



St. Mark School

April 2009

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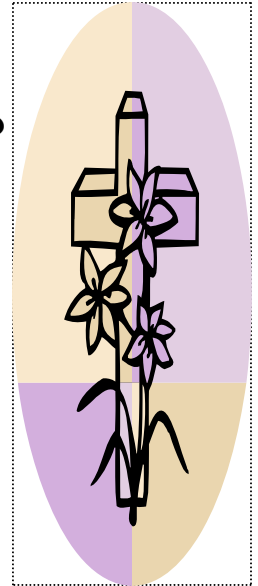
Christ is risen!

Come and speak to us in this Easter season, O God.

**Into our dying, speak your word of new life.
Into our fears, speak your word of courage
and of hope.**

**Into our doubts, speak your word of trust
and of faith restored. Speak to the very
heart of our life with your word of grace,
and grant us your peace, in the name of the
risen one.**

**Christ is risen!
Amen.**



Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

I wish everyone a beautiful, restful Easter Weekend. As a Catholic Community this is a special time to pray and reflect upon our blessings. We are fortunate to be able to come together to profess our faith. Thank you to Ms. D'Ettore and Mr. Freeman and their students for so beautifully portraying the Stations of the Cross.

We are entering Term Three, our last term of 2008-2009 School Year. Time is flying, although it has been a long winter, Spring has sprung. It promises to be an exciting and fulfilling Term Three at St. Mark. Please note important dates on our calendar. I hope you can join us for our April Assemblies on April 24th. Remember to "Make Your Own Sunshine".

God Bless,

Mrs. Connie Gale



A Tradition
of Excellence
in Catholic
Education



Virtues

St. Mark school continues to celebrate Virtues with a special spotlight on a different virtue each month.

This month we celebrate the virtue of **love**. God has given us many guidelines and examples of how to live our lives. He sent his Son Jesus to make sure that we could see what life could be like.

A loving person

- Wants the best for others
- Is willing to make sacrifices for the good of others
- Learns from the heroic lives of saints & holy people
- Knows that we are all lovable
- Prays for others

April Assemblies

The next Assemblies will be held on April 24. Mrs. Malison's class will host the 9:00 am Primary Assembly and Mr. Scicluna will be hosting the Junior/Intermediate Assembly at 10:15 am.

Our March Assemblies were a lot of fun! Ms. Seyarto hosted a Primary liturgy and skit about **Kindness** the virtue for March. The students gave examples of who might need an act of Kindness. Mr. Kennedy's class hosted a "Jeopardy" game that had the whole gym hopping!



REMINDER!

Our Grade 2 students
will celebrate their
1st Eucharist
April 26 and May 3 at 2pm
St. Ignatius Loyola Parish

Confirmation rehearsal is April 21, 6:30 pm at Loyola Parish

Confirmation is April 27 at 7:00 pm at Loyola Parish

March 27 - Earth Hour 2009

Last year 29 boards and more than 925 schools across the province registered for WWF's Earth Hour. This outpouring of support shows how much educators and students care about climate change. The Ontario government launched Acting Today, Shaping Tomorrow – the Environmental Education Policy Framework. It makes environmental education a part of every child's learning and fosters environmentally responsible practices across the province. Earth Hour is a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to environmental education. Not just by turning off the lights, but by turning on young minds. Earth Hour was Saturday, March 28 from 8:30 – 9:30 pm.

St. Mark School turned off all non-essential lights the last period on Friday and left them off for Saturday March 28.

Artist in the Schools — Jigg-a-Jump

By Julia LaBella Gr 2 Rm 120

All the primary classes were invited down to the gym on Friday, Feb. 6th to watch and participate in the *Jigg-a-Jump* presentation with Lisa and Chris. Lisa and Chris pretended to be Judie and David. They made a fun way to be healthy. Everywhere we were pretending to go we would find a letter, and the letter would be a sign for a healthy eating or exercising word. Once we found all the letters, we found a password to a giant computer. The password had four letters. We took a walk in the forest, played a game called "Snack Attack", pretended to be popcorn, twisty ice cream, and "My Bagel" and a song about bananas. We also went to Hawaii to have a part! When we traveled, we would find a letter that completed the password. The password was 'fuel'. Lisa said that our food can be fuel, just like gas is fuel to a car. With gas in a car it can move, but without gas it can't. So without food we would not be able to jump and run and play, but with food we can. When we played "Snack Attack" we had to answer a health question. To answer it, we would have to do an action that would tell Lisa and Chris what we said. I don't think that we got any answers wrong though. I think that the lesson here was that staying healthy and exercising can be fun and if we don't eat properly or exercise right, we can't do many active games that are fun. I had a really fun time exercising and learning how to stay healthy.



Junior Geography Contest

Mrs. Keddy hosted the Junior Geography contest. After a series of challenging questions the top three finishers were:

1st place: Jeremy T. Mrs. Keddy's Grade 4,
2nd place: Shannon E., Mrs. Paquin's Grade 5
3rd place: Tehjae T. , Mr. Freeman's Grade 6

The following students were awarded Honourable mention:

Grade 4: Matthew S., Michael H., Jeremy J., Jacob S.
Grade 5: Morgan S., Michael L., Amy C.
Grade 6: Brendan M., Michael G. ,

Congratulations to all our contestants!

The Value of Catholic Education Speech Competition



Olivia D. placed second in the Junior Competition.

This year marks a monumental occasion in the history of The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board – 40 years of excellence in Catholic education. To celebrate this accomplishment, and to acknowledge Catholic Education Week, the Board invited all students from grades 4 - 12 to participate in developing a speech which highlights the value of Catholic education. The Mississauga South Family of Schools level competitions were held at St. Mark School.



Gary B. placed third in the Intermediate Competition

The Board Level competition will be held at St. Marguerite D'Youville Secondary School in Brampton on April 14. Students who place first in each of the four categories will attend the Board level competition.

Class Placement for September 2009

The staff of St. Mark will meet in the near future to discuss class placements for your child(dren) for the **2009-2010** school year. Placements of all children are given careful consideration, however if you feel you would like to give any additional information or input, please send a letter to Mrs. Gale by **May 1st**.

Please remember the following: Do not make requests for specific teachers as staffing is always tentative and changes can take place between the time of tentative placement and September.



Are you moving?

To help us with our planning for next September, it would be appreciated if you could let us know now, if you will be moving out of our school area over the summer. If you know of any families moving into the area with children who plan to attend St. Mark School, it would be helpful if you could alert us. The more information we have, the better we are able to organize staff and students for September. In the absence of accurate information, schools often have to reorganize classes in September due to unexpected fluctuations in population. All we need is a quick note or a call. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.



EQAO Assessments Reminder

Each year, every student in Grades 3 and 6 in Ontario is assessed in reading, writing and mathematics. This common integrated assessment unit, developed by The Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO), will be completed by students **May 26, 27 and 28 for Grade 3 students and June 2, 3, and 4 for Grade 6 students.** Kindly avoid booking dental, doctor and other appointments during this time period in order to support maximum participation by all students. We wish all of the students the best of luck during this assessment period. All parents will receive a report card in the fall from the Ministry .



Student Council News!

Autism Awareness Week at St. Mark School

In an effort to raise awareness and acceptance for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder, the Special Education Resource Teachers, Maria Lein and Stacey Mahoney, along with St. Mark's Student Council, organized a week of fun activities from which all proceeds were donated to Autism Ontario. On Monday March 30th, all 407 students gathered in the gymnasium for the kick-off assembly. You could have heard a pin drop while the students watched a 17 minute video that offered five simulation activities, allowing the viewer to step into the shoes of a student with autism and see the world through their eyes just for a few moments.



The school promoted their first annual Autism Campaign with the slogans "Together for Autism" and "Toonies for Autism". For each Toonie donated, the students participated in a variety of activities. On Tuesday, students had the luxury of rolling out of bed and coming to school in their PJ's. Many also

brought along their teddy bears. Wednesday was Wacky Hair/Hat Day and each student received a complimentary Freezie. For World Autism Day on Thursday, the students met in the yard for a one-hour walk for Autism. Most were dressed in purple and orange and wore the 'Together for Autism' stickers proudly on their shirts. The day could not have been more perfect; with the blue sky above, the music pumping out of the loudspeakers and of course the huge smiles on the faces of the students who knew they were walking for such a worthy cause. The week ended with Twin Day on Friday and complimentary, freshly popped popcorn for everyone.



St. Mark School exceeded their goal in more ways than one. Yes, they raised over \$835 for autism, but more than that, they planted the seeds of acceptance for those who are different. As one parent so accurately said, "if even just a few students under-

stand, then you've made a difference." St. Mark hopes to make this an annual campaign and looks forward to planning some great spirit activities for next year's fundraiser for Autism!

Allergies at St. Mark

Please remember that because of severe food allergies we are not able to accept food as treats for Birthdays or other occasions. If you wish to send in something for the class, please send in items such as stickers or pencils. Many allergies are life threatening. In order to protect our students we are requesting that you respect this caution.

Council Corner

The School Council is working diligently on the Popcorn Drive which ended March 6, under the Fundraising Coordinator of Jane Cotnam. Without the generous support and donations of our community neighbours our fundraiser would not have been a success! Thank you to Mr. Connor who donated Raptor tickets as one of our raffle prizes! Our sincere thanks go to you, our school community, for your participation.

If you have any outstanding money or popcorn, please return it to the school, ASAP.

Dates to Remember

Registration for the 2009-2010 school year is now being accepted.

- April 9- D'Ettore/Freeman Stations of the Cross 9 am-12:45
- April 10 – Good Friday
- April 13 – Easter Monday—St. Mark Chorus –WDW—April 17
- April 15 - Primary Div. Ballroom Dancing, Gr 7/8 La Boheme Opera
- April 16 - Jr. Boys/Girls BB @ SMOC 3:45 pm
- April 20 - Lunch Lady, Jr. Boys/Girls BB @ St. Clare 4:00 pm
- April 21- **Confirmation Rehearsal** @ 6:30 pm Loyola Church
- April 22 - Primary Div.—Ballroom Dancing, Jr. Girls BB @ All Saints
- April 23 - Gr 2 Communion Retreat Day, Jr. Boys BB @ home
- April 24- Assembly Malison/Sciocluna, Pizza Day, Gr 7/8 Great Canadian @ 12:30 pm—Gym
- April 26 – **First Eucharist** – 2:00 p.m. Loyola Church
- April 27 – **Confirmation** – 7:00 p.m. Loyola Church, Lunch Lady
- April 28 - Gr 7 Hep B/Meng.C, Gr 8 HPV (Girls), Mississauga South Chess Tournament @ St. Louis School
- April 29- Primary Div.—Ballroom Dancing
- April 30 Gr 4 Medieval Times
- May 3 - 1st Eucharist @ 2:00 pm—Catholic Ed. Week May 3-8
- May 5— Int. Div. "Create and Opera" Performance 7 pm
- May 6 - Jr. Div.—TSO Trip, Primary Div.—Ballroom Dancing
- May 7 - Celebration of the Virtues @ 12:30 pm, Board Chess Tourn.
- May 11 – **PA Day**
- May 12 - Jr. Div. Talent Show Dress Rehearsal pm
- May 13 - Primary Div.—Ballroom Dancing
- May 14 - Jr. Div. Talent Show @ 7:00 pm
- May 15 - Joe Sax Festival @ Iona S.S.
- May 18 - Victoria Day
- May 20 - Primary Div.—Ballroom Dance Competition, G5/6 Paquin Learning Partnership—Auction
- May 26, 27 and 28 EQAO dates for grade 3 students
- June 2, 3, and 4 EQAO dates for grade 6 students
- June 23—Grade 8 Graduation—Le Dome 5:00 p.m.

From Your Catholic School Trustee –Sharon Hobin

As ever with education, it has been a busy time at the school board and of course for the schools that I represent. We will soon be entering into EQAO testing, Sacramental celebrations, school productions, and of course, graduations. I was so pleased to have attended the Expressions Production which took place at the Living Arts Centre where all of our Secondary School Theatre Arts programs were highlighted with singing, dancing and dramatic arts. From Broadway tunes to Shakespeare, the students were outstanding. I was so proud of all of our 17 schools who were represented. Our schools also performed extremely well at the Annual Skills Canada Competition where they were judged on Lego Mechanics, Design Technology, Robotics, Character Animation, Web Design, Health and Safety, and much more. Congratulations to all the winners!

In terms of the bid for a new Loyola, the trustees have asked our senior staff to meet with the ministry officials to discuss putting Loyola on the Capital Plan which at this point is not ministry funded. As well, staff will present the ministry with a business case for why they should fund Loyola. We have the land for only two more years so this discussion is crucial. The ministry continues to only fund new pupil places which for us are schools in Brampton. This is part of the argument for Loyola. We should not have to compete for these dollars which pits one community against another. We continue to pray and work to try to convince the ministry to allow us to include Loyola on the Capital Plan. (As I write this it is my hope that as you read this we have more positive information to share with you.)

The school board has approved a Homework Policy which will come into effect in September. The policy addresses the purpose of homework, timing, due dates and appropriate amount of homework per grade. This policy was written with much consultation and research. You may access the Evaluation and Assessment Policy for Secondary Schools which came into effect last year, in your son/daughter's secondary agenda or on the school board web site.

We are celebrating Dufferin-Peel's 40th anniversary of Catholic education in the region. Of course it is our hope that we will continue to thrive as a Catholic school board without threats to our existence and to our excellence in delivering quality character driven curriculum to our students. Part of the celebrations is our Catholic Speech Competition. We look forward to hearing the finalists at our school board meetings.

The results of our Strategic Review of Dufferin-Peel are in and have been presented to all of our employee groups and school councils. We are so pleased that the results are very good in terms of our mission, school safety, delivery of Catholic curriculum, Catholic leadership and faith, and financial accountability. Stakeholders have told us that they are interested in us researching and offering specialty programs but not to the detriment of our core programs and curriculum. Mostly, parents feel that we are doing a very good job. But we can improve. The board will take our results and begin our discussions of where we need to go over the next few years.

In closing, I am so proud of all of our schools. I am proud of their accomplishments both academically and also with sports and extra curricular activities. Our administrative teams continue to strive for excellence in developing programs to reach all of our students. With the help of staff and the support of the school council, the church and the community, we can reach those goals.

May the Good Lord always hold you in the palm of His hand.

**April
2009**

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1 Primary Div. – Ballroom Dancing & Jr. Div. Swing Dance	2 Autism Awareness Day Walk-A-Thon @ 10:30 am	3 PAL – Conflict Training @ 12:30 pm - Gym	4
5 Palm Sunday	6 Lunch Lady	7	8 Primary Div. – Ballroom Dancing	9 Holy Thursday Passover D’Ettore/Freeman Stations of the Cross 9 am 12:45 pm Pizza Day	10 Good Friday	11 Holy Saturday
12 Easter Sunday	13 Easter Monday St. Mark Chorus Walt Disney World	14 St. Mark Chorus Walt Disney World	15 St. Mark Chorus Walt Disney World Primary Div – Ballroom Dancing Gr 7/8 Opera La Boheme @ 7:30 pm	16 St. Mark Chorus Walt Disney World Jr. Boys/Girls Basketball @ SMOS 3:45 pm	17 St. Mark Chorus Walt Disney World	18
19 Divine Mercy	20 Lunch Lady Jr. Boys/Girls Basketball @ St. Clare 4:00 pm	21 Gr 8 Confirmation Rehearsal @ 6:30 pm Loyola Parish	22 Primary Div. – Ballroom Dancing Jr. Girls Basketball @ All Saints	23 Gr 2 Communion Retreat Day Jr. Boys Basketball @ home	24 Assembly Malison/Scicluna Pizza Day Gr 7/8 Great Canadian @ 12:30 pm - gym	25 Feast of St. Mark
26 1 st Eucharist @ Loyola Parish 2:00 pm	27 Lunch Lady Gr 8 Confirmation @ Loyola Parish 7:00 pm	28 Gr 7 Hep B/Meng. C Gr 8 Girls HPV Miss South Chess Tourn. @ St. Louis School	29 Primary Div. – Ballroom Dancing	30 Gr 4 – Medieval Times		

2009

**May
2009**

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1	2
3 Catholic Education Week May 3-8 1 st Eucharist @ 2:00 pm Loyola Parish	4 Lunch Lady	5 Gr 7/8 Build An Opera 7:00 pm - Gym	6 Jr. Div. – Toronto Symphony @ 10:30 am Primary Div – Ballroom Dancing	7 D’Ettore/Freeman “Celebration of the Virtues @ 12:30 - Gym Board Chess Tournament	8 Pizza Day	9
10 Mother’s Day	11 PA Day – No School	12 Jr. Div. Talent Show Dress Rehearsal - PM	13 Primary Div. – Ballroom Dancing	14 Jr. Div. Talent @ 7 pm \$2 Donation for ShareLife	15 Joe Sax Festival @ Iona S.S.	16
17	18 Victoria Day	19	20 Primary Div. – Ballroom Dance Competition Gr 5/6 Paquin Learning Partnership - Auction	21	22 Pizza Day	23
24 Ascension	25 Lunch Lady	26 Gr 3 EQAO “Welcome To Kindergarten” @ 6:30-7:30 pm (New Registrations)	27 Gr 3 EQAO	28 Gr 3 EQAO	29 Assembly Perreira/D’Ettore/Freeman 9:00 am JK-3 10:15 pm Gr 4-8	30
31 Pentecost						

2009

Making Your Child *Environmentally* Aware

In recognition of this year's Earth Hour (Saturday, March 28, 8:30 p.m.) and Earth Day (Wednesday, April 22), we are providing you and your family with tips on how to keep your child environmentally conscious and involved.

- Encourage your child to use both sides of a sheet of paper when completing homework and practicing school work.
- Turn it off! Ensure your car is turned off in school kiss and ride zones. Some Dufferin-Peel schools have created idle-free zones to help eliminate harmful gases in our atmosphere.
- Pack eco-friendly lunches for your child. Reusable water bottles and containers can help reduce the waste in our schools and landfills.
- Walk with your child. Finding natural pathways and parks around your neighbourhood can be an easy way to encourage your child to appreciate and love our earth. This walk can include informative discussions about animals, trees and more. Also, check out Active and Safe Routes to School in Peel for some interactive maps and a list of walking programs (<http://www.saferoutestoschool.ca>).
- Use scrap paper for note-taking and shopping lists. This will provide your child with a good example of conserving household waste. Also, have a bin with scrap paper available for your child at all times.
- Practice composting with your child. Especially during the summer and winter months, teach your child how to use composting materials like newspaper and food waste to do some gardening. These items can be easily disposed of in household gardens and it can also eliminate your waste.
- Create fun and exciting crafts projects using household materials that would normally go to waste. Making pencil holders, decorations and more can help encourage your child to recycle products like plastic bottles and egg cartons.
- Just in time for spring, plant a tree as a family!
- Have an eco-friendly fun day. This day can include eating local and organic foods, keeping electronics and light fixtures shut off and having a living room campout with your child's friends and family. This would be a great way to teach your child about the importance of being environmentally aware while, at the same time, having fun!

For more information, visit:

www.earthday.ca | www.ecokids.ca
www.earthhour.org | www.pub.em.ed-prod.access-eis.com

Stay Connected! Join the Dufferin-Peel eCommunity. Visit us online at:

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Dufferin-Peel
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School Board



A Tradition of Excellence in Catholic Education