

Metropolitan Andrei Catholic School

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Principal: L. Lettieri
Vice Principal: C. Athaide
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4070 Central Pkwy. E.
Mississauga, ON 905-273-6630

Pastor: Father Sol Paranas

School Council Chair: P. Szura & L. Tonkovic

SEPTEMBER 2011
NEWSLETTER

Blessing Upon a New School Year

Lord, Jesus Christ

*You are the light that has come into our
world*

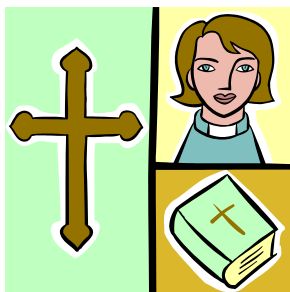
*Guide us in Your light as we begin this new
school year.*

In Your light, Lord, we see light.

Help us to bring this light to each other.

*May your blessings shine upon us as we
journey with You in love and learning.*

AMEN



Principal's Message:

Welcome back to another exciting year at Metropolitan Andrei Catholic School and a special welcome to the new families who have joined our school community. I would also like to extend best wishes to our Junior Kindergarten students who are starting school for the first time and hope that they will experience many happy moments as they begin their educational journey.

In partnership, our staff, parents, students and parish, continue to embrace activities that bring members of our school community together, respects everyone, celebrates diversity and acknowledges that the Lord's presence is evident in all we do together.

I strongly encourage this cooperative partnership between home, school and parish to promote a positive learning experience for all students. Metropolitan Andrei Catholic School is an active school that relies on cooperation and teamwork. We are blessed to have a devoted School Council and Parish Team. Please consider putting in your nomination to become a valued member of our School Council. I also invite you to come to our school to volunteer and work with our teachers and students. All are welcome!

I thank the staff for organizing their classrooms prior to the opening day of school. I welcome 2 new staff: Mrs. Athaide (Vice Principal) and Ms. K. Kaminski (FSL Gr.4-8) to Metropolitan Andrei School. I welcome back Mrs. Mugford, Mrs. Ianiro and Mrs. Zingaro from their maternity leaves and Mrs. Maradin and Mrs. Nedok from their leaves of absence. While there are a few teachers who are off on a leave, it is premature to welcome all the new staff prior to our reorganization day on Friday, September 16th. I would like to congratulate Mr & Mrs. Osborne on the birth of their son, Owen Patrick and Mr. & Mrs. Young on the birth of their son, Carter. I sincerely thank the custodians Mr. Banbur, Mrs. Oliviera and Mr. Melo for working hard to make our school look beautifully clean and to Mrs. Sweeney and Mrs. DeDominicis for their efficiency and organization during our September start-up.

I wish everyone a very successful 2011 -2012 school year. Our staff is committed to working with parents, parish and community partners as they support children in their quest for knowledge and spiritual development. I look forward to seeing everyone at our Open House on Thursday, September 15th.

L. Lettieri

Virtue of the Month

In the month of September we will celebrate the virtue of: Faith:

A Faithful Person...

- Prays regularly and reverently
- Learns from Scripture stories
- Honours people's God-given names
- Assumes that there is good in everyone
- Accepts the God-given worth of themselves and others

To begin the new school year, we'll focus attention on the first of our virtues – faith. Faith is the great virtue of believing in God and trusting that God is with us.

A *faithful* person believes that we are created, guided by and destined to be reunited with God.

A *faithful* person believes that God's plan for us includes the right to be safe, especially at school.

P.A. DAY

This year our first Professional Activity Day is on Friday, September 16, 2011. This day has been designated for faith and curriculum development as well as school reorganization. Depending on unexpected changes in enrollment and staffing at Metropolitan Andrei School, reorganization will be implemented on this day as approved by the Board Planning Department and the Superintendent of Schools. All students affected will receive a letter explaining to the parents the mandated reorganization and the process involved. There will be no school for students on this day.

COMBINED GRADES – DID YOU KNOW?

A combined grade class is comprised of students from two consecutive grades. Combined classes are a reality in the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, as with all schools in Ontario and have been an educational reality dating back to the "one room school house". Teachers of all classes, single or combined grade, strive to meet the range of individual needs. This is achieved through the implementation of varied teaching and assessment strategies and working with students in a variety of groupings. Teaching strategies and groupings are chosen as appropriate to the learning styles of the students in the class.

SCHOOL HOURS

8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Recess 10:30-10:45 a.m.)
12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Recess 2:00 – 2:15 p.m.)

KINDERGARTEN HOURS

8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. (Junior/Senior Kindergarten)
12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Junior/Senior Kindergarten)

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Parishioners of the Sts. Peter and Paul Parish are asked to read the parish bulletin for information on registration for the Sacraments of Confirmation (Grade 8), First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion (Grade 2). The information meeting for the Sacraments will take place on Monday, September 12th, 2011 @ 7:00-8:00 p.m. (First Communion) and @ 8:00-9:00 p.m. (Confirmation). Please bring a copy of the Baptismal Certificate for your child. There are books available for purchase for the preparation of the Sacraments. The 2 First Communion books cost \$12 each and the confirmation book costs \$5. At least one parent is required to attend this meeting with the child.

IMPORTANT NOTICE - BUSSING

All bus schedules are posted on the front door of the school. Bus Policy 7.10 states that transportation is provided for separate school students who reside more than the following distances by road, path or walkway from the school they attend:

Kindergarten	1.0 km
Grade 1-4	1.6 km
Grade 5-8	2.0 km

BUSSING-EMPTY SEAT POLICY

During the month of September, only those students who live in the bussing area are eligible to ride the school bus. Parents are asked to write a letter to the Vice Principal, Mrs. Athaide, to request an empty seat. Letters will be accepted until September 30th. After that date, you will receive notice of any empty seats available. Preferences will be given to students from Gr. 1-4.

BUSSING-CONTACTING STOPR

Internet: www.stopr.ca This website provides up to date delay and inclement weather cancellation information in addition to policy, procedures and frequently asked questions.

Businfo.stopr.ca This website allows parents to access specific to "what school do I attend" and "am I eligible for transportation." This site also provides parents access to specific bus stop location and pick up and drop off times for their children if eligible for transportation.

Telephone: Transportation EAST 905-890-6000
Spec. Ed Trans. 905-890-6362

SCHOOL COUNCIL

This year Metropolitan Andrei School Council will be hosting a Pizza Night as part of our Open House on Thursday, September 15th, 2011. Parents will pre-order/prepay pizza slices and may purchase water and chips. The Open House will begin at 5:30-6:00p.m. on the school grounds followed by classroom visits from 6:00-7:00p.m.

All parents and guardians are invited to participate in the School Council General Meetings. Nomination forms are available in the office for those parents interested in putting their names forward for the Metropolitan Andrei School Council 2011-2012. Please do so by Friday, September 30, 2011. Our first school council meeting is Tuesday October 4th, 2011 at 6:30p.m. in the library. All are welcome to attend.

PICTURE DAY

Our Picture Day is on Wednesday, September 28, 2011. All JK to Grade 8 students will have their pictures taken in the morning or afternoon. If your child should happen to be absent that day, a picture "re-take" session will be held on Wednesday, October 26th.

TOONIE FOR TERRY FOX WALK

On Friday, September 23, 2011 students and staff will have an opportunity to remember Terry Fox and his courageous fight against cancer. The students of Metropolitan Andrei School will have the opportunity to walk in the neighbourhood and to donate a "toonie" (\$2) for this worthy cause. Students are asked to wear running shoes and dress appropriately to participate in the Terry Fox Walk. Parents are welcome to participate and walk with their children.

FUNDRAISING

This year the Metropolitan Andrei School Council's fundraiser will be a dance-a-thon which is appropriately named a "Spook-a-thon" because it will take place before Hallowe'en Friday, October 28, 2011 in our gymnasium. Students will be asked to get sponsors to donate money in order for them to dance. Prizes will be available for students to win. Stay tuned for more information from our School Council.

NEWSLETTER ONLINE

In an effort to become a "greener" school, I would ask all parents to mark the school website as a favourite in order to read the future monthly newsletters online. Our school website is: www.dpcdsb.org/ANDREI. Please indicate on the verification forms, your email address, if you would like a copy of the newsletter sent to that address.

UPDATING OUR RECORDS

Once again this year we will be contacting parents/guardians at home or work if their children have not arrived at school and we have not received information about their absence. It is essential to have up-to-date information (i.e. parent's work number, emergency contact person, etc.) Please complete the Student Verification form (one per child) and return it to school by Thursday, September 8, 2011. If any of the information changes throughout the year, please contact Mrs. Sweeney or Mrs. DeDominicis in the office.

VISITORS TO OUR SCHOOL

All parents/guardians and visitors to our school are required to come to the Main Entrance of the school, report to the Office

and sign-in. Visitors and parents will be given an identification badge that identifies them as a visitor to our school. Please be aware that under no circumstance should **any adult go to a child's classroom or the playground area to pick up a child**. To ensure that a child leaves the school with only the parent or guardian, it is of the utmost importance that all visitors to the school first check in at the main office. If you have to bring a forgotten lunch, or book to school, we request that you leave it on the front table inside the front door of the school. Labels are there for you to fill in your **child's name and teacher**. **If you are picking up your child** at the end of the school day, we ask that you wait at the exit area to avoid disruption of the classroom routines. We thank you for your cooperation.

STUDENT AGENDAS

Students in grades 1 to 8 will be given a student agenda. The agenda is a valuable communication tool in assisting students' organization skills. Please take the time to read the initial pages with your child, as it contains important information regarding important dates, virtues program, school rules, the homework policy and Code of Conduct. The cost of the agenda has been absorbed by Metropolitan Andrei School. There will be no charge to the students for the agenda; however, if they lose their agenda the replacement cost will be \$10.

TOONIE FRIDAY PIZZA DAY

Pizza will be sold every Friday at a cost of \$2 per slice. Our first pizza day will be Friday, September 30, 2011. Please make sure to put the exact amount of money in the envelope (no cheques allowed) and put **your child's name and teacher's** name on the envelope.

LUNCH MOMS

The Lunch Moms will begin serving lunches on Wednesday, September 21, 2011. All brochures with prices will be available soon and distributed to the students. The envelopes with money and orders are collected and given to the Lunch Moms. All issues with the lunches are dealt with by the Lunch Moms.

VOLUNTEERS

Metropolitan Andrei School is presently looking for adult volunteers for various student activities. If you would like to volunteer, please drop by the office and pick up a Criminal Reference Application. As per Ministry and Board policy, all volunteers must have a Criminal Reference Check completed and a copy submitted with their form. We will then coordinate a placement and time for you to volunteer your services to the students at Metropolitan Andrei School. Please keep in mind that you are volunteering your services to the school not to your child's classroom. For reasons of confidentiality, we do not allow parent volunteers to work directly in their child's classroom. If you are a high school student formerly from this school, we ask that you donate your time to another elementary school in the vicinity. It is

important that students get a variety of experience working in a new school environment. All your efforts and contributions are truly appreciated. If you are an adult volunteer able to offer your time and talents please contact the school office. You will be contacted later in the month regarding your placement by Mrs. Athaide (VP).

KISS & RIDE

Metropolitan Andrei School has adopted the Mississauga Traffic Safety Council's "Kiss & Rise" program for several years. The Kiss & Ride program utilizes the school driveway to allow parents to safely drop off their children at school. At the front of the school, there are two lanes. Please drive to the end of the Kiss and Ride and drop off your child. They will then walk on the sidewalk across the front of the school building and into the school yard. Drop off time begins at 8:15 a.m. as yard supervision begins at this time. Following these simple procedures will help us have safer traffic conditions. I encourage all parents to use the kiss and ride instead of parking on Mississauga Valley Blvd. or the school parking lot. Thank you for your support and cooperation in this safety matter.

MILK VENDING MACHINE

Dairylands is in the process of loading the machines with bottles of milk that conform to the new Food and Beverage Policy. Prices are unknown at this time. Students may access the milk machine at lunchtime or after school. The other vending machine will continue to sell water and juices.

LUNCH STUDENTS AND LEAVING SCHOOL GROUNDS

Please be reminded that the lunch hour is 11:30-12:30 p.m. Where students stay for lunch, they will eat with their classmates and remain on school property throughout the lunch period. Supervision is provided by staff and a lunch hour supervisor. If a student goes home for lunch on a daily basis, a note at the beginning of the school year must be provided to the homeroom teacher. If the student does not normally go home for lunch but on occasion wants to do so, a written note must be provided to the teacher each time the student wants to go home for lunch. **WRITTEN PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE SCHOOL GROUNDS IS MANDATORY. We do not allow students to leave the school grounds to go to Little Ceasars or MacDonald's unless they are accompanied by a parent.**

ATTENDANCE/PUNCTUALITY

All students are expected to attend school regularly and punctually. In the event that your child will be late or absent, please inform the school by telephone before 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. The 24 hour attendance number is (905) 270-4151, press 1.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

As required by the Education Act and the Ministry of Education, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board annually provides parents with information about cost-effective student accident insurance coverage via student courier. Although enrollment is voluntary, the Board encourages parents to take advantage of the inexpensive insurance coverage, especially if their child/children participate in sports, excursions/field trips, or if parents do not have dental insurance coverage. Brochures for Reliable Life Insurance will be sent home during the first week of September. Enrollment is required in writing so there are two options for enrollment: 1. Complete the form and mail it in or 2. Photocopy the form and fax to Reliable Life at 1-800-463-KIDS (5437)

ANAPHYLACTIC ALLERGY

It is mandatory that we maintain an anaphylactic file for all students who have life-threatening allergies to peanuts, nuts, shellfish, bee stings, etc. Please notify the office if your child has a life-threatening allergy. Make sure to complete the appropriate forms and return them to the office as soon as possible. We require your continued cooperation in sending foods to school with your child that are free from peanuts, nuts, or their byproducts. Please maintain the tradition of NOT sending food to celebrate students' birthdays in the classroom. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

MEDIC ALERT NO CHILD WITHOUT PROGRAM

The No Child Without Program offers a free Medic Alert membership to students who attend our school and are between the ages of 4 up to their 14th birthday. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medication on a regular basis then you should consider a Medic Alert membership. Your child's voice in an emergency, Medic Alert membership:

- Gives emergency first responders immediate access to your child's medical information on their Medic Alert bracelet or necklet.
- Enables first responders to quickly obtain up-to-date medical information by means of the child's Electronic Health Record through the 24 Hour Emergency Hotline.
- Communicates with the parent or emergency contact upon activation of the hotline.
- Allows free updates of the child's medical record as needed.

For further information, visit www.nochildwithout.ca. If your child is already part of the No Child Without program and there have been changes to their medical condition, medications, emergency contact information call Medic Alert at 1-866-679-3220 ext #1 to update your child's file.

FREE DENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

The Region of Peel Health Services is promoting *Healthy Smiles Ontario*, a free dental program to students who meet the program's eligibility requirements. Healthy Smiles Ontario is a new program for children 17 and under who do not have access to any form of dental coverage. If eligible, children will be able to visit a licensed dental provider such as a dentist or dental hygienist for basic dental services including fillings, x-rays and scaling at no cost to the family.

Children are eligible if they:

- *live in Peel
- *have a valid Ontario Health card
- *are under 18 years of age
- *are members of a household with an Adjusted Family Net Income of \$20,000 per year or less AND
- *do not have access to any form of dental coverage (including government funded programs like Ontario Works)

Please contact Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700 for more information regarding *Healthy Smiles Ontario Program* and to book an appointment for a free dental screening.

ELEMENTARY INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES PROGRAM

Elementary International classes are available to students in grades JK-8. No prior language experience is necessary. International languages programs comply with the Ministry of Education curriculum and will be of interest to students who wish to preserve their language and cultural heritage and to those who wish to study the language and heritage of another culture. Students attending schools outside of the DPCDSB may also register for these programs. Enrollment is limited at each location. Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Classes will be cancelled if there is insufficient enrollment. Registration begins Saturday, September 10th, 2011 and classes run until the first week of June from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Please register at the International language Site where you would like your child to attend on Saturday only. Day schools do not accept registrations. Please bring Proof of Age and any health concerns information to the registration. There is a \$25 non-refundable materials fee per student (cheque, VISA or Mastercard).

FIRE DRILLS/LOCK DOWN PROCEDURES

In accordance with Ministry regulations, three fire drills will be conducted in the Fall and three in the Spring per school year. While we hope that a real fire situation never arises, this practice helps prepare students in the event of a real fire. In addition, our School Board has established lockdown procedures should a high risk incident involving weapons occur in the school, or on school property, that could endanger the lives and safety of students and staff. We will practice the Emergency Lockdown Procedure with students two times during the school year and review it periodically.

VALUABLES & TOYS

Please help us to protect your child's valuables including toys by keeping them at home. Staff cannot be responsible for any valuables that your child brings to school. In order to avoid valuables being lost or misplaced, please leave them at home.

PLASP-AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

The After School Program begins once school is dismissed and goes until 6:00p.m. Children participate in recreational activities, are served a nutritious snack daily and have time for homework. To register your child, visit the PLASP Program Director, After School. For further information, call 905-890-1711 or visit the website at www.plasp.com

Dates to Remember

SEPTEMBER

- 12 Parent Information Session for Students receiving First Communion, Reconciliation and Confirmation @ Sts. Peter and Paul Church @ 7:00 p.m. & @ 8:00p.m.
- 15 OPEN HOUSE-CURRICULUM NIGHT 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- 16 P.A. Day – no school for students- **Principal's Day**/Faith Development & Reorganization
- 21 LUNCH MOMS
- 22 Hep. B Vaccination - Grade 7
- 23 Terry Fox Walk
- 28 Picture Day
- 30 Nomination forms for School Council due
- 30 Pizza Day -\$2 per slice

OCTOBER

- 6 Provincial Election
- 10 Thanksgiving Day – NO SCHOOL
- 25 Progress Report cards sent home
- 26 Picture Retake Day
- 28 Dance-a-thon in gymnasium