



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 – MARCH 2011

Principal
Fred Albi
fred.albi@dpcdsb.org

Vice-Principal
M. Miller

School Council Chair
E. Belluomini

School Council
Vice Chair
A. Mustica

Office Staff
J. Abdilla
N. Martin

Superintendent
G. Prajza

Family of Schools
Brampton West

Dufferin-Peel CDSB
Wards 2

Trustee
L. Zanella
Wards 2, 5, 6

Parish
St. Leonard

Parish Pastor
Rev. Andrew T. Maderak

Parish Telephone
(905) 846-5385

Regional Secondary
School
St. Edmund Campion

Director of Education
John Kostoff

Board Chairperson
Anna Abbruscato



Congratulations to our Intermediate Boys Basketball Team on winning the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board Championships. They went undefeated in the tournament beating out San Lorenzo Ruiz, St. Valentine and St. Simon Stock from Mississauga. In the finals, they beat Good Shepherd from Brampton 28 – 13.

Congratulations to Erica DaCunha, grade eight student at St. Josephine Bakhita School. She was featured in the Brampton Guardian titled "Teen sings her heart out". I have included the link to the article:

http://www.bramptonguardian.com/what's_on/article/960860--teen-sings-her-heart-out

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

This year the Liturgical Season of Lent begins on March 24th with Ash Wednesday. The cross of ashes that we received on our foreheads is a sign that we have sinned and that God has forgiven us. Lent is a time of preparation, reflection and spiritual renewal. The Church sets aside the forty days of Lent as a special time for us to prepare for the celebration of Easter. During Lent, the readings we hear each morning encourage us to say "yes" to God and "no" to our own selfishness. We can make a fresh start too, and try to keep in touch with God, to be less selfish and more generous. Let us all use this time of Lent for personal reflection and prayer.

Fundraising at St. Josephine Bakhita plays a major role in allowing us to provide extra activities, classroom materials and opportunities for our students. Please don't feel that you have to participate in all of our fundraising activities. Please pick and choose the fundraising activities that suit your family and budget. The School Council and I will look at a more balanced school fundraising approach for next year. We hope to provide a more comprehension and non-burdening approach to school fundraising at the beginning of each school year.

Fred Albi
Principal

LENTEN MASS

Our Lenten Mass will be celebrated by Father Maderak at St. Leonard Parish on Thursday, March 24th, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. Please join us if you are available.

MARCH BREAK

March 14th to 18th inclusive
Classes resume on Monday, March 21st, 2011

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Our March meeting of the school council will take place on Tuesday, March 23rd, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the school staff room. Please join us if you are available.

FOOD DAYS

Toonie Tuesday Pizza Days:

Tuesday, March 1st, 2011

Tuesday, March 22nd, 2011

Tuesday, March 29th, 2011

Other Food Days:

Thursday, March 3rd, 2011 – Great Canadian Bagel Day

Tuesday, March 8th, 2011 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day

Thursday, March 10th, 2011 – Mr. Sub

Thursday, March 24th, 2011 – Lunch Lady

Thursday, March 31st, 2011 – Hot Dog Day

Kernels Popcorn

Every Friday

VIRTUE OF THE MONTH - KINDNESS

During the month of March, we celebrate the virtue of "KINDNESS". God has given us the gifts of friends and companions to keep us company and to help us get along. Every person in our lives carries the Spirit of God and so every person is our brother and sister through Jesus Christ. As brothers and sisters who share one Holy Spirit, we are all valuable to God. We all deserve to be shown concern for our welfare and our feelings. We have all been given the Spirit called kindness. Kindness can only be seen through actions. It's not enough to say I will be kind or I am kind. We must show that we are kind by our words and our actions.

A Kind person:

- Says nice things about others so they feel good about themselves
- Sticks up for people who are picked on or need help
- Refuses to join others who are insulting, intimidating, mean or harmful
- Watches and looks for ways to help those in need

COOKIE DOUGH SALES

A Cookie Dough and Coffee fundraising campaign will be made available to our school beginning Tuesday, March 8th. This campaign was very popular with some of our families and I am providing it here as a service. Please don't feel you need to participate in this campaign. It is being provided only to those interested.

DROPPING STUDENTS OFF IN THE MORNING

A reminder that staff are not on duty until 9:00 a.m. in the morning. Students are not to be dropped off in the school until that time unless supervision has been arranged beforehand (i.e. basketball practise).

WATER IN THE YARD

As we approach the season of melting snow and rain, water is an inevitable feature of the school yard and presents an occasion for younger students to get wet socks and clothing. Our school approach is to contact parents to bring dry clothing. This is often inconvenient for parents. May we suggest that you place an extra pair of socks and track pants in your child's backpack in the event that a change of clothing is necessary.

KISS AND RIDE

The kiss and ride program at St. Josephine Bakhita School continues to be a major concern in regards to the safety of our students. The following are procedures we need all parents driving and/or picking up their children to adhere to.

- Use the Kiss and Ride lane to drop off or pick up your child.
- Do not use the bus or passing lane to drop students off.
- Move up the driveway in the kiss and ride lane as far as possible. Do not stop and/or get out of your car at the end of the driveway. This causes the driveway to become congested.
- Kindly assist us in reminding children to use the walkway to enter upon and exit off of school property.

FACEBOOK AND OTHER SOCIAL NETWORKS

It has come to our attention that many students are using social network sites such as “**Facebook**”, “MSN”, “Twitter”, etc. on home computers.

When used with discretion and supervision these sites offer students the opportunity to interact socially. However, as a school it has become apparent that many of our students are using these sites inappropriately i.e. using them to bully or threaten other students, thereby contravening the **Catholic Code of Conduct** and causing disciplinary action in the school.

Please be aware of what your child/ren are doing on these networks.

We strive to create a safe, comfortable and inclusive environment for all students here at St. Josephine Bakhita School. Please be vigilant about what your child/ren are doing on social networks.

Thank-you for your co-operation and support.

On Monday, March 21st, 2011 there is an Information Evening on Facebook at St. Ursula Elementary School.

INTERNET SAFETY

The following Internet Tips were distributed by the DPCDSB in February 2009 for Safer Internet Day. Please refer to these tips for Internet Safety.

Tips

- Get involved. Learn and follow what your children are doing online.
- Use a filtering software to protect your child from potentially harmful sites and programs.
- Have computers in common where they can be easily supervised.
- Ensure games your child is playing are appropriate for their age group.
 - Assist your child with creating usernames and passwords that aren't easily identifiable.
- Limit the amount of time your child spends online.
- Your child should NOT be communicating in online Chat Rooms. A supervised and regulated MSN Messenger account is acceptable.
- Explain to your child that pictures should not be taken and/or received online.
- Encourage and enjoy family-fun websites like pbskids.org, ytv.com., tvokids.com, and Disney.com which contain useful information and fun games
- Inform your children about the negative effects an online profile (like Facebook profile) can have on their life. Check out nsteens.org for a cool and informative video regarding profile penalty.

For more information regarding internet safety, visit these websites:

www.kidsintheknow.com
www.cybertip.ca
www.mediaawareness.ca
www.nsteens.org
www.peelpolice.on.ca
www.opp.ca

SCHOOL CLIMATE

The Ontario Ministry of Education focus on Safe Schools, Positive School Climate and its Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy require that all schools across the province implement a School Climate Survey for students every two years. Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board finds its direction and educational mission in the teachings of Christ as revealed through Scripture, Church Tradition, and Church Teaching. The board and its school communities are comprised of a faith-centred Eucharistic people who strive to form communities of learning that are Christ-centred, inclusive and reflective of a culture that respects and cherishes life for all. As a Catholic school board, Dufferin-Peel has applied its distinctive Catholic lens to the Ministry of Education's pillar: Community, Culture and Caring. A key part of this pillar, intended to meet provincial requirements, is the development and implementation of the Catholic Community Culture and Caring School Climate Survey.

Beginning in March 2011, and in support of the board's Safe, Caring, Inclusive and Healthy School Communities' initiative, Dufferin-Peel will be administering its Catholic Community Culture and Caring School Climate Survey to students, as appropriate, in Grades 4 to 12. The data from this survey will allow our school to understand the school climate from the students' perspectives.

The survey is confidential and anonymous in nature. The estimated time required to complete the survey is approximately 20 - 30 minutes; for students who may require additional time, it will be provided accordingly. The survey is computer-based and contains questions about students' general information (i.e., school name, grade, gender, years at the school), general safety and inclusion (i.e., feeling safe, concerns, feeling welcome and included, etc.), general school climate (i.e., friendly, accessible, inclusive, etc.), and will provide opportunities to identify bullying concerns and/or pro-active supports in bullying prevention.

The survey may provide opportunities for conversation with your son(s)/daughter(s) regarding his/her/their feelings of inclusivity and well-being. We invite you to communicate any questions, concerns and/or supportive comments to us at the school in order that our community may continue to work together to address any issues. If you have any additional questions, concerns, or general comments, please feel free to discuss these with your son/daughter's teacher(s) and/or the school administrative team.

Thank you for your continued collaboration in helping to ensure that our students feel a sense of safety and belonging, in support of improved student achievement and well-being.

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION 2011-2012

School organization for next year is in the planning stages. Timelines for making decisions about the number of classes and teacher assignments will be tentatively determined by the end of June. To help us with our planning for September 2010, it would be appreciated if you could let us know now if you will be moving out of our school area over the summer.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Dear Parents,

In a short time, St Josephine Bakhita already has an established tradition of parental involvement in our school. To continue to enrich our students' educational experience, the School Council is looking for parents available to assist with the following:

- Popcorn Fridays
- Special Food Days
- Outdoor Movie Night
- Grant Applications
- All Star Reading

All levels of involvement are needed, from an occasional hour to sell Popcorn on Fridays, to weekly reading sessions in the All Star Reading Program. If you can assist in any way, please contact Mr. Albi.

CREATING CLASSES FOR NEXT YEAR

We will be beginning the process at making up the class lists for the 2011-2012 school year in April. This is a complex process, and is done in consultation with this year's teachers, support staff and administration. In each class we strive for a balance of learning styles, a balance of gender, a balance of learning needs, and a cross section of abilities.

If you as a parent wish to provide input into the process, please take into consideration the following guidelines:

- Input must be in written form to Mr. Albi no later than May 2nd, 2011
- Frame your request in terms of educational contexts e.g. your child's learning needs/style; information not already known to the school; tips on what has worked best for your child in the past
- Please be advised that letters which cite the names of individual teachers, or names of children you wish to be placed with your child **will not be considered**.

There is no guarantee that requests will be fulfilled, but all will be considered.

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. The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board has approved the implementation of integrated ridership, where feasible, starting September, 2011. 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. STOPR staff is

currently assessing areas where integrated ridership would work best. Some minor adjustments to start and dismissal times may be required at schools selected for integrated ridership. 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 is also in the process of revising policies and procedures to reflect integrated ridership services at some schools. For example, procedures related to behavioural issues on buses have been reviewed and principals will continue to be responsible for students from their school.

STOPR will provide additional information regarding the selection of schools where integrated ridership will be implemented. STOPR will keep you informed through regular updates in school newsletters over the upcoming months.

SUMMER PROGRAMS 2011

Elementary Summer School - Grades 7 and 8

Monday July 4 to Friday July 22, 2011
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Students recommended by the Principal
Bussing provided at home school pick up points

Deadline for applications:
June 3, 2011

- Good Shepherd
- Metropolitan Andrei
- St. Faustina
- St. Gertrude
- St. Jerome
- St. Raphael
- St. Ursula

Summer Literacy Camp - Grades SK to 6

Monday July 4 to Friday July 29, 2011
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. daily

Fee for Service Program
No transportation provided

Deadline for applications: June 3, 2011

Brampton

- Venerable Michael J. McGivney
- St. Anne
- St. Bonaventure
- St. John Fisher
- Pauline Vanier

Orangeville

- St. Andrew

Bolton

- St. Nicholas

For more information and registration forms regarding these summer programs please contact your local elementary school or visit our website at <http://www.dpcdsb.org/CEC/CNE/>.