



# ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

430 Van Kirk Drive, Brampton, ON, L7A 0J2  
Telephone: (905) 846-0078 Fax: (905) 846-9044  
**"DOING GOD'S WILL WELL"**

**NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2011**

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**John Kostoff**

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As we prepare our hearts and our minds for the blessings of Christmas, let us take time to celebrate the season of Advent together. We wait in joyful hope, trying to live as Jesus taught us; to serve generously, to care deeply and to speak kindly.

Advent is a time of quiet, joyful preparation for the celebration of Jesus' birth and also a time to remember that we wait for Christ to come again at the end of time. It is a season to enjoy the hope that Christ's Resurrection points to. The first Sunday of Advent is also a time of new beginning – it is the official start of the Church's calendar. Happy New Year!

## ADVENT

From the fourth Sunday before Christmas to December 24<sup>th</sup>

Preparation for Christmas takes place during December, in a time of growing darkness. This preparation is called Advent. The word means "coming". The deepening darkness of Advent can remind us that one day our lives will end and so will the world. But, wondrously, Christ is coming to bring creation to a new birth. In this mysterious season of waiting, with John the Baptist, we muster the strength to struggle against injustice. With expectant Mary we await the holy birth.

## THE ADVENT WREATH

Advent traditions reflect a spirit of expectation and, therefore, unfold gradually. The custom of an Advent Wreath began in the 16<sup>th</sup> century in Germany with the liturgical movement in the mid 1900's.

The wreath may be any size, made of evergreens, and either placed on a table or suspended from the ceiling. The colour of the candles is not an essential factor, because the symbolism is primarily in the flame. It is popular that 3 of them be purple, the traditional colour of Advent, and one rose coloured, for the Third Sunday of Advent called Gaudete ("Rejoice") Sunday. Wreaths have always been symbolic of victory and glory. The Advent Wreath's symbolism goes beyond this: lying in the tension between Darkness and Light. Each year, Advent people wait once again in darkness for the coming at the end of time, and his special coming in every moment of Grace.

Why not consider having your own Advent wreath at home, whether purple or rose, or simple white candles. Lighting the Advent Wreath as a family each night (at supper?), dispelling the winter darkness as we prepare to celebrate the feast of Christmas, can be a focus of prayer for your family.

## VIRTUE OF THE MONTH - HOPE

During the month of December we will focus on the virtue of hope. Let us now pray...For the grace and strength to be people of hope. People can see, participate in and contribute to God's goodness emerging around.

A hopeful person is:

- inspired and inspires others
- optimistic
- one who seeks good things for life
- one who sees the good in the world

People of Hope:

- Expect the best to happen for everyone
- Hold onto their dreams.
- Always count on God to help them in tough situations.
- Trust that things will work out in God's way.
- Look for something good to come out of problems.
- Are looking forward to life's blessings.
- Set and stick to their goals.

## FOOD DAYS

### Pizza Days

Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010

### Other Food Days

Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> – Canadian Bagel Day

Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup> – Sub Day

Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup> - Lunch Lady

## CHRISTMAS BREAK

Christmas Break will commence on Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The last day for school will be Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010. School will commence in the New Year on Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011.

## ATTENDANCE VERIFICATION

Daily attendance and punctuality are very important. If your child is going to be absent from school, or late, please leave a voice mail message on the school ATTENDANCE LINE, by calling 905 846-0078 and selecting option 1. Our voice mail system is available 24 hours a day and absence and late messages should be left by 9:00 a.m.

Your co-operation in letting the school know that your child is safe is appreciated.

## DELIVERING LUNCHES

When delivering your child's lunch to school, **please advise your child in advance and write his/her name and the teachers name on the bag.** Your child can come down at 12:15 p.m. to pick up from the lunch table. The lunch table is located in the front hallway just outside the office.

## LOST AND FOUND

The lost and found bin is full and overflowing with clothing. If your child is missing some clothing, we would ask that you direct your child to take some time to come in and look for lost items. During interview night in December parents are asked to come in and take a look for any items that are lost. We also have many house keys that have made their way to the lost and found located in the office. Please ask your child to come by the office to claim any lost keys.

## WINTER WEATHER

Winter weather will soon be upon us, once again. It is that time of year when students need to be reminded to dress appropriately for the weather. Except under unusual conditions, students will go outside during recess and lunch times. The weather is checked regularly to ensure that it is safe to send children outside. Student should wear mittens, hats, scarves, boots, etc. A pair of shoes for indoor use is required. We suggest that younger children bring an extra pair of socks in their school bag. Labelling items would be helpful as some students have the same kinds of boots, mittens, etc.

## EARLY SCHOOL CLOSURE

In the event that it is necessary to dismiss students early or close the school during the school day, the decision will be made before noon. Radio stations will carry the announcement of this decision.

Occasionally, when a storm develops during the school day, carriers will request early closure to ensure home delivery of students.

At that time, parents with children in the school will be notified. Please ensure that emergency contacts (i.e. neighbour, relative) are up to date.

## SNOW AND ICE

When the cool months arrive and snow and ice on the ground is plentiful, we all like to play in it and with it. Throwing snowballs and sliding on ice is fun. However, as much fun as it is, snow and ice, can be very dangerous when lots of people are in a small area. Our school yard is a small area where approximately five hundred children have recess. Most student injuries happen during the winter time. In order for our school to be as safe as possible, the school rule must be that snow stays on the ground – no snowballs, kicking snow or any other activity with snow or ice that could be harmful.

## JUNIOR & SENIOR KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR 2010/2011

Registration for the 2010-11 school year will be held at all Dufferin-Peel Catholic elementary schools on the following dates:

Monday, February 7th, 2011 - 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.\*  
\*Snow Date: Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011 - 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, February 9, 10 & 11, 2011  
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

*Junior Kindergarten - Children must be 4 years old by Dec. 31, 2010*  
*Senior Kindergarten - Children must be 5 years old by Dec. 31, 2010*

Parents/Guardians should bring the following documents when registering their child:

- proof of age
- original Catholic Baptismal Certificate of the Roman, Greek or Ukrainian Rite, for parent (one) and child (if the child has not been baptized, a letter of counselling with the parish priest, to complete the process will be accepted)
- updated immunization records
- proof of Canadian citizenship or of Landed Immigrant status
- proof of address (utility bill, bank or credit card statement)
- for schools in Caledon and Dufferin County: emergency rural address numbers for identifying your property

For more information, contact your local Catholic school or call the Admissions Department at 905-890-0708 ext. 24500.

## PIANO/KEYBOARD LESSONS

Private one on one  
Beginners from 5 years and up  
Reasonable rates  
Wanless/Hwy 10 area  
905-970-0402  
[alicepiano@rogers.com](mailto:alicepiano@rogers.com)

## SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

### Chocolate Fundraiser

Thanks to all the families who supported our major fundraiser. A list of all the prize winners can be seen on the school website. With everyone's help, we raised over \$15,000! A large portion of these proceeds will be used to continue to improve literacy in our school by supplementing classroom libraries, support of the All Star Reading Program, and additional school library materials. We are also providing a financial contribution to the Christmas Craft Night, and purchasing games & activities for classroom use during indoor recesses.

### Popcorn Fridays

Every Friday during the lunch break, the School Council is selling Kernel's popcorn for \$2.00 per bag. Proceeds from these will be used to sponsor a child / family from Sudan, the birthplace of Saint Josephine Bakhita. Please note: these bags are **not** recommended for children with food allergies due to a remote chance of cross-contamination.

### "SuperHero Kids" World Vision Campaign

With the Christmas season fast approaching, our school has decided to donate funds to World Vision. World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organization dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. As followers of Jesus, they are motivated by God's love for all people regardless of race, religion, gender or ethnicity. World Vision is well known for their child sponsorship program but also offer another way to donate, through their Gift Catalogue.

The students at St. Josephine Bakhita School will be raising funds to donate items from the World Vision Gift catalogue. Each individual classroom will set a goal of their choice. They will also decide how to raise the funds to achieve their goal. There are many items to choose from such as goats, hens, and fruit trees which would benefit a family by providing food, and income to donating medicine, warm clothing, blankets and even the option to furnish an entire classroom or stock it with supplies. We will launch our World Vision fundraiser on Wednesday December 1 at 10:30am with an assembly in our gym and will close it on December 15, 2010 our craft night.

## MO-VE-MBER

Movember is an annual, month-long celebration of the moustache, highlighting men's health issues - specifically prostate cancer.

The male staff at St. Josephine Bakhita School participated in this year's Movember. For the month of November, they grew facial hair (moustache and/or some form of beard).

This year we collected \$446.76 for prostate cancer research.

## HELPING HANDS

In an effort to support families in our Parish community we are asking that students bring in Canadian Tire money. The Canadian Tire money raised will be used to purchase toys and household needs for families in need.

Thank you for your support and Merry Christmas!

## MESSAGE FROM YOUR TRUSTEE

I would like to thank all the Catholic supporters for returning me to office. I look forward to representing your interests for the next four years.

Many changes have taken place at the Ministry level and we will face a number of challenges in the next four years. I will continue to work hard to provide the level of service that you expect from me. My major focus will be on your student's achievement. We are constantly achieving or exceeding the Ministry levels in EQAO results and I will strive to continue to reach these goals. As always, I am available to discuss your concerns. Please feel free to contact me any time. Best Regards, Linda Zanella

## STUDENT TRANSPORTATION OF PEEL REGION INTEGRATED RIDERSHIP

The school board's bus transportation services are operated by Student Transportation of Peel Region (STOPR). This is a consortium, or partnership, between the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board and the Peel District School Board. The Ministry of Education requires school board bus transportation consortiums to improve efficiency.

One initiative promoted by the Ministry of Education, that is designed to improve efficiency is known as integrated ridership. In integrated ridership, students from both Dufferin-Peel and Peel schools will ride on the same buses, where feasible. A number of school boards across the province have successfully implemented integrated ridership. All eligible students continue to be transported on runs where integrated ridership is implemented.

Integrated ridership is designed to create a more effective and efficient operation of service, is more environmentally friendly and reduces traffic in our communities. Integrated ridership may also result in higher transportation funding levels for school boards. Integrated ridership works best in situations where schools are located close to one another and the number of students involved helps achieve better organized bus runs.

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board has approved the implementation of integrated ridership, where feasible, starting September, 2011. During the next few months, STOPR staff will be looking at areas where integrated ridership would work best. It should be noted that integrated ridership does not work well in all areas and, as a result, there may be only a few areas that will have this program. STOPR will provide additional information regarding the selection of schools where integrated ridership will be implemented. Once a school is selected, a possibility exists that school start and dismissal times may be altered from the current times. STOPR will keep you informed through regular updates in school newsletters over the upcoming months.

## ARTS EXPO - BCHC

Local talent was on display during an Arts Expo hosted by the Bramalea Community Health Centre (BCHC). Congratulations to Victoria Fragomeni, grade eight student at St. Josephine Bakhita for placing first. Victoria won a new acoustic guitar and \$130 in gift certificates.

The event, held at Judith Nyman Secondary School, 1295 Williams Parkway, showcased local talent through song, dance, visual arts, photography, film and spoken word.



## PLASP

### *Season's Greetings From PLASP Child Care Services*

Looking for after school care for your child? PLASP operates programs right in this school.

**After School** - until 6:00 p.m. with snacks are recreational activities daily.

Voted Best Before and After School Program 13 years in a row, by the readers of City Parent Magazine.

**For more info**, see the PLASP staff at this school; call the PLASP at 905-890-1711 or visit [www.plasp.com](http://www.plasp.com)

## EXTENDED FRENCH MEETING

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of Grade 4 students who wish to enrol their child in Grade 5 Extended French class for September 2011 are invited to attend an information meeting at **St. Anne School on Tuesday, January 11, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.**