

# ST. PATRICK SCHOOL

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|                        |                              |                              |                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
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## Principal's Message

Welcome to the 2011/12 school year. It is a pleasure to welcome everyone back and to extend a warm welcome to all new students, their families and new staff members. At St. Patrick School, we are dedicated to providing excellence in Catholic education and to working closely with all the partners to promote the spiritual, academic, social, emotional and physical growth of our students. Parental commitment in working collaboratively with the school staff serves the best interests of our students. If parents have any questions or concerns about your child's education, you are encouraged to contact the teacher to discuss them. A phone call at the onset of a concern can often resolve it before it becomes a problem. For our part, if we have any questions or concerns, we will also contact you at the earliest opportunity. Please take time to read the school monthly newsletters and other correspondence from the school, as they will contain important information for parents about: school procedures, health and safety, liturgies, activities, curriculum, upcoming events and other information of interest. By being informed about what happens at school, you will be able to continue to support us in serving the best interests of your children. Students are encouraged to: set personal goals and strategies, take responsibility for their own learning and cooperate regularly with school rules. The front section of the grades one to eight student agenda book contains important information for parents and students that you are encouraged to refer to periodically.

Each child is a precious gift from God and holds great promise for contributing to making our world a better place. May we, the partners in Catholic Education: school, home and parish, work closely together in the best interests of our students. I look forward to many joyful, memory-making school days of learning, self-discovery, working, celebrating, praying and playing together at St. Patrick School.  
Sincerely, Ms. P. Manfredi - Principal

Visit our school website at:  
<http://w3.dpcdsb.org/PATRK>

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## SEPTEMBER 2011

### Beginning a New School Year

**Come Holy Spirit,  
Fill the hearts of your faithful  
And kindle in them, the fire of  
your love.**

**Send forth your Spirit and  
they shall be created,  
And you shall renew the face of  
the earth.**

**Holy Spirit, protect us and  
bless us this year as  
we live in your love. Amen**



**FRI., SEPT. 16, 2011  
PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAY  
NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**

### September Tentative Class Placements

The number of students enrolled in a school determines the number of classes and teachers. As the school year begins, new students may still be registering at St. Patrick School, while others may be leaving. **Therefore, there is a possibility of having to reorganize classes.** Parents will be notified by the September 16 Professional Activity Day should it be necessary to make changes in order to balance the size of classes. Until that time, all class placements are **tentative**.

### Virtues Education

During this school year we will continue with the Virtues Education initiative. A virtue is a habit or established capacity to perform good actions according to a moral standard. A Catholic school is an ideal place to practice and prepare to live a virtuous life. When we demonstrate these virtues, we are making the presence of God visible in the world around us. We are contributing to nurturing a loving, peaceful environment, free of discrimination and bullying. During the month of September we will focus on the virtue of faith. **Faith is an attitude, which encourages us to involve God in our lives and helps us develop and maintain our relationships with God and with others when things are going well and when they are not.**

## Welcome New Staff Members

We extend a warm welcome to the following new staff members. Please join us for our Meet the Parents/Open House to chat and mingle with staff and to get acquainted with new staff member and parents.

## Full Day Kindergarten



We are looking forward to the first year of the Full Day Kindergarten Program at St. Patrick School. Teacher, Mrs. DiGiovanni and Early Childhood Educator, Ms. Di Feo will work in partnership to deliver this exciting new program. More information will be forthcoming to parents of Kindergarten students.

## Behaviour Expectations

At St. Patrick School, we strive to provide an environment where all students feel safe, happy and respected. Pupils of St. Patrick School are expected to behave in a manner that reflects a Christian attitude. The question *'What would Jesus do?'* provides guidance for making positive behaviour choices. Behaviour expectations for respectful, safe, conduct and consequences for inappropriate behaviour are reviewed regularly with students. All students are expected to work in cooperation with staff, peers, parents and the parish to build a safe and caring learning environment. They are expected to follow our school rules:



### ***Respect God, Respect yourself, Respect others, Respect the environment***

These rules apply anytime and anywhere throughout the school: in the classroom, on the playground, in the neighbourhood, on the bus and on educational excursions. Pupils are reminded of the importance of behaviours such as:

- cooperating with staff
- not hitting, teasing, bullying or hurting others
- playing safely during recess times
- entering and exiting the school in a safe and orderly fashion
- taking care of school property
- leaving personal electronic devices, roller blades, skateboards, walkmans, scooters, laser pens and valuables at home
- not play fighting or playing tackle sports
- not throwing snowballs during the winter and regularly dressing appropriately for a Catholic school setting.

Students are reminded of the importance of reporting inappropriate conduct or concerns to a teacher. They should not take matters that could result in a physical altercation, into their own hands. We continue to educate pupils and inform parents about bullying prevention and virtuous living, and to work through a progressive discipline model with appropriate consequences. Please see the student agenda book for more information about progressive discipline.



***"Blessed are the peacemakers; they shall be called the children of God." (Matthew 5-9)***

## PLASP – Before and After School Program

Parents who are interested in bringing their children to school before 8:15am and/or in picking them up after 3pm can take advantage of the PLASP Program being held at St. Patrick School. See the attached flyer for more information.

## School Start and End Times

8:30 am JK to Grade 8 Classes Begin  
10:36 to 10:56 am Grades 1 to 8-Nutritional Break  
10:56 to 11:16 am Grades 1 to 8 Outdoor Recess



## 11:30 to 12:30 JK/SK Lunch

12:39 to 12:59 pm Grades 1 to 8 Lunch  
12:59 to 1:29 pm Grades 1 to 8 Outdoor Recess  
3:00 pm JK to Grade 8 Dismissal

Supervision of pupils in the mornings begins at 8:15am. Please do not bring your child to school before 8:15am as no one will be available to supervise him/her. If needed, you can seek information from the PLASP Program for assistance with supervision before & after school.

## Join the St. Patrick Catholic School Council

The purpose of school councils as mandated by the Ministry of Education is through active participation of parents to improve pupil achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents/guardians. Nominations for positions on the St. Patrick School Council will be received in the school office from Sept. 8 to Sept. 21, 2011 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. A parent must complete a nomination form in order to be included in the election process. All nomination forms received are to be signed by a school official and marked with the date and time received. Nomination forms may be obtained from the school office commencing Thurs. Sept. 8, 2011 and must be submitted by Wed. Sept. 21 at 4:00 p.m. Elections will be held if more than the required numbers of parent positions (12) are applied for. If needed, the elections at St. Patrick School will take place at the first 2011/12 school council meeting on Tues., Oct. 4/11 at 7:00 pm. Community, Parish & OAPCE Representatives are appointed positions. Parents must hold the majority of seats on the school council. A 'parent' is anyone who is the parent of a pupil in the school where the child is enrolled. A person is not qualified to be a parent member of a school council if: he/she is employed at the school or he/she is employed by the Board at another school location and fails to take reasonable steps to inform voters of the employment before the vote. The School Council is mandated by the Ministry of Education to hold a minimum of four meetings a year. All meetings are public meetings and opened to the parent community of the school. School Councils are advisory in nature, but can have a positive impact on both the quality of education and day-to-day activities within the school. The Catholic School Council focuses on promoting Catholic values within our publicly funded education system. The Catholic School Council works in co-operation with the school principal in providing the best educational experience for students. Please consider joining the 2011/12 St. Patrick Catholic School Council.



## School Council Hot Lunch Program

In the near future information will be sent home regarding Hot Lunches that parents can purchase for their children if they choose to. The school council has voted to offer Hot Lunches from two different companies. Parents can choose which company that they prefer or they can use both companies. Stay tuned for information about purchasing hot lunches on Mondays and on Wednesdays. In addition, information will be sent home regarding buying pizza on Fridays. All food sold through the school must be, and is in compliance with the Ministry of Education Healthy Food and Beverage Policy. More information will be forthcoming in the near future.

## Terry Fox Run, School Council Barbecue

St. Patrick School's annual Terry Fox Run will be held on Fri., Sept. 23, 2011. In the 23 years of our participation, the St. Patrick School community has donated well over \$20,000 for cancer research. Once again this year, students are encouraged to bring a toonie to school by Thurs., Sept. 22, 2011. "Toonies for Terry" is our motto. Following the Terry Fox Run, all students will be treated to hot dogs and drinks, compliments of our school council. In the event of rain, the Terry Fox Run will take place on Mon., Sept. 26. More information regarding this initiative will be forthcoming. Please contact the school office if you would like to help the school council with barbecuing on Sept. 23.

*Let's Keep Terry Fox's Unbreakable Spirit Alive!*



## Regular Attendance and Punctuality

Regular attendance and punctuality are important life skills that apply not only in the educational setting, but also in various other settings and especially in the work place. When a student arrives late, it can be a disruption to his/her learning as well as to the learning of the other students in the class. A total of the number of days absent and late are documented and become part of the student's record. Students should arrive on time to line up with their peers when the bell rings. It is important to address frequent absences and late arrivals for non-medical reasons early as they may have a long-term negative impact. **It is a parent's responsibility, as outlined in the Education Act, to ensure that their child is in regular attendance and on time for school.** When regular attendance and punctuality are problematic, a meeting with parents, the principal and other school personnel may be required in order to discuss a plan for helping the child improve attendance and/or prompt arrival.

## Attendance Verification

Daily attendance at school and punctuality are very important. If your child is going to be late or absent from school, please inform the office at (905) 794-0411. The school has an answering machine to receive messages at any time of the day or night. The child's parent or the legal guardian must call the school regarding their child's attendance at school.



**MEET THE TEACHER/OPEN HOUSE**  
**THURS., Sept. 22, 2011**  
**7:00 pm TO 8:15 pm**

## Milk Bags Make Beds for Haiti

Please save the outer milk bags that contain the three bags of milk. Fold neatly and send them to school. We are collecting these bags for a group of people who cut them up, then crochet them and make them into mats that the children of Haiti use for beds. More information about this will be forthcoming.

## Criminal Reference Checks

In compliance with Ministry of Education directives, volunteers in a school are required to provide an original copy of their Criminal Reference Check to the school. If you would like to volunteer on school trips and/or in the school, please pick up a form at the office, complete it and bring it to the local police station. There is no fee for volunteers to have this done and it takes from 4 to 6 weeks. Please try to do this early to avoid disappointment in not getting the form back in time to attend school excursions. Parents, who have already had this done for our school, will be asked to complete a declaration form after one year, rather than having another criminal reference check completed.

## **Extreme caution is required in the school parking lot at all times.**

Most of our students are transported to and from school by school bus daily. However, sometimes parents drive their children. **It is very important for everyone to drive with extreme caution in the school parking lot and to obey all traffic safety signs.** Please do not park or leave your car unattended in the driveway of the school. Buses must be able to turn. Please park in the designated parking areas of the school only or at St. Patrick Church. **DO NOT PARK IN THE BUS LANE. Never allow your child to cross or walk unattended in the parking lot. Please be advised that the parking authorities may ticket cars that are parked inappropriately in the school parking lot.** Please review parking lot safety precautions with relatives or caregivers who may be picking up your children from school or dropping them off at school.

## Leaving School Early

If you pick your child up early for an appointment, or as a result of illness or injury, please sign the child out at the office. Parents/guardians must come into the office to sign pupils out. **Also, if you make arrangements for your child to leave the school with someone other than yourself, please send a dated, signed note indicating this to your child's teacher.**

## Medication at School

When parents request that medication be stored at school, and made available to pupils by school personnel, the parent is responsible for completing the *Board Storage and Distribution of Medication* form. This form is available from the office and must be completed by the parent and by the physician. The completed form is placed on file at the office. Medication is stored, after consultation with parents, and made available to students under the supervision of school personnel. To ensure safety for all children, please do not send medication to school, unless prior arrangements have been made with the principal.



## All Visitors Must Report to Office

In the interest of student safety, it is Board policy that all visitors to the school are required to enter through the front doors and report to the office. Before proceeding to another part of the school, it is necessary for visitors to be cleared by office staff, sign in and pick up a visitor's pass. Please do not go to classrooms, unless you have reported to the office first, even if only for a moment. If your child is late, please bring him/her to the office. We will arrange for younger students to be escorted to class. It is important for everyone to follow the same procedure if it is to be effective in helping to maintain a safe environment. Consistency is crucial. Thank you for your cooperation with this important procedure, and for supporting the school in attempting to provide a safe environment for all. Please inform your caregiver or relatives, who may be coming to the school, of this important safety procedure.

## Peanut and Nut Allergies

There are students in our school who have severe peanut or nut allergies, which are life threatening. Allergic people exposed to peanuts, nuts and their by-products, or residues are at risk of suffering a serious reaction. Some children are so sensitive that even the smell of peanut butter or nuts can cause problems and could be fatal. Because of the seriousness of this condition, everyone's continued cooperation is needed in **not sending foods to school with peanuts, nuts or their by-products**. In the event that a child accidentally brings a lunch or snack with peanuts, nuts or their by-products, this student will be sent to eat their lunch in the office or in another room. Following are some strategies that parents, students and staff can use to help keep our school safer for children with peanut or nut allergies.

- Avoid sending foods from home that may contain nuts or nut products such as peanut oil, peanut butter, peanut sauce, peanut meal, mixed nuts, ground nuts and mandalona nuts. Hydrolyzed vegetable protein may also contain peanuts and is not considered safe for people with peanut allergies.
- Read food labels carefully. Avoid products that do not carry a list of ingredients. It's important to read food labels each time you buy a product that will be eaten by a child with a nut allergy, or by a child in the same classroom, because products and production facilities often change.
- Clean hands and face immediately after eating peanut butter or nut containing products before heading off to school or at school; if brought by accident.
- Avoid sharing snacks and drinks. Thank you for your on-going cooperation in helping to make our school safer for students with peanut/nut allergies.



## Birthday Treats

If you would like to send treats to school for your child's birthday, it is best to send a non-food treat such as stickers/pencils etc. to celebrate your child's birthday rather than food of any kind. This helps us reduce the risk to severely allergic students. If you would like to send food, the food item must indicate a peanut-free ingredients label to indicate that it was made in a peanut-free facility. Please do not send home-baked items to school at any time, as these cannot be guaranteed to have been made in a peanut-free facility. Thank you very much for your attention to this important matter.



## Minimizing Disruptions to Classes

We appreciate continued parental help and support in minimizing disruptions to classes, whenever possible. ***By trying our best not to disturb classes, except in very important situations, we are reducing disruptions to quality teaching and learning time.*** Your cooperation with the following is a great help: (a) sending a note in advance to your child's teacher when your child needs to be picked up early, then meeting him/her in the office and signing them out; (b) when picking your child up early, doing so closer to recess or lunch time (c) when delivering lunch to school, writing your child's and the teacher's names on lunch bags and leaving them on the table in the foyer and (d) informing relatives and caregivers, who may be dropping off or picking up your child of school procedures. We understand that there will be times when disruptions will be necessary and unavoidable.

## Personal Electronic Devices (cell phones, cameras)

Personal Electronic Devices (PEDs) are wireless and/or portable electronic handheld equipment that include, but are not limited to, existing and emerging mobile communication systems and smart technologies (cell phones, smartphones, walkie-talkies, pagers, etc.), portable internet devices (mobile managers, Blackberry handsets, etc.), PDAs (Palm organizers, pocket PCs, etc.), handheld entertainment systems ( video games, CD players, compact DVD players, MP3 players, iPods, walkmen, etc), digital or film cameras, digital or analogue audio recorders or video recorders (tape recorders, camcorders, etc.), spy gadgets (spy cameras, covert listening devices, etc.), and any other convergent communication technologies that do any number of the previously mentioned functions. PEDs also include any current or emerging wireless handheld technologies or portable IT systems that can be used for the purpose of communication, entertainment, data management, word processing, wireless internet access, image capture/recording, sound recording and information transmitting /receiving /storing, etc.

## The Use of (PEDs) at School (cell phones cameras)

To promote respect for the dignity of all members of our school community and to enhance pupil achievement and safety, the use of a PED is strictly prohibited in school (including portables) or during school related activities (such as retreats, field trips, sports events, etc). Failure to comply with this policy may result in the confiscation of the PED and/or disciplinary action. The school and the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board assume no responsibility for the loss, recovery, repair or replacement for any PED brought onto school property. It is the policy of the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board that PEDs are to be kept out-of-sight, turned off and not used within school premises or during school sanctioned events. To prevent the loss or damage of PEDs, the school encourages students to leave their PEDs at home.



## School Bus Safety

Parents/guardians are asked to review these important bus safety rules with your children from time to time. We will continue to review them at school.



- Be at the bus stop on time; (approximately, ten minutes before scheduled arrival time)
- While waiting for the bus, students should be standing well away from the roadway until the bus has stopped;
- Never play around close to the road; and never reach under the bus for something;
  - Be ready to board bus in an orderly line, youngest first;
  - Students should not cross the road before the school bus arrives at their stop, unless supervised by their parent/guardian;
  - Students should wait for direction from the Bus Driver and check the traffic before walking across the road and never, cross behind the bus;
- Look all ways when crossing the road, stay alert;
- When the bus stops, students should approach the doorway in single file and board in single file using the handrail, then sit down;
- JK/SK & grade 1 pupils must sit at the front of bus;
- Always remain seated while the bus is moving, if it is necessary to stand up, hold on tightly;
- Never throw anything in the bus, on the floor or out the window; Keep the aisles clear of all objects; (lunches, books etc.)
- Never shout, or cause any other unnecessary noise; be especially quiet at railway crossings;
- Keep the windows closed, unless you have permission from the driver to open them; Never put any part of your body out of an open window;
- Obey the bus driver, teachers and bus patrollers;
- Remain in assigned seats;
- Do not damage the bus in any way;
- Do not eat or drink while traveling on the bus except under special circumstances such as diabetes;
- Once you get off the bus, move well away from it, out of the 'Danger Zones'; Always cross when the flashers and stop arm on the bus are activated; Do not wait for the bus to leave before crossing; Exit the bus carefully, holding the handrail, and walk 10 giant steps beyond the front bumper, look both ways, and wait for the driver's signal before crossing the road;
- Students should not chase the school bus, after it has begun to move away;
- Pupils should not lean on or touch a moving bus;
- It is best for students not to carry papers or other such items in their hands as they embark or disembark. We remind pupils regularly to carry everything in their bags whenever possible. This helps avoid potentially dangerous situations in which students find themselves chasing after items that have fallen or blown away.

## Applying for Courtesy Seats on the School Bus

Courtesy seats on the school bus are assigned towards the end of September, early October. Parents who are interested in applying for a courtesy seat on the school bus should stop by the office to pick up an application form. Any available empty seats will be assigned at that time.



## Riding on Other School Buses

Occasionally, we receive requests for students to ride on a friend's school bus in order to attend a social event or similar function after school. Please be reminded that bus transportation is provided to the stop nearest your home and to the school from that stop. We are unable to adjust this policy by allowing students to change buses from time to time. As a result, permission will not be given for a student to ride on a different bus to go to a friend's home after school. Only in extenuating circumstances can we consider parental requests to make a onetime bus stop change. These requests must be made in writing and provided to the principal a couple of days in advance of the requested change. The child's parent must complete and sign a form the day before the child goes on another bus.

## Playground Equipment Safety

As with all playground activities, we remind students regularly of safe practices while playing on the playground equipment. Please review the following playground equipment safety rules with your children of any age for any time that they use playground equipment at school, at parks or on family outings.

- Remove your drawstrings from clothing
  - Stand clear from moving objects
  - Slide feet first
  - Slide sitting up
  - Remove bicycle helmets
  - Wait your turn
  - Use two hands when swinging and climbing
  - Tie shoelaces
  - Wear shoes at all times; no sandals
  - Skipping ropes should not be brought to the playground equipment
  - Remember - no pushing and rough play...and \*Have Fun!



## Reporting Head Injuries

Even when it may appear to be insignificant, we inform parents of all head injuries at school which are reported to us. We do this in recognition of the potential danger of any injury involving the head area. We are not intending to alarm you, rather to keep you informed. Please remind your child to let a staff member know if they bump/injure their head at school.

## Volunteers in the School

If you are interested in volunteering at St. Patrick School, please leave your name at our school office and someone will be in touch with you. Volunteers are expected to have a Criminal Reference Check on file at the school office and must complete an orientation session before working with students. During the orientation session, the volunteer coordinator addresses various aspects of volunteering in the school. All volunteers must sign in at the office and receive their name tag before proceeding to another part of the school. The name tag is to be worn and visible until the volunteer signs out and leaves the school.



## Fire Drills & Lockdown 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/or the safety of students and/or staff. We will practice the *Emergency Lockdown Procedure* with pupils two times during the school year and review it from time to time.

## St. Patrick Catholic School Dress Code

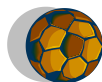
Parental assistance is required in helping your child make appropriate clothing choices for school. In striving to achieve personal and social values that are attached to appropriate dress, St. Patrick Catholic School is committed to standards of neatness, cleanliness and modesty. Revealing shorts, skirts and tops such as: tops with 'spaghetti' straps, muscle shirts, tank tops, halter tops, mesh shirts, string tops, tube tops or anything that exposes a bare back or midriff and/or undergarments, are inappropriate attire for school. The length of shorts and skirts must go past the bottom of the student's fingertips when hands are relaxed at their sides. Tops must have a minimum of 5 cm (approximately the width of 3 adult fingers) at the shoulder. A little more latitude is given to younger students. What may be considered appropriate for 5 to 8 year olds, is not necessarily appropriate for 9 to 13 year olds. Shirts, with inappropriate, suggestive or offensive messages or pictures are not permitted on any clothing or personal belongings. Bandanas are also not allowed to be worn at school. Pupils, who wear inappropriate clothes to school, may be asked to leave the class to correct the situation by covering up with a jacket or a sweater or to telephone their parent to arrange for a change of clothing to be brought to school. For safety reasons, pupils are discouraged from wearing flip flop sandals to school as they do not have a backing for support.

## 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 enrolment 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. Information is provided to all families in the first week of school.

## Retrieving Balls/Items off School Property

Please join us in reminding your child to make safe choices and not to climb the fence or leave school property to retrieve balls etc. Should a situation arise where a ball or personal item ends up off school property, in the parking lot or in one of our neighbour's yards, pupils should approach a teacher for assistance. Students are reminded to play away from the fences during recess times.



## Electronic School Newsletter

Would you be interested in receiving our monthly school newsletter electronically, rather than receiving a paper copy during this school year? If yes, simply complete this little form and send back to the school. Provided that there is enough interest, with the help of our Board ICT Department, we will set up a mailbox that will allow monthly newsletters to be sent to those who would like to receive them electronically. However, you would not be able to send messages back to the school via this system. You would still have to phone the school regarding information that you would like to share or with any questions.

(We did not get enough interest in this last year when we asked so we are hoping for more interest this year. It is a great way to conserve paper)

## ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Yes, I would like to receive the St. Patrick School newsletter each month electronically.

NAME: (please print)

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E-Mail address:

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Parent Signature:

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## Attached

A Report to our Catholic School Communities  
PLASP Program Information

## Dates to Remember – Please mark your calendar

|                      |                                      |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Sept. 8 to Sept. 21- | Nominations for School Council       |
| Sept. 12             | Student Forms due to teacher         |
| Sept. 16             | PA Day – No School for Students      |
| Sept. 22             | Meet the Teacher – Open House        |
| Sept. 23             | Terry Fox Run and Barbecue           |
| Sept. 26             | Rain Date for Terry Fox Run          |
| Sept. 27             | Gr. 7/8-Hepatitis B, Meningitis, HPV |
| Oct. 4               | School Council Meeting - 7:00 pm     |
| Oct. 13              | School Picture Day                   |



