

St. Thomas More Catholic School

November 2011

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Attachments:

- ✓ *Full Day Kindergarten implementation Schedule for Schools in Wards 1 & 3*
- ✓ *From the Board of Trustees*
- ✓ *Mississauga Traffic Safety Council*



November's Virtue – Conscience

*Gracious and merciful God of all creation,
During this season of remembrance, we remember how you
have gifted us with free will*

*You have given us the virtue of conscience to ensure that we will
know the good and decent way to act and then choose to act that way.*

*We come to you asking for the grace and strength
to form and to follow our conscience in order to bring to life your plan
for a safe, caring, inclusive community here at St. Thomas More.*

*May your virtue of conscience free us to make decisions
that serve the good of all your people.*

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

Parking Lot Safety

Kindergarten Drop-Off Zone

This zone is painted blue and is meant **for quick drop off only**.

If you intend to remain at the kindergarten gate, you **must park**

your vehicle at the church parking lot and walk your child to the kindergarten yard.

When using the Kindergarten Drop-Off zone, wait your turn in the Kiss and Ride Lane then proceed to the designated blue curb area. Please pull up to the front of the area –DO NOT PARK VERTICALLY, as this puts students' safety at risk when you back out into oncoming traffic.

Kiss 'N' Ride Lane

This lane is only available for morning drop-off – it is **CLOSED** at the end of the day. This lane is a fire route and thus you **CANNOT** leave your vehicle. If you plan on walking your child into the yard, you must use the church parking lot.



Youth Faith Ambassadors

In an effort to improve our school climate, we will be awarding Christian Spirit in Action (CSI) Awards at our monthly virtue assemblies. In November, the YFA will host a presentation entitled "In My Shoes," which will discuss the effects of poverty and homelessness in our communities and how each of us has the ability to help individuals suffering from poverty. Stay tuned for more information on how we will assist our community groups and partners who are in need of food, clothing and donations.

FAMILY MATH NIGHT – Math Olympics November 17th

The evening will give families whose children are in grades 1-6, the opportunity to

- play and learn some fun math games
- learn ways to help with math homework
- get questions answered about math curriculum
- receive online math resources

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.



Information Update

Sacramental Preparation

St. Thomas More School belongs to St. Patrick's Parish. Some of our families however, may attend other Parishes. Sacramental preparation is under the auspices of the church at which you are registered. In most churches in the Archdiocese of Toronto, sacraments are celebrated with families during a regular Sunday or Saturday evening Mass at the parish in which they are registered. Parishes collect registrations for First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation. Individual churches may offer sacramental preparation programs. Children in all Dufferin Peel schools receive preparation throughout the year through our religion program. It is up to families to attend parent meetings at the church to receive sacramental information. **Wednesday, November 9th at 7:00 p.m. St. Patrick's Church is hosting a parent meeting to discuss the Sacrament of Reconciliation.**

Salvation Army Mississauga Community & Family Services

would like to extend their gratitude for our participation in the Thanksgiving Food Drive. As a school we donated 20 boxes of food that will be enjoyed by their clients. The Salvation Army would like to thank the St. Thomas More School Community for partnering with them in the fight against hunger. "God bless you for reaching out to bring joy and hope."



Giving
Hope
Today

Sports Update

The girls and boys intermediate **volleyball teams** had an admirable season this year. Each player demonstrated good sportsmanship on and off the court. Both teams exhibited improvement in their skills throughout the practices and games. They played with conviction, determination and cooperation to challenge their opponents. Congratulations to both teams on a job well done. Thanks to Mrs. Kolenko, Mr. DiFilippo and Mlle Rampado for their efforts in coaching the two teams.



Co-curricular Update



Our **All Star Reading Coaches** continue to give of their time and guidance to the younger students under the direction of Mrs. McNeish.

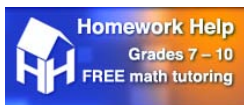
The **PALS** program continues to be an excellent opportunity for younger students to engage in play activities. Thank you to Mrs. McLean who oversees PALS training.

Our **Library helpers** continue to perform a number of duties essential to the smooth operation of our library. Thank you to Mr. Schatz for working with our library helpers.



Our **EcoSchool** committee, under the direction of Ms. Fera has been involved in Recycling activities as well as surveying our school's efficient use of energy with a plan to reduce our carbon footprint.

The **STM choir** continues to be a popular extracurricular activity. Altos practice at lunch recess on Tuesdays and sopranos on Wednesdays at lunch recess. Thank you to Mrs. Kolenko and Mme Dillio for giving so generously of their time



Free Online Math Tutoring Available

Have a child in Grade 7 who doesn't quite understand how to add fractions? Or maybe your teenager is struggling with a geometry assignment? Extra help is now available. Check out [Homework Help](http://HomeworkHelp.ilc.org), where certified Ontario teachers are online 20 hours a week to provide free math tutoring for the Grade 7 to 10 math students in the Dufferin Peel Catholic DS.

Students can log in Sunday to Thursday, 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., for one-on-one confidential help. There are interactive discussion rooms for each grade where they can view the current lesson, watch tutors draw on the whiteboard — and then type their own question for on-the-spot help. To access <http://HomeworkHelp.ilc.org>, your child will receive a Board access code, as well as help setting up an account from their teacher at school. Other math resources on the website include videos of teachers leading students through the top 20 most commonly asked math problems, interactive math tutorials and highlights of best sessions. All students have a virtual locker, where their work is saved in video format for viewing anytime. Dufferin-Peel is one of 15 English-language school boards offering Homework Help this school year in the expansion of a pilot project funded by the Ministry of Education. Studies show that students who like math and have solid math skills are more likely to succeed in school and later in life." Many students continue to struggle with math. By expanding Homework Help, we are giving more students the extra help they need to succeed and graduate," explains Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Education. Sign in as a guest and see for yourself.

Welcome One Another As Christ Has Welcomed You, Romans 15:7

Information Update

Emergency Evacuation Plan

Teachers and students regularly practice emergency evacuation procedures. These procedures include safe exit from the building in the event of a fire, precautions in the event of a threat and safety action in the event of an intruder. In the unforeseen event that we should have an emergency which requires evacuation from our school, our alternative site is St. Patrick's Church. Safety regulations and Board Policy require us to have this contingency plan in place.

St. Thomas More has completed its 3 mandatory fire drills. We have planned a lockdown drill for staff and students for the month of November. The lockdown drill will take place on November 23, 2011. During this time, teachers will review proper procedures. The drill will take approximately 15 minutes. Although staff will prepare students ahead of time, it would always be helpful for the parents of younger students to talk to their children as to what to expect.



Junior & Senior Kindergarten Registration for 2012-13

Registration for the 2012-13 school year will be held at all Dufferin-Peel Catholic elementary schools on the following dates:

Monday, February 6, 2012 - 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.*
**Snow Date: Tuesday, February 7th - 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.*

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, February 8, 9 & 10, 2012
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 December 31, 2012
Senior Kindergarten - Children must be 5 years old by December 31, 2012

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

- proof of age of the child (birth certificate or passport)
- original Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate (for parent/guardian and child) or Baptismal Certificate of other rites in communion with the Holy See of Rome (if the child has not been baptized, a letter of counseling with the parish priest, to complete the process will be accepted)
- updated immunization records
- proof of Canadian Citizenship or Landed Immigrant status
- proof of home address (utility bill, bank or credit card statement)
- for schools in Caledon and Dufferin County: emergency rural address numbers for identifying your property
- proof of English Separate School Support (may be done at the time of registration by completing an *Application For the Direction of School Support* and/or a *Separate School Lease Agreement* available at the school)

For more information, contact the school office at (905-279-6472)

Extended French Registration

Information Meeting for Extended French will be take place on **January 19, 2012** at St. Thomas More School at 7:00 p.m. The deadline for completed applications is Wednesday, February 8, 2012 at 3:00p.m.

Secondary School Information

Holy Name of Mary Secondary School invites Grade 8 girls and their parents/guardians to an Information and Registration Evening – Thursday, November 24 at 7:00 p.m. 115 Glenvale Blvd. Brampton 905-458-541 ext. 64104



Before and After School Programs for 4 and 5 Year Olds
Fee assistance is available

To register your child, visit the PLASP Program Director, Before or After School. For further information, call 905.890.1711 or visit the website at www.plasp.com.

Information Update



Catholic School Council

Future Meeting Dates



Please consider joining us for our upcoming meetings:

November 14 January 11
February TBA April 23
May 14

Pizza Tuesdays and
Friday's lunch program continues.

FUNDRAISER

QSP – Oct 26 – Nov. 9, 2011

We are participating in the QSP Magazine fundraiser again this year. There were assemblies on October 26 and students were given information on the program and a package to take home. All orders are due by November 9, 2011.



Parents are encouraged to order online. The login information and password are contained in the package received. Gift cards are also available. Consider giving a magazine subscription as a Christmas gift.

QSP will also honour any magazine renewals that you have even if your renewal price is less than the price in the QSP catalogue. We thank you for your continued support.

Bus Update

We would ask all families that are eligible for busing, but do not intend to use the bus, to let the office



know. We currently have 19 students waiting for a seat on the bus.

Professional Activity Days

November 18, 2011

January 16, 2012

February 3, 2012

May 11, 2012 are Professional Activity Days for teachers. There will be **no school** for students.

Family Day

February 20, 2012

Dates to Remember

November

- 1 – All Saints' Day
- 1 – Philip Pocock Safe School–Huddle Up Presentation 7pm
- 2 – All Souls' Day
- 3 – Philip Pocock Secondary visits grade 8s
- 9 – First Reconciliation meeting at St. Patrick's Church
- 9 – QSP fundraiser ends
- 11 – Remembrance Day
- 14 - Catholic School Council
- 15 – Youth Faith Ambassadors Commissioning Mass
- 16 -Grade 2 Dental Screening
- 17 – Picture Retake
- 17 – Family Math Night
- 18 – PA day – no school for students
- 21 - Virtue Assembly – Conscience Grades 5-8
- 18 – Holy Name of Mary Information and Registration
- 23 – Lockdown drill
- 27 – Advent begins
- 30 – Philip Pocock Secondary visits STM

December

- 13 – School Advent Mass
- 23- Last day of school for Christmas Holidays

Recess

As we approach the winter months and colder weather, students are expected to dress appropriately for the weather conditions. Please ensure that your child has a pair of winter boots and proper clothing for the winter months. For many children, a spare pair of socks,



or clothing may save a parent a trip to the school. Additionally, we ask that all students bring a pair of indoor shoes that can be worn inside and left in the classroom. In the event

of inclement weather conditions, students will be kept indoors. In the event of wet, muddy or icy conditions, the students will remain on the paved area. During recess, supervision is restricted to the playground areas. Personnel on yard duty are easily recognizable to students as they wear brightly coloured vests.



Please be advised that if your child is not well enough to participate in outdoor recess, please consider keeping him/her at home. Unfortunately, due to scheduling and personnel limitations, th

will not be able to make alternate supervision arrangements for parents who request that their children remain indoors.

