



Holy Family School

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Newsletter # 3

www.dpcdsb.org/HOFAM

November 2011

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A Prayer of Remembrance

Loving God,
source of all consolation,
by the death and resurrection of Jesus
we hope for eternal life.
We remember our loved ones
who have already died,
and we pray
that they will live with you forever.
We remember them with the hope of being
reunited with them,
for we know that
death is not the last word.
For their lives
and for all the women and men,
whose faith has strengthened the Church
throughout the ages, we give thanks.
May your Holy Spirit keep us faithful
to our own baptismal promises,
all the days of our lives.



Principal's Message

November is the month of Remembrance. For Catholics this is a special time of year, as we are reminded of the importance of the feasts of All Saints Day and All Souls Day.

All Saints Day, celebrated on November 1st, reminds our community of those men and women (both known and unknown) who have lived faithful lives in the Church. On this day we remember our saints in our prayers and ask for their prayers and intercessions. The historical roots of this celebration have to do with those martyrs who died in the early Church. Later, Pope Gregory VII declared this day to be the date we remember all who lived and died for their faith.

All Souls Day, November 2nd, is a Roman Catholic day of remembrance for friends and loved ones who have passed away. The day purposely follows All Saints Day in order to shift the focus from those in heaven to those in purgatory. It is celebrated with masses and festivities in honor of the dead. While the Feast of All Saints is a day to remember the glories of Heaven and those there, the Feast of All Souls reminds us of our obligations to live holy lives and that there will be purification of the souls of those destined for Heaven.

On November 11th, Canadians all across the country stop and honour those who have served, at home or overseas, in World War I, World War II, Korea and in all peace missions all around the world. Memorial services pay tribute to the more than 100,000 brave Canadians who were killed in the service of their country. The World War I Armistice was signed on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. As such, we stop and remember on the 11th hour of November 11th.

These three pivotal events help remind us as a Catholic school system of the importance of the celebration of our faith, and prepare us for the end of the liturgical year and the celebration of Advent, the beginning of our new liturgical year.

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Remembrance Day Assembly



On Friday, November 11th at 10:45 a.m., our annual Remembrance Day Assembly will be held in the school gym. We will recognize the achievements and sacrifices of Canadians at home and overseas during past wars and peacekeeping operations around the world. At 11:00 a.m. we will observe the customary moment of silence. As always, parents (and grandparents) are most welcome to attend this service.

Advent Mass

We will be celebrating our Advent Mass on Wednesday, December 7th, at 7:00 p.m. at Holy Family Church. We are looking forward to seeing many of our community parents and students, as we come together in preparation and celebration of the Eucharist.

Picture Retake Day



Picture retakes will take place on **Wednesday, November 9th**. If your child was away on Picture Day, they will have their individual pictures taken then. Mrs. McEwen's, Mrs. Kirec's, Mrs. Oliveira's and Mr. Stern's class photos will also be taken on this day.

If you were not satisfied with the pictures taken on Picture Day, you may have your child's pictures retaken. Please ensure you send a note requesting a retake.

Provincial Priorities & Faith Development Day

Friday, November 18th, 2011

Staff will be engaged in Professional Development. There will be no school for students on this day.

Catholic School Council



The next council meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 23rd, at 6:30 p.m. in the school library. As always, all parents are welcome to attend this open meeting.

School Council News

Halloween Monster Mash Dance-A-Thon



Monday, October 31st was a tremendous success as the entire school put on their Halloween best and danced the day away at our Halloween Monster Mash Dance-A-Thon.

Students were all decked out in their Halloween costumes and had lots of fun dancing to the many popular Halloween and pop tunes. Thanks goes out to our DJ team of Mr. and Mrs. Casiero.

Many of our students won fantastic prizes including one of our ELP students who won the grand prize of a Toshiba laptop.

We wish to thank the following companies for their generous donations to our school: Deli to Go, European BBQ Chicken, Atlantic Fish and Chips, Country Time Donuts, Mercato, Curves, Dr. Porretta's Bolton Family Dental Centre, and Spa Nails.

We would also like to recognize the parents who helped to make this event such a success. Thanks to Mrs. Remnant, Mrs. Gnida, Mrs. Lombardo, and Mrs. Frank.

First Communion and Confirmation

All parents who wish to prepare their child to celebrate First Communion **OR** Confirmation are to attend an information meeting. **IF** you missed the meetings in September and October, **please attend the Information Meeting on Thursday, November 3rd, 2011 from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. OR on Sunday, November 6th, 2011 from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.** This meeting is intended for parents. Please arrange for child care so you may participate fully in the meeting.



Book Fair



This year's Book Fair will be held from Monday, December 5th to Thursday, December 8th. Monday is viewing for students only. No purchases will be allowed on this day. Students and parents can purchase on Tuesday and Wednesday any time during the school day until 5:00 p.m. Purchases can also be made on Thursday until 8 p.m. Any parent interested in helping out at this year's fair is asked to contact Mr. Hill.

EQAO Results

The Grade 3 and 6, primary and junior division, EQAO assessments measure how well students have met the expectations in *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1 - 8*. The assessments test what students know and how well they apply their knowledge and skills in reading, writing and mathematics in everyday situations by requiring students to read and respond to passages, to write and to solve mathematical problems.

EQAO assessments combine performance-based activities, requiring written responses, with multiple-choice questions. The results are reported in terms of achievement from Levels 1 to 4, with level 3 as the standard, which represents a high level of achievement. The results for Holy Family School, stated as the % of students meeting the Provincial standard (Achieving Levels 3, 4) are as follows for the 2010-2011 assessment.

EQAO RESULTS – 2011

JUNIOR	HOLY FAMILY	BOARD	PROVINCE
Writing	92 %	78 %	73 %
Reading	87 %	77 %	74 %
Mathematics	89 %	62 %	58 %
PRIMARY	HOLY FAMILY	BOARD	PROVINCE
Writing	73 %	76 %	73 %
Reading	79 %	68 %	65 %
Mathematics	73 %	69 %	69 %

Classroom Interruptions

Once again we are asking for cooperation from parents in helping ensure that classroom interruptions are kept to a minimum. If you are delivering lunch or other item/s for your child, please ensure that your child is aware of this ahead of time so that we do not have to call the classroom and interrupt a lesson. Also, please remember to advise your child before school of any change to after school pick-up arrangements so that we do not have to call the classroom to pass along messages. Classroom interruptions affect the learning of all students. We understand that occasionally due to circumstances beyond your control that messages have to be passed along to your child/ren and will do so in those instances.

In the event that you have to pick up your child before the end of the day, please send a note or write a note in your child's agenda advising the teacher of this. This too will help to ensure that classroom interruptions are kept to a minimum and your child is prepared to leave on time. Please remember that your child must be signed out.



In order to ensure the safety for all of our children, please remember to come directly to the office for assistance.

Holy Name of Mary

On Thursday, November 24th, 2011 beginning at 7:00 p.m., Holy Name of Mary C.S.S. will be holding a Grade 9 Information & Registration Night for current Grade 8 students, and their parents, in the school's gymnasium. As a regional all girls' school, we would like to invite all eligible Region of Peel girls to apply to Holy Name of Mary. Please visit our website for further updates: www.dpcdsb.org/hnmry/guidance.

Registration packages will be available on our website by November 7th, 2011. Location: Holy Name of Mary C.S.S., 115 Glenvale Blvd., Brampton, Ontario. For further information please call 905-458-5541 X 64104.

St. Michael's Annual "SANTA PARADE PARTY"

Once again, St. Michael's Secondary School will be hosting their annual Christmas Party, immediately following the Bolton Santa Parade. Please join us on Saturday, December 3rd, 2011 at 12:30 p.m., for a fun-filled afternoon. The kids will participate in crafts, Christmas activities and a special guest will be visiting from the North Pole!! All families and friends are welcome!! Tickets go on sale on November 15th, 2011, and can be purchased at "DELI TO GO" for \$5 (5-301 Queen Street South in Bolton). The price includes a pizza lunch, drink, and dessert for each child. Parents are welcome to purchase a hot lunch from the cafeteria. Hope to see you on the third!!! Any questions please call Magda Grzesiuk or Patricia Fogarty at (905) 951-8935, extension 29341.



SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM: Please remember to phone in your child's absence: 905-857-1300 x 1. The answering machine is available 24 hours, 7 days a week. Messages are picked up regularly. Thank you.

Outdoor Playground Equipment

With the approach of winter the freezing temperatures increase the risk of injury to students playing on the outside play structure. Snow and ice-covered equipment increase slip and fall injuries and the frozen ground cover offers little protection to anyone who may slip and fall from the play structure. Effective Monday, October 31st, our playground structure will be “off-limits” until the spring when the warmer weather returns.



Winter Reminders

Our winter season is fast approaching! Please assist us in encouraging your children to dress appropriately for the cold weather. When on yard supervision, teachers monitor if children are wearing their boots, hats, gloves and scarves. We want our students to feel comfortable outdoors and not get chilled because of inappropriate winter dress. Except under unusual conditions, students will go outside during recess and lunch hour. The outdoor break allows for fresh air and exercise. Health officials indicate that the fresh air is good for children...not harmful, as long as students are dressed properly.

Weather



For our younger students, it would be helpful if parents were to label items of clothing with their child's name, so that each person can more easily locate his/her own clothing from the class coat rack area. Each term many items make their way to the “Lost and Found” bin and are never claimed. Labelled items can be returned more easily and mixed up items sorted out more readily. Please ensure that your child has an extra pair of shoes at school, to keep their feet dry and warm during wet and/or snowy weather. A change of clothing stored in a child's backpack, may also be a good idea for younger students.

Please listen to weather reports and ensure that children are dressed appropriately for the weather. Unfortunately, some of our children are coming to school feeling sick and with fevers. We do not have the facilities to care for sick children and sick children are not capable of concentrating on learning. Therefore, if your child complains of a sore stomach, sore throat or aches and pains, please do not send him/her to school. It is harmful to the health of your child and the rest of the school population. All children

who come to school are expected to participate in outdoor recreation at recesses. Generally speaking, if a child is well enough to come to school he/she is well enough to go outside at recesses and lunch hour. Exceptions may be made when a doctor's letter accompanies a request.

ECO-Schools

Greetings from the Eco Team,

We would like to thank all parents and guardians who helped to pack Waste Free Lunches for their children during Waste Reduction Week, Oct 17 – 21st, here at Holy Family School. All volunteers and members are thanked for helping out with announcements, the Assembly message, and especially the daily audits! Definitely an “A” team!!!

How did we do? Quite well; the results of our daily weigh-ins are posted on the Eco Team's bulletin board, across from the library. We were down by 15 kg for garbage and 12.25 kg for recycling, compared to an average week. Our goal, should we win one of the \$1000 prizes for participating successfully, is to create an organics collection system in the school in order to supply home grown compost to our poorly soiled gardens.



We have signed up with Terracycle, a company that collects non-recyclables and upcycles or recycles these items. We have joined two of their six “brigades,” collecting Kool-Aid jammers or Delmonte drink pouches, and collecting cookie wrappers & packaging. Because these items are not recyclable in our regular Blue Box collection, we encourage families to send such “garbage” in to the school, as Terracycle will be paying us 2 cents for every Kool-Aid/Delmonte pouch and 2 cents for every 14g of weight of cookie packaging. For more information, please visit their website <http://www.terracycle.ca>.

Our “Walk to School Wednesdays” have finally begun. If your child is a regular walker, be sure to have him/her come see Ms de Groot on a Wednesday morning to receive a “report card” or sticker. For every 10 walks (recorded daily by your child), s/he will receive a sticker. For every 50 walks (both on the way to and from school) your child will receive a pedometer or other fun prize.



B. de Groot, P. Read and The Team

Youth Faith Ambassadors

The Youth Faith Ambassadors have begun their visits to the Vera Davis Center. On October 28th, 2011 the students participated in an orientation during which they were able to see what it felt like to have some of the issues senior citizens have. Lynda and Helen from the Center brought over wheelchairs, ear plugs, thick glasses, gloves and other things that would allow our students to understand some of the challenges senior citizens encounter every day. They talked about plans for our visits. Our students are matched with "grandfriends" at the Center. Together, on our visits, they talk, do crafts, participate in athletic events, play Bingo and games, etc. It is very rewarding to see the bond that develops between our students and the senior citizens. Thank you to our students for leading the way and participating in this very important program.

Peer Mediators

Peer Mediators Are Back!

As you may know, the Peer Mediator program has consisted of student volunteers here at Holy Family School for a number of years. This year, our volunteer group comes from Grades 7 and 8.

You can tell who the Peer Mediators are by their orange and yellow safety vests and clipboards out in the schoolyard during lunch recess. They always work in pairs. Students know that if they are experiencing a conflict with another student they can go to the Peer Mediators to get help with their problem. Peer Mediators are students who...



- Like to help friends solve problems.
- Are good listeners.
- Have the patience to listen to people.
- Keep information confidential.
- Get along well with others.
- Care about people's feelings.
- Help calm angry kids.
- Can listen without taking sides

Our new group of volunteers certainly demonstrates all of these qualities and more. I'm really looking forward to working with them over this school year.



Cross Country



Mr. Buckley and Mr. Read would like to thank all of the students who came out and participated on the Cross Country Team this year. Everyone was very enthusiastic during our morning practices, with students helping each other and encouraging each other on.

We had 55 students represent Holy Family School at the Family Meet held at Monora Park in Orangeville. We had 13 students move onto the Board Meet held at Heart Lake Conservation Area in Brampton. Thank you to all the parents who helped out with the team, at the Family Meet and also to the parents who drove and helped at the Board Meet. See you again next year. Keep running! You all did a fantastic job! Thanks again team, from your coaches.

Holy Family Co-Ed Intermediate Softball

♪ Take me out to the ball game... ♪

Indeed! Thanks to some fantastic play making and great spirit, our team came within one run of winning this year's tournament! We couldn't have been prouder of such a great bunch of players. Way to go Holy Family! This year's team: Olivia G., David R., Hailey M., David M., Julia F., Matthew C., Liam M., Steve L., Noah S., Dana M., Angelo D., Christina F., and Anthony C.

Coaches: Mr. J. Stern & Mr. D. White



New Web Links on the Holy Family School Website

We have included some web links on our Holy Family School website. These include valuable information regarding many issues and strategies directly relating to the education of our students.

Parents are encouraged to explore suggested links with their children together. While the sites contain learning material, advertisements that sometimes accompany these sites cannot be controlled. Please be aware that we are not endorsing any websites or the strategies that

may be contained within. These links are simply a source of information that may be of value to assist in your child's learning.


Virtue of the Month-- Conscience

During the month of November, we will be focusing on the virtue of conscience. God has given us the ability to know the right and decent way to act and then to act that way. We trust that the common Spirit we share inspires us and guides us to make good decisions if we allow our conscience to be well formed. A person of *conscience* allows prayer and scripture to influence him/her.

PEOPLE OF CONSCIENCE...

- FEEL RIGHT AND WRONG AND PAY ATTENTION
- LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT INSIDE
- CHOOSE TO DO WHAT JESUS WOULD DO
- KNOW THAT FOLLOWERS OF JESUS WILL HAVE TO MAKE DIFFICULT CHOICES
- KEEP PROMISES EVEN WHEN TEMPTED TO GIVE UP
- CAN SEE HOW HIS/HER ACTIONS MAY HELP OR HURT OTHERS
- ADMIT THEIR SINS AND FEEL BADLY ABOUT POOR CHOICES
- SAY SORRY AND TRY TO MAKE UP FOR HURTFUL ACTIONS

CONSCIENCE



Bullying Prevention Initiative Corner

The key message for November is that "Everyone Needs to Learn How to Live in Peace." At Holy Family we strive to be peacekeepers. We need to learn how to resolve our conflicts safely and appropriately. It is okay to disagree about various things, but we must get our message across peacefully.

Tips for parents:

- help your child learn to recognize early signs that they are becoming agitated or upset
- create a calming space or reflection area in your home
- Learn the steps of the conflict resolution model the school uses and apply those at home

Dates to Remember



- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Wed. Nov. 9 | Picture Retake Day |
| Thurs. Nov. 10 | PIZZA DAY |
| Fri. Nov. 11 | Remembrance Day Assembly
—10:45 a.m. |
| Fri. Nov. 11 | Skating—Gr. 1 & 2 |
| Mon. Nov. 14 | Scientists in Schools -- ELP |
| Thurs. Nov. 17 | PIZZA DAY |
| Thurs. Nov. 17 | Virtue Assembly – 1:30 p.m. |
| Fri. Nov. 18 | P.D. Day—No School for students |
| Mon. Nov. 21 | Fire Safety Presentation – Gr. 1, 1/2 |
| Wed. Nov. 23 | School Council Meeting – 6:30 p.m. |
| Thurs. Nov. 24 | PIZZA DAY |
| Thurs. Nov. 24 | Dental Screening – Gr. 2 |
| Thurs. Nov. 24 | Info Night—Holy Name of Mary S.S.
--Gr. 8 girls |
| Fri. Nov. 25 | Skating—Gr. 3 & 4 |
| Fri. Nov. 25 | Fire Safety Presentation – Gr. 2/3 |
| Mon. Nov. 28 | Fire Safety Presentation – Gr. 3/4, 4 |
| Thurs. Dec. 1 | PIZZA DAY |
| Fri. Dec. 2 | Skating—Gr. 5 & 6 |
| Sat. Dec. 3 | St. Mike's Annual Christmas Party |
| Mon. Dec. 5 | Book Fair |
| --Thurs. Dec. 8 | |
| Wed. Dec. 7 | Advent Mass – 7:00 p.m. |
| Thurs. Dec. 8 | PIZZA DAY |
| Fri. Dec. 9 | Skating—Gr. 7 & 8 |
| Thurs. Dec. 15 | PIZZA DAY |
| Fri. Dec. 16 | Skating – Gr. 1 & 2 |
| Fri. Dec. 23 | Last day of school before break |
| Sun. Dec. 25 | MERRY CHRISTMAS! |
| Mon. Dec. 26 | Christmas Break |
| --Fri. Jan. 6 | |

Sun. Jan. 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Mon. Jan. 9 First day back after break

Thurs. Jan. 12 PIZZA DAY
Mon. Jan. 16 P.D. Day—No School for students