will be available on the evening of our BBQ and Open House, September 27 and in the school office beginning on September 20.

Completed forms must be returned to the office by September 29, 2011. If necessary, elections will take place on September 30, 2011.

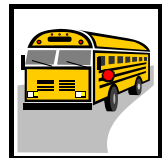
Please consider becoming involved in your child's school by joining the St. Thomas More Catholic School Council.

We meet 6 times a year, usually on Monday evenings, and babysitting is available at the school upon request.

Bus Transportation - September 2011

Bus Transportation for 2011/12

Please be advised that the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board will continue with its policy regarding transportation eligibility as follows:



- 2.0 kilometers for students in Grades 5 to 8
- 1.6 kilometers for students in Grades 2 to 4
- 1.0 kilometers for students in Kindergarten-Grade 1

At St. Thomas More this means:

- Grades 5-8 students are **NOT** eligible for busing and are expected to walk to school.
- Most Grades 2-4 students are **NOT** eligible for busing and are expected to walk
- Kindergarten students are bused only if they live outside the 1.0 kilometer distance.
- Extended French students are bused only if they live outside the distances listed above.
- If you are unsure if you are eligible, please contact the Board Transportation Department at 905-890-6000

Courtesy Seat Policy (Empty Seat)

This policy is coordinated by the school. Applications are made to the Vice-Principal.

- Applications will be available in the school office beginning September 6th, 2011.
- **Courtesy seats are NOT effective until mid OCTOBER 2011 - date to be finalized by the Board.**
- Courtesy seat riders must use an existing stop - NO NEW stops will be added.

Information Update

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, excursions/field trips, or, if parents do not have dental insurance coverage. Enrolment is required in writing so there are two options for enrolment: 1) Complete the traditional form and mail it in or 2) Photocopy the form and fax it to Reliable Life at 1-905-522-7211 or 1-800-463-KIDS (5437). Parents alone have the right to insure their children. Forms will be coming home this week.

Lunch Hour Routines

If you plan to drop off your child's lunch, please assist us in efficient distribution by reminding your child to come to the office at lunch time. Please label the lunch bag with child's name and teacher/grade on the labels available just inside the main office where you can drop the lunch. A reminder that students who regularly stay for lunch are NOT permitted to leave school property without a signed and dated note from parents each time they leave school grounds. We encourage consistency. Students either go home for lunch or stay in school for lunch. Thank you for supporting this important safety routine. A ***Lunch routine and dismissal arrangement form*** is attached to this newsletter. Please return it to your child's teacher promptly.



EVERY TUESDAY IS PIZZA DAY!

(sold through the Catholic School Council)

**FIRST PIZZA DAY
SEPTEMBER 20**

Student Absences



Student safe arrival at school is paramount. If your child is absent, please call the school attendance line at

905-279-6472 Press 1. This procedure helps to ensure the safe arrival of all students. If your child is late for school, they must check into the office before proceeding to class. **Children must be signed out at the office by an adult.**

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. ***Children should remain at home if they are not well enough to participate in the entire day including recesses.***

Student Information Forms

A package of Student Information Forms are enclosed with this newsletter. It is very important that this information be up-to-date. In the event of illness or injury of your child at school, we must have current contact names and phone numbers. Please return all forms promptly to the classroom teacher.

Physical Education Element of Risk Form must be completed yearly. In order for your child to begin participating in physical education, completed forms must be returned.

Walking excursion form must be completed for students to walk to the church for our school masses and for the Terry Fox Run/Walk being held on September 30th.





Information Update

School Safety - Reminder

Parents are welcomed to the school throughout the year, however, for the safety of children, all parents and visitors must use only the front door for entry and must sign in at the office and receive a visitor's sticker each and every time you visit the building. Since the hallways are busy during pickup times, you are asked to arrange with your child, a meeting spot outside of the school. Messages and deliveries (keys, lunches, etc) are handled through the office. Please respect the learning environment and do not go directly to your child's classroom as this disrupts programming. Please remember to most students in the school, you are a stranger.

Kindergarten Drop Off Zone

A Kindergarten drop off zone is located just south of the kindergarten yard and marked with blue paint. This is only for parents of kindergarten students and is only open for morning and lunch pick up and drop off. Parents may get out of their car and drop their child inside the Kindergarten gate. Cars must be moved promptly so that other parents may access this convenience. Cars are not permitted into the driveway at the end of the school day because of our numerous buses – please park in the church parking lot for 3:30 pick up.

Special Snacks

Due to the number of students with serious allergies, we cannot permit food items into the school or classroom for sharing with other students. On special occasions, teachers will explain to students which type of treats they can bring to the classroom for their own consumption, but these will not be shared. Thank you for your cooperation in making our classrooms safe for all students.



Dates to Remember

- September 16- - PA Day - *no school for students*
- September 19 - BBQ order and money due
- September 23 -Terry Fox Walk/Run
- September 27 - School BBQ & Open House
- September 28 - School Council Applications due
- October 3 - First School Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- October 10- Thanksgiving /Action de Grace
- October 1st - St. Patrick Church – Blessing of the Animals
- October 6th - Provincial Election Day



Kiss n' Ride

The Kiss n' Ride lane is a convenience provided to parents with the intention of parents remaining in their cars. Therefore, only children who are capable of safely opening and closing car doors by themselves, are permitted to use the Kiss n' Ride lane. Parents who need to get out of their cars to let their children out, should use the church parking lot, and should escort their children safely onto school property.



For the safety of all of our precious children,

CARS ARE NOT PERMITTED IN THE DRIVEWAY AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL DAY.

Only Buses are allowed entry.

You must use the church parking lot for picking up students after school.



St. Thomas More Open House and BBQ - Tuesday, September 27, 2011



Barbecue begins at 5:30 followed by classroom visits at 7:00p.m. The BBQ order is attached. Please return your order no later than Monday, September 19th.

Information Update

Fire Evacuation Policy

We have a detailed fire/emergency evacuation policy. We will be practicing several times over the course of the school year. Students must wear shoes in the school building at all times. In the event of an alarm, students will not be permitted to stop to put on shoes, coats, hats, etc. Their safety is our first priority. Please ensure that your child has an indoor pair of shoes at school.



Criminal Reference Checks

Anyone working in our school such as a new employee or volunteer must have a Criminal Reference Check completed by Peel Regional Police.

Policy on Personal Electronic Devices (PEDS)

A reminder to our students and visitors that personal electronic devices such as cell phones, ipods etc. are not to be used on school board property. Students who carry cell phones for safety reasons must have these turned off and stored in their lockers, out of sight. Any infractions of this rule could 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 or ipod. Parents are also reminded to turn off cell phones when on school property.



Custody of Children

On rare occasions, we are faced with difficult situations in which non-custodial parents arrive at school asking to visit their child or to take their child home after school. We are best able to serve and protect students when we are made aware of legal custody arrangements, visitation rights and other special instructions. If legal custody matters affect your family, please ensure that our office and classroom teachers are aware of any custodial arrangements that may affect your child during school hours.

Picture Taking

From time to time we take pictures of school events. If you do not want your child's picture taken, please ensure you let your child's teacher know. Picture taking is not permitted by the public or media without signed parental consent. Please be aware that no pictures of students are posted by the school on the internet or school website.



MedicAlert's No Child Without Program is at Our School

The **No Child Without** program offers a free MedicAlert membership to students who attend our school and are between the ages of 4 up to their 14th birthday. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medication on a regular basis then you should consider a MedicAlert membership through this program.

Your child's voice in an emergency, MedicAlert membership;

- Gives emergency first responders immediate access to your child's medical information on their MedicAlert bracelet or necklace
- Enables first responders to quickly obtain up to date medical information by means of the child's Electronic Health Record through the **24 Hour Emergency Hotline**.
- Communicates with the parent or emergency contact upon activation of the **Hotline**
- Allows free updates of the child's medical record as needed

MedicAlert identification can alert school staff, friends, coaches and others about your child's medical condition should an emergency occur.

For further information come to the office for a brochure or visit www.nochildwithout.ca.

To register your child you will need a **No Child Without** brochure from the office.

