

St. Thomas More Catholic School

October 2011

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School Council Chair
Jane Latimer

Pastor
Rev. John Facey
St. Patrick's Church
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October's Virtue – *Empathy*

*Gracious and merciful God of all creation,
You made us to live together in communities.*

We are nothing without relationships.

*You have given us the virtue of empathy to ensure
That we are able to identify with and feel other people's concerns.*



*We come to you asking for the grace and strength
To follow your plan and to form a safe, caring, inclusive and healthy community here at
St. Thomas More School.*

*May your gift of empathy 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*

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.



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October 24, 25

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FOOD DRIVE

As we prepare for the coming Thanksgiving weekend, we are reminded of many of the less fortunate in our community that go hungry on a daily basis. Our Youth Faith Ambassadors initiated a Food Drive for Sept. 29 – Oct. 7, 2011. We would like to thank all who contributed to this drive. We were able to send many boxes of food to the food bank.

Early Pick Ups from School

If you are picking up your child at a time other than regular dismissal, we ask that you report to the office to sign them out. Arrangements will be made for your child to be sent to the office. If you intend to send someone else to pick up your children, please inform the teacher and the office in writing. Please make every effort to contact the school prior to 3:00 p.m. for an early pick up. Thank you for your cooperation in supporting a safe environment at St. Thomas More.

Information Update

School Bus Safety



Ensuring student safety is a very important goal to all who work with students.

Parents of students who ride the school bus are asked to review the following rules with their children:

1) Be at the bus stop at least 10 minutes before the scheduled pick up time; 2) Go directly to their seat until they are let off the bus; 3) Don't eat, drink, fight, swear, or engage on other types of poor behavior; 4) Keep arms, hands and belongings inside the bus; 5) Don't damage bus seats. Improper conduct will be reported to the Vice Principal. Suspension of bus privileges may result from continued misbehavior. The safety of all bus children is our first priority.

Library News

The St. Thomas More School library has been open for business since September. As a class, most students visit the library to exchange their books every two weeks. As well, there are a number of Open Book Exchange periods during the week at which time any and all students are welcome to come down to the library to exchange or renew their materials. To be a good "Library Citizen", students are asked to keep in mind the following book care ideas:

1. Clean hands help keep books clean.
2. Never write in, colour or cut your books.
3. Use a bookmark to mark your spot.
4. Turn pages from the corner so they won't rip.
5. Carry your books in a plastic bag to and from school.
6. Keep books in a safe place at home.
7. Remember to return your books to the school library on time.

If at any time you have any questions or concerns about the library, please feel free to contact Mr. Schatz.



BOOK FAIR

Mr. Schatz would like to thank the students, parents/guardians and staff of St. Thomas More for supporting the recent Scholastic Book Fair. All profit raised from the Book Fair will go directly back into the school library. Many books available at the book fair were purchased for the library, so if you did not get a chance to buy a particular book during the fair, why not sign it out from the library. Please check out the bulletin board displays of new books to see if the one you want is there.

Sports Update



The fall athletic schedule is underway and the following teams are in training:

- Intermediate Volleyball teams are busy practicing for their upcoming meets at the end of October.

Co-curricular Update

Listed below are the many other activities going on at STM:

- All Star Readers
- Youth Faith Ambassadors
- Library Helper
- PALS
- Choir
- Recycling



OPEN House BBQ - M & M's

Thank you all for attending our Open House and Barbecue. Special Thanks goes to our parent volunteers who organized the BBQ. Thank you also to M & M Meat Shops for preparing the burgers and hot dogs for us. They are located at:
3647-A Dixie Road
(next to the Fruit Market)
Mississauga, Ontario
(905) 602-1666



Information Update



Sign up TODAY!

Parents and guardians of Dufferin-Peel Catholic students can stay up-to-date with the latest board news and information by joining the Dufferin-Peel eCommunity. Members will receive the latest news and information by email, including news releases, school activities and events, board meeting highlights, school and bus cancellations, plus useful tips for parents and students. Sign up online at www.dpcdsb.org.

ESL Programs for Adults

The Adult & Continuing Education Department offers a variety of ESL, Citizenship and Coop Programs for Adults throughout Mississauga and Brampton. Registration is ongoing for many of our programs. Please see our Fall 2010 Catalogue posted on the board website at www.dpcdsb.org/CEC/CNE/ or call 905-891-9263.

General Interest Courses for Adults

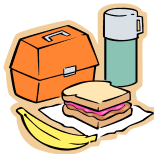
Discover a new talent, explore a new interest, put a hop in your dance step... come join us! Various General Interest courses are available... look for General Interest information in our Adult & Continuing Education flyer or call the Adult & Continuing Education department at 905-891-9263. Courses begin October 4.

International Language Classes

Language ability is of growing importance in our international community! International Language classes are available Saturday mornings to students in grades JK to 8 (non-credit courses) and grades 9 to 12 (credit courses). No prior language experience is necessary. International Language programs comply with the Ministry of Education curriculum. Please contact the Adult & Continuing Education office at 905-891-9263 for information regarding language offerings at specific International Language sites.

Garbageless Lunches and Snacks

In an effort to be more environmentally conscious, we ask that when preparing your child's lunches and snacks that you package them in reusable containers and thermos. Please do not send food items wrappers or packaging, but rather, prepare these items at home and package them in a container. For example, juice can be purchased in a large more economical bottles and poured into a thermos at home.



Homework Policy

Following consultation with system stakeholders, a Dufferin-Peel homework policy document (Kindergarten to Grade 12) was adopted to foster consistency across the board in this area.

The policy document addresses the following:

- definition of homework
- characteristics of effective homework
- types of commonly assigned homework
- timing and quantity of homework
- general and specific procedures
- reporting of homework
- roles and responsibilities of administrators, teachers, students, and families.

The homework policy may be viewed in full at dpcdsb.org/homework. A summary of the key features of the document is available in the student agenda.

Below are some helpful **Be's** to support families in the homework process:

Be positive.	Communicate a positive attitude towards homework.
Be consistent.	Develop a homework routine that includes a set time and a regular space for completing homework, free from distractions.
Be available.	Encourage independent work on the part of your child, but be available for assistance. Provide guidance, not answers.
Be attentive.	Take a few minutes every day to chat about the school day. Listen attentively to your child.
Be a role model.	Let your child see you reading, writing, and using math during homework time.
Be a cheerleader.	Praise your child for the effort displayed in completing homework.
Be observant.	Note any signs of frustration that your child may display while completing homework. If it appears difficult or confusing or if there are errors, encourage your child to ask the teacher for help at school the next day.
Be involved.	Participate in school functions that offer you the opportunity to stay connected to your child's learning.

Information Update

Catholic School Council



Much appreciation is extended to the members of the 2011-12 Catholic School Council for their hard work and dedication on behalf of the students at St.

Thomas More School. Their ongoing commitment and efforts are truly appreciated.

Our first meeting of the 2011-12 school year was held on October 3rd.

2011-2012 Council Executive:

Chair	– Jane Latimer
Vice-Chair	– Sonia Olmedo
Secretary	– Marissa Kohl
Treasurer	– Diane Versace-Gomes
Parish Rep.	– Renata Cabral

Additional Members:

Malarie Barrett	Anne Marie Cassano
Maria Conte	Cathy Sciarra
Magda Swiezawski	Izabela Ziolkowska

Our next meeting takes place on:
November 14th at 7 p.m. All parents are welcome!

All Saints Day, All Souls Day & Halloween

With the approach of All Saints Day, All Souls Day and Halloween, it is important to recognize our faith heritage in a special way, while also recognizing the fun aspect of Halloween and School Spirit. As a Catholic School, we will be reminding students of the purpose of Halloween and the importance of remembering in our prayers the saints and martyrs that the feast of All Saints Day honours. It is also a time for us to remember and to pray for all of the Faithful Departed on



All Souls' Day that follows. We will celebrate both feast days with special prayer during opening exercises.



Dates to Remember



October:

- 6 – Provincial Election Day
- 6 – Thanksgiving Mass 9:30 a.m.
- 7 – Big Kids Entertainment – 1:20 pm (K-Gr.5)
- 7 – Gr. 7 Hepatitis B inoculation & Gr. 8 Girls HPV Immunization
- 10 – Thanksgiving Monday
- 17 – Gr. 7's to Kortright Conservation Centre
- 18 – Gr. 8's to Kortright Conservation Centre
- 24 & 25 – Picture Day
- 25 – Progress Reports go home

November:

- 11 – Grade 3s to Crawford Lake
- 14 – School Council Meeting – 7 p.m.
- 17 – Fun Family Math Night - Evening
- 18 – PA Day – Provincial Education Priorities

Hepatitis B Inoculations

Peel Health will continue to offer free immunization against Hepatitis B for students in grade 7. It is given as a series of two injections over a period of six months.

Also available is the non-compulsory immunization of Gardasil for grade 8 female students. If you have any questions, please call the Peel Health Department at (905)799-7700.

Dose # 1 will be administered on Friday, October 7, 2011.

Health Departments, by law, must keep a current record of your child's immunizations. It is the responsibility of parents to keep their child's records up-to-date.



Youth Faith Ambassadors

STM's Youth Faith Ambassadors, under the direction of Mr. DeVuono, have planned a number of activities this year. We gather monthly in the gym to focus our attention on the virtue for the month.



Halloween Reminders

On October 31, Grade 7 & 8 students will celebrate Halloween with a dance. Grades Kindergarten to Grade 6 are invited to celebrate Halloween by wearing costumes. Parents are asked to have their children leave all accessories at home, including masks. **No toy weapons** are to be brought to school.