

St. Thomas More Catholic School

February 2012

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This month we celebrate the virtue of

RESPECT

God has given us the virtues of friends and companions to keep us company and to help us out along the way. Every person in our lives carries the Spirit of God – and so every person is our brother or sister through Jesus Christ. As brothers and sisters who share one Holy Spirit, we are all valuable to God. We all deserve to be shown courtesy, consideration, sensitivity and thoughtfulness, which are different ways of saying respect.



A respectful person...

- *Treats him/herself and everyone else with equal consideration and courtesy*
- *Uses a positive tone of voice and body language*
- *Avoids swearing, name-calling, put-downs, and inappropriate gestures*
- *Says "Excuse me", "Please", and "Pardon me"*
- *Avoids gossip*

Kindergarten Registration for 2012-2013

Registration will be held at St. Thomas More:

- Monday, February 6, 2012 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, February 8, 9 and 10, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Please bring the following documentation when registering your child:

- Birth certificate/proof of age
- Record of Catholic Baptismal Certificate of the Roman, Greek or Ukrainian Rite for both the child and parent
- Proof of Canadian Citizenship or Landed Immigrant status
- Updated Immunization Records
- Proof of address

NO flex boundary requests will be accepted until February 17, 2012
Junior Kindergarten – children must be 4 years of age by Dec. 31/12
Senior Kindergarten – children must be 5 years of age by Dec. 31/12

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Information Update

Parish News

Congratulation to our Grade 2 students who celebrated their First Reconciliation on January 18th at St. Patrick's Church. A special thank you to Father Facey, Mrs. Bedard, and Mrs. Sabetti for preparing our students for this sacramental celebration.



First Communion Parent meeting – February 29, 2012 - 7:00 p.m. at St. Patrick's Church

Confirmation Meeting for parents and grade 8 students – March 7, 2012 - 7:00 p.m. at St. Patrick's Church.

Student Information

It is most important that we have up-to-date records of your address, phone numbers and emergency contacts in the event that the school must contact you regarding your child. If there have been any changes and/or additions to this information, please ensure that we have it by sending a note to school with your child or leaving a message on the school voice mail.

Emergency School Procedures

There may be days during the upcoming winter months when inclement weather presents a potential safety hazard to our students. It is essential that parents and children discuss the procedures that they wish to follow for safe arrival home. **For students who do not take the bus, please determine:**

- 1) The best way to walk home
- 2) With whom the child should walk
- 3) Where the child should go if there is no one at home
- 4) How the child should seek help if wind and snow are so strong that they cannot see the way home.

For students who do take the bus: It is a fact that bad weather may cause delays for student pick up at bus stops. Please ensure that your child has a safe place to go if the bus is late or does not arrive. If you notice that a child is stranded at a bus stop, please attempt to call the child's parent. It is **not** recommended that parents volunteer to drive another child to school without that child's parent's permission. If you decide to transport your child to school because buses have been cancelled, please ensure you have made arrangements to pick your child up at the end of the day. On inclement days please check the status of the bus by listening to the radio or checking at www.stopr.ca. Contact the board at 905-890-6000 for information about the bus' arrival.

Our Catholic School Heritage

The history of Catholic Schools in Ontario since 1841 is one of dedication and perseverance in the face of financial hardship and adversity. Due to the commitment of the religious teaching Orders, the bishops and priests, the teachers, parents and students, our forebears have handed us a great gift – a fully funded public Catholic school system.

The courts of Ontario and Canada have reinforced the rights of the Catholic school system with a number of judgments which affirmed the rights of separate school boards to:

- a) Have their guaranteed powers in the Separate School Act of 1863 improved
- b) Receive equitable funding
- c) Prefer Catholics when hiring elementary and secondary school teachers
- d) Have their own buildings
- e) Have an exclusive Catholic school community



The integration of religious truths and values with life is one of the most significant elements that distinguish the Catholic school from any other schools. This is a matter of crucial importance today in view of contemporary trends and pressures to compartmentalize life and learning and to isolate the religious dimension of existence from other areas of human life.

The courts have recognized, over the years, that Catholic education is not a subject but rather a way to view the world that speaks to the interrelationship between faith, knowledge and action. The Catholic school is a unique setting within which this ideal can be realized in lives of Catholic children and young people. In our Catholic schools this reality can and is lived out.

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

Information Update

Snow and Ice

Snow is part of our winter life in Canada, providing both frustration and enjoyment. We all like to play in it, however, snow and ice can be very dangerous. In fact, most injuries happen during wintertime. For safety reasons, our school rules must be that snow stays on the ground - no snowball throwing, kicking snow or any other activity with snow or ice that can be harmful, which includes sliding on the slopes. It is difficult to ensure student safety when numerous children are sliding at the same time. Thank you for taking the time to reinforce these safety rules with your children.

Outdoor Recess

Our students need to bring the necessary clothing and shoes/boots with them in order to ensure that they are dressed appropriately to meet the challenges of the winter season. Warm clothes, snow pants, boots, gloves, mittens, hats, scarves and coats are needed for outdoor play. Having an extra pair of clean/dry socks and mittens is always appreciated for children that play in the snow.

At times weather conditions will not allow children to go outside for recess. The decision is made in accordance with the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board policy and Peel Public Health guidelines, which direct schools to **modify recess when the temperatures reach -20 degrees C or colder (with or without wind chill) and to keep children indoors when the temperature reaches -25 degrees C or colder (with or without windchill)**. At -20 degrees children will be outside for the AM and PM recesses and no longer than 20 minutes at the lunch recess.

PALS

Our Playground Leaders continue to be present on the playground to promote cooperative play activities. Thank you to our CYW Mrs. McLean for continuing to organize and support our PALS



ALL STAR Reading Coaches

Our student coaches continue to work on a one-to-one basis with our primary students, helping them to acquire and practice effective reading strategies. Thank you to Ms. McNeish for training our coaches and organizing the schedules.

Attendance

It is mandatory for all students between the ages of six and eighteen to attend school every day. School Social Workers are mandated to intervene with students and their families whenever students are identified as truant. We can support students in the following ways:

- Parent/teacher partnerships
- Teachers identify student's absences early
- School makes referral to school social worker
- School social worker assesses and determines the best course of action and works as a team to resolve conflicts.

Basketball- Regular Season

Basketball season is upon us! Daily in the gym you can witness the spirit of cooperation and competition that make basketball such an exciting sport to play and to watch. Thanks to our coaches Mr. DiFranco, Mlle. Rampado and Mr. DeVuono for their dedication to our students. Thank you as well to our student score keepers.

Transportation Cancellations

Information is available on the board website www.stopr.ca

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

99.9 CHUM 1050	CFTR 680	CFNY 102.2	CJCL 590	CHFI 98.1	CFRB 1010
EZROCK 97.3	CJBC (FR)	860 AM	Z103.5	93.1 FM	CJMR/CHWO1250
FOXY 88.5 FM	CHIN 100.7/1540 AM		CBC	City Pulse	Global News CFTO

Decisions are usually made by 6:30 a.m. **Listen for: "The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board and the Peel District School Board buses are cancelled."**

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



Please note: St. Thomas More's school buses are not affected when you hear "the county of Dufferin or the Town of Caledon."

Information Update

Catholic School Council

Our next Catholic School Council meeting is scheduled for February 27, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the school library. Everyone is always welcome.

Dates of future meetings:
April 23rd, May 14th and June 4th

Immunization Records

Peel Public Health periodically reviews the immunization records of each school in its jurisdiction. If your child's records are not up to date or on file with Peel Health, Peel Health will issue a letter to parents notifying them that immunization is incomplete. Students cannot be re-admitted to class until Peel Health receives the proper documentation. If you haven't done so recently, please take some time to review your child's immunization records and send any new immunization information **DIRECTLY to Peel Health.**

Parking Lot Safety

- Please be very careful when dropping off or picking up students.
- Parents must never leave their cars unattended in any of the Kiss and Ride Lanes. The purpose of the Kiss and Ride is to drop students off in a safe manner. Please be advised that people can be issued a parking ticket with fines of \$60.00 or more by the Parking Authority.
- If you need to leave your car, please use the church parking lot.
- Please exercise patience at these busy times...there are many students around and we ask all adults to set a good example and model patience.
- If you are interested in volunteering to monitor the Kiss and Ride, at the beginning of the day, please let the office know. We welcome your help.
- Kiss and Ride is **CLOSED** at dismissal – please use the church parking lot



Criminal Reference Checks for Volunteers

It is the policy of Dufferin-Peel that any school volunteer who will come into regular contact with students (as opposed to volunteers who participate in a one day activity with supervision) will be required to produce a Criminal Reference Check or Criminal Offence Declaration prior to being accepted as a volunteer.

Dates to Remember

- Feb. 2 – Interview Night
- Feb. 3 – PA Day – reporting to parents
- Feb. 6 – Kindergarten Registration Evening
- Feb. 8 – HPV and Hep. B – Round 2
- Feb. 8 - Extended French Applications due by 3 p.m.
- Feb. 8, 9, 10 – Kindergarten Registration
- Feb. 10 – McCallion's class trip to Silvercreek
- Feb. 14 – Speeches - Junior a.m. and Intermediate p.m.
- Feb. 14 – Spirit Day - Friendship – wear Red, White, Pink
- Feb. 15 – Extended French Lottery (if necessary)
- Feb. 15-16 – Scientists in the School - Kindergarten
- Feb. 16 – Kindergarten Lottery (if necessary)
- Feb. 16 – Intermediate Basketball Family Tournament
- Feb. 17 – Gr 5 and 6 at harbourfront
- Feb. 18 – Public Speaking Competition – St. Patrick's
- Feb. 17 – Intermediate Valentine's Day Dance – p.m.
- Feb. 20 – No School – Family Day
- Feb. 21 – Mardi Gras Dance and Pancake Day
- Feb. 22 – Ash Wednesday
- Feb. 27 – School Council 7pm
- Feb. 29 – First Eucharist Meeting 7:00pm St. Patrick's
- March 5 & 6 – Graduation Pictures
- March 7 – Confirmation Parent Meeting 7pm St. Patrick's
- March 8 – School Mass at 9:30 a.m.
- March 12-16 – March Break
- March 19 – School re-opens



Extended French Parent Information

An information meeting was held on January 19th for Grade 4 parent(s)/guardian(s) who wish to enroll their child in a Grade 5 Extended French class for September 2012. The program as well as the process for registration was shared.

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. Application forms are available at the school office.



We had a great fundraiser and we finally have a total for our QSP fundraiser. We raised almost \$3500 which has been applied to the school's wish list items. Don't forget to keep the QSP Customer Service number (1-800-667-2536) close at hand in case there are any issues with your order. Ordering is available all year long at www.qsp.ca.