



St. Mark School

October 2010

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A Thanksgiving Prayer

Father in Heaven, Creator of all and source of all goodness and love, please look kindly upon us and receive our heartfelt gratitude in this [time](#) of giving thanks.

Thank you for all the graces and blessings. You have bestowed upon us, spiritual and temporal: our [faith](#) and religious heritage. Our food and shelter, our health, the loves we have for one another, our [family](#) and friends.

Dear Father, in Your infinite generosity, please grant us continued graces and [blessing](#) throughout the coming year. This we ask in the Name of Jesus, Your Son and our Brother. Amen.

Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

The new school year is off and running very smoothly. Thank you to all the families that attended our BBQ/Meet the Teacher evening. A special thank you to all staff who helped at the BBQ/Meet the Teacher Evening.

In this month of Thanksgiving, we pause to appreciate and give thanks for all we receive on a daily basis. We give thanks for our family and friends, for our teachers, our school and our community. We should also remember those who are serving our country in foreign lands. October's virtue is Empathy. Remember to talk to your children about the meaning of this special virtue. Thank you to Fr. Joe for doing our Thanksgiving Mass in our gym. It was wonderful to see so many parents attend. We honoured those Grade 8's with Confirmation Enrolment at this mass.

On behalf of the St. Mark staff, I extend best wishes for a blessed and Happy Thanksgiving.

God Bless,

Connie Gale

Active Children, Healthy Children

Physical activity is important to keep children healthy and learning well. Active children tend to eat and sleep better and do better in school. They have fewer behavior problems and are less likely to use tobacco, alcohol, or other drugs.

Helping children be active is more than just encouraging them to walk to school or being involved in recreational events. The entire community needs to help make changes so it is easier for children to be physically active.

To help raise awareness for the importance of a safe active community, the week of October 4-8, 2010 has been named - [International Walk to School Week](#). The goals for [iwalk](#) are to:

- Encourage physical activity. Teach children the skills to walk safely, identify safe routes to school, and the benefits of walking.
- Raise awareness of the “walkability” of your community. What is good and where can improvements be made.
- Raise concerns for the environment.
- Reduce traffic congestion, pollution, and speed particularly near schools.

Virtues

This month we will celebrate the virtue of **Empathy**. Empathy is a combination of compassion and understanding. It is the willingness to go out of one’s way to put others’ needs ahead of one’s own. It is a willingness to comfort those who need comforting, to mourn with those who mourn, and to help those who are in need of help.

An Empathetic person....

- Can relate to the emotions of others
- Will listen openly and with acceptance
- Has the ability to react with compassion
- Will help when it is needed.

Confirmation Registration for 2010-2011

St. Ignatius Loyola Parish Confirmation registration and parent meeting is on **Thurs. Oct. 21 at 7:00 pm**. The confirmation retreat for Grade 8 students will take place at the parish on **Tue. Oct. 26**.

First Communion & Reconciliation Registration for 2010-2011

St. Ignatius Loyola Parish First Communion and Reconciliation registration and parent meeting is on **Tuesday, October 19, 2010, at 7:00 pm** in the parish hall.

Fall Fundraising News

October 4, was our kickoff for our Fall Fundraiser. The youngest child in your family was sent home with a selection of chocolates from World’s Finest Chocolate. There is a selection of 25 chocolate treats, each to be sold for \$3.00.

We appreciate every effort made by our students to support our wonderful school. This fundraiser will help promote Artists in the School, as well as our Numeracy and Literacy programs.

Students who sell one case will be entered into a draw for an iPod shuffle. For those students who sell a second case, their names will be entered into a draw for a family pass for 4 to Fallsview Water Park, in Niagara Falls. **Please remember that we do not want our students selling door to door. Safety is a priority at all times.**

Terry Fox Walk

Thank you to those who donated to the Terry Fox Walk for cancer research that was held on **Friday, September 24**. This year’s walk we donated \$429 to the Terry Fox Foundation. Thank you to Mr. Kennedy for organizing the event.

EQAO Results

Below are the results of St. Mark School 2009-2010 EQAO Tests:

	Grade 3	Grade 6
Reading	73%	81%
Writing	83%	81%
Math	83%	63%

A full report can be found on www.eqao.com web page.

Appropriate School Attire

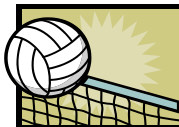
With the arrival of fall weather, we ask that children dress appropriately for the cooler autumn days. Also, please ensure that your child has an extra pair of socks in case of wet days, as well as indoor shoes should they come to school in rain boots.

Cross Country Club

Thank you to Ms. Seyarto and Mr. Young who have been working with the students, training for the Cross Country Meet. Grades 5 to 8 students are practicing on trails and in the yard to prepare for the terrain of cross country. The Family of Schools Meet is on **Friday, October 21**, at Etobicoke's Centennial Park.

Intermediate Volley Ball

Volleyball in underway! Thanks to Ms. Colaco and Ms. Borcsok who are coaching the intermediate boys and intermediate girls volley ball teams.



With Thanks

We would like to thank all our teachers who volunteer their time for our various extra curricular activities and we wish them well with all the upcoming competitions! Go St. Mark!! All parents are welcome to come out and cheer on our teams!

Halloween at school

Students are permitted to wear costumes to school. We ask students NOT to wear masks. **Also, please remember that guns, swords or other items associated with violence are not permitted.**



Pizza Days at St. Mark

Pizza days will begin on **Friday October 15**, and every Friday throughout the school year. Order forms were sent home the week October 1, with dates for the fall session. This year, our pizza committee co-chairs, Sue Callander and Lisa Manktelow, have arranged to have Pizzaville deliver a choice of cheese or pepperoni slices. As well, a beverage option will

be available. Cookies from Terra Cotta Cookie Company will also be offered. These cookies are trans fat free and nut free.

Thank you to our co-chairs Sue and Lisa!

Safe Arrival Program

A call notifying us if your child is absent or late is appreciated. Our answering machine is in operation 24 hours a day (905)-820-9477, press (1). Messages will be retrieved between the hours 8:30 am. and 3:30 pm by office staff. Provincial protocols require that schools exhaust all emergency contacts prior to calling the police in the event of a missing child. Please ensure that your information is accurate.

Assemblies at St. Mark

This month's assembly will be on **Friday, October 29**. The Kindergarten to grade 3 assembly will be hosted by Ms. Seyarto's Grade 1 / 2 class, at **9:00 am**.

The assembly for Grades 4 to 8 will be held at **10:30 am** and will be hosted by Mrs. Paquin's grade 5/6 class as well as by Mrs. Moore's grade 6/7 class.

We encourage all parents to join us at our St. Mark Assemblies.

Police Clearance for Volunteers/Parents

There is no cost involved for processing a CRC (Police Clearance for Volunteers/Parents) for Volunteers/Parents. The information provided is only for Peel Police only.

If you have a valid CRC for a volunteer/parent it is not required to get a new one done as long as you have been volunteering at least once or twice during the current year.

Criminal Reference Checks (CRC) for Volunteers MUST be kept at the school followed by an Annual Declaration every year. If you require a form, please ask for one at the office.

Animals on School Property—Please be considerate!

As you know, we share the yard with Sawmill Valley school. Please clean up after your pet. Children coming in contact with the bacteria can become ill. Young children often roll on the ground or dig in the yard.

Parents and staff have expressed concern that dogs are off leash in the yard before or after the bell in the morning and after school. Please be considerate, many people are allergic or are afraid of dogs.

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

COUNCIL CORNER


The following parents were acclaimed to represent the St. Mark community for the **2010-2011** school year.

Chair: Amelia Wong Parent Reps: Theresa Ferrari
Treasurer: Cheryl Diab Patricia DeMelo
Secretary: Grace Piatek John Mrozek
Fundraising: Chair: Jane Cotnam Mark Joseph
Parish/Community rep: Heather Moore

Our thanks to the previous year's Council for all their hard work on behalf of our school.

Please remember that all parents are invited to attend Council Meetings. **Our next council meeting is on Monday, October 25 at 6:30 pm in the school library.**

Dates to Remember

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- Oct. 8** Grade 8 Art Trip at the Living Arts Centre
 - Oct. 11** **Thanksgiving Day**
 - Oct.12-14** Grade 4 - CCAT Testing
 - Oct. 15** Grade 3 Trip to Crawford Lake
Pizza Day
Cross Country Family Meet at Centennial Park
 - Oct. 18** Lunch Lady
 - Oct. 19** Parent Mtg. 1st Communion & Reconciliation, 7pm @ Parish Hall
 - Oct. 21** Parent Mtg. Grade 8 Confirmation 7pm @ Parish Hall
Gr 7 Art Trip at the Living Arts Centre
 - Oct. 22** Primary Div. Visual Arts Activity
Pizza Day
 - Oct. 25** Lunch Lady
Council Meeting @ 6:30 pm
 - Oct. 26** Picture Re-take day
Gr 8 Confirmation Retreat at Loyola Parish
 - Oct. 28** Cross Country Board Meet at Erindale Park
 - Oct. 29** K-3 Assembly with Ms. Seyarto @ 9am
4-8 Assembly with Mrs. Paquin and Ms. Moore, @ 10:30am
Pizza day
 - Oct. 31** Halloween

November Dates to Remember

- Nov. 1** All Saints Day
Lunch Lady
- Nov. 2** Progress Reports sent home
Gr 7 Hep B and Gr 8 Girls HPV Vaccine
- Nov. 4** Parent Teacher Interviews
- Nov. 5** Black Creek Trip for Grade 3
Pizza Day
- Nov. 7** Daylight Savings Ends
- Nov. 8** Lunch Lady
- Nov. 11** Remembrance Day
- Nov. 12** Grade 7 & 8 - Crack Pot Studio in class
Pizza Day
- Nov. 15** Lunch Lady
- Nov.17** Silvercreek, Ms. Borcsok's class
- Nov.19** Assembly - Mrs. Keddy's class.
Pizza Day
- Nov. 22** Lunch Lady
- Nov.26** **P/A day— No School for students**
- Nov. 28** Advent Begins