

St. Thomas More Catholic School

January 2012

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January's Virtue – Self Control

Dear God,

You have done such a marvelous job of creating us and the world around us. Sometimes life is easy....sometimes life is challenging.

We know that you do not want us to suffer.

We know that you do not want us to make other people suffer.

We come to you now asking for the grace and strength to keep a sense of self-control.

We hope that by remaining calm in the middle of difficult situations, we can contribute to making our school a safer, more caring, and more inclusive community.



May your virtue of self-control help us to make decisions that serve the good of all your people – in our families, neighbourhoods and school community.

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

Amen

The St. Thomas More staff would like to extend their greetings for a Happy New Year to all our families. May the New Year be filled with Prayer, Peace and Love.

The Spirit of Giving

A special thank you goes out to all the families who helped support us in our food and basket drive for the needy. St. Thomas More has always been a community of generous donators and this year was no different. Through the many donations, we were able to

brighten the holidays of families in need, associated with St. Patrick's Church, St. Vincent de Paul Society and The Bloor Dixie Neighbourhood Center. A food donation was also made to the local foodbank.

Thank you to Peter's No Frills for their generous donations.

Through our Movie / Pizza Day and Halloween Dance proceeds, we have purchased A Dairy Cow for a family through the Christian Children's Fund.



Mario Pascucci elected Chair

At the annual organizational meeting held Tuesday, December 6, trustees elected Mississauga Wards 1 & 3 trustee, Mario Pascucci as chair of the 11-member Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board.

Information Update

Family Literacy Day

Playing games that encourage literacy and numeracy - such as board games, card games and word games - is a great way for parents and children to practice their literacy skills and have fun. On January 27, grab your family and play at home, attend a local event, or an event in your community!



Sacramental Celebration



Please continue to keep our **Grade 2 students** in your prayers as they journey toward continued spiritual commitment. Our Grade 2 students will be celebrating **First Reconciliation** on Wednesday, January 18, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church. The **First Eucharist Parent Meeting** will be held on February 29, 2012 at 7:00PM.

Library News

The Forest Has Arrived!

During the next few weeks, students will begin to read books in the different Forest of Reading groups. Students in grades 1-2 will work with books in the Blue Spruce category, while those in grade 3-6 the Silver Birch or Silver Birch Express category and students in grades 7-8 the Red Maple category.

Mr. Schatz encourages parents to talk to their children about this voluntary reading program and to support their efforts. For more information go to the Ontario Library Association's website (<http://www.accessola.com>) and click on their link "reading programs".



Registration for Secondary Winter Night School

Classes run from February 8 to May 23, 2012, Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Night School Locations:

St. Aloysius Gonzaga S.S.-Mississauga Philip Pocock S.S.-Mississauga Notre Dame S.S.-Brampton

Registration forms are available from your Guidance Department or online at <http://www.dpcdsb.org/CEC/CNE/Night+School/>

Registration closes Wednesday, February 1, 2012.

The **Winter 2012 Adult and Continuing Education Flyer** (with program descriptions) is posted online at <http://www.dpcdsb.org/CEC/CNE>.

Casual Fridays

You have noticed that staff dress in a casual manner on Fridays. Through donations made by the staff on these Fridays, we are supporting the many charities associated with the United Way of Peel and Share Life.



Custody of Children

On rare occasions, we are faced with difficult situations in which non-custodial parents arrive at our school asking to visit with their child or take their child home after school. We are best able to serve and protect the children of St. Thomas More when we are made aware of legal custody arrangements, visitation rights and special instructions. We require a copy of all legal documentation to be kept in the student's school records. Please notify the school immediately of any custody changes and forward legal documents to school personnel.

Information Update

Sports Update

Our Boys' and Girls' Basketball Teams were busy practicing during the month of December in anticipation of the upcoming season during the month of January. There are a number of games scheduled for league play. The teams will be guided by the dedication and expertise of Mr. DiFranco, Mr. DeVuono, and Ms. Rampado. Good luck for the upcoming season.



Snow Stays on the Ground

The winter weather has begun and the wonderful pleasures that come with winter such as snow. Students are reminded that "Snow Stays on the Ground". Frequent reminders are made on the morning announcements. Students are encouraged to constructively use the snow that winter brings to build snowmen, forts, or snow sculptures. Please assist us by reviewing with your child the dangers of throwing snowballs and the importance of preventing injury to other children. Together, we will create a school yard which is safe for all during winter. Another important element of constructive play is respecting the efforts of others. At St. Thomas More students are reminded to respect the efforts of others and to leave snow forts or snowmen standing for all to enjoy.



Extra-curricular Activities and Excursions

Students will have the opportunity to take field trips and participate in a number of extra-curricular activities. Permission forms will be sent home to be filled out, signed and promptly returned to school.

No student will be allowed to participate on a trip or an extra-curricular activity without written consent from their parent/guardian. Verbal consent over the phone will not be accepted. No exceptions will be permitted. Teachers give ample notice for trip forms. For the safety of your children, excursions lacking appropriate adult supervision will be cancelled.

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 board website www.dpedsb.org or 905-890-6000.

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	1050 AM	1540 AM
103 FM	590 AM	93 FM
680 AM	107.1 FM	98.1 FM
1250 AM	92.5 FM	640 AM
740 AM	530 AM	

Decisions are usually made by 6:30 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.



Information Update

Next School Council Meeting

Please join us on **Wednesday**, January 11th at 7:00 p.m. in the school library for our next Catholic School Council meeting.



Dates of future meetings:

February 27th April 23rd May 14th June 4th

Professional Activity Days

A reminder that **Monday, January 16, 2012** is a Professional Activity Day. There will be no classes for students.

Friday, February 3, 2012 is also a PA Day scheduled for **Parent Student Teacher Conferences**. Term 1 Report Cards go home Tuesday, January 31st.

Nominations Open for Outstanding Educators

Premier's Award for Teaching Excellence celebrate educators and support staff who make remarkable contributions to Ontario's education system.

There are eight award categories:

- Teacher of the Year
- New Teacher of the Year
- Early Childhood Educator of the Year
- Excellent Support Staff
- Excellence in Leadership
- Lifetime Achievement
- Team of the Year
- Full-Day Kindergarten Team of the Year

Nominations are open until February 6, 2012. Award recipients will be recognized at a special awards ceremony during Education Week in May.

To learn more about the awards and how to nominate, visit www.ontario.ca/teachingawards.

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.**



Dates to Remember

Jan 11 – School Council Meeting 7pm
Jan 12 – Philip Pocock Parent Information 7PM
Jan 16 – PA Day- no school for students
Jan 18 - Reconciliation –St. Patrick's Church 7PM
Jan 19 – Extended French Information Meeting 7 PM
Jan 27 – Scientists in the School – grade 3s
Grade 8 Victory Volleyball trip
Jan 31 – Term 1 Reports Cards go Home
Feb 2 – Evening Term 1 Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences
Feb 3 – PA Day - Term 1 Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences
Feb 6 – Kindergarten Registration 7-9 pm
Feb 8,9,10 – Kindergarten Registration 9-11 am 1-3pm
Feb 8 – Extended French Applications Due
Feb 8 – Meningitis/HPV – Second Dosage
Feb 9 – Grade 8 Retreat
Feb 10– Full Day Early Learning Registration closes
Feb 17 – Grade 5 & 6 Harbourfront Trip
Feb 20 – Family Day – NO school
Feb 27 – School Council Meeting – 7:00 PM
Feb 29 – First Eucharist Parent Meeting St. Patrick's Church 7:00PM

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 N 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 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. Kiss N Ride Lane is **CLOSED at the end of the school day**.

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration will be held on Monday, February 6, 2012 from 7:00-9:00 PM (Snow date: Tue. Feb. 7, from 7:00-9:00 PM) and on Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, February 8, 9, 10 from 9:00-11:00 am and 1:00-3:00 pm .

Registration for the Full Day Learning Program closes at 3:00 p.m. on February 10, 2012. For your child to be eligible, completed registration packages must be submitted by the February 10th deadline.



