

Dufferin-Peel CDSB—Catholic School Climate Survey

"Love one another as I have loved you"
John 15:12

The Ont. Ministry of Education focus on Safe Schools, Positive School Climates and its equity and Inclusive Education Strategy require that all schools across the province implement a School Climate Survey for students every two years. Dufferin-Peel CDSB finds its direction and educational mission in the teachings of Christ as revealed through Scripture, Church Tradition, and Church Teaching. The board and its school communities are comprised of a faith-centred Eucharistic people who strive to form communities of learning that are Christ-centred, inclusive and reflective of a culture that respects and cherishes life for all. As a Catholic school board, Dufferin-Peel has applied its distinctive Catholic lens to the Ministry of Education's pillar: Community, Culture and Caring. A key part of this pillar, intended to meet provincial requirements, is the development and implementation of the Catholic Community Culture and Caring School Climate Survey.

Beginning in March 2011, and in support of the board's Safe, Caring, Inclusive and Health School Communities initiative, Dufferin-Peel will be administering its Catholic Community Culture and Caring School Climate Survey to students, as appropriate, in grades 4 to 12. The data from this survey will allow our school to understand the school climate from the students' perspectives.

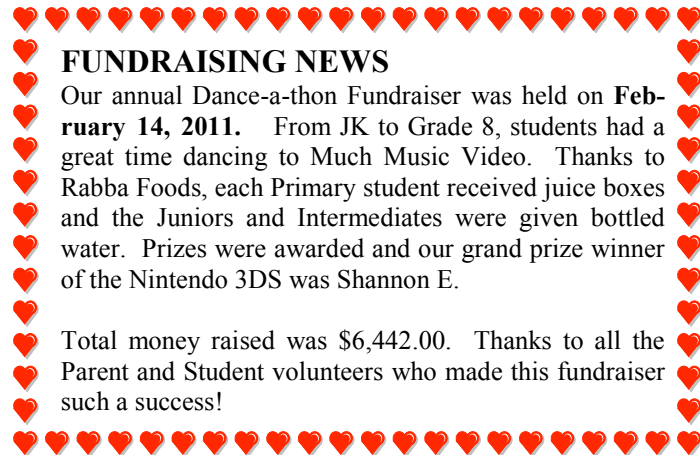
The survey is confidential and anonymous in nature. The estimated time required to complete the survey is approximately 20—30 minutes; for students who may require additional time, it will be provided accordingly. The survey is computer-based and contains questions about students' general information (i.e., school name, grade, gender, years at the school), general safety and inclusion (i.e., feeling safe, concerns, feeling welcome and included, etc.), general school climate (i.e., friendly, accessible, inclusive, etc.), and will provide opportunities to identify bullying concerns and/or pro-active supports in bullying prevention.

We invite you to communicate any questions, concerns and/or supportive comments to us at the school in order that our community may continue to work together to address any issues.

If you have any additional questions, concerns, or general comments, please feel free to discuss these with your son/daughter's teacher(s) and/or the school administrative team.

Council Meeting

Please come out and support our School Council at our meetings. Out next council meeting will be on **Monday, May 2, 2011, in the school library, at 6:30 pm.** Please plan to attend the meeting.



FUNDRAISING NEWS

Our annual Dance-a-thon Fundraiser was held on **February 14, 2011.** From JK to Grade 8, students had a great time dancing to Much Music Video. Thanks to Rabba Foods, each Primary student received juice boxes and the Juniors and Intermediates were given bottled water. Prizes were awarded and our grand prize winner of the Nintendo 3DS was Shannon E.

Total money raised was \$6,442.00. Thanks to all the Parent and Student volunteers who made this fundraiser such a success!

Dates to Remember

- Mar 4 Pizza Day, Mrs. Keddy's Gr 8's Can. Food for Children Warehouse
- Mar 7 Lunch Lady Mrs. Paquin's Erin Mills Lodge
- Mar 8 Primary Pancake Breakfast Shrove Tuesday
- Mar 9 Ash Wednesday Liturgy @ 10:30 am**
- Mar 11 Pizza Day
- Mar 14-18 March Break—No School for Students**
- Mar 13 Daylight Savings Begins
- Mar 20 First Day of Spring
- Mar 21 Lunch Lady
- Mar 25 Pizza Day Assembly Ramelli/Kuta and Mrs. Malison Mrs. Keddy's Gr 7 Class—Can. Food For Children Warehouse
- Mar 28 Lunch Lady
- Mar 30 Lenten Mass @ 10:30 am School Gym
- Apr 1 Pizza Day
- Apr 5 Mississauga South Chess Tournament—St. Mark School Gym
- Apr 7 Gr. 8 Confirmation Retreat @ St. Ignatius Loyola Parish
- Apr 17 Holy Week**
- Apr 22 Good Friday**
- Apr 25 Easter Monday**
- May 1 First Communion @ 2pm St. Ignatius Loyola Parish
- May 2 School Council Meeting @ 6:30 pm
- May 2-6 Catholic Education Week
- May 5 Joe Sax Day @ Iona Secondary School
- May 8 First Communion @ 2pm St. Ignatius Loyola Parish
- May 11 Confirmation Rehearsal @ 7pm St. Ignatius Loyola Parish
- May 15 Confirmation @ 2pm St. Ignatius Loyola Parish
- May 23 Victoria Day—No School For Students**
- May 25 Peel Health Gr 7 Hep B, Gr 8 Girls HPV
- May 30 EQAO begins for Grade 3 and Grade 6
- Jun 13 PA Day—No School for Students**
- Jun 30 Last day of school**



PRINCIPAL

C. GALE

SECRETARY

M. DZIEDZIC

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

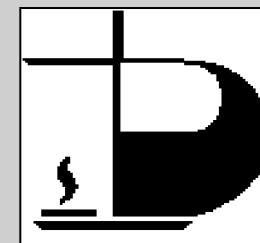
ATTENDANCE

(905) 820-9477
Press # 1

FAX

(905) 820-1229

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



St. Mark School

March 2011

Sharers of Life!

*What if Lent,
Instead of a gray time, a cold time,
Were a time of warmth,
A time prepare for spring?
What if we saw Lent as a positive time,
Instead of a gloomy, serious time?
Lent could be a time to see all
The little ways*

*That life reveals itself everywhere!
Sometimes these ways are hidden,*

*But they are always there,
Waiting for us to discover them
And bring them into the light.*

*And what if Lent,
Were a time of increasing joy,
Rather than a time of uneasiness?
Sharers of life,*

*That's what we are!
We become, more and more sharers of life!*



Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

Time is passing quickly as we enter the month of March. We are entering the Lenten season, a very sacred time in our Catholic faith. It is a time for reflection and sacrifice. We are called at this important time, to focus on others and how we can be of service. This season is a reminder that as Catholics we should do unto others as we would have them do unto us. Classes will also be involved in special prayers and activities during the Holy Week to enhance their understanding of the Holy Season of Lent.

March Break is just around the corner! I hope you will take time to enjoy the break and become rejuvenated and ready for the last term. Whether you are traveling or staying local, please be safe and have fun! Our monthly assemblies will take place on Friday, March 25 at 9:00 am and 10:30 am. I hope that parents will join us to celebrate all the good things that go on at St. Mark School.

Thank you to all the parents who volunteer in the school to make us a better school. A particular thank you to the School Council and to St. Ignatius Loyola Parish, Msgr. J. Shiels and Fr. J. Gorman who work very hard in partnership with staff to educate our children. Remember to, "Make Your Own sunshine".

God Bless,

Connie Gale

Shrove Tuesday, March 8

Mrs. Paquin's Grade 5/6 class will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast for the Primary Division Grades 1-3 on **Shrove Tuesday, March 8.**

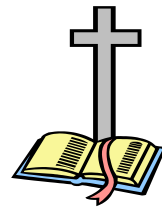
Students are asked to donate \$5.00 to participate in the breakfast and activities. Activities and games will be provided by the Grade 5/6 class. The money collected will be donated to ShareLife.

This initiative is part of the Learning Partnership Business Venture Mrs. Paquin and her business partner from BMO have organized for St. Mark. Thank you to Michael-Angelo's for their \$50.00 donation and to Food Basic for their donation of maple syrup.

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- **Ash Wednesday, March 9**
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- **Please join us for a liturgy in the gym at 10:30 am**
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- Praying. Fasting. Giving to the poor. These are three ways to help us love God and others more.
- When we pray, we can get closer to God. When we fast, we give up food or activities or privileges; fasting helps stop selfishness. When we give to the poor, we share the good things we have with those in need. The Church asks us to focus on all three activities during the season of Lent. The forty days of Lent help us to prepare for Easter, the greatest Sunday of all!
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Lenten Mass

Please join us for our Lenten Mass on **Wednesday, March 30** at **10:30 am** in the school gym.



Congratulations!

Our Grade 2 students who received the sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Ignatius Loyola Parish on Wednesday, February 23, 2011.

Grade 8 Confirmation Retreat

Grade 8 Confirmation Retreat will be held at St. Ignatius Loyola Parish on **Thursday, April 7, 2011** - All day.

Dance Club

The Dance Club comprised of grade 6 students will be performing at our March 25 assembly in honour of St. Patrick the patron saint of Ireland. Thank you to Ms. Jackson for choreographing the dance routine.

Steps to Faith our in-school band will also be providing music for the March 25 assembly.

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 **kindness**. God wants us to give generously to others around us.

A Kind person...

- Gives their time to help others
- Stands by their friends in time of need
- Shares with their friends
- Is polite and cares about other people's feelings



St. Mark Assembly—Friday, March 25

We hope you had an opportunity to attend our monthly school assemblies. This month, Ms. Ramelli's and Mrs. Kuta's classes will be hosting the Primary Assembly at 9:00 am for grades JK-3 and Mrs. Malison's class will take responsibility for organizing the Junior/Intermediate assembly for Gr 4-8 at 10:30 am. We hope that you will have an opportunity to join us.

Intermediate Boys' and Girls Basketball

In January, the St. Mark Intermediate Boys and Girls Basketball teams began its season with practices every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after school. Both teams showed their determination, strength, and sportsmanship while constantly improving their game and working together. Thank you to Mr. Scicluna for coaching both teams and to the parents for their support and for volunteering to drive the students to their games.



Junior Hockey

The Junior Hockey team participated in this year's All Saints Junior Hockey Tournament, which was held on February 15-16. Throughout the event, the players demonstrated great sportsmanship and effort. The team came home with the Tier 3 championship from the tournament. The coaches, Mrs. Kennedy and Mr. Scicluna, would like to thank the parents for their support and thank the players for their behavior and effort.

Intermediate Hockey

The Intermediate hockey team participated in 4th Annual All Saints Hockey Tournament on January 19-20 2011. Throughout the day, the players demonstrated great sportsmanship and effort. The coaches, Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Scicluna would like to thank the parents for their support, and the players for their behavior and effort.

St. Mark Chorus

Our choir was invited to sing the Canadian National Anthem at the St. Michael's Majors hockey game on Wednesday, February 16. I would like to thank Mrs. Legere for leading the choir through their rehearsals and to Ms. Ramelli for coordinating the event. I have received many compliments from parents, and members from the community on how well the choir sang "O Canada".

Public Speaking Thrives at St. Mark!

Congratulations to the students at St. Mark that participated in the Mississauga South Family Speech Contest. You have conquered one of people's greatest fears: Public Speaking!

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|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Poetry Primary Winners: | Alyzza T. Kian D. Skyla F. |
| Primary Speech Winners: | Roisin G. Bryan D. Rachel R. |
| Junior Speech Winners: | Matthew C. Julia La. Maya S. |
| Intermediate Speech Winners: | Shannon E. Mia C. Michael F. |

Our Junior and Intermediate winners, Matthew C and Shannon E. represented St. Mark School at the Mississauga South Public Speaking contest held at St. Francis Of Assisi School on February 10. Congratulations to Matthew C. and Shannon E., they both placed 1st.

The Royal Canadian Legion Speech Contest in Streetsville was held on Sunday, February 27. The following are St. Mark School representatives:

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|---------------|--|
| Primary: | Roisin G. "What Would You Do?" |
| Junior: | Matthew C. "Canada—The True North Strong and Free" |
| Intermediate: | Shannon E. "The Promise of Hope" |

Congratulations to Roisin G. and Matthew C. who placed 1st at the contest

Geography Contest

Junior Division Participants: Jericson G., Jacob S., Ryan W., Chanel P., Conor G., Christian T., Marchall G., Jeremy J., Matthew E. and Ryan D.

Winners: Ryan D. Matthew E. Ryan W.

Intermediate Participants: Tehjae T., Matthew T., Shannon E., Joseph D., Emma J., Chris L., Adrian Y.

Winners: Shannon E., Tehjae T., Chris L., Adrian Y., Emma J.

Wet Clothing and Water in the Yard

With the melting of snow and rain, our school yard becomes very soggy and muddy. Especially for our younger students they tend to get wet socks and clothing. We will be contacting you to bring dry clothing, but this is often inconvenient for parents. You might consider leaving a change of clothes in your child's backpack.

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School

Board Summer Programs 2011

Elementary Summer School, Gr. 7 & 8

Monday July 4 to Friday July 22, 2011

8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Students recommended by the Principal

Bussing provided at home school pick up points

Deadline for applications:

June 3, 2011

- Good Shepherd
- Metropolitan Andrei
- St Faustina
- St Gertrude
- St Jerome
- St Raphael
- St Ursula

Summer Literacy Camp, Gr. SK to 6

Monday July 4 to Friday July 29, 2011

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Fee for Service Program

No transportation provided

Deadline for applications:

June 3, 2011

Mississauga:

- St Catherine of Siena
- St Alfred
- St Philip
- St Albert of Jerusalem
- St Bernard of Clairvaux
- St Gerard
- St Gregory

Brampton:

- Venerable Michael J. McGivney
- St Anne
- St Bonaventure
- St John Fisher
- Pauline Vanier

Orangeville:

- St Andrew

Bolton:

- St Nicholas

Website: <http://www.dpcdsb.org/CEC/CNE/>

Mississauga Chess Championship

Congratulations to the following students who placed 1st and 2nd at the Mississauga Chess Championship on Saturday, February 26 at St. Faustina Catholic School.

- Gr 8 Michael G. and Maurissius W.
- Gr 5 Zachary G
- Gr 1 Mason C.