



St. Mark School

May 2011

A Marian Prayer

*Elizabeth exclaimed with a loud cry,
"Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb."*

*And Mary said,
"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
He has looked with favour on the lowliest of
His servants.*

*Surely from now on all
generations will call me blessed for the Mighty One has
done great things for me and holy is His name."*



Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your condolences, cards and messages on the passing of my dad, Cornelius "Darby" Driscoll. He loved hearing stories of the wonderful community of St. Mark. May is a very special month, the month to honour Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Mary symbolizes the love we have for all of our mothers. When we celebrate Mother's Day on Sunday, May 8 we connect our mother's love to the love Mary has for Jesus. The rosary is a wonderful way to reaffirm our devotion to Mary. This month we also celebrate Catholic Education Week, beginning on May 2 through May 6. We have a variety of activities to show how special St. Mark School is as a Catholic School. We will culminate our activities with assemblies on Friday, May 27, 2011. Mrs. Pereira's JK/SK morning class will host the primary assembly "Crowning of Mary" and Mrs. Cecommancini's class will host the Junior/Intermediate assembly "Crowning of Mary." I hope you will all join us at the assemblies.

We also celebrate the sacrament of First Holy Communion for Grade 2 students on May 1 and 8 and the sacrament Confirmation with Grade 8 students on May 15. We worked with St. Ignatius Loyola Parish to prepare our students for this sacrament. Thank you to Monsignor Joseph Shiels and Fr. Joe Gorman for all your guidance. We will miss Fr. Joe Gorman as he leaves us in June to go to his new parish. The year is passing quickly and I really appreciate the partnership we have seen with home, school and parish. Continue to make your own sunshine and see the positive in each day.

God Bless,

Connie Gale

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Catholic Education Week May 1– May 6, 2011

*The Spirit of the Lord in upon me (Lk. 4:18)
...renew the face of the earth (Ps. 104:30)*

In our schools the Spirit of God is alive! When you next walk through the halls, stop and listen. You will hear the marvelous work of the students and staff reflecting God's graciousness in their learning and teaching. This year's Catholic Education Week (May 1-6) gives us an opportunity to shine a light on our schools with this theme: *Catholic Education: Celebrating the Spirit*. The scriptural text comes from St. Paul's letter to the Romans: "All who are led by the Spirit of God and children of God." (Romans 8:14) St. Luke also refers to the Spirit when he writes, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me." (Lk 4:18) The Psalmist calls on God's Spirit to renew the faces of the earth. During this Catholic Education Week, let's open our doors to God's Spirit in a special way and celebrate how the Spirit is renewing the face of our schools!

Five sub-themes, one for each of the five days of Catholic Education Week:

Monday: The Spirit of Hospitality
Tuesday: The Spirit of Understanding
Wednesday: The Spirit of Wisdom
Thursday: The Spirit of Justice
Friday: The Spirit of Gratitude


Catholic Education Week began on a Sunday to highlight the partnership that remains the foundation of Catholic education between our Catholic schools and local Catholic parishes. Throughout Catholic Education Week, we ask you to reflect on the significance of Catholic education's presence and contribution in our Church, and in our society. Thank you to members of our community, who participated in the celebrations and activities that marked the celebration of Catholic Education Week 2011 in our school.

May 3 Motivational Media Assembly
"Rise and Shine" and "Showtime Intermediate"
May 4 Ballroom Dancing Primary and Junior
10:00 am and 1:00 pm
May 5 JK/SK Song/Play Presentation
May 2—6 Book Fair—Library
May 16 Parent Council Mtg in the Library
@ 6:30pm. All parents welcome.
May 18 Int. Div. "Glee" @ 1:00 pm and
7:00 pm
May 27 Assembly Pereira/Cecomancini @
9:00 am and 10:30 am
"Crowning of Mary"

PEOPLE OF ACCEPTANCE...

- ARE FRIENDLY AND OPEN TO ALL GOD'S PEOPLE
- SENSE GOD'S PRESENCE IN PEOPLE OF ALL AGES, BELIEFS, GENDERS, CULTURES, AND/OR ABILITIES
- AVOID THE TEMPTATION TO JUDGE OR NEGATIVELY STEREOTYPE OTHERS
- LOOK FOR POSITIVE TRAITS IN OTHERS
- UNDERSTAND THERE MAY BE MORE THAN ONE WAY OF DOING THINGS
- STICK UP FOR THE DISADVANTAGED
- NOTICE WHO IS LEFT OUT AND INCLUDE THEM

ACCEPTANCE



Virtues

This month we will celebrate the virtue of Acceptance. One of the great wonders of the world we live in is that no two people are exactly alike. We may share biological families or national identity or cultural and ethnic identity but we are all very unique and distinct creations. God breaks the mold every time! And that is a fantastic fact of life!

An accepting person....

- Is friendly and open to all God's people, regardless of age, beliefs, gender, culture or ability
- Sees the positive traits in all people even if s/he disagrees with them
- Avoids judging or stereotyping others
- Understands that there may be more than one way to do things
- Sticks up for the 'underdog'

Sacramental Celebrations at St. Mark

Congratulations to our Grade 2 students who received their First Communion on May 1 and May 8. In preparation, they participated in a Retreat Day to enhance their understanding of the sacrament of Communion.



Our Grade 8 students will celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation on **Sunday, May 15**, at St. Ignatius Loyola Parish at 2:00 pm



Book Fair

Mrs. Tinkham is having a Scholastic Book Fair in the Library during the week of May 2 – May 6, 2011. Children will have an opportunity to browse and buy books during the school day.



EQAO Assessments Reminder

Again, we wanted to remind the parents of the dates for EQAO. It will be completed by students in Grade 3 and 6 on:

**May 30, May 31 and June 1
from 8:30 am—11:30 am**

Kindly avoid booking dental, doctor and other appointments during this time period in order to support maximum participation by all students, also please ensure that your child attends school on time. We want to provide optimum opportunity for success for all students.

Spring Food Bank Drive

Thank you to our students, parents and the St. Mark community for their support and generous donations to the Eden Bank Spring Food Drive.



Appropriate School Attire

Please refer to the St. Mark Student Code of Conduct for appropriate dress guidelines. Modesty is the most important element of the guideline. Teachers will be reviewing appropriate dress expectations with their classes. Ripped or torn clothing is not acceptable school attire. All students are reminded that the midriff must be covered at all times. While we want our students to be comfortable in the warmer weather we must also maintain a learning environment that reflects our primary focus.

Flip flops are not appropriate attire for the schoolyard, as they do not support the foot properly. We would ask parents to monitor the footwear selections of their children. Please ensure also that your child has protection from the sun by using sunscreen and wearing a hat on hot sunny days. **Water bottles are not allowed in the yard, but students are encouraged to have regular drinks.**

Jr. Girls Basketball

Congratulations to the Jr. Girls Basketball Team who made it to the semi-finals at the Family Tournament. All team members displayed outstanding effort and determination and represented St. Mark School proudly. Fantastic job girls and best wishes for next season!

Thank you to Mr. Les Storey for his coaching skills in getting the girls ready for the tournament and to Meaghan his daughter for her help.



Are you moving?

To help us with our planning for next September, it would be appreciated if you could let us know now, if you will be moving out of our school area over the summer. In the absence of accurate information, schools often have to reorganize classes in September due to unexpected fluctuations in population. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

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.

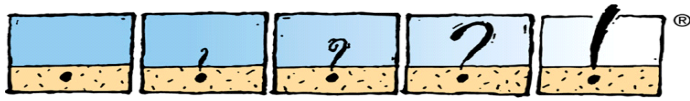
Assemblies at St. Mark

The Primary April Assembly was hosted by Ms. Colaco's Grade 3/4 class. In keeping with our April virtue of "Love", Chanela P. and Marlene S. wrote a song that the class performed. The class also choreographed their own dance steps to the song "Love Can Move Mountains". The Junior Assembly was hosted by Mrs. Johnson's Grade 4 class. They "wowed" us with their black light show.

Youth Faith Ambassador Rally

Steps to Faith along with Ms. Jackson provided the music for the Mississauga South Youth Faith Ambassador Rally. The rally was held at St. Joseph's S.S. where 25 schools were represented. Our school band was well received as there had not been live music for this event in the past. Great Job to the following band members:

Santina H., Rachel S., Olivia D., Meghan Mc., Michelle C., Jasmine P., Matthew M., and Morgan S.



THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
Champions of Public Education Across Canada

presents

WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN™

New to JK for the school year 2011-2012

JK Parents and caregivers are invited to attend a parent/child orientation workshop at St. Mark School on May 9 from 6:00 pm—7:00 p.m.

At the workshop, Kindergarten, early literacy teachers and community agency early years educators provide the parents and their newly registered pre-kindergarten children with the early literacy and numeracy resources in the **Welcome to Kindergarten Bag** and demonstrate strategies and activities for using the resources at home. Please join us with your new JK student on **Monday, May 9 at 6:00 pm.**

Mission statement: “To provide pre-school children and their families with the resources and experiences to begin formal education with a foundation in early learning that is nurtured within the home.”

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 staffs 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.

Erin Mills Tennis Club

Once, again, St. Mark is part of the Mills Tennis Club's Outreach Program. As part of our gym program, we are fortunate to have the opportunity of having five one-hour lessons with two tennis professionals for our Junior and Intermediate students. Rackets will be provided for the lessons. These lessons will be scheduled starting the third week of May. **This year we are asking for an adult volunteer to walk with the class to and from tennis. If you are available, please contact your child's classroom teacher or the office.**

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.

Dates to Remember

- May 1** First Communion @ 2:00 pm St. Ignatius Loyola
- May 2-5** ShareLife and Autism Awareness Fundraiser—Freezie Sales and “Silcone Bracelets”
- May 3** Motivational Media Presentation JK-8
- May 4** Ballroom Dance Competition Primary 9:30-11:30am
Ballroom Dance Competition Junior 1:00-3:00 pm
- May 5** JK/SK Kindergarten Presentation 10:30 am & 1:30 pm
- May 6** Board Chess Tournament, Pizza Day
- May 8** First Communion @ 2:00 pm St. Ignatius Loyola
- May 9** Welcome to Kindergarten 6:00—7:00 pm
Lunch Lady
- May 10** Gr 7 Diversity Conference @ St. Joseph S.S. @ 9:00 am- 12:30 pm
Gr 8 Confirmation Rehearsal @ 1:00 pm
St. Ignatius Loyola Parish
Dental “Tooth Fairy” will visit JK/SK AM and PM
- May 11** Confirmation Rehearsal with sponsors @ 6:30 pm St. Ignatius Loyola Parish
- May 13** Gr 7 & 8 Crack Pot Studio (in class)
Pizza Day
- May 15** Confirmation @ 2:00 pm St. Ignatius Loyola
- May 16** Parent Council Meeting @ 6:30 pm
Lunch Lady
- May 18** Intermediate Division “Glee” @ 1 pm & 7 pm
- May 23** Victoria Day—No School
- May 24** Mississauga South Jr. Div. Heads-Up Tournament @ St. Francis of Assisi 9:00 am—1:45 pm
- May 25** Peel Health Gr 8 Girls HPV and Gr 7 Hep B.
Mississauga South Int. Div. Heads-up Tournament @ St. Francis of Assisi 9:00 am—1:45 pm
- May 27** Assembly Mrs. Pereira/Mrs. Ceccomancini “Crowning of Mary”
K-3 @ 9:00 am and 4-8 @ 10:30 am
Pizza Day
- May 30, May 31 and June 1 EQAO Grades 3 and 6**
- Jun 6-8** Gr 8 Ottawa Trip
- Jun 6** Lunch Lady
Erin Mills Lodge—Mrs. Paquin Gr 5/6
- Jun 13** PA Day—No School for Students
- Jun 17** Mississauga South Track & Field @ St. Marcellinus
- Jun 21** Year-end Mass and Graduation Mass @ 10:30 am
St. Ignatius Loyola Parish
- Jun 23** Gr 8 Grad @ Le Dome 5:00 pm
- Jun 24** Assembly Mrs. Legere
- Jun 28** Term 2 Reports Sent Home
- Jun 30** Last Day of School