



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 – MAY 2011

Principal
Fred Albi
fred.albi@dpccsb.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
(905) 579-0126
linda.zanella@dpccsb.org

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 junior girl's basketball team on winning the Brampton West Junior Basketball Championships.

Grade Ones – Peel Safety Village



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

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The month of May is dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God. God filled her with the fullness of His grace. She truly was the handmaiden of the Lord. We are called to remember her strength and gentleness and answer the call to be people of prayer, peace and hope.

Catholic Education Week is a time for us to demonstrate all the wonderful things that are happening at school. The theme this year is, 'Celebrating the Spirit', during this week, we are called to be even more mindful of the precious gift of Catholic Education. We praise and thank You for the gift of Catholic education. May we always use what we learn in our schools to teach and live the ways of Jesus. Let us use our voices to show respect, caring and responsibility. May our ideas and our actions demonstrate our commitment to justice and peace so we can build Your kingdom on earth. As life long learners, team players and caring participants, may we be living examples of Jesus in our schools, homes, parishes and communities. Thank you God for the gift of Catholic Education.

We would like to congratulate our grade 2 & 8 students as they continue on their Sacramental journey with the receiving of their First Communion for grade 2's and Confirmation for our grade 8's.

WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN NIGHT

If you have a child going into Junior Kindergarten, please join us for on Thursday, May 12th at 6:30 p.m. This is an opportunity for your child to meet other students in their class. We will give a tour of the school and give parents strategies to prepare their child for school.

VIRTUES EDUCATION THEME FOR MAY

During the month of May we celebrate the virtue of Acceptance. Acceptance means we accept ourselves and others just the way we are. Sometimes we find ourselves in situations where it is easier to follow the crowd than to stand up for what is right. However, Jesus wants us to accept everyone even when it is hard.

God wants us to make friends with everyone no matter how different they may look or act.

An accepting person is

- Willing to treat everybody as a member of a group
- Non-judgmental
- Welcoming to those different than himself /herself
- Loving and happy with how he / she is

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Although we have already registered Kindergarten children for next year, it is not too late to register. If you know of a neighbour, family member or friend who is planning to register a child for JK or SK at St. Josephine Bakhita, we ask you to encourage them to do so quickly.

STUDENT SAFETY

Please remember that staff supervision of students in the school yard begins in the morning at 9:00 a.m. Please do not send your child to school before that time as they will be unsupervised. This is especially important during cold and rainy weather.

FOOD DAYS

Food Days this month include:

Toonie Tuesday Pizza Days

Tuesday, May 3rd, 2011

Tuesday, May 10th, 2011

Tuesday, May 17th, 2011

Tuesday, May 24th, 2011

Tuesday, May 31st, 2011

Thursday Food Days

Thursday, May 5th, 2011 – Lunch Moms

Thursday, May 12th, 2011 – Sub Day

Thursday, May 19th, 2011 – Lunch Lady

Thursday, May 26th, 2011 – Great Canadian Bagel

SECRETARY APPRECIATION DAY

Thursday, April 21st was Secretary Appreciation Day. I would like to publicly thank Mrs. Price and Ms. Martin for all the things they do on a daily basis for the students, parents and staff at St. Josephine Bakhita School. We are fortunate to have them with the many great qualities they offer our entire community.

SMOKING ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

Consistent with the Tobacco Control Act, the Board's policy prohibits smoking and holding lighted tobacco anywhere in the school or on school property by anyone, at any time.

BICYCLE SAFETY

Bicycle season has arrived. We remind students of the importance of following traffic safety rules and wearing helmets. A bicycle rack is provided behind the staff parking lot. The school does not accept responsibility for damaged or stole bikes.

When bringing your bike to school:

- walk your bike on school property
- place your bicycle in the designated area
- lock the bicycle
- stay away from bikes during recess
-

BIKES, ROLLER BLADES & SKATEBOARDS

Roller blades, scooters and skateboards are not allowed on school property. It is a liability issue and we are not set up to supervise activities using these items. Students who ride bikes to school must walk them on school property. A reminder to all of our students that the law requires all children wear proper bicycle helmets. Please note, we cannot guarantee safe bicycle storage.

DRESS CODE

We anticipate starting to see signs of warmer weather soon and therefore it is important that students dress appropriately. We require your support in assisting students to make appropriate clothing choices when attending school.

While we do not have as prescriptive a dress code as our secondary schools, we are a Catholic School and, as such, we encourage our students to dress modestly.

- Clothing must display appropriate and acceptable words and graphics.
- 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.
- Halter tops, mesh shirts, string tops, tube tops or anything that exposes midriffs and/or undergarments, skin tight clothing, spandex shorts or pants, cut off shorts, torn or ragged clothing and pants that sag below the waist are inappropriate attire for school.
- Sunglasses, hats and bandannas are inappropriate inside the school building.
- Students are required to wear shoes/sandals with a backing at all times.

Protective measures such as hats, sunglasses and sunscreen lotion are strongly encouraged for protection against harmful UV rays. Bottles of water are allowed in the classroom only, not outside in the schoolyard.

Students in grades 6, 7 and 8 are expected to have a change of clothing for gym. This should consist of running shoes, t-shirt or sweatshirt and shorts or sweatpants, or active wear which adheres to the dress code.

As in the past, students without appropriate clothing will generally not be sent home, but will be asked to change or cover inappropriate wear and may be accommodated in the office area. Parents will be contacted to bring appropriate wear if necessary. Thank you for your cooperation in helping to instil the values of good taste and modesty in our students.

CREATING CLASSES FOR NEXT YEAR

The process for the formation of classes for September 2011 will soon begin. Creating the best and most functional class groupings is a task that requires much thought, consideration and careful planning. Our goal is to establish balanced classrooms. These classes consist of students who will work together and therefore will enrich each other's learning experiences.

We will be considering the following:

- learning styles / work habits
- gender balance (male/female)
- balanced academic abilities
- social, emotional and physical needs
- student experience in combined class
- behavioural needs
- Special Education or English Language Learner needs
- balance of maturity needs

For our current Junior Kindergarten students, unless you have requested a change, please assume that your child's AM or PM placement will be the same for September. For new JK students,

teachers will call the week before school begins in September to arrange classroom visits. Students will start school in small groups to acclimatize the children to their new environment.

Few, if any schools in Ontario today are without combined grades. Combined grade classes can be beneficial to the students by allowing for appropriate class organization and a balanced number of students in each class. Our teachers and other professional staff carefully construct these combined grades. Many factors are considered, including peer group relationships, previous placements, social, academic and behavioural factors.

Programs in schools today are highly specialized, which substantially reduce the impact of combined grade classes. Combined grades can do much to enhance independent work skills among our students. Parents/guardians can assist their child in adjusting to a new placement by giving support and reassurance.

Class placements are tentative until the September 2011 enrolment is finalized.

BULLYING PREVENTION WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS

Free – Brampton Northwest Connects Presents Bullying Prevention Workshop for Parents

Tuesday, May 17th, 2011 at Rowntree Public School, 254 Queen Mary Drive, Brampton 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Anthony McLean's delivery style is upbeat, entertaining and interactive. He has appeared onstage at Stratford and on screen as a CBC Television Host.

This workshop is open to all parents and guardians in the Brampton Northwest community with children attending any public or Catholic schools, and equips them with the information and resources they need to tackle bullying issues. The workshop includes 30 minutes of solid teaching followed by an open forum Q & A where parents can ask tough questions, discuss best practices and glean helpful insight in all types of bullying scenarios. Topics include: Debunking bullying facts & myths; Practical strategies for how to manage a child who is being bullied; The prevalence of Social Bully among girls; The role of the Bully, the Bystander and the Target in bullying episodes; and a special focus on Cyber-Bullying and how parents can keep children safe on-line.

Please reserve your seat and childcare. Online registration www.bnconnects.org or by email rsvp@bnconnects.org and by phone Region of Peel at 905 799-7700.

EQAO

This year, Grade 3 and 6 students will once again participate in Provincial Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) testing to take place between May 30 and June 9. Since attendance will be extremely important during the EQAO testing period, parent are asked, if at all possible, to refrain from arranging doctor or other appointments during this time.

ATTENDANCE AT EXCURSIONS

We are requesting that students participate in excursions as they are part of the curriculum. Having said that, there are times in most families when money is tight. The school's policy is that a student should not miss out on a special event for financial reasons. If such a financial situation arises in your family, please feel free to contact the teacher or myself. All such requests will be held in strictest confidence.

MISSING LIBRARY/TEXTBOOKS

Every year, students are loaned textbooks to access the curriculum for the school year. The resource centre is also made available for all students to sign out books. This year, all books borrowed from the library are due back no later than June 10th. Children must take responsibility for these items. Occasionally, these books may be misplaced. Please take some time to search at home for any missing materials. Lost or vandalized items will be the responsibility of the students to replace.

MOVING HOUSES?

If you are planning to move out of our school area for September, please notify our office as soon as possible. We will provide you with transfer forms for the new school. Please remember that if you change your address at any time, new tax forms need to be completed to update records.

FOSTERING INDEPENDENCE

We all love our children and want to there to protect them at all times. However, we need to teach our children to become strong adults who can function well in the world as they grow up. They need a sense of independence. We, therefore, encourage parents to allow their children to play in the school yard during recesses and before and after school during the supervised times. Students can recognize the supervisors in their orange vests and approach them if they need assistance. That individual can help them deal with the situation in an unbiased and supportive way. Parents sometimes stand at the fence to observe the children playing in the schoolyard and engage them in constant conversation. When the children see their parents at the fence, they feel the need to speak and visit with them, rather than developing social skills together with their peers.

NUMERACY WEBSITES FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

To assist your children with homework and understanding in the area of numeracy, you are encouraged to visit the website for the core Nelson resource:

www.math8.nelson.com

Additional websites include:

www.mathadventures.com

www.nctm.org/families

<http://www.figurethis.com>

<http://www.mathguide.com>

<http://www.ed.gov/pubs/parents/Math/Index.html>

PROTECTING THE SKIN

Overexposure to the sun can cause skin damage. We remind students regularly to take precautions to during recess breaks. The following are some suggestions to help protect the skin:

- Wear protective clothing to cover the skin
- Wear a hat to protect both the eyes and the skin
- When possible, stay out of direct sunlight
- Know your skin type, and if you are more sensitive, wear sun block with a high level of protection
-

Parents are encouraged to reinforce these strategies with their children regularly.

OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOL HERITAGE

In 1990, the Supreme Court of Canada judged that the Canadian Constitution's Charter of Rights and Freedoms entitles Francophones, where numbers warrant, to have their own school boards. French-language district school boards and French language Catholic district school boards were created. Consequently, Ontario then had four school systems. Three of them—the English language Catholic district school boards, the French-language Catholic district school boards and the French language district school boards—had very little access to corporate assessment. One of them—the English language district school boards—possessed most of the Province's corporate assessment and therefore, ability to spend much more than their counterparts on education. Faced with this inequity and a court challenge it was convinced it would lose, the government took the only logical and fair step. It abolished the power of all school boards to tax and took over all education funding. Now each pupil, no matter which type of school he or she attends, receives the same per-pupil funding from the government. After 150 years of sacrifice and hardship, Catholic school boards have achieved financial equity. Catholic schools were fundamental in the early development of our region. With the support of local parishes, bishops and parents, Catholic schools were formed as an expression of a world view differing from other schools. In 1837 in Mono Township (Dufferin County), a school was dedicated and housed at St. Cyprian Church. Later, a log church housed a local Catholic school at St. Patrick's in Melancthon Township. In 1864, the first formal Catholic school was developed in Melancthon Township. In Peel, Catholic schools were formed well before confederation as an expression of the Catholic communities developing in our region. A more detailed history of Catholic education in our region can be found in the book entitled, Catholic Education in Dufferin Peel—A Story Worth Telling.

A PRAYER TO MARY

*Holy Mary, Mother fair
filled with love for God.
Pray for us in all our needs.
Pray for us today.
Help us to remember always,
your way of truth, love,
mercy and kindness.
We salute and honour you
as our Lady of Peace.
Watch over us and protect us
with your motherly love.*

Amen