



ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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"DOING GOD'S WILL WELL"

NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2010

Outdoor Movie Night September 23rd, 2010

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John Kostoff

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Thank you to our parent council for putting on an outdoor movie night on Thursday, September 23rd. The community enjoyed watching "Toy Story 3". The weather co-operated and everyone enjoyed a wonderful evening. The council plans to hold another outdoor movie night in the spring. Thank you once again!

Visit St. Josephine Bakhita School on the web for School information: <http://www.dpcdsb.org/BKAHI>

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

September has been a very busy month with the usual changes that re-organization brings. We want to thank parents and staff for your cooperation during this time.

October is the month of Thanksgiving and we have a lot to be thankful for at St. Josephine Bakhita School. We are thankful for the beautiful school we have. We are thankful that this school community came together last year with the building and opening of the school. We are thankful for the opportunity it gave us to come together and grow this special bond in the common goal of helping our students become better Catholics and students. We are thankful for our excellent staff that very much care about our students. We are especially thankful for our students who make our coming to school every day a meaningful opportunity.

We are thankful for all those that participated and donated to the Terry Fox Foundation.

We are thankful that we were able to celebrate our opening school mass at St. Leonard Parish and continue to have Father Maderak as our spiritual leader.

Thank you to the St. Josephine Bakhita School community for helping us model positive behaviour and good Catholic values for the children we teach.

WORLD TEACHER'S DAY

St. Josephine Bakhita staff has a great influence on the lives of your children. They help prepare them for life, teach them skills to participate and compete, help them recognize their strengths and weaknesses and how to choose to use them to become better people. Tuesday, October 5th is United Nations World Teacher's Day and I would like to take the opportunity to recognize and celebrate our teachers for their commitment and dedication to Catholic education here at St. Josephine Bakhita School

To our outstanding team of educators, I say, thank you for making St. Josephine Bakhita School a vibrant, exciting place for children to know they can learn, be involved, make mistakes, be forgiven and excel to the highest levels of learning.

You do make a difference!

Sincerely,

Fred Albi
Principal

TERRY FOX WALK

On Thursday, September 30th, 2010, the St. Josephine Bakhita Community participated in the 6th Annual National School Day Run. Our staff, students, parents and community walked to raise money for cancer research through the Terry Fox Foundation. Mr. Bartucci and a number of grade eight students lead us in a warm up. We thank all who gave generously to this cause. We were able to donate \$559.14 to the Terry Fox Foundation.

REORGANIZATION

Thank you to our families for their understanding and support. As a result of reorganization our class sizes have decreased. In reorganizing our classes changes were made with great thought to ensure the best placement for all students.

As a result of a growth in our school population this September, our teaching staff grew by 2.3 teachers.

ABOUT THANKSGIVING IN CANADA

Every year since 1957, Canadians have celebrated a national holiday on the second Monday October. We call it Thanksgiving. In 1879, when Parliament first declared Thanksgiving a national holiday, it was on November 6th, and the date changed several times after that. But it has always been a day we share with family and friends, a day we pause to pay tribute to what Parliament called "the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed."

The origins of the holiday are mixed. Long ago, farmers in Europe would fill a curved goat's horn with fruit and grain, to give thanks for the abundance of food at harvest time. In 1578, Martin Frobisher held the first "Canadian" feast of thanksgiving for surviving the long journey from England to Labrador. Samuel de Champlain formed the Order of Good Cheer in 1606, and shared the French settlers' feast of thanks with his Micmac neighbours. The Pilgrims celebrated their first harvest in the New World in 1621 at Plymouth, Massachusetts, influenced by the harvest ceremonies of the local Wampanoag tribe. By the 1750's this celebration had reached Nova Scotia, and soon British Empire Loyalists brought it to other parts of the country.

The traditional Thanksgiving dinner we sit down to enjoy together has its origins in the unique foods of this new found land – the wild turkey, cornbread, cranberries, squash and pumpkin that formed the basis of this special feast hundreds of years ago.

And through all the years, the sentiment at the heart of Thanksgiving remains the same – a joyous celebration of food and family, fortune and friends.

HALLOWE'EN

It is that time of the year already when our children will want to visit their neighbours for trick or treats. In school we will remind them about the safety rules so that they can both enjoy the safety rules so that they can both enjoy the evening and stay safe and well. In addition, we will also be stressing the fact that the most important aspect of our activities at this time of year is the celebration of two great Feast Days. As you know, on November 1st, we honour all the Saints of our church and we are encouraged to pray that we might all emulate their example in our daily lives. On the following day, November 2nd, we will remember all ... "those who have gone before us in faith" by celebrating the Feast of All Souls. Again, we are reminded that while those who have died are out of sight, they are not out of mind or beyond our prayers. Thus just as we pray for each other in life, it is consoling and a fact – that we can be one with them in prayer after death.

Throughout our school activities then, we will focus on these essential aspects of the two great Feasts. However, we will not dampen two great gifts which all children have – an active imagination and a fascination with the afterlife. Hence, students will not be denied the fun of dressing up on October 31st but they might be encouraged to be really creative in their choice of costumes. In this way our children will learn that the ghosts of Halloween are to the Feasts of All Saints and All Souls what Santa Claus is to Christmas. Thus, we will enjoy the day and the fun while remembering the essentials of the feasts.

HALLOWE'EN DANCE

On Friday, October 30th, St. Josephine Bakhita will have a Halloween dance for all our students.

SCHOOL VIDEO

As is tradition at St. Josephine Bakhita School, we will be producing our third annual school video (see the front page of our website for the first two videos). This year we are looking at having the whole school dance to "Thriller" by Michael Jackson. We hope to produce the video by the end of October / Mid November. More information will follow in the near future.

PICTURE DAYS

Our picture day this year is on Wednesday, October 13th. Our photographer has assured us that we will receive the photos well before the Christmas Break.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS – PRIVACY LAWS

Individual and class student photographs are scheduled to be taken Wednesday, October 13th. Privacy laws enable parents/guardians to request that children be excluded. If you would like to request that your child not be photographed and included in the class picture, please notify the Principal in writing by October 11th, 2010. Please note that student names are not printed on the individual or class photos.

SCHOOL COUNCIL 2010/2011

Congratulations to the following St. Josephine Bakhita School members who make up our School Council for the 2010/2011 school year:

Erica Belluomini	Chairperson
Ana Mustica	Vice Chairperson
Diane Voce	Treasurer
Michelle Lemaire	Secretary
Tressa Pecchia	Parish Rep.
Jo Priam	Community Member at Large
Kate Devine	Parent Representative
Chris Dobosh	Parent Representative
Taounas Farid	Parent Representative
Lori Fera	Parent Representative
Wanda Mancini	Parent Representative
Sabrina Pagliaro	Parent Representative
Michelle Samuels	Parent Representative
Nicole Shelton	Parent Representative
Virginia Elizondo	Teaching Staff Member
JackiePrice	Non Teaching Staff Member
Fred Albi	Principal

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

The 2010/2011 School Council will be holding their first meeting on Wednesday, October 20th at 7:00 p.m. in the library. All parents are invited to attend.

Our other School Council meetings dates are:

November 17th, 2010
January 19, 2011
March 30th, 2011
June 8th, 2011

FOOD DAYS

Pizza Days this month are:

Tuesday, October 5th, 2010
Tuesday, October 12th, 2010
Tuesday, October 19th, 2010
Tuesday, October 26th, 2010

Hot Dog Day – Thursday, October 7th, 2010

Sub Day – Thursday, October 14th, 2010

Lunch Lady – Thursday, October 21st, 2010

Hot Dog Day – Thursday, October 28th, 2010

VIRTUES

A virtue is a habit or established capacity to perform good actions according to the moral standards reflected in the gospel. Each month we will focus on encouraging growth on a particular virtue.

October is the month of Empathy.....

An empathetic person:

- Listens when people speak
- Notices when someone is upset and tries to help
- Can see a situation from another person's point of view
- Accepts that others have different perspectives

KISS AND RIDE

The school has implemented the Kiss and Ride Program which utilizes the school driveways for the safe drop off of children and for safer traffic conditions.

What is the Kiss and Ride?

Traffic lanes are clearly marked in front of the school. Both lanes are designated for "one way" traffic flow.

The lane closest to the school is the BUS LANE. The **bus lanes is strictly reserved for school buses** loading and unloading students. No cars are permitted in these lanes.

KISS AND RIDE LANE is the lane that goes around the parking lot.

The "drop off" and "pick up" of students takes place at the gate next to the kindergarten area.. This Kiss and Ride lane allows for parents to drop off or pick up their children at the side of the school **without getting out of their cars. Parents are to drop off students from the passenger side of the vehicle only. Drivers shall not leave the vehicle** and shall drive away immediately upon completing the drop off.

Drop off Point: Children are to exit from the passenger side of the car only. Children may cross at only one point and shall wait for the signal from the teacher supervisor to allow for safe crossing.

Times: Kiss and Ride is in effect 15 minutes prior to the start of the school day and 15 minutes after the school day. (9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.)

MUSIC LESSONS (DRUMS, GUITAR & PIANO)

Professional and experienced teacher now accepting students for private instruction.

Guitar & Piano beginner to intermediate and Drums all levels and styles.

rcmusiclesson@gmail.com or 416-885-7650

KEEPING HEALTHY

In an attempt to keep our community healthy, we are asking all families to please do the following:

- Ensure child is dressed for the weather
- Have an extra pair of socks for wet days
- Send a pair of indoor shoes – name labelled please
- Small nutritious snack and lunch

The heat will soon be turned on in the school so layering the children's clothing is a good idea. All clothing must be labelled. When the wet weather begins, the children must have the indoor shoes available. Walking around the school in sock feet is not sanitary or safe. Thank you for complying with this regulation.

In addition, this is one of the cold, flu and pediculosis seasons. If your child is ill or in need of treatment due to pediculosis, please keep him/her home until symptoms have faded. If we all take special care, we will keep our community healthy.

PEDICULOSIS

Pediculosis or head lice is a common occurrence in schools. Head lice are parasites which have been common among human beings for centuries. They are not connected with dirt and neglect. Anyone can be infested with them. Please check your children frequently and if you find them infested, we would ask that you let us know so we can advise you on the proper treatment. If a child does become infested, we will ask you to keep your child out of school until he/she has been treated with the correct medicated shampoo and his/her hair is entirely clear of both lice and nits (eggs). When the child returns to school, the child needs to come to the office to be checked before going to class.

If we all cooperate in these procedures we can address these occurrences in a sensitive manner. We may not entirely escape outbreaks, but we will be able to bring them under control quickly.

NEW HOMEWORK POLICY

Following consultation with system stakeholders, a Dufferin-Peel homework policy document (Kindergarten to Grade 12) was recently adopted to foster consistency across the board in this area.

The new policy document addresses the following:

- definition of homework
- characteristics of effective homework
- types of commonly assigned homework
- timing and quantity of homework
- general and specific procedures
- reporting of homework
- roles and responsibilities of administrators, teachers, students, and families.

The homework policy may be viewed in full at dpcdsb.org/homework A pamphlet summarizing the key features of the document is available to families through the school.