



St. Mark School

October 2011

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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. Thanks you to Mrs. Lein, Mrs. Mahoney and Ms. Jackson for coordination this year's food bank drive. 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 Monsignor Shiels for doing our Thanksgiving Mass in our gym. It was wonderful to see so many parents attend. We honoured 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

News From Our Choir Director, Mrs. Legere

“Rockin’ It” with Canada’s Premier Pink Floyd Tribute band, Floyd Factor. Congratulations to the following members and alumni of the **St. Mark Chorus**: Natasja D., Helena and Olivia D., Santina H., Emma and Audrey J., Chantal L., Rachel and Lisa S., who performed the song “Another Brick in the Wall” with Floyd Factor, on Thursday, July 23 at Ontario Place. The girls gave an outstanding performance and represented the school with great pride! Thank you to Mr. Andre Filippetti, parent at St. Mark and band member of Floyd Factor, for inviting the choir to perform with his band. It was an awesome experience!!

The St. Mark Chorus will continue to provide music for various school events, such as our recent Thanksgiving Mass. In the past years, the choir has participated in many school events and has won awards at choral venues such as Canada’s Wonderland Music Festival and Peel Music Festival. The Choir has also performed at many high profile events, such as “Joseph and The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat” at the Elgin Theatre, the National Anthem at two historical hockey games, with Michael Burgess at the closing of the Maple Leaf Gardens and with John McDermott at the opening game at the Air Canada Centre, a concert at the Living Arts Centre with Michael Burgess and a performance at Disney’s Magic Music Days at Epcot Centre in Orlando, Florida.

St. Mark Chorus 2011-2012

Our thanks to all the students who came out to audition for the Chorus. We look forward to many performances throughout the school year.

This year’s choristers are as follows:

Gr 4: Victoria, Angel, Stephanie, Maria, Angela, Ashlyn, Alissa, Lauren, Catherine, Sara, Joanie, Charlotte, Kristy, Bryan, Rachel, Daniel, Logan, Madeline, Matthew.

Gr 5: Vanessa, Melissa, Julia, Kimberly, Vanessa, Marlene, Chanela, Joshua, Adriana, Amanda, Christen.

Gr 6: Ryan, Anna, Jennifer, Chiara, Audrey, Christine, Flora,

Gr 7: Ruby, Samantha, Mercedes.

Gr 8: Olivia, Rachel, Joseph, Bryan, Matthew.

Active Children, Healthy Children

We are very fortunate at St. Mark, to have dedicated teachers inspiring our children in the classroom and with extra curricular activities. This fall’s activities include Flag Football, Cross Country and Choir. The Parent Council would like to recognize and thank all of our teachers.

Flag Football Schedule

Flag Football is being played on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 3:00 to 3:45 pm, thank you to Mr. Scicluna for coaching Flag Football. There are four teams this year. The following is the game schedule:

Game one: Steelers vs Packers

Bears vs. Cowboys

Game two: Steelers vs Bears

Packers vs Cowboys

Game three: Steelers vs Cowboys

Bears vs Packers

Game four: Steelers vs Packers

Cowboys vs Bears

Game five: Steelers vs Bears

Packers vs Cowboys

Game six: Steelers vs Cowboys

Packers vs Bears

Players:

Bears: Dalton, Jacob, Nathan, Matthew, Danylo, Chris.

Cowboys: Reed, Christian, Matthew, Lauchlan, Matthew, Rob, Sarah.

Packers: Michael, Jeremy, Michael, Jake, Aiden, Sonny, Rachel.

Steelers: Michael, Eric, Jake, Morgan, Matthew, Michael, Laura, Jada.

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 4 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 14**, at Etobicoke’s Centennial Park.

Participants:

Gr 4/5: Mateo, Marko, Jack, Luke, Luca, Matthew, Julia, Vanessa, Melisa, Melina, Kimberley, Carissa.

Gr 6: Luka, Obinna, Owen, Jordan, Oliver, Zachary, Mikaila, Laura, Alyssa, Allison, Lisa.

Gr 7: Nick, Matthew, Jakub, Jacob, Jeremy, Jada, Rachael, Helena, Natalie, Nicole.

Gr 8: Chris, Michael, Matthew, Matthew, Rachel, Santina, Michelle, Lidia.

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.

Thanksgiving Mass

We had our Thanksgiving Mass on Monday, October 3. We'd like to thank the teachers, Ms. Seyarto, Mrs. Ceccomancini and Mrs. Legere with the St. Mark Chorus who gave their time to make all the arrangements for this special mass. Grade 8 students receiving Confirmation this year, were given a cross to acknowledge their enrolment for this sacrament. Please remember that parents are always welcome to attend mass with the school. We extend our thanks to Mr. Terry Bergie, for all his help as well, and as always, our Monsignor Shiels for officiating.

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 and Sub Days at St. Mark

Pizza Days, provided by Panaga Pizza, will begin on **Friday, October 14**, and every Friday throughout the school year. The due date for all orders is on **Thursday, October 6**. This year, we are introducing Sub Wednesdays, provided by Subway. First sub day is Wednesday, October 12. Parent Council member, Cheryl Diab has worked diligently to ensure our pizza and sub choices are compliant with the new Board standards for healthy food alternatives. We thank her for her work.

School Band—Steps to Faith

Our School Band will be representing St. Mark at the Youth Faith Ambassador Rally to be held on Thurs. Oct. 13 at John Paul II Cultural Centre. Thank you to Mr. Kennedy and to Ms. Jackson for coordinating the students and for the practice sessions. Congratulations to this year's members: Meaghan, Olivia, Matthew, Jasmine, Kendra, Reed, Alyson, Michelle,

Santina, Michael, Morgan, Rachel, Sarah and Sofia.

First Communion/Reconciliation and Confirmation Registration for 2011-2012

St. Ignatius Loyola Parish First Communion and Reconciliation registration and parent meeting is on **Thursday, October 13 at 7:00 pm** in the parish hall. Confirmation registration and parent meeting is on **Wednesday, October 12 at 7:00 pm** in the parish hall.

Fall Fundraising News

September 28 was our kickoff for our Fall Fundraiser. Each child was given an Entertainment Coupon Book, with discounts worth over \$1,000. Each book is on sale for \$30.00. 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 computer lab. When your child brings in the money for a book sold, they receive a prize. Every book sold gets another prize. All students who bring their money in for books sold will receive their prize. **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 30**. This year we donated \$394 to the Terry Fox Foundation. Thank you to Mr. Kennedy for organizing this event.

EQAO Results

Below are the results of St. Mark School 2010-2011 EQAO Tests:

	Grade 3	Grade 6
Reading	80%	85%
Writing	80%	94%
Math	76%	75%

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

Ministry's Homework Help

The Ministry's Homework Help project provides free online support for students with regards to grades 7-10 math. Students can use their login information from last year or if they are new to the board or in Grade 7. They can create a new account using their OEN and date of birth and following the instructions on the site. You can access the link at <http://homeworkhelp.ilc.org>



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 28**. The Kindergarten to Grade 3 assembly will be hosted by Mrs. Pereira's JK/SK AM 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 Ms. Moore's Grade 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

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, and do not bring your dog onto school property, as many people are allergic or are afraid of dogs.

Loyola Catholic School Council— Monday, October 24 at 7:00 pm

Barry Shainbaum is a celebrated photographer, a broadcaster, an author and a true survivor. But first and foremost, Barry is a captivating inspirational speaker, addressing diverse audiences that span mental and emotional health groups to high-end corporations. Drawing from personal struggles he brings his listeners hope and inspiration, motivating them to overcome adversity and reach for their personal goals and dreams. From Nelson Mandela and Jane Goodall, Arun Gandhi and Shimon Peres, Barry has traveled the world to photograph and interview the world's most noted icons of hope and heroism, and he brings their empowering messages to your group.

COUNCIL CORNER

The following parents were acclaimed to represent the St. Mark community for the **2011-2012** school year.

Chair: Amelia Wong Treasurer: Cheryl Diab

Parent Reps: Lenny Ferreira
Patricia DeMelo
John Mrozek

Fundraising: Chair: Jane Cotnam

Parish/Community Rep: Mark Joseph

Teacher Rep: Rob Scicluna

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 17 at 6:30 pm in the school Library.** All are welcome!

Dates to Remember



- Oct. 5 Fundraising Turn in Day
- Oct. 6 Provincial Election Day
- Oct. 7 Gr. 8 @ Living Arts
- Oct. 10 **Thanksgiving Day-No School**
- Oct. 12 Gr. 7 Trip @ Living Arts Centre
Sub Lunch Day
Confirmation Parent Mtg. @ 7:00 pm
St. Ignatius Loyola Parish
- Oct. 13 Youth Faith Ambassador Rally
8:00 am-2:30 pm @ John Paul II Cultural Centre
"Mathletes" - Junior Division
1st Communion & Reconciliation, Parent Mtg.
7:00 pm @ Parish Hall
- Oct. 14 Grade 2, 3 Trip to Crawford Lake
Grade 1 Trip Springridge Farm
Cross Country Family Meet @ Centennial Park
Pizza Lunch Day
- Oct. 17 Picture Orders>Returns Due
Lunch Lady
Parent Council Meeting @ 6:30 pm
- Oct. 18 Gr. 7 & 8 Trip to Stratford, 2:00 pm
Performance of Twelfth Night
- Oct. 19 Sub Lunch Day
- Oct. 21 Pizza Lunch Day
- Oct. 24 Loyola Catholic School "Barry Shainbaum"
"Mental Health Presentation" @ 7:00 pm
- Oct. 25 Progress Reports sent home
Picture Re-take day
- Oct. 26 Sub Lunch Day
- Oct. 27 Parent teacher interviews, if needed
- Oct. 28 Assembly K-3 @ 9:00 am
Gr 4-8 @ 10:30 am, Pizza Lunch Day
- Oct. 31 Halloween
- Nov. 1 All Saints Day
Gr 7 Hep B & Gr 8 Girls HPV
- Nov. 11 Remembrance Day Assembly
- Nov. 18 **PA Day—No School for Students**