



Holy Family School

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Newsletter # 2

www.dpcdsb.org/HOFAM

October 2011

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Secretary: M. Proctor
Catholic School Council Chair: T. Frank / D. Lombardo
Superintendent: P. McMorrow 1-800-387-9501

Holy Family Church - Pastor: Father L. Leger
Associate Pastor: Fr. S. Holandez (905) 857-1938
Trustee: F. Di Cosola (905) 951-8898

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

O God of Love,
we thank you for what you have given us to
enjoy;
for healthy minds and bodies,
for love, for family, for friendship;
for every gift of happiness.
We praise you for those that help us
by their example and encouragement,
especially those who dedicate their lives
to the cause of peace and love.
Help us to make their sacrifice worthwhile
by the way we live our lives in loving others.
Rekindle in the hearts of all people
the longing for peace
and the courage to build it into our lives.

Amen.



Thanksgiving

As is the tradition here at Holy Family School, once again we have held our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. Thanksgiving is a very special time of the year when we, as a school community, collect non-perishable food items to help those who are in need from our own local community. All food collected will be dropped off at Caledon Community Services in time for the Thanksgiving long weekend. It is important for all of us to be grateful for all we have and to show this by acknowledging those less fortunate. We thank all who donated for their generosity.

Thanksgiving Mass

We will be celebrating our Thanksgiving mass on Friday, October 7th. Father Larry will be celebrating with us at Holy Family Church. Mass will be at 10:00 a.m. and as always, family and friends are most welcome to join us as we gather together as a Catholic community to celebrate our faith.

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Principal's Message



As we move into the month of October, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those parents who were able to take the time to come out to the school for our Barbecue/Open House. It was nice to see so many families in attendance. Thank you to our outstanding Parent Council and students who organized and volunteered their time to help make the evening a success. I would also like to thank Zehrs for their generosity and support with this event. Here at Holy Family School, we are always trying to find ways of further strengthening the important relationship between the home and the school. Open communication and dialogue are critical factors.

As the Thanksgiving weekend approaches it is appropriate that we take time to reflect and give thanks for the many gifts that God has placed in our lives. Let us not forget to appreciate:

- the many staff, students and parents involved in ensuring the school year started successfully;
- our volunteers, staff coaches/leaders and all other persons who give unselfishly of their time to children;
- our families and friends without whom there would be no true celebration.

Let us also remember to be thankful for all the little things in our lives. Often large issues consume us and the little pleasures and treasures are forgotten. It is in the little things that God's graces are often revealed. On behalf of the staff of Holy Family School, we wish everyone a truly wonderful Thanksgiving.

Holy Family School Council

Thank you to all the members of the 2010 - 2011 School Council. Your hard work and dedication to Holy Family School is truly appreciated by all the staff and students. We are very fortunate to have such a group of dedicated parents who work so hard and provide so many wonderful opportunities for all of the staff and students at Holy Family School. Our School Annual Report will be available soon and posted on the council bulletin board inside the school for your information.



We believe that each individual is a unique gift of life from God, and we believe in the innate spiritual goodness of all people.

Welcome New School Council

We would like to introduce our new Holy Family School Council for the 2011-2012 school year:

Chair:	T. Frank
Treasurer:	A. Sanitti-Gordon
Secretary:	L. Lombardo
Parish Representative:	M. Villella
OAPCE Representative:	J. Ieraci
Parent Representatives:	P. Remnant, A. Gnida, J. Keegan, M. Rizzi-Paquet, D. Lombardo, J. Ieraci
Teacher Representatives:	A. McEwen, F. Angelosante

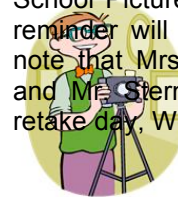
Progress Report/Interview Evening



The progress reports will be sent home on Tuesday, October 25th, 2011. Interviews, only as requested by the teacher or parent, will take place on Thursday, October 27th, 2011.

Picture Day

School Picture Day is on Wednesday, October 12th. A reminder will be sent home prior to that day. Please note that Mrs. McEwen's, Mrs. Kirec's, Mrs. Oliveira's and Mr. Stern's class photos will be taken on picture retake day, Wednesday, November 9th.



Pizza Days

Once again we will be holding pizza lunches on a weekly basis. Our first pizza day was on Thursday, October 6th. As in previous years, pizza will be provided by Pizza Pizza.



Halloween Dance-A-Thon

On Monday, October 31st our School Council will be holding a Halloween Dance-A-Thon for all grades. As in previous years we are asking your support in ensuring that costumes either worn or brought to school are appropriate.



For safety reasons, masks are not to be brought or worn at school. The length of some costumes can also be an issue. If they are too long they may cause your child to trip on the stairs. We ask that students refrain from wearing costumes that are frightening or inappropriate in a school setting. Younger children frighten easily and we want this day to be a happy day for them.



Students will receive a special treat on this day. Please note that further information on the Dance-A-Thon will follow shortly.

Attendance Verification

Daily attendance and punctuality are very important. If your child is unable to attend school, please inform the school. Messages can be left on the school attendance line at any time. Your child's safe arrival to school is imperative and must be verified by the office. Our school's attendance number is **905-857-1300 x 1**.

Punctuality

It is important that your child be on time for school on a regular basis. Please be aware that late arrivals have a direct impact on learning in school and they also disrupt the classroom teacher during lessons. Please encourage and assist your child in recognizing that punctuality is a responsibility which all students should be developing. Students *must* report to the office and obtain a late slip if they are late.

Use of the School Phone



Again, we request that parents make arrangements with your children prior to coming to school about home time arrangements. We will also be discouraging the use of the phone to call home for forgotten items.

School Hours & Supervision

Supervision in the school yard begins at 9:00 a.m. Please do not drop your children off at school prior to that time as they will not be supervised. The school day ends at 3:45 p.m. **Parents are asked to ensure that arrangements are made for their children to leave school at 3:45 p.m.** Students are not supervised after 3:45 p.m. Please do not rely on the school to supervise children after 3:45 p.m. The exception to this is, of course, our students who are bussed. The doors of Holy Family School are open to parents who wish to visit or confer with staff, however, **an appointment is necessary**, as the classroom teacher's first responsibility is teaching the class during regular school hours. Please report to the office upon entering the school. Thank you for your support in keeping classroom interruptions to a minimum and maintaining a safe environment for our students.

Toonie for Terry Update

A big thank you to parents, students and staff for your active involvement in making Holy Family School's Terry Fox fundraising effort on Friday, September 23rd such a great success! With your generous donations, we raised over \$500 in our fight against cancer.



World Teacher Day – October 5

In September the board passed a proclamation recognizing World Teachers' Day and thanked teachers for their dedication and commitment to students and Catholic education. Over 100 countries around the world celebrate United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Teacher's Day. We salute and say thank you to the teaching and support staff at Holy Family School for your on-going commitment to student learning.

No Dogs On School Property

A reminder to parents, there should be no dogs on school property, even if they are on a leash.

News from the Holy Family Eco Team

The 2011 - 2012 Eco Team has been formed with new members still joining! We have had several exciting events already this school year including getting out into the yard for two yard clean-ups; weeding the front gardens (which have added beauty thanks to the efforts of the Mihevc family and Rick Pehlemann, one of our night time custodians); being featured in the Caledon Enterprise for our Eco School Silver Status achievement, with thanks to Mr. Read, who was instrumental in helping us make the grade; and helping the annual "Caledon Apple Crunch" event become a reality in our school, by washing, counting and bagging the locally grown apples and by helping with the countdown!



Still, we have much more on our agenda this year as we hope to retain our Silver status or, potentially, move on to GOLD, as we improve our participation in activities begun last year, and introduce new ones. In fact, we have registered in an Ontario wide initiative that begins in just two weeks called the Waste Free Lunch Challenge, from October 17th to the 21st. Now is a great time to recall our efforts of last year: the Boomerang Lunch and the Litterless Lunch. A Boomerang Lunch is one that is packed with a zip-lock bag (any bag will do, however) in order to hold items to be returned home: unfinished or uneaten edibles would



be returned home for composting; recyclable items (such as yogurt cups or tetra pack drinks) could be recycled; even garbage can go into the baggies (ie. wrappers from yogurt tubes, cheese string or foot long fruit-flavoured snacks, etc). Better still, families are encouraged to use Litterless Lunch

containers including re-usable water bottles, thermoses, sandwich boxes and snack boxes, creating no garbage but still having a place to put unfinished foods for composting at home.

We wish the Holy Family School community the best of luck in meeting the Waste Free Lunch Challenge! For more information please visit www.wastefreelunch.com. Stay tuned for more Eco-news to come and please note, parent volunteers are welcome to join us on Wednesday's at lunch recess (12:35 – 1:15 p.m.), in Room 104.

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!



As we continue in our effort to be a more Green school, we encourage our parents to access our monthly newsletters by visiting our school website: <http://www.dpcdsb.org/HOFAM> and view all our newsletters there. All information can be retrieved from previous months in case an event or date has been forgotten. A monthly email to your In-box will be sent to let you know the newsletter has been posted.

Also, if you would like to be included on our email list for newsletters and other important notices, please make sure you have provided the office with your signed consent and current email address. Please note that this applies even if you received email correspondence last year from the school.

Medication at School

If medication must be administered at school, signed request/authorization forms from the parents and the supervising physician must be obtained whenever a prescription is initiated or changed. Please do not send medication with your child to school without the proper authorization. These forms are available in the office.

Lockdown/Hold and Secure Procedure/Fire Drills

Throughout the year school personnel review safety procedures with the students on a number of topics. Emergency evacuation/fire drills are conducted to ensure that everyone is aware of the procedures to follow in order to exit the building safely. Our School Board has also established Hold and Secure/lockdown procedures should a high risk incident involving weapons occur on school property, that could endanger the lives and/or the safety of students and/or staff. We have already practiced the *Emergency Lockdown Procedures and Fire evacuation* with the students. We will continue to review and practice Lockdown and Evacuation procedures throughout the school year.

Intermediate Co-Ed Baseball



It's that time of year again...baseball! On Thursday, October 13th, Intermediate boys' and girls' from Holy Family are competing in fall tournament. Coached by Mr. White and Mr. Stern, this year's team looks great and they're ready to go! Wish us luck in the tournament.

Parish Connection Live On The Edge

Holy Family Parish is inviting all students in grades 6, 7 and 8 to join us at The Edge. The Edge is a youth group for students to interact with other youth their age in a supportive and Christian environment. From small group activities, skits, and more, students have the opportunity to learn more about their faith and have fun all at once! The EDGE meets every Friday evening at Holy Family Church from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. For more information please contact the parish.

Peer Mediators

We'll be starting our Peer Mediator program very soon here at Holy Family. As you know, Peer Mediators are a great help in the schoolyard at recesses. Here are some of the qualities of a Peer Mediator:

A Peer Mediator Is Someone Who...

- *Likes to help friends solve problems.*
- *Is a good listener.*
- *Has the patience to listen to people.*
- *Keeps information confidential.*
- *Gets along well with others.*
- *Cares about people's feelings.*
- *Helps calm angry kids.*
- *Can listen without taking sides.*

We encourage parents/guardians to have a conversation with their child about becoming a Peer Mediator here at Holy Family School. A meeting is planned in the near future and students from Grades 5 and 6 will be asked to apply to volunteer some time to their school community as a Peer Mediator.

Youth Faith Ambassadors

Our school year is in full swing now. We are so excited to have over 30 Youth Faith Ambassadors sign up this year. We are looking forward to a faith-filled year with visits to the Davis Center, retreats, liturgies and fundraising activities. Our first visit with our Grandfriends is on Friday, October 28th. Thank you to all who signed up.

Empathy

During the month of October, we will be focusing on empathy. We understand empathy to mean the ability to identify with and feel other people's concern. An empathetic person believes that we all share one Spirit; that we are many parts of one body because we are all created in the image and likeness of God.

An empathetic person:

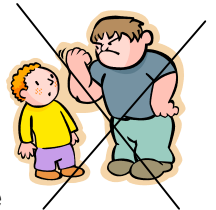
- *Listens attentively*
- *Watches people's body language*
- *Notices and responds when someone is upset*
- *Can name her/his feelings*
- *Can see a situation from another person's point of view*

Knows that different people may feel differently about the same thing.

Our next Virtues assembly will be held on Thursday, October 20th.

Bullying Prevention Corner

In October the classroom lesson focuses on the definition of bullying. The key message is "*bullying is not acceptable*". Through various activities the students will understand the vast array of behaviours that can be bullying (physical, verbal, social) and explore the emotional impact of those behaviours on others. Students develop the ability to understand and apply the definition of bullying through constant exposure, repeated use and consistency. Using the same definition of bullying throughout the school and at home allows both students and adults to more effectively prevent and deal with bullying situations.



- **Bullying is:** being mean to others, on purpose, to hurt them or their feelings.
- **Bullying Behaviour:** is intended to hurt, is repeated and involves unequal power and control.

Tips for Parents:

- review the definition of bullying with your child/ren
- talk with younger children about inside and outside hurts
- talk with older children about intimidation, gossip, rumors and cyber bullying
- encourage children to share their feelings about bullying behaviours that they have experienced, witnessed or engaged in.



From all the Staff
at Holy Family School
we wish all of our students and their
families a very happy and blessed
Thanksgiving.

Upcoming Dates



Mon. Oct. 10	Thanksgiving Day --School is closed
Wed. Oct. 12	School Picture Day
Thurs. Oct. 13	PIZZA DAY
Thurs. Oct. 13	Intermediate Baseball Tournament
Fri. Oct. 14	Skating -- Grs. 1 & 2
Mon. Oct. 17	ELP to Albion Hills
Mon. Oct. 17- Fri. Oct. 21	Waste-Free Lunch Week Challenge
Wed. Oct. 19	Family of Schools Cross Country Meet @ Monora Park – Orangeville
Wed. Oct. 19	Bus Driver Appreciation Day
Thurs. Oct. 20	PIZZA DAY
Fri. Oct. 21	Skating – Grs. 3 & 4
Tues. Oct. 25	Board Cross Country Meet @ Heart Lake Conservation Area
Tues. Oct. 25	Progress Reports sent home
Wed. Oct. 26	Simon Weisenthal Ctr – Grs. 7 & 8
Thurs. Oct. 27	Parent/Teacher Interviews
Thurs. Oct. 27	PIZZA DAY
Fri. Oct. 28	Skating -- Grs. 5 & 6
Fri. Oct. 28	YFA visit with Grandriends
Mon. Oct. 31	Halloween Dance-A-Thon
Tues. Nov. 1	All Saints Day
Wed. Nov. 2	All Souls Day
Thurs. Nov 3	PIZZA DAY
Fri. Nov. 4	Skating – Grs. 7 & 8
Wed. Nov. 9	Picture Retake Day
Thurs. Nov. 10	PIZZA DAY
Fri. Nov. 11	Remembrance Day
Fri., Nov. 11	Skating – Grs. 1 & 2
Thurs. Nov. 17	PIZZA DAY
Fri., Nov. 18	P.D. Day – No School
Thurs. Nov. 24	PIZZA DAY
Fri. Nov. 25	Skating – Grs. 3 & 4
Thurs. Dec. 1	PIZZA DAY
Fri. Dec. 2	Skating – Grs. 5 & 6
Thurs. Dec. 8	PIZZA DAY
Fri. Dec. 9	Skating – Grs. 7 & 8
Thurs. Dec. 15	PIZZA DAY
Fri. Dec. 16	Skating – Grs. 1 & 2
Thurs. Dec. 22	PIZZA DAY
Fri. Dec. 23	Last day of school before Christmas