

ST. PATRICK SCHOOL

JAN -2012
NEWS

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<http://w3.dpcdsb.org/PATRK>

Principal's Message

At St. Patrick School, the New Year has begun with joyful anticipation of being the best that we can be and reminders of the great power and potential within each one of us to effect change and make a positive difference. We ended 2011 with special Advent preparations and celebrations, along with various outreach initiatives. Thank you to the St. Patrick School community for your generous Christmas donations. Thank you to: our staff members for their dedicated work with the various Advent and Christmas presentations and activities, Father Papais for celebrating the Advent Mass, our student council for organizing fun filled spirit week activities and raising funds for ShareLife and to our School Council for organizing the poinsettia fundraiser.

May 2012 bring peace, love, happiness, good health, wisdom and prosperity to everyone in our school community. Let us continue to take some form of action to help those who are suffering and the less fortunate in our world as well as to take care of our environment. This is a great way to show appreciation for the many blessings in our own lives. Let dwelling in the heart of Jesus always be the main goal that sustains us in our daily lives.

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

SPONSORS

BLUE VIEL MUSCIAL PRESENTATION

BLUE VIEL MUSCIAL PRESENTATION

Friday, January 27, 1:30pm

At St. Patrick School

Parents Welcome

Prayer for 2012

Come, Holy Spirit, Spirit of God,
Spirit of the Risen Christ,
Be with us today and always.

Be our Light, our Guide,
and our Comforter.

Be our Strength, our Courage,
and our Sanctifier.

May this new year be a time
of deep spiritual growth for us,
A time for welcoming Your graces
and gifts,

A time for forgiving freely and
unconditionally,

A time for growing in virtue and
goodness.

Come Holy Spirit.
Be with us today and always.
Amen (Author Unknown)

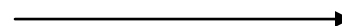
**Tues., Jan. 31. Report Cards Sent Home
And Virtues Assembly at 9:30 am.**

**Thurs., Feb. 2 (evening) and Fri., Feb. 3
PA Day - Parent/Teacher Conferences**

Fri., Feb. 3 - PA Day- No School

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Catholic School Council Update

The next School Council meeting is scheduled to take place on Tues., Feb. 7 at 7p.m. All parents are invited to attend school council meetings. Thank you to our school council members for choosing to sponsor the Blue Veil Musical Group to present at our school this Fri., Jan. 27th at 1:30pm. We are in the process of arranging one *Scientist in the School Presentation* for each class. This is also being sponsored by our school council with funds from school council fundraising activities. Thank you to our school community for supporting school council fundraising activities.



Grades 1 to 8 Skating Excursions

Parents will receive information in the near future regarding three upcoming skating excursions for Grades one to eight pupils. **Please be advised that children are required to wear winter sport CSA approved helmets when going skating on school excursions.** Thank you to teacher, Mr. Tenuta for organizing these excursions: Dates: **Feb. 24, Mar. 9 and Mar. 23.**

March Break – March 12 to March 16, 2012

January Virtue – Self Control

A virtue is a habit or established capacity to perform good actions according to a moral standard. During the month of January students will be learning about the virtue of self control. Please join us in reinforcing this virtue with your children at home. By working together, home, school and parish we can more effectively lead our students to consolidate this important virtue that will serve them well throughout their lives. You are welcome to join us at our self control virtues celebration on Jan. 31 at 9:30am Thank you to Mr. Broccoli and his class for organizing this celebration.

People of Self Control:

- Follow their conscience
- Are patient with themselves and others
- Share and take turns
- Are able to use prayer to calm themselves down
- Think before they react (WWJD)
- Look for peaceful ways to solve conflict
- Try to do what’s best for everyone
- Have the power to stand up for what is right
- **Understand that they cannot always have what they want when they want it**

WWJD

Winter Safety Behaviour Expectations



We remind pupils regularly to stay off any ice patches and snow hills in the school yard, not to throw snowballs and to wear their boots at recess to avoid possible injuries. We find that more accidents occur when students are not wearing their boots outside. We also remind them to dress warmly when going outside. Please review the importance of playing safely in the schoolyard with your children, and join us in reminding them to wear their boots and winter wear outside. Thank you.

More School Safety



In the interest of student safety, contact sports and play fighting are not allowed. We remind students regularly to choose activities that do not involve body contact. Students are encouraged to use their words to solve problems or to seek help from teachers rather than getting physical.

Indoor Footwear



For safety reasons, students are expected to wear shoes in the school building at all times. Please ensure that your child has a pair of indoor shoes at school. This will be especially helpful in the event of an emergency evacuation as they will not have the opportunity to put on shoes, boots, coats etc. In addition, pupils must wear running shoes during physical education classes.

Winter Weather Precautions

Except under unusual conditions, students will go outside during recess and lunch times. With advice from the Peel Public Health Department, we reduce the amount of time children spend outside when the temperature is minus 20 degrees Celsius or colder, with or without the wind-chill factor. We monitor the weather conditions daily and make decisions accordingly.

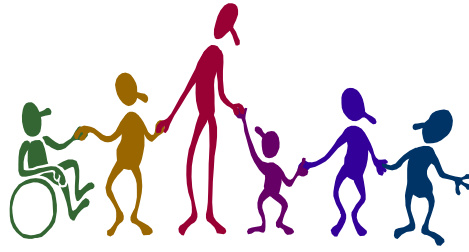
January Bullying Prevention

Key Message: *Conflict is inevitable - bullying is not* **Focus:** *Difference between bullying and conflict*

This month we are discussing: decision making, peaceful conflict resolution and positive interpersonal relationships; not gossiping or excluding others, talking things out, taking turns, listening, not name calling and maintaining respect even when upset. Students are learning about the impact of bullying on people’s lives and that they have several choices in every situation that they are in. It is the choices they make that have a powerful effect on the outcome and that part of their decision making process should involve answering the question: **What would Jesus do?** They are also learning that by-standers have a responsibility to make choices that do not encourage the bullying.

Promoting a Positive School Climate

A positive learning and teaching environment is essential if students are to succeed in school. Research shows that there is a direct link between students' success and the school environment in which



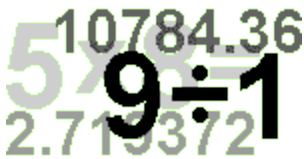
learning takes place. "Students are more motivated to do well and to realize their full potential in schools that have a positive school climate, where they feel safe and supported." (Safe Schools Action Team, *Shaping a Culture of Respect in Our Schools: Promoting Safe and Healthy Relationships*, 2008). Initiatives in areas such as character development, student engagement, safe and healthy schools, parent engagement and leadership together create the conditions needed for a respectful, safe, caring and inclusive learning environment.

At St. Patrick School, we focus on nurturing a positive school climate where students feel safe, cared for, valued and respected. Along with the regular rules and procedures in place to ensure a safe, orderly environment, there are a variety of programs, activities and procedures in place that contribute to nurturing a positive school climate.

Some examples of activities taking place include: The Virtues Program, Playground Activities Leaders Program (PALS), Peel Health Bullying Prevention Program, Peel Police Presentations, school performances, discussions and activities in the Religion and Family Life Programs, daily announcements with reminders of appropriate behaviour expectations and steps to take when problems arise, presentations, stories, assemblies that emphasize making positive, respectful choices, sharing appropriate conduct information with pupils and parents in the Student Agenda Book, in newsletters and at assemblies, using the support of our Child and Youth Worker, Psychologist and Social Worker, providing many opportunities for extra-curricular and co-curricular activities and outreach as well as various parent engagement opportunities in collaboration with our school council.

Professional Development - Three Part Math Lesson

At St. Patrick School, our teachers regularly engage in professional development in their commitment to continuing to implement high yield, best practice teaching strategies. This year, with the support of Mrs. Moncur, our Special Assignment Teacher, Board Professional Development sessions and Professional Learning Community strategies, teachers are focusing on implementing the three part math lesson. Students explore Math concepts through a rich, problem-solving based approach. Students' prior knowledge is activated during a whole-class discussion before working together in pairs or small groups on an activity that is planned to help deepen understanding of particular concepts. Students must represent or communicate their understanding as they solve the problem. Finally, students have the opportunity to learn from one another as work is examined and consolidated through discussion.



School Closures, Bus Cancellations

Information regarding school closures or school bus cancellations is broadcast on all local radio stations as well as on television. Parents are asked to listen to the radio or the television on days when weather conditions are poor. The decision to send school buses home early, in poor weather conditions, is made by the Director of Education. In the event that buses are canceled in the morning, please bear in mind that they will be canceled in the afternoon. When they report that the **Caledon** buses are cancelled, this refers only to our Bus 5. You can also check online for bus cancellations at STOPR.com.

Bus Safety Reminders

Winter weather causes roads and sidewalk conditions to be less than optimal. We ask that you please review the following **bus safety** rules with your child: Be at your bus stop early before the pick-up times in order to avoid running after the bus. Wait in a safe place, away from the road. 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. Never cross behind the bus. Always look both ways and NEVER EVER reach under the bus for something. If you must cross the road, always cross when the flashers and stop arm on the bus are activated. Do not wait for the bus to leave before crossing.



Sacraments at St. Patrick Church

Gr. 2 Reconciliation - March 5 - 7 pm

First Holy Communion - Apr. 29 - 2pm.

Confirmation Parent Meeting- Feb. 16 -7pm.

Confirmation – June 3 at 2pm

Gr. 2 & 8 pupils will participate in retreats

More information will be forthcoming.

Reporting and Parent Conferences

Grades 1 to 8 report cards will be sent home on January 31, 2012. Parent conferences with teachers will be held during the evening on Feb. 2nd and during the day on Feb. 3rd or at other times by mutual agreement.



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 complete a Criminal Reference Check form 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 participate in school excursions/activities. 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. Forms can be picked up from the school office.

Important -- Arriving on Time for School

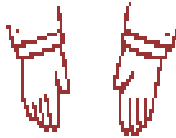
School starts at 8:30 am and at 1:29 pm. Students should be at school with enough time to line up with their classes. Please note that if students do not arrive on time to make it to their line as the bell rings, they need to pick up a late slip from the office before going to class.



Hand Washing Procedure

The following is a procedure recommended by Peel Health for good hand washing.

At school, we continue to remind students to wash their hands regularly. Please review this procedure with your child and join us in encouraging regular hand washing.



- Wet your hands from wrists to fingertips.
- Rub all surfaces of your hands from wrists down for at least 10-15 seconds. Wash all parts of your hands so that all germs are removed.
- Rinse your hands well under running water.
- Pat your hands dry with a paper towel.
- Turn off the taps with the paper towel.

Anaphylactic Allergies

There are some students and staff in our school with a severe, life-threatening allergy to peanuts and nuts. This is a medical condition that causes a severe reaction to certain allergens and **can result in death** within minutes.

Although this may or may not affect your child's class directly, thank you for your continued cooperation in sending foods to school with your child that **are free from peanuts, nuts or their by-products**. Baked goods require a label that indicates that the foods are guaranteed to be made in a peanut/nut free facility.



Full Day Kindergarten

St. Patrick School will continue to be a Full Day Kindergarten site during the 2012/13 school year.

2012-13 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration for Full Day Kindergarten for the 2012-13 school year will take place at Dufferin-Peel elementary schools as follows:

Mon., Feb. 6, 2012 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. (*Snow Date – Tues., Feb. 7, 2011 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm*)

Wed., Feb. 8, Thurs., Feb. 9 and Fri. Feb. 10, 2012 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am and 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

How do I register?

The following documents are required for registration:

proof of age of the child (birth certificate or passport)

original Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate (for parent/guardian and child) or Baptismal Certificate of other rites in communion with the Holy See of Rome (if the child has not been baptized, and the parent/guardian is a baptized Roman Catholic or is baptized in another rite in communion with the Holy See of Rome, the parent/guardian should bring their own baptismal certificate).

all updated immunization records (Immunization Card, Peel Health Form or Letter of Exemption)

proof of Canadian Citizenship or Permanent Resident status (citizenship documentation, permanent resident card or record of landing)

proof of home address (utility bill, bank or credit card statement) emergency rural address numbers for identifying your property, if applicable (residents of Caledon and Dufferin County)

proof of English Separate School Support (may be done at the time of registration by completing an *Application For the Direction of School Support* and/or a Separate School Lease Agreement available at the school) education records if available

**All documentation must be submitted in English.*

Family Literacy Day

January 27 is designated as Family Literacy Day. Family Literacy Day was created by ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation in 1999 as a national initiative that promotes the importance of reading and learning together as a family. Check out the website for some fun ideas to incorporate literacy into every day activities. (<http://www.abc-canada.org/fld/>) On the site designed for Parents and Families, there are some examples of activities you can do as a family. Some of the suggestions from the website are: *Watch a Book*: Many children's stories have been adapted for the big screen. Read these stories with your kids first, then watch the movie equivalent; The Harry Potter series is a great example. *Go Surfing*: Navigate the Internet with your child to find fun and educational Websites. *Let them catch you reading*: Act as a reading role model for your kids by reading in your spare time. Remember that children learn by example.



READING IS FUN! Hooray!

Our Green Club Invites Everyone to Help Our School Become an Eco School

"The ecological crisis has assumed such proportions as to be THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERYONE, and Catholic Social Teaching reminds us that we are to be good stewards of God's creation." Pope John Paul II



St. Patrick School has taken up the challenge of becoming a certified Ontario Eco School in accordance with the criteria set out by the Ministry of Education. To do this, we must work together as a school to earn the points needed to become certified. This program includes waste minimization, energy conservation, environmental workshops, school ground greening, and environmental stewardship activities. The Ontario Ministry of Education's vision for environmental education includes equipping students with the knowledge, skills, practices and perspectives they need to be environmentally responsible citizens. Visit the following website for more information.

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/curriculumcouncil/shapingSchools.pdf>

Stay tuned for information from the St. Patrick School Green Club members as they undertake various projects that engage our school community in becoming better stewards of our environment. We encourage parents to join us in this important endeavor by taking even one very small step. Everyone's combined small steps become big steps. See the attached flyer for ideas. Thank you to teachers, Mrs. Sauve and Mrs. Savoia for overseeing the Green Club and to our custodian, Mrs. Cromwell for her support of our Eco Schools initiative.

"We encourage parents to join us in this important endeavor by taking even one very small step.

Everyone's combined small steps become big steps."

Showtime

The staff of St. Patrick School is very pleased to announce that preparations are underway for a 2012 musical production. This year's production, "Showtime" will feature songs from various shows including Broadway productions, television shows and movies. This production will involve every student in our school in one way or another and showcase the abundance of talent found in the students of St. Patrick School. We are very excited about this production which will be presented in May 2012. More information will be forthcoming.



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 this inexpensive insurance coverage, especially if their children participate in sports, excursions/field trips, or, if parents do not have dental insurance coverage. Information was provided to all families in the first week of school. Information can also be obtained from the school office.

**FEBRUARY 20 – FAMILY DAY
NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**

FROM THE LIBRARY

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR - JANUARY 30 TO FEB. 3/12

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to St. Patrick School from Jan. 30 until Feb. 3rd. Your child's class will receive a time slot during the school day to visit and purchase books if they would like. The Book Fair will also be open for parents to visit and to purchase items on the evening of Thurs., Feb. 2, from 4pm to 9pm, as well as ALL DAY on the PA Day, Fri., Feb. 3 from 9am to 2pm. We invite your entire family to participate by purchasing the latest and greatest in children's books. Did you know that for every \$10 you spend at the Book Fair, up to \$6 goes directly back into our school library? You'll find hundreds of quality books with a wide assortment of reading levels. Your child will be bringing home a flyer, which provides you with a preview of only a few of the many books available to purchase. The flyer also contains a special Family Event Draw ballot that parents can deposit when they visit. You could win \$50 in books: \$25 for your family PLUS \$25 for your child's classroom. You can also purchase a book and donate it to your child's classroom library. Visit our *Classroom Wish List Display* and receive a book donation bookplate when you buy a book. We look forward to seeing you during our Scholastic Book Fair and thank you, in advance, for supporting this great literacy fundraiser. Thank you to our Teacher Librarian, Ms. Rizzi for organizing the Book Fair and to the parent and student volunteers for their help.



St. Patrick School On-line Book Club



Students from grades 3-8 have begun reading books from the 2012 Forest of Reading collection. They are all very excited as they begin utilizing the first St. Patrick School online book club! Thank your to Ms. Rizzi for arranging this wonderful opportunity.

Parking Lot Safety



We continue to consult and collaborate in order to try to find ways to keep our school parking lot safe for everyone, especially at the busiest times before and after school. In the fall, we consulted with the Brampton Safety Council for ideas, and we have been implementing some of their suggestions. Thank you to the Brampton Safety Council for their recommendations.

Everyone's continued cooperation is required and appreciated. It is important for everyone to drive and walk in the school parking lot with extreme caution.

>Please obey all signage in our parking lot

>Please do not park in the bus lane or anywhere that there are unauthorized parking signs at any time. Buses must be able to get through.

>Please park in a parking spot while waiting for your children.

>You can also pick up your children after the buses have left at the end of the day. They can wait in the foyer for few minutes until you arrive.

>When picking your children up or driving them to school, never allow them to cross or walk unattended in the parking lot. >Never cross between parked buses. Never cross in front of buses. This is extremely dangerous.

>Instead, consider walking along the sidewalk to the end of the parking lot where the fence is, then make your way to your car from there or wait until the buses have left.

>Please be advised that the parking authorities may come to the school and ticket cars parked in unauthorized areas at any time.

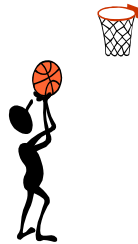
"For it is in giving that we receive." (St. Francis of Assisi)



Here are some pictures of some of the recipients of our school community's generous donations at Christmas. See full display of photos in the foyer near the library. Thank you to Ms. Rizzi and her friends for delivering our donations to Cuba during the Christmas holidays. Thank you to parent, Mr. Muscillo and teacher, Mrs. Sauve for delivering winter wear donations to Catholic Family Services. Congratulations to our Youth Faith Ambassadors for their hard work in coordinating and sorting all the donations. Thank you once again to our school community for your generous donations.

ShareLife Basketball Free Throw Competition

Congratulations to students: Alex, John Luca and Vanessa and on being the champions in their divisions in the ShareLife Free Throw Competition! Thank you to Mrs. Sauve for organizing this event and to Mrs. Savoia for helping out. Thank you to all the students who participated! One hundred and twenty-two dollars was raised for ShareLife.

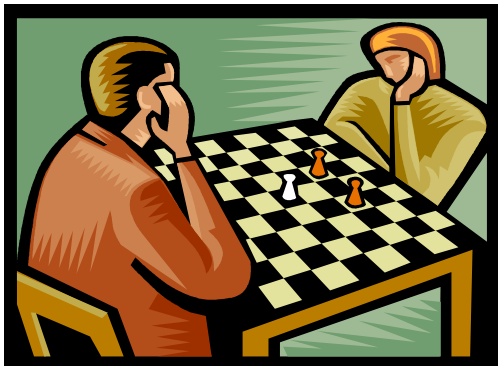


St. Patrick School Knitting Club

Our school knitting club welcomes donations of wool that you may no longer have need for. We will showcase samples of student knitting in a future newsletter. Thank you to Mrs. Sauve for overseeing the knitting club. The accomplishments of this group are already quite impressive.



Junior and Intermediate Chess Clubs



Several of our Junior and Intermediate students are diligently preparing for the upcoming Chess Competitions in their efforts to reclaim our title. Thank you to our Child and Youth Worker, Mr. Smith and to teacher, Mrs. Sauve for their work with the Chess Club.

Milk Bags For Haiti

We are still accepting Milk Bags for Haiti. Please keep sending them! Thank you.

Want to check bus cancellations and late routes on-line?

Visit STOPR.com

Attachment

Tips for Taking Care of our Environment

Dates to Remember

- Jan. 27 – Blue Veil Musical Presentation
- Jan. 31 – Virtues Prayer Service – 9:30 am
- Jan. 31 - Report Cards Sent Home
- Feb. 2 – Parent Conferences- 3pm to 8pm
- Feb. 2 – Sub Day
- Feb. 3-PA Day No School – Parent Conferences
- Feb. 6 – Early Learning Kindergarten
- Registration – 7:00 pm.; (Feb. 7-Snow Day)
- Feb. 8, 9, 10– ELP Registration
- Feb. 7 – School Council meeting – 7pm
- Feb. 15 – Gr. 7/8 Basketball Tournaments
- Feb. 16 – Confirmation Parent Meeting –
- Feb. 20 – Family Day – No School
- Feb. 21 – Shrove Tuesday
- Feb. 22 – Ash Wednesday
- Feb. 24 – Gr. 1 to 8 Skating
- Mar. 1 – Errol Lee Parent Presentation 7pm
- Mar. 2 - Gr. 6 at Silver Creek
- Mar. 5 – Gr. 2 Reconciliation 7pm
- Mar. 23 – Gr. 1 to 8 Skating
- Mar. 28 – Gr. 8 Graduation Photos
- March 30 – Chess Tournament
- June 27 – Gr. 8 Graduation Ceremony -7pm

PACK A WASTE-FREE LUNCH EVERYDAY!

1. REDUCE

THE OVER-PACKAGED FOOD TRAP

A lunch that contains single-use cartons and pre-packaged snack foods leaves behind plastic, cardboard, foil and other wasteful wrappers that often end up in the landfill.

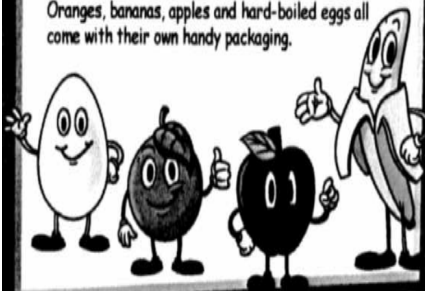
AVOIDING THE TRAP IS EASY!

BULK UP!

Choose to buy food that is not over-packaged like dried fruit, trail mix and other yummy snacks at a bulk food store.

LET NATURE WRAP YOUR FOOD FOR YOU!

Oranges, bananas, apples and hard-boiled eggs all come with their own handy packaging.



2. REUSE

CHOOSE A PERMANENT PACKAGING SOLUTION

Pack a waste-free lunch using items such as:

- reusable lunch bag or box
- thermoses
- stainless steel water bottles
- reusable plastic containers
- cloth napkins
- reusable utensils



AVOID THE FEROCIOUS FIVE WEAPONS OF WASTE!

- Plastic: Sandwich Bags, Wrap, Shopping Bags, Utensils
- Styrofoam Containers
- Aluminum Foil
- Throw away Paper Bags and Napkins
- Drinking Pouches

3. RECYCLE

IF A NON-REUSABLE ITEM SNEAKS INTO YOUR LUNCH:

RECYCLE:

- pop cans
- plastic containers
- cardboard packaging
- juice boxes

Your school and municipality can tell you what's on the "yes" list.

REMEMBER:

Recycling is a great way to reduce the amount of garbage that goes to the landfill, but processing recyclables still uses a lot of energy!



4. COMPOST

BRING YOUR APPETITE!

Only bring as much food as you can finish and place leftovers in a vermicompost bin, municipal organics collection bin or backyard composter.

