

St. Thomas More Catholic School December 2011

Address

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

Principal

M. Cloutier McCann

Vice Principal

M. MacDonald

Secretaries

A. Rago
L. Antilope

Superintendent

C. Blanchard
905-890-1221

Trustee

M. Pascucci
905-890-0708 ext 20161
905-302-3096
Fax 905-890-0880
mario.pascucci@dpcdsb.org
www.trusteepascucci.ca

School Council Chair

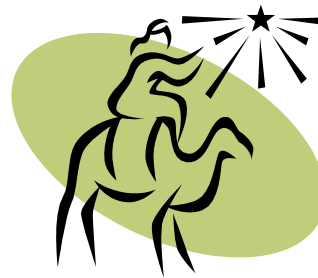
Jane Latimer

Pastor

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

HOPE

*Gracious and merciful God of all creation,
During this Season of Hope, we remember how you sent your Son to be a beacon
of goodness and light in the world.
Give us eyes of hope to see the good in everything and everyone around us.
Give us the grace and strength to be beacons of hope and light for all who enter our lives.
May your virtue of hope guide our decisions for the service of all your people.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son, who lived to show us your way. Amen*



*The staff at St. Thomas More School
Wish the families of our school community
a very blessed and holy Christmas season.
May the spirit of the season fill your hearts with peace, joy and hope.*

The Spirit of Giving

Families of the St. Thomas More School Community are invited to share in the spirit of giving by donating a new pair of mittens or a new hat or scarf to our giving tree. We are also collecting canned goods, non-perishable food items, Canadian Tire Money, and new toys. All items received will be forwarded to those in need by December 19, 2011. A special thank you to the many classes that are supporting needy families through St. Patrick's Church, St. Vincent de Paul and Dixie Bloor Neighbourhood Center.



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Information Update

Advent Mass & Sacramental Celebration

You are welcome to join us for our Advent Mass which will take place on **Tues., December 13th at 1:30 p.m.** at St. Patrick's Parish. Please continue to keep our **Grade 2 and 8 students** in your prayers as they journey toward continued spiritual commitment. Please watch St. Patrick's Church bulletin for sacramental information. **First Reconciliation Mass** will take place on **Wed., January 18th at 7 p.m.**



Library News



St. Thomas More School

Forest of Reading comes to St. Thomas More.

Beginning in January, students at St. Thomas More will have the opportunity to partake in the Ontario Library Association reading program called *Forest of Reading*. *Forest of Reading* program encourages students to read a number of books by Canadian authors from a pre-selected list and to vote on their favourite books. The 3 groups that operate at the elementary level are: **Blue Spruce** (kindergarten to grade 3), **Silver Birch** (grades 4 to 6) and **Red Maple** (grades 7 and 8). During the month of December and January, students will be introduced to *Forest of Reading* through presentations in the library. For more information about the program, log onto the Ontario Library Association website at www.accessola.com.

EQAO ASSESSMENTS

Individual Grade 3 & 6 student EQAO results were sent home. School results on the EQAO Grades 3 & 6 assessments indicate areas of strength as well as those requiring improvement such as Primary Math. This year, our school-wide focus is on numeracy as well as continuing to support Balanced Literacy Programs in the classrooms.

Percent of students, enrolled in the grade (Method 1), who scored at and above the provincial standard (Levels 3 & 4):

	<i>Reading</i> (Method 1) Levels 3,4	<i>Writing</i> (Method 1) Levels 3,4	<i>Mathematics</i> (Method 1) Levels 3,4
Grade 3 ('10-11)			
School	64 %	70 %	47 %
Board	68 %	76 %	69 %
Province	65 %	73 %	69 %
Grade 6 ('10-11)			
School	78 %	81 %	65 %
Board	77 %	78 %	62 %
Province	74 %	73 %	58 %

Catholic Ratepayers – Check your Tax Bill to ensure Proper Tax Support

If you are a Catholic ratepayer, we urge you to check your property tax bill to ensure that your support is directed to your local Catholic School Board, in our case, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. If you are a tenant, you can verify your support by contacting our Admissions Department at (905)890-0708, ext. 24511, 25412 or 24519, or your local municipal office. By ensuring that you are accurately recorded as a Catholic school supporter, you can help deliver a powerful message to the government about the level of support for publicly-funded Catholic education in Ontario. In order to be eligible to vote for your local Catholic school board trustee, you must be registered as a separate school supporter.

Lost and Found – Please have a look

We often find lost items – shoes, socks, hats, jackets, mittens, etc. They are collected and placed in the lost and found box. All unclaimed items will be donated to charity at the end of December.



Information Update

Parking Lot Safety **PLEASE HELP TO KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE**

It is especially important to be patient and considerate to others who are picking up and dropping off students in the school and CHURCH parking lots.

We all want to model and set good behaviour examples for our children, so please remember that student safety is always our FIRST concern, although it may not be convenient for parents.

Your cooperation and patience is much appreciated.

Youth Faith Ambassadors

Congratulations to our Youth Faith Ambassadors who recently attended a Mississauga East commissioning ceremony, celebrated by Father Carlos at Cristo Rei Church.

Our Ambassadors continue to facilitate our monthly virtue assemblies, organize our Food Drives and community outreach projects. Money raised from treats sold during our Spirit days support these projects.



Cold Weather is Here!

In colder weather we often receive requests for students to remain indoors when students have a cold, flu, etc. If your child is not well enough to participate in all activities, including outdoor recess, you are asked to keep them home until they are well.

On extremely cold days, particularly when the wind chill factor lowers, we follow Board Policy by limiting the amount of time students spend outdoors. With the exception of these occasions, all children will participate in outdoor breaks.



We ask parents to ensure that children wear hats, scarves, gloves, winter outerwear and boots. Where possible, please put identification on your child's belongings.

Transportation Cancellations

Information is available on the transportation website <https://businfo.stopr.ca>.

Please listen to the following radio stations in the event of school closures or bus cancellations:



99.9 FM	102.1 FM	100.7 FM
1010 AM	1540 AM	102.1 FM
103.5 FM	590 AM	97.3FM
680 AM	98.1 FM	1540 AM
CITYPULSE GLOBAL NEWS CBC		

Decisions are usually made by 6:00 a.m.

If buses are cancelled in the morning, they do not run in the afternoon. If buses are cancelled, the school remains open.

Please listen carefully for closure information.

OUR Catholic School Heritage:

How long have Catholic Separate schools been educating Catholic children and contributing to the public good in Ontario?

For about 170 years. In the early 1800's there were separate schools in many cities, towns and townships. In Peel, three separate schools opened before Confederation (1867): St. James in Malton in the 1830's, St. John's Agricultural College in 1861 and St. Patrick's (1861), both in Wildfield.

Has the Government always supported separate schools?

Yes, as did its predecessor, the united Legislature of Canada East (now Quebec) and Canada West (now Ontario) during its total life from 1841 to 1867. One of the first pieces of Legislation it passed in 1841 was the Common School Act, with a Separate School Clause.

It is time again for the Premier's Awards for Teaching Excellence!

Do you want to recognize a special Teacher, Support Staff or Administrator?

Visit Ontario.ca/teaching_awards to learn more. The nomination deadline is January 31, 2012.

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration will be held on Monday, Feb. 6, 2012 from 7 – 9 p.m. (Snow date – Feb. 7). It also takes place on Feb. 8-10, 2012 from 9 – 11 a.m. and 1 – 3 p.m. We are a full-day learning site.



Information Update

Catholic School Council

We thank our School Council for their hard work on our fundraisers. Money raised will be used to support our school goals. Please join us for our next meeting on **January 11, 2012 @ 7:00 p.m.** in our school library. The other Meeting dates are: Feb.27, April 23 & May 14, 2012



New Roman Missal in English

Newly translated prayers and responses have been implemented at the start of the new Liturgical Year which began with the first Sunday of Advent last week. For more information, see:

www.archtoronto.org/romanmissal

Facebook Use by Students

The use of **Facebook** at home in an inappropriate manner among students at St. Thomas More carries consequences at the school as it affects the moral tone. Threats of violence made on Facebook may involve police contact. Please monitor your child's use of Facebook to ensure that it is not being misused.

French Immersion Information Meeting

Senior Kindergarten parents who wish to enroll their child for a grade 1 French Immersion class for Sept. 2012 are invited to attend an information meeting on Jan. 11 or 12, 2012 at 7:00pm. Please refer to information sent home.

Extended French Parent Information

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 St. Thomas More Catholic School on **Thursday, January 19, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.** The program as well as the process for registration will be shared at this meeting.

St. Thomas More School is the designated centre for this area. To be eligible for the lottery, applications for the program must be received at the school no later than 3:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, February 8, 2012.**



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.



Christ's Spirit in Action (CSI) Awards

At November's Virtue Assembly, the following students were recognized for demonstrating the virtues in their behavior and actions:

Kayla C. & Matthew M.	Gr.1 - Mrs. Ruffo
Caitlin C. & Matthew G.	Gr.1 - Mr. Sawa
Oliwier S. & Klaudia K.	Gr.2 - Mrs. Bedard
Marcus C. & Isabella R.	Gr.2 - Mrs. Sabetti
Paola L. & Michael K.	Gr.3 - Mrs. Giacobbe
Andrea N. & Angel L.	Gr.3 - Mrs. Matteo
Janelle G. & Steven R.	Gr.4 - Mrs. Stevenson
Stephanie B. & Kimberly P.	Gr.4 - Mrs. Pennell
Ola K. & Michela B	Gr.5 - Mr. Moreira
Lyndsay A. & Carissa J.	Gr.5 - Mr. Fitzpatrick
Lauren V. Katherine K.	Gr.5 - Mrs. Cruz
Nicole A. & Joe S.	Gr.6 - Ms. McCallion
Natalie H. & Beatrice J.	Gr.6 - Mrs. Cieslinska
Jennifer F. & Renee M.	Gr.6 - Mr. DiFranco
Carlos T. & Natalija S.	Gr.7 - Mr. Grogan
Patricia R. & Christian B.	Gr.7 - Mrs. Fera-Stefanik
Nikol B. & Monika R.	Gr.7 - Mrs. Farah
Kacper B. & Anita A.	Gr.7/8 - Ms. Sequeira
Joanne K. & Adam J.	Gr.8 - Mrs. Kolenko
Monica P. & Cassandra S.	Gr.8 - Mr. DiFilippo
Andrew M. & Nicole K.	Gr.8 - Mrs. Dillio

Dates to Remember

- Dec. 5 Junior Girls Board Volleyball Tournament
- Dec. 5 Grade 8's visit Pocock
- Dec. 8 Santa Pictures – a.m.
- Dec. 13 Advent Mass at 1:30pm
- Dec. 22 Christmas Concert
- Dec. 23 Last day before Christmas Break
- Dec. 26 – Jan. 6 Christmas Break



January 9, 2012 Return to school

- Jan. 11 Catholic School Council @7:00 pm
- Jan. 12 Pocock Parent Information Session – 7 p.m.
- Jan. 16 P.A. Day – Report Card Writing
- Jan. 18 First Reconciliation 7:00 pm
- Jan. 19 Extended French Parent Info Night for parents of Grade 4 students 7 p.m. (small gym)
- Jan. 27 Scientists in the School
- Jan. 31 Report Cards sent home
- Feb. 2 Parent Teacher Interview Evening
- Feb. 3 P.A. DAY – Reporting to Parents
- Feb. 6 Kindergarten Registration evening
- Feb. 8 Round 2 – HPV and Hep B
- Feb. 17 Grades 5 & 6 Harbourfront trip