



St. Mark School

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December 2010

PRINCIPAL
C. GALE

SECRETARY
M. DZIEDZIC

SCHOOL COUNCIL CHAIR
A. WONG

SUPERINTENDENT
C. SAYTAR
(905) 890-1221

PASTOR –
Msgr. J. Shiels
Fr. Joe Gorman
(905) 820-1444

TRUSTEE WARDS 2 & 8
SHARON HOBIN
(905) 301-1210
FAX (905) 569-9052
Sharon.hobin@dpcdsb.org

ST MARK SCHOOL
3675 SAWMILL VALLEY
MISSISSAUGA, ON
L5L 2Z5

PHONE
(905) 820-9477

ATTENDANCE
(905) 820-9477
Press # 1
FAX: (905) 820-1229

School Website:
www.dpcdsb.org/schools/MARKE



Christmas Prayer

**May this joyous season find all of your days
Spent in abundance in so many ways -
May LOVE be your blanket on a cold winter's day
May PEACE be your alter as you kneel down to pray.
May HOPE be your fire, a warmth to your feet,
And may you find JOY with each friend that you meet.
May HAPPINESS follow wherever you go -
And CONTENTMENT bring sunshine, to melt
winter's snow.
These blessings I wish you, on this Christmas Day -
And may they go with you, forever, I pray.**

Principal's Message

December is upon us! It is a very special and sacred month. During this busy Advent season, let us keep in mind the needs of everyone in our community, as we focus on family and Christmas traditions. Christmas Day is a day to celebrate and enjoy family and friends. I look forward to being in Boston with my family! The warmth of the season, as well as the hustle and bustle, has begun. Let us all remember the true meaning of Christmas and reflect on the spirit of giving. I hope you will join us for our assemblies and Christmas Concert. We are pleased to highlight the talents of your children

We will be supporting the St. Ignatius Loyola Parish—St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Drive. Please consider donating to help this worthy cause. When we return in the New Year, I hope we will all be rested and rejuvenated. Thank you for your continued support and I wish all of you a Happy and Holy Christmas!

*God Bless,
Connie Gale*

School Assembly & Sing-A-Long

Our school Choir, under the direction of Mrs. Legere, will be filling the halls with their enthusiastic voices over our Christmas season, and leading our school in song at the **Christmas Assembly on December 17 at 9:00 am**

Angel Tree

St. Mark School will once again be supporting the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Ignatius Loyola Church. You can come into the school and select a gift tag from our Angel Tree to purchase gifts for specific family members, or other items such as grocery store gift certificates, movie passes and pizza vouchers. If selecting a gift for a specific family member, please have it pre-wrapped with the gift tag attached to the gift. The Angel Tree will be located in the front foyer. Please have all gifts sent to the school by **Wednesday, December 15.**

PEOPLE OF HOPE... **HOPE**

- EXPECT THE BEST TO HAPPEN FOR EVERYONE
- HOLD ON TO THEIR DREAMS
- ALWAYS COUNT ON GOD TO HELP THEM IN TOUGH SITUATIONS
- TRUST THAT THINGS WILL WORK OUT IN GOD'S WAY
- LOOK FOR SOMETHING GOOD TO COME OUT OF PROBLEMS
- ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO LIFE'S BLESSINGS
- SET AND STICK TO THEIR OWN GOALS



Virtues Program

This month we celebrate the Virtue of Hope. We believe that God comes to us as a real human who can show us the way of life. We understand that both the world and its people are from God and so are essentially good. God helps us to keep on working for a more peaceful world even when we feel discouraged.

People of Hope...keep up a positive attitude, can bounce back from tough situations, set and stick to

their **goals**. Furthermore, God has given us this Advent season year after year in order to focus our minds and our hearts on the good all around us,.

Advent Mass

Please join us at our **Advent Mass and Enrolment Ceremony for 1st Reconciliation on Tuesday, December 7 at 10:30 am.** Our school choir will be singing under the direction of Mrs. Legere.



Primary Christmas Concert: Carriers of The Light

Parents are invited to join us for the Primary Christmas concert, performed by Grades 1—3. The performance is entitled "*Carriers of the Light*". Teachers are preparing their students for this performance. The Primary concert has a dress rehearsal on **December 14 at 9:15 am** and on **December 15** concert performance at **7:00 pm.**

A \$5.00 family donation towards ShareLife will be accepted at the door.

Mrs. Periera's Junior and Senior Kindergarten classes will be performing together during the day on **December 10 at 10:00 am in the gym** followed by a light reception back in the kindergarten classroom.

We look forward to entertaining you!

Spirit Week—ShareLife

Last month's Spirit Week for ShareLife the school raised **\$433.65.** Students had the opportunity to dress up as a twin, wear their pj's to school, wacky hair/hat day, express their culture and wear their favourite sports team jerseys. At the end of the week with their \$2.00 donation the students received a bag of popcorn. Thank you to Mrs. Mahoney and Mrs. Lein for coordinating and popping the popcorn.

Dry Feet, Dry Clothing & Staying in for Recess

Colder weather is upon us! Please ensure that your child comes to school prepared to participate in all activities, including outdoor recess. All children should have hats, scarves, gloves, warm coats and boots,. As the rainy season gives way to slush and snow, all students are reminded to bring an extra pair of shoes to wear indoors during the winter months. Fire regulations dictate that all students must have footwear on at all times.

In anticipation of a cold and snow winter, we would also like to advise parents of children in the primary grades to send an extra set of clothes (track pants, sweatshirts, socks and underwear) to school. These clothes will be kept at the school to be used when the child is wet from playing in the snow.

In colder weather we often receive requests to allow children to remain indoors when they have a cold, flu, etc. Please note that we cannot comply, as we have neither the facilities nor the staff to supervise these students. If you feel your child is not well enough to go outside, it would be best for your keep your child at home. **REMEMBER: Health officials indicate that fresh air is beneficial as long as students are dressed appropriately.**

On extremely cold days, when the wind-chill factor exceeds minus 20C, we limit the amount of time that students spend outdoors, We obtain our weather information from the Environment Canada Weather Information Line and follow School Board guidelines,. With the exception of these occasions, all children will go out for recess and the lunch breaks.



Snowballs

Just a reminder...Please emphasize to your children that School/Board policy **DOES NOT ALLOW THROWING SNOWBALLS, KICKING SNOW, OR 'SNOWING' OTHERS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY.**

Please remind your children of the seriousness of these activities and the possible danger, for those hit.

Bus Cancellations/School Closing

During the winter months inclement weather may cause disruption of bus transportation and regular school operations. **A decision to cancel school transportation and/or to close schools is usually made by 6:00 am and will be announced on the local and radio stations. (please see insert in newsletter for further info.)**

Kindergarten Registration

JK/SK Registration Monday, February 7, 2011
7:00-9:00 pm

Snow Date Only: Tues. Feb. 8/2011 7:00-9:00 pm

JK/SK Registration Wednesday, Thursday &
Friday, Feb 9-11, 2011
9:00-11:00 am 1:00-3:00 pm

There will be an information session for parents of children with special needs such as vision, hearing, physical/medical, developmental or autism who are entering JK, SK or the Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program in September 2011. The information session will be held at the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board—Catholic Education Centre Room 301 on January 26, 2011 from 7:00-8:30 pm.



November Assembly

Thank you to the Grade 5 class of Mrs. Ceccomancini who hosted the Remembrance Day Assembly and to Ms. Jackson and her singing group that provided the music.



Christmas Holidays

Last day of classes for staff and students will be on **Friday, December 17**. The Christmas Break will be from **December 20—December 31, 2010 inclusive**. Classes resume on **Monday, January 3, 2011**.

Peel Health

Peel Public Health will be offering Meningitis immunization for Grade 7 students and HPV (Dose #2) for Grade 8 female students during the 2010/2011 school year. Immunization against Meningitis/HPV continues to be voluntary and a parent/legal guardian must authorize immunization for all students under the age of 14 years. Our date of school clinic is on **Thursday, January 27, 2011.**

French Immersion In Dufferin-Peel

The Dufferin-Peel CDSB would like to find out if parents/guardians of children in **Junior and Senior Kindergarten** are interested in accessing French Immersion at existing and/or possible additional sites when their children start Grade 1. The board is asking parents/guardians of children in **Junior and Senior Kindergarten** to complete an on-line survey. Please go to Dufferin-Peel's website (www.dpcdsb.org) and click on the French Immersion link on or before **December 17.**

School Council

Our next school council meeting is on **Monday, December 13 at 7:00 pm.** Please join us after the meeting for our Christmas Social.

Fundraising Update

We have completed our Chocolate fundraiser. The School Council's profit is \$6,895.90. Thank you to all the students and parents who supported our fundraiser. The school will benefit greatly from your generous donations. The funds will be used to complete the Peace Garden in front of the school, support artists-in-the school, Graduation, School Liturgy/Masses, Classroom Supplies, Opera Workshop for Intermediate students and Ballroom Dancing for Primary and Junior students.

Dates to Remember

- Dec. 1** Loyola Gr 9 Option Sheet Presentation
- Dec. 2** Loretta Penny, Global Village Presentation 9:00 am and 1:00 pm
- Dec. 3** Pizza Day, Gr 2 Trip—Bradley House
- Dec. 6** Lunch Lady
Nutcracker, Grade 3 classes
- Dec. 7** Advent Mass
First Reconciliation Enrollment at 10:30 am
- Dec. 8** **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**
Junior Division, Beauty and the Beast
Pantomime—Elgin Theatre
- Dec.10** Pizza Day, **Kindergarten Christmas Concert @ 10:00 am**
- Dec.13** Lunch Lady, School Council and Christmas Social @ 7:00 pm
Erin Mills Lodge, Mrs. Paquin's class
- Dec 14** **Primary Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal @ 9:15 am**
See/Hear Screening @ 12:30 pm
- Dec. 15** **Primary Christmas Concert @ 7:00 pm**
St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Baskets
See/Hear Screening
- Dec.17** Pizza Day, Assembly @ 9:00 am Mrs. Legere's St. Mark Chorus
- Dec. 20- Dec. 31, No School, Christmas Vacation**
- Jan. 3** **First day back to school**
- Jan. 6** **Epiphany**
- Jan. 7** Director's Cut Gr 6/7 "Rock, Paper Scissors"
- Jan. 10** Director's Cut Gr 3/4 "Rock, Paper Scissors"
- Jan. 11** Director's Cut Gr 4 "Rock, Paper Scissors"
- Jan. 12** Director's Cut Gr 5 "Rock, Paper Scissors"
Gr 5 Extended French Parent Info Mtg.
At 7:00 pm—St. Christopher School
- Jan. 13** Director's Cut Gr 6 "Rock, Paper Scissors"
Loyola Curriculum Night @ 7:00 pm
French Immersion Gr 1 Parent Info Mtg @ 7:00—St. Gertrude School
- Jan. 14** **PA Day—No School for Students**
- Jan. 17** **Term 2 Begins**
Director's Cut Gr 5/6 "Documentaries"
- Jan. 21** Gr 7 & 8 Dance Workshop—gym
- Jan. 24** Erin Mills Lodge—Mrs. Paquin's Gr 5/6
- Jan. 25** Gr 9 Reg/Option Sheets Due—Loyola S.S.
- Jan. 26** Parent Info Mtg. for special needs JK, SK
Students entering Sept 2011 @ CEC 7:00 pm
- Jan. 27** Gr 7 Meningitis & Gr 8 Girls HPV
- Jan. 28** Assembly—Sciicluna's Gr 8 Class
- Feb. 1** Term 1 Reports Sent Home
- Feb. 2** **1st Reconciliation Loyola Parish @ 7:00 pm**
- Feb. 3** Term 1 Interviews 7:00-9:00 pm
- Feb. 4** **PA Day—Reporting to Parents No school**
- Feb 7-11** **Kindergarten Registration**
- Feb. 8** Gr 4 Silvercreek Trip—Mrs. Johnson
- Feb. 21** **Family Day—No School**
- Feb. 25** Assembly Gr 1/2 Ms. Seyarto's Class @ 9:00 am
Assembly Ms. Paquin/Ms. Moore Class @ 10:15 am