



St. Mark School

September 2010



A Prayer in Praise of our Children

PRINCIPAL
C. GALE

SECRETARY
M. Dziedzic

SUPERINTENDENT
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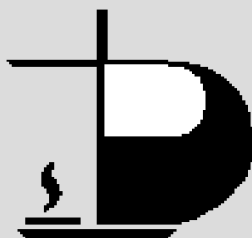
ST MARK SCHOOL
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School Website:
www.dpcdsb.org/schools/MARKE



Lord, you have made these children as varied as the flowers of a garden.

You have blessed each one uniquely and each fragile, growing child is infinitely precious in your sight.

You have trusted us to nurture them and blessed us with the joy of seeing them grow.

May we always walk in your light and provide them with the love and care you give to us. Amen

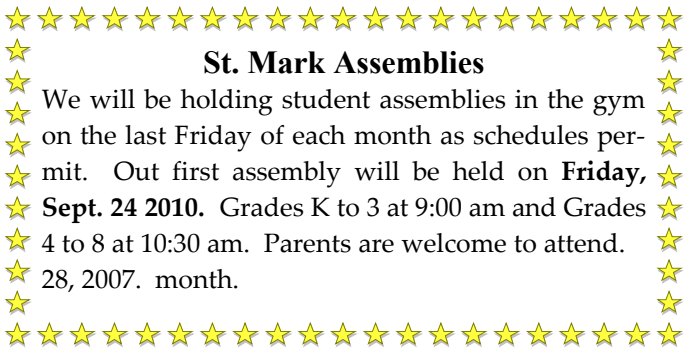
Principal's Message

I am pleased to be back as Principal of St. Mark School. On behalf of St. Mark School, I would like to welcome you back and welcome to new families and students. This newsletter is the first of the monthly newsletters that will give us an opportunity to communicate what is happening at St. Mark School. Together our staff, parish, parents, and students make St. Mark a very special school. We have high standards and expectations, one that adheres to Catholic philosophy. We promote a collegial learning environment. Should you have a question or a concern about your child, please do not hesitate to share it with us. Early and ongoing information can help to clarify and often alleviate concerns quickly.

Begin by contacting the classroom teacher, who is usually the one most able to deal effectively with your child's learning and behavior. A time should be scheduled for you to speak to the teacher either by telephone or meeting. Should you require further assistance please contact the office. Please notice our monthly virtues and consider a discussion with your child about the virtue. This month's virtue is Faith. I look forward to a dynamic, outstanding school year.

God Bless,

Connie Gale



St. Mark Assemblies

We will be holding student assemblies in the gym on the last Friday of each month as schedules permit. Our first assembly will be held on **Friday, Sept. 24 2010**. Grades K to 3 at 9:00 am and Grades 4 to 8 at 10:30 am. Parents are welcome to attend. 28, 2007. month.

As well, parents are asked to bid your children farewell from beyond the playground. 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 important.

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.

SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM ARE YOU GETTING THE ANSWERING MACHINE?

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. Each month the entire school will focus on a different virtue. Below you will find a list of the virtues focus on each month.

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

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.**

BBQ/Curriculum Night

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Annual Meet the Teacher BBQ and Curriculum night on **Thursday, Sept. 23, 2010**. Please join us for a fun evening and you will receive further information about the BBQ/Curriculum Evening.

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.

SCHOOL HOURS

Our school hours remain the same as in previous years.

8:30 am	Start Time
11:00 am	AM Kindergarten dismissal
11:30 am-12:30 pm	Lunch
12:30 pm	PM Kindergarten Start
3:00 pm	End Time

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.

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.

GOING OUT FOR LUNCH

VISITORS TO SCHOOL

Please remember that to other children you are 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.**

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.

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.

KISS & 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.
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.**

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. Dziejcz 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 Health Room 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, cookies, "Tim Bits" and other food items 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 some-

thing 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.



Confirmation Registration for 2010-2011

St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish Confirmation registration and parent meeting is on **Thursday, October 21 at 7:00 pm** at the parish hall.

First Communion & Reconciliation Registration for 2010-2011

St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish First Communion and Reconciliation registration and parent meeting is on **Tuesday, October 19 at 7:00 pm** at the parish hall.

Early Release Day

On the **Early Release Day Tuesday, September 28, 2010** students in **Grades 1 to 8** will be dismissed at the natural lunch break, **11:30 am**. Those students normally bused will be provided with transportation. Morning JK and SK Classes will be dismissed at 11:00 am. **Afternoon JK and SK classes will be cancelled.**

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**



Toonies for Terry

The Terry Fox National School Run Day was one of the largest events in Canadian history: 9,000 schools with over 3 million students took part. The feedback from schools and participants was consistently "It was amazing to know that on the same day, millions of other students and educators were running/walking for cancer research". In response to the overwhelming success of the event and numerous requests made by educators and volunteers, The Terry Fox National School Run Day became an annual event. This year's Terry Fox National School Run Day is on **Friday, September 24**. and once again Mr. Kennedy is organizing St. Mark staff and students to participate. Staff and students are asked to bring in a "Toonie for Terry" in support of cancer research.

Transportation

Please be advised that the following website, businfo.stopr.ca, is now available to students, parents, school administrators, and school bus operators. This website provides basic information for students and parents, specific to what school do I attend?, and am I eligible for transportation?

Also, parents of students who are eligible for transportation will be able to login to the businfo.stopr.ca site and access the specific details of only their child's transportation arrangements. This information will be available by following these instructions:

- Access the <http://businfo.stopr.ca>
- Click "student login":
- Enter your child's OEN number, street address number, school, and grade (Note: OEN number appears on student report card)
- Click "login"

The bus run and route number, bus stop location and morning pick-up and afternoon drop-off times specific to only your child can be obtained through this process. The website will also have the following features:

- "About Us" - background information on Student Transportation of Peel Region
- "Policies and Procedures" - STOPR procedure and Peel and Dufferin-Peel Transportation Policies
- "FAQ" = frequently asked questions in regards to student transportation
- "School Forms" - the forms that go with the STOPR procedures
- "Operators" - a list of all the school bus operators in Peel Region and their telephone numbers.
- "Links" - Ministry of Transportation links i.e. booster seat legislation
- "Contact Us" - STOPR contact telephone numbers by area
- "Inclement Weather" - updates on a daily basis for inclement weather cancellations
- "Which School Do I Attend" - a direct link to our Geoquery website
- "Your Child's Bussing Information" - a direct link to the student login on our Geoquery website
- "Dufferin-Peel CDSB logos" - click on to this logo and it takes you directly to the school board home website page.

Revised Courtesy Transportation Procedure

The Courtesy Transportation procedure which provides potential access to available empty seats on school buses for ineligible students has been revised. **During the first four weeks of school, up to and including October 1, 2010, no Courtesy Transportation seating will be approved or implemented.**

This will allow STOPR staff to more efficiently accommodate the needs of identified eligible students.

Revised Eligibility

Please be reminded that the distance criteria for eligibility for transportation increases at specific grade levels. Effective 2010-2011 school year, the distance criteria for transportation eligibility will be:

Kindergarten and Grade 1	1.0 kilometers
Grades 2—4 inclusive	1.6 kilometers
Grades 5—8 inclusive	2.0 kilometers
Grades 9—12 inclusive	4.8 kilometers

School Council

School Council Nomination forms will be available in the office up until **Monday, September 27, 2010**. On that day we will hold elections for the School Council members.

Lunch Lady—Fun Lunch

Fun Lunch—Lunch Lady will be on **Wednesdays, September 15, 22 and 29 2010**. Students in Grades 1 to 8 will be receiving order forms next week. For further information you can contact Merri at Lunch Lady—416-878-3463.

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



Dates to Remember

Fri. Sept 17	PA Day—no school for students
Thurs. Sept 23	BBQ/Curriculum—Meet the teacher Evening 5:00 pm—7:00 pm
Fri. Sept 24	School Assembly K-3 @ 9:00 am Gr 4-8 @ 10:30 am
Fri. Sept 24	Terry Fox Walk "Twoonie For Terry" 12:30 pm
Mon. Sept 27	School Photo Day
Mon. Sept 27	School Council Nomination/Elections 7:00 pm (School Library)
Tue. Sept 28	Early Release Day—No PM classes for Students
Tues. Oct 5	Thanksgiving Mass and Confirmation Enrolment @ 10:30 am—School Gym
Mon. Oct 11	Thanksgiving Day—no school
Tues. Oct 19	Parent Mtg. 1st Communion/Reconciliation @ 7:00 pm parish Hall
Thurs. Oct. 21	Parent Mtg. Confirmation @ 7:00 pm Parish Hall

St. Mark Staff List

School Year 2010—2011

Mrs. C. Gale	Principal	
Mrs. M. Dzedzic	Head Secretary	
Mrs. F. Pereira	JK/SK	Room 109
Mrs. M. Legere	Gr 1	Room 117
Ms. B. Seyarto	Gr 1/2	Room 120
Ms. S. Ramelli	Gr 2/3	Room 119
Mrs. B. Kuta	Gr 3	Room 118
Ms. T. Colaco	Gr 3 /4	Room 216
Mrs. B. Johnson	Gr 4	Room 215
Mrs. N. Ceccomancini	Gr 5	Room 217
Ms. K. Borscok	Gr 6	Room 214
Mrs. A. Paquin	Gr 5/6 Gifted	Room 219
Ms. M. Moore	Gr 6 /7	Room 207
Mrs. R. Keddy	Gr 7/8 Gifted	Room 203
Mr. J. Kennedy	Gr 7/8	Room 205
Mr. R. Scicluna	Gr 8	Room 208
Mrs. S. Mahoney	SERC	Room 213
Mrs. M. Lein	SERT/Planning	
	ESL	Room 211
Mrs. C. Tinkham	Library/Planning Time	
Mrs. R. Gergely	FSL	Room 202
Mr. J. Young	FSL	Room 201
Ms. A. Jackson	ERW	Room 116
Mrs. L. Eschli	ERS	Room 116
Ms. G. Sheehan	CYW	Room 106
Mrs. B. Goncalves	Head Custodian	
Mrs. B. Herceg	Night Cleaner	
Mr. D. Petrovic	Night Cleaner	

Lunch Hour Supervisor

Needed Immediately

**Hours of Work: 1.2 hours
(72 minutes) per day**

**Rate of Pay: \$11.45 per hour
(+ 4% Vacation Pay)**

**If you are interested in this
position, please contact the school
office at 905-820-9477**