



Medication

School staff cannot administer medication, including aspirins and Tylenol without a "Request and Consent for Administration of Medication" form, completed and signed by a doctor. A properly labeled container is required, including the instructions and conditions that are to be followed for the administration of the medication.

Parents of children with life threatening medical concerns/allergies are asked to notify Mrs. Dziedzic in the school office and fully complete an Emergency Medication Protocol form each September and return it to the school as soon as possible. All medication is stored in the office area. The only exception to this requirement has to do with any child who, because of life threatening allergies, must carry medication.

We recognize that some parents wish to mark their child's birthday by sending a cake to the class. Because of peanut, milk, egg and other allergies we regret that we will not be able to accept food as a way of celebrating. If you wish to give something to the class such as; pencils, or stickers or a book for the classroom library will be accepted. We remind you that your child's birthday will be celebrated with an announcement over the P.A. We hope you will help us implement this policy.

Cross Country Family/Board Meet



The cross country coaches would like to thank the students who practiced so diligently over the months of September and October for the St. Mark Cross Country Team. Not only did St.

Mark place well, but most importantly, they showed excellent team spirit and were wonderful ambassadors for St. Mark School.

At the Board Meet, St. Mark did well and the following students represented St. Mark School: Matthew S., Michelle C., Olivia D., Matthew M., Michael S., Chantel L., Meaghan S., Kaitlyn R., Shannon E., Mia C., Monika N., Tomi K., Brendan M., Daniel K., Jakub T., Gary B., Scott L. and Nicholas K.

Our thanks to coaches: Mrs. Malison and Mrs. Paquin and to our conveners, Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Scicluna

PLASP Before and After School Care

This program runs for school age children up to 12 years of age, at this school. Before and After School Program to 6:00 p.m. Healthy snacks served each day.

Want to know more? See the PLASP staff at this school; Call PLASP at 905-890-1711; visit our website at www.plasp.com

Council Corner

Our next Parent Council meeting will be held on November 30th, 2009. It will be a celebration of Christmas, with snacks being prepared by the Council members. We extend an invitation to all parents to join the Council for this social event, as well as to assist in making St. Mark the best school for our children and for our community.

Please let your child's teacher know if you are planning to attend so that we can prepare refreshments accordingly.

FUNDRAISING

Our Nature's Treasures Fundraiser was very well received by our St. Mark Community. All funds raised are directed right back into our children's classrooms.

The winners of our draw are as follows:

Great Wolf Lodge grand prize: Sarah D.

DVD winner: Lydia K.

Digital Camera: Adriana E.

Other winners include: Alex K., Sergio G., Sarah B., Sarah L., Kimberly C., Alexander L., Christian T., Valentina S.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Our thanks for all the support given during this fundraiser!

Fundraising With A Difference!

FUNDRAISING

More fundraising for our school's Technology and Arts Program Magazine sales-great gifts right in time for Christmas shopping!

St. Mark's has now enrolled in the CCRP-Canadian Community Reading Plan. It's simple to use and 40% of all sales will be sent to St. Mark. Our code is **on2430**. Just visit the website at www.ccrp.ca click on the Order portion and place your order.

Once you have selected your magazines, you can see exactly what is going back to our school. If you have renewals, just click on the box once you go through the ordering portion and then make sure it's the same name and address as on your original order and it will automatically extend your subscription.

It's an easy way to shop and enrich our children's education!

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.



N O V E M B E R

2009

St. Mark School

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P: 905-820-9477
F: 905-820-1229

W: www.dpcdsb.org/schools/MARKE
Attendance: 9-820-9477 Press #1

Principal: C. GALE

Secretary: M. Dziedzic

Superintendent:

C. Saytar 905-890-1221

School Trustee (Ward 8)

Sharon Hobin 905-301-1210
sharon.hobin@dpcdsb.org

Pastor(s): Msgr. J. Shiels and

Fr. Joe Gorman 905-820-1444

Dates to Remember

- Nov. 1 All Saints Day
- Nov. 2 All Souls Day
- Nov. 2 Parent Council Meeting
- Nov. 6 Pizza Day
- Nov. 6 Gr. 7/8 Crack Pot Studios
- Nov. 9 Lunch Lady
- Nov. 12 St. Francis Xavier S.S.gr.9
Parent Info Mtg.@ 6:00pm
- Nov. 13 Gr. 3 Pioneer Village Trip
- Nov. 13 Gr. 7/8 Clay Workshop
- Nov. 16 PA Day
- Nov. 17 Term 2 begins
- Nov. 19 Holy Name of Mary Gr. 9
Parent Info Mtg. @7:00pm
- Nov. 20 Pizza Day
- Nov. 22 Christ the King, Feast Day
- Nov. 23 Lunch Lady
- Nov. 27 Assembly Ms. Colaco's 4/5
- Nov. 29 Advent Begins
- Nov. 30 Lunch Lady
- Nov. 30 Gr. 5/6 Gifted Erin Mills Lodge
- Dec. 1 Gr. 1-8 Reports Sent Home
- Dec. 2 Jr- Pantomime "Robin Hood"
- Dec. 3 Pizza Day
Interview Evening
- Dec. 4 P.A. Day - Interview
- Dec. 7 Advent Mass @ 10:30 am
- Dec. 9/10 See/Hear Screening
- Dec. 18 Pizza Day
- Dec. 18 Assembly Choir Sing-a-long
- Dec. 21 Christmas Break Begins
- Jan. 4 Classes Resume

ALWAYS AND FOREVER

**In the rising of the sun and its going down,
We will remember them.**

**In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,
We will remember them.**

**In the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring,
We will remember them.**

**In the rushing of the leaves,
and in the beauty of autumn,
We will remember them.**

**So long as we live,
They too will live.....**

Principal's Message

November has arrived and how quickly! October was filled with many activities. Thank you for your generosity during our Thanksgiving Food Drive. Thanks to the Student Council for their help. I enjoy seeing the liturgies and entertainment put on by the host classes each month at assemblies. Thanks to our October host classes Ms. Seyarto, Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Paquin/Mr. Murphy. Thank you to all parents who have attended. Our next assembly is on November 27th.

November is a month that is particularly important to us as we celebrate All Saint's Day, All Souls Day and Remembrance Day. We come together as a Catholic Community to celebrate and show respect for those men and women who sacrificed their lives so that we may live in freedom. Please support the Royal Canadian Legion and buy a poppy. We continue to pray for world peace. The feast of All Saints is a reminder to praise the men and women of faith who courageously lived the teachings of Jesus and guide and inspire us in our faith day.

November is also shaping up to be a busy month. Please check the Dates to Remember. The staff, students, parents and Parish make this a wonderful Catholic Learning Community. Please continue to assist us in providing a safe learning environment for your children. Remember to make your own sunshine everyday...be kind to someone when they least expect it. Our November virtue is "Conscience" - Is the voice of God within us. As you develop your conscience, you will learn to make decisions that will make sure you always have peace in your life. Our conscience reminds us how to act towards other people and how to be a good friend. Sometimes it is hard for us to do the right thing, but we must always remember that the right thing to do is not always the easy thing to do.

God Bless,
Connie Gale

Remembrance Day

We invite parents and guardians to join us at our November 11th Assembly for Remembrance Day to honour those people who have given their lives so that our families could live in peace and freedom. Our Remembrance Day Assembly will be on Wednesday, November 11th at 10:30am. for Grades 1 through 8, in the school gymnasium.

School Hours:

Our school hours remain the same as in previous years.

8:30 am	Start Time
11:30 am-12:30 pm	Lunch
3:00 pm	End Time

Designated staff are on duty for 15 minutes before the start of the school day and throughout the entire noon hour. You may safely leave your child in the school yard upon arrival in the morning or upon returning to the school after lunch.

School Newsletter



Virtues Initiative

Catholic school education provides us with the opportunity to integrate virtue formation into all areas of our school life within the context of our faith. Under the direction of the Board, we will be introducing a new virtues program this year. Each month the entire school will focus on a different virtue. Below you will find a list of the virtues focus on each month.

September	Faith	February	Respect
October	Empathy	March	Kindness
November	Conscience	April	Love
December	Hope	May	Acceptance
January	Self Control	June	Fairness

St. Mark Assemblies

We hope you've had an opportunity to attend our monthly school assemblies. Each month, two classes take responsibility for organizing assemblies for the school. The assembly generally begins with a liturgy and then is centered around a theme for the month. Classes choose what they will share from performing songs, choral readings, or something totally surprising. The assembly for JK to Grade3 takes place at 9:00am and the Grades 4 to 8 takes place at 10:30am. We hope that you will have an opportunity to join us.

Visitors to School

Please remember that to children other than your own, you may be a stranger. When entering the school, please report to the office. Any individuals wandering the school without appropriate identification will be asked to go to the office. Please help us to monitor a safe and welcoming environment for your children. When you come to the school, please report to the office, sign in, and take a tag. Prior to leaving, sign out and return your visitor's tag. As well, parents are asked to bid your children farewell from beyond the play ground. Only students and staff are to be in the schoolyard. Again, this is to ensure the safety of your children and your attention to this is most appreciated.

Please be reminded that dogs are not permitted in the schoolyard area at any time. The excitement of the children or the bell ringing can frighten dogs and small children are frightened of dogs.

Going out for Lunch

Please inform your child's teacher of regular lunch arrangements for your child. Also, for safety reasons please be advised that a note to the classroom teacher must occur each time there is a change in the routine.. This is especially important for a child who has permission to leave school property during the noon hour who normally stays for lunch. **Students are allowed to go out for**

lunch only if a note is provided. *Standing Notes*** indicating that a child can leave school property anytime he/she chooses are NOT acceptable.** As a school staff, it is important for us to know each time a child leaves our care at noon hour that permission has been given and that parents know the exact whereabouts of their child(ren).

In addition, any students leaving or returning to the school due to appointments must be signed out and in at the office by a parent/guardian. Your co-operation and support of this important supervision/safety initiative is appreciated. Thank you in advance.

Student Verification Sheet

Student Verification Sheet for each child has been sent home. All sheets (even those which have correct information) should be returned to the appropriate classroom teacher. If you have not returned yours, please do so, as this will help us to update our records.

Safe Arrival Program

Are you getting the answering machine?

We are requesting your assistance. This system, which allows parents to call in student absenteeism 24 hours a day, supports our Safe Arrival Program. If both lines into the school are busy, your call is automatically routed to the school answering system. The office staff picks up the phone messages on a regular basis and will relay messages to staff members. We thank all parents/guardians who continue to call the school when their children are absent. Your support ensures that our Safe Arrival Program works efficiently to ensure the safety of our students. When we do not receive your call, we are concerned about your child. We then call home, your workplace or an emergency contact number. Please let us know if your telephone numbers change.

Please help us to save valuable time and ensure the safety of your child by calling in all absences.

Our Attendance Verification Phone number is (905)820-9477

Students who are late for school are required to report to the office to obtain an Admit Slip prior to going to class. Student who are habitually late may be required to make up the time through detentions or after school.

Kiss and Ride Safety

St. Mark School is proud of its Kiss and Ride Program. In order for it to continue to run smoothly and safely for all our students, everyone needs to follow the same procedure.

1. To drop students off at school please drive into the west entrance and along the center lane until you round the corner and drop off at the person on duty.

School Newsletter



2. In order to ensure the safety of your children, please do not let your children out of the car until you are at the front of the lane. **Children should exit on the sidewalk side!**

3. Never drive in the bus lane.

4. Never leave your car unattended in the school driveway. It is against the law and you may be ticketed by police who regularly patrol the area.

5. If you need to walk your child to the yard or you need to stop into the office, please park in the parking lot. We appreciate your cooperation in following these procedures. Your children's safety is our main concern.

6. **Crossing Guards:Please adhere to the crossing guards directions.This includes drivers.**

St. Vincent de Paul Society

St. Mark School will once again be supporting the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Ignatius Loyola Church. We will begin collecting donations on Monday, November 30th, 2009.Our goal this year is to provide for six families. Further information will be sent home in the coming weeks.

Eden Community Food Bank

Our neighbourhood Food Bank needs you! Eden Community Food Bank helps feed up to 1,000 people each month from the L5N and the L5M postal codes. Their clients' challenges span a variety of circumstances including income-challenged single parents, newcomers to Canada, individuals experiencing unemployment gaps and victims of social abuse to name a few. Unfortunately, almost half of the recipients of the ECFB's food are children who would go hungry without their help. On Tuesday, November 24th, please bring in a "Toonie" to help support Eden Community Food Bank.

St. Mark Chess Club "Chess Nuts"

The games are getting more intense as our in school tourney continues. Maurissius W. is leading the way in the intermediate division with Michael G. right behind him. Michael L. is first in the Junior division while Adam W. is in front in the primary division. Newcomer Conor G. made quite a first impression by handing Adam his only defeat in the primary division. Tune in next month for more news and updates from the world of chess.

PLEASE REMEMBER:

PA DAY - November 16th, 2009
No school for students

Advice from the Speech and Language Pathologists

"Students/children tend to listen to their music at high volumes. If you can hear music coming from a student's player, the volume is too loud and the student is risking having hearing loss!!!"

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) consumer awareness program called "Listen to Your Buds" about safe listening practices to prevent noise induced hearing loss. It is important information for all of us to know, both professionally and personally.

There is a great visual/auditory scale under the "Parents" section that clearly indicates the number of decibels (i.e. loudness) of a variety of environmental sounds as related to the range of the iPod/MP3 player.

Check it out! Website: www.listentoyourbuds.org

The Listen to Your Buds website features fun, free downloadable items featuring the Buds. The site includes resources for parents and teachers like bookmarks and posters, as well as animated e-cards and the Turn Down the Volume game.

The Listen to Your Buds campaign's mission is to promote safe listening practices to prevent noise-induced hearing loss.

Fire Drills and Lockdown Drills

As a precautionary measure, we will practice fire drills and lockdown procedures throughout the year.

During fire drills, students are asked to move safely and swiftly to the nearest exit and to report to their designated area outside of the building. If an exit is blocked, students are reminded to use their alternate exit.

In a lock down, students are alerted over the P.A. that we are "initiating lock down". Students are directed to move away from all windows and doors and to lie on the floor, if possible under desks. Classroom doors and windows are secured. Students remain this way until the alert is cancelled.

Discussing these procedures with your child will help reassure the importance of these safety procedures.

In the unforeseen event that we should have an emergency in our school, we will evacuate to Sawmill Valley Public School. Safety regulations require us to have this contingency plan in place. In such an event, your child will remain with school staff until we contact you.