



St. Margaret of Scotland School

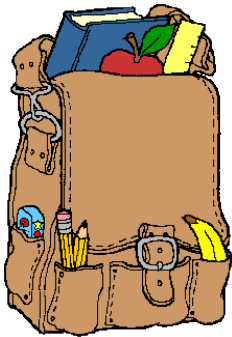
2266 Council Ring Rd.
Mississauga, On
L5L 1c1

Ph:905-820-5115 Fax:905-820-9272



Principal: M. Coburn Vice Principal: A. Scigliano Head Secretary: D. Lang-

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



September 2011

Prayer

If there is light in the soul,
There will be beauty in the person.
If there is beauty in the person
There will be harmony in the house.
If there is harmony in the house
There will be order in the nation.
If there is order in the nation
There will be peace in the world

back to
School



Welcome Back

It is hard to believe that the summer has passed away so quickly and that we are ready to begin a new school year. I would like to thank all staff for their work in preparing to receive our students on the first day of school. Special recognition must go to our custodians F. Failla, L. Mendonca and Roland Ocampo for their superb efforts in cleaning and polishing up the school for all of us. We as a staff would like to welcome all those returning and extend a very warm welcome to all the new families in our school community. We regard ourselves as partners with parents in the education of your children. Your support and input is necessary and valued to ensure the success of our students. Whether keeping contact with your child's teacher, volunteering in the school, or serving on our School Council, parental/guardian involvement has been shown by research to have a major impact on student learning and success. We are all looking forward to a productive and rewarding 2011-2012 school year.

St. Margaret of Scotland -A Brief History

Margaret was born in 1045 to Edward and Agatha Atheling. She was trained to be a princess by her parents and taught to be a devout Christian by Benedictine Nuns. When Margaret and her family arrived in Scotland in 1070, King Malcolm greeted and eventually married Margaret. One of her first acts as Queen was to build a great church dedicated to the Holy Trinity at Dunfermline, the site of their wedding. For 23 years, Malcolm and Margaret ruled Scotland. Margaret was deeply pious and taught Malcolm the ways of prayer and charity. She built schools, established abbeys and personally cared for pilgrims and the poor by distributing money for food with her own hands. The coins shown in her hand on our statue of St. Margaret symbolize her very great charity. As Queen she prompted the Scottish Clergy to bring Scottish practices into line with disciplines of Rome. With her encouragement, abuses were curtailed, the proper ritual of the Mass reestablished, and the rules for Lenten fasting and Easter Communion restored. She was canonized as Saint Margaret in 1250, with her feast day the date of her death, November 16.



Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board 905-890-1221

Director of Education: J. Kostoff

Superintendent: C. Saytar

Associate Directors: R. Borrelli, J. Hrajnik

Trustee, Vice Chair DPCDSB:

Sharon Hobin

Mississauga Wards 2 & 8

(905) 301-1210

FAX (905) 569-9052

sharon.hobin@dpcdsb.org



Parish: St. Francis of Assisi

Pastor: Fr. J. Grima

905-822-8132

Welcome New Staff

We wish to welcome S. Pires gr. 1 French Immersion and C. Darrah-Driouze, gr. 4 French Immersion and A. D'Chuna and C. Roth, both E.R.W.'s to our staff. In addition we wish to congratulate Ms. Abe who married over the summer and is now Mme. Johnson.

2011/2012 Classroom Assignments

Our classroom placements have been made based on the projections given to us last June and actual registrations as of September 2, 2011. As families move in and out of the school area fluctuations in student numbers occur. Should reorganization of classes be required it will take place on or prior to the Professional Activity Day on September 16. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding as we start up this new school year. More information will be sent home once our numbers and staffing have finalized.

Student Supervision Times

Please note that teachers are on supervision duty fifteen minutes before the start of the school day. For safety reasons no students should be dropped off at the school prior to 8:30 a.m. unless enrolled in the P.L.A.S.P. program.

Sacramental Preparation

Grade 2

The students in grade two are invited to make both their First Reconciliation and First Eucharist at St. Francis of Assisi Parish during this school year. The dates are as follows:

Reconciliation/First Eucharist:

Grade 2

Parent Meeting:	Sept. 22 at 6:45 p.m.
First Reconciliation:	Feb. 28, 7 p.m.
First Eucharist:	Sun. Apr. 29, 3 p.m.

Grade 8

Confirmation Parent Meeting/Registration:	Oct. 12 at 7: p.m.
Enrolment Masses Weekend masses	Nov. 5&6
Confirmation:	May 15 at 7 p.m.

All meetings/celebrations take place at

St. Francis of Assisi Church:

2473 Thorn Lodge Drive

Mississauga, ON L5K 1K8

(905) 822-8132

Please note that a parent or guardian must attend these meetings should you wish your child to receive these sacraments.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact the school or Father Joseph at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 905-822-8132

School Mass

Our first School Mass will be at 9:30 a.m. Sept. 20 here at the school. As always all are welcome to attend.

Other School Masses 2011-2012

Thanksgiving:	Oct. 5, 9:30 a.m.
Feast Day:	Nov. 16, 9:30 a.m.
Advent Mass:	Dec. 6, 9:30 a.m.
Ash Wed. Liturgy:	Feb. 22, 10:30 a.m.
Lenten Mass:	March 21, 1:15

All above masses are at the school

Closing Mass: Wed. June 20 at the church, 10 a.m.

Virtue for the Month of September: Faith

Each month we focus and celebrate different virtues. Through the month of September our virtue is Faith.

A person of faith:

- Knows that God is the creator of all
 - Knows that God's plan for us is good
 - Realizes that God's plan includes the right to be safe at school
 - Prays for the should of those who have lived and died with faith in God's Plan
- Prays for all those who have trouble keeping their faith in God and God's plan
- Through prayer and concentration, we can become better at becoming people of faith.

Lunch Hour

For safety reasons students who eat lunch at school are not permitted to leave the school property without a signed, dated note from a parent/guardian. It is to be understood that once a student returns to the school following lunch that he/she remain at the school. If you are dropping lunch off for a student please write the child's name and classroom teacher on the lunch bag and drop it off in the office. The student will be called to the office to pick it up.

Visitors to the School

All visitors to our school must report to the office. At this time they will be required to sign in and to wear a visitors badge during their stay. When leaving visitors must sign out from the office and return the visitor's badge. If for any reason you wish to drop something off or pick your child up at any time other than dismissal please do so through the office. A class may be in a different area of the school other than the classroom, (e.g. Resource Centre, Gym etc.), thus it is much easier to have the child summoned by the secretary from the office rather than to go searching for them. This expectation also applies to the schoolyard for while you are known to your children and their friends you are a stranger to others.

Attendance Verification

If your child will be absent from class we ask that you notify the office. Please call 905-820-5115 and leave the following message:

- Name of student
(Please spell out the last name)
- Name of teacher and grade level
- Date of absence
- Reason and duration of absence

This is of great assistance and will save much time in the event of an emergency situation.

Open House/Community Barbecue

Our Open House/Meet the teacher BBQ is scheduled for Wednesday September 21 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Order forms will be sent home on Monday September 12 to be returned no later than Thursday Sept. 15 so that we can ensure that sufficient food is available.

Picture Day

Please mark Sept 27 and 28 into your calendars as the photographer will be here to take individual and classroom pictures.



Safety

This is the time to teach and remind students that the safest way to cross the street is under the direction of the Crossing Guard. All people should wait until the guard announces that it is safe to cross. Please be aware that children learn through example and that adults should model safety by crossing at these designated spots.

Kiss and Ride Programme

Please note that when dropping your child off at school use the middle "Kiss and Ride" lane and have your child exit from the right hand side of the vehicle. At this point the child may walk to the sidewalk. Parents should not exit the car as this creates a safety concern as the left lane is for exiting traffic. Please note that the Kiss and Ride is for drop off only. There is no parking or stopping in front of the school at entrance (8:30-8:50 a.m.) and dismissal times (2:45 -3:25 p.m.).

We wish to thank you in advance for adhering to the rules for our Kiss'N'Ride Programme. While there may be some inconvenience and people must wait a little longer, the safety of our children is our foremost priority.

School Bus Transportation

The transportation system is a joint venture between the Dufferin-Peel Catholic, and the Peel District School Boards. There are many new registrations throughout these districts as well as kindergarten and primary students who are eligible for transportation often are brought to school during the first couple of weeks before parents begin accessing the transportation. Once the system settles we begin filling up the bus under the "Courtesy Rider" Policy.

This policy states that:

1. Application for transportation under this policy must be forwarded to the school in the form of a letter to the Principal before October 31st.
2. The Principal will allocate extra seats, according to Board Policy.
3. Students riding under this policy will access the bus at an existing bus stop.
4. This service, based on availability, may be withdrawn at any time, and should not be considered to constitute a precedent or establish a right.
5. This application covers the current school year only.

Please see attached memo: STOPR: Info for Parents

Student Accident Insurance

The forms for Student Accident Insurance will be sent home shortly. This coverage is optional and while highly recommended, it is a personal decision between you and the insurance provider. Payment for the plan should be sent directly to the insurance company and not to the school. If you do not receive this package let us know and another will be sent home

Volunteer Police Checks

We as a staff greatly appreciate the efforts of our parent/guardian volunteers. These individuals enable us to enrich the curriculum for our students. Board policy requires that all volunteers must produce a police check to the principal of the school. These forms are available in the school's office. We ask that you complete the form and take it to the local police station with two pieces of identification (one with a photo).

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this process please feel free to contact the school.

Distribution and Storage of Medication

If a child is required to bring medication to school, procedures relative to the administration of medication shall only be adopted:

- when requested by the parents/guardians; and
- when authorized by a physician; and
- when medication must be provided during school hours.

If a designated staff member must administer medication, signed request/authorization forms from the parents/guardians and the supervising physician must be obtained whenever a prescription is initiated or changed. These forms are available through the school office. The required authorization forms and the medication shall be delivered to the principal or designated person by the parents/guardians or other responsible person. All medication with the exception of epi-pens will be housed in a safe location. Medication must not be kept in the child's possession (i.e. pocket, pack back, etc.) or in the classroom.

No Child Without

Our school is involved in the Canadian MedicAlert Foundation's **No Child Without** program. There is no cost for students who attend our school and are between the ages of 4 up to their 14th birthday to join MedicAlert through this program. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medication on a regular basis, then you should consider this program. A child's MedicAlert identification can alert school staff, friends, coaches and others about your child's medical condition should an emergency occur.

For further information come to the office for a brochure or go to www.nochildwithout.ca. To register your child you will need a **No Child Without** brochure from the office.

If your child is already part of the **No Child Without** program and there have been changes to their medical condition, medications or emergency contact information, call MedicAlert at 1-800-668-1507 to update your child's file.

Health Alert

In a number of our classes there are students who have a serious and in some cases life-threatening allergy to peanuts and products that are derived from peanuts. Even the mere exposure to these products may cause a severe allergic reaction for these children which could potentially result in death. For the safety of all of our children I ask that you not send items containing peanuts or peanut by-products to the school. If you wish to send a treat to school to be shared with others a list of ingredients must be included or the product will not be distributed, or better yet consider a non-edible treats such as stickers, pencils, etc.



PLASP

We have the Peel Lunch and After School Programme available here at the school. This programme is available from 7:30 –8:45 a.m. as well as after school until 6 p.m. The children are involved in fun filled activities and provided with nutritious snacks during this supervised period. For more information please call 905-890- 1711.

Monthly Newsletter

Watch for our monthly newsletter to arrive home on the first Friday of each month. These will be sent home with the youngest child in the family. If you do not receive the newsletter please contact your child's teacher and we will ensure that you receive one.

Personal Electronic Devices

All PEDs (Personal Electronic Devices i.e. **cell phones**) must be kept out of sight, turned off and not used within school premises (including portables, school yard etc.) or during school-sanctioned activities such as retreats, field trips, sports events, etc. To prevent the loss or damage of PEDs, we encourage students to leave their PEDs at home.

Failure to comply with this policy may result in the confiscation of the PED and/or disciplinary action as outlined in the Catholic Code of Conduct.

Valuables

We ask that students not bring i-pods, mp3 players, electronic games or any other valuables to school. The school cannot be held responsible for missing or broken personal items.

Professional Activity Day

Please note that Friday September 16 is a Professional Activity Day. Teachers will be involved in Faith and Curriculum development activities as well as reorganization of classes if necessary. There is no school for students on this day.

For your planning purposes, other Professional Activity Days for the 2010-2011 school year are as follows:

Elementary Schools – Professional Activity Days

<i>Friday, September 16, 2011</i>	Principal's Day: Re-organization/Faith Development/Prov. Priorities
<i>Friday, November 18, 2011</i>	Provincial Priorities and Faith Development
<i>Monday, January 16, 2012</i>	Term 1 Assessment and Evaluation of Pupil Progress
<i>Friday, February 3, 2012</i>	Reporting to Parents on Evaluation and Pupil Progress
<i>Friday, May 11, 2012</i>	Provincial Priorities and Faith Development
<i>Monday, June 11, 2012</i>	Term 2 Assessment and Evaluation of Pupil Progress

School Holidays for the 2011-2012 School Year

Every Saturday and Sunday

Labour Day:	Monday, September 5, 2011
Thanksgiving Day:	Monday, October 10, 2011
Christmas Break :	Monday, December 26, 2011 to Friday, January 6, 2012 (inclusive)
Family Day:	Monday, February 20, 2012
Mid-Winter Break:	Monday, March 12, 2012 to Friday, March 16, 2012 (inclusive)
Good Friday:	Friday, April 6, 2012
Easter Monday:	Monday, April 9, 2012
Victoria Day:	Monday, May 21, 2012

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 2012

School Council Corner

Nomination forms for the St. Margaret of Scotland School Advisory Council will be available in the school office from September 20-24 during school hours. Completed nomination forms must be submitted to the office by 3:45p.m. on September 23, 2011. Should an election be required it will take place on Tue., September 27 at 6 p.m. in the school's gym. **All parents are invited to attend the scheduled Council meetings.**

Upcoming Events:

Professional Activity Day	Sept. 16
Opening Mass 9:15 a.m. (at school)	Sept. 20
BBQ/Program Night	Sept. 21
Gr. 2 Confession/1 st Communion mtg.	Sept. 22
(at St. Francis of Assisi church)	
School Pictures	Sept 27-28
School Council Election (If required)	Sept. 27
Thanksgiving Mass	Oct. 5
Thanksgiving	Oct. 10
Gr. 8 Confirmation Info	Oct. 12

Attached:

Achievement: A Report

J. Kostoff, Director of Education
DPCDSB

Welcome back Letters:

Catholic School Trustee –Sharon Hobin
Mississauga South Superintendent of Schools -C. Saytar



From Your Catholic School Trustee
Sharon Hobin

Welcome back to the 2011-2012 school year. To those of you who are parents of children in Junior Kindergarten and new parents and families to Dufferin-Peel, welcome. I know you will be very happy with the education your children will receive.

Your children's teachers have been working hard to get ready for this new year and soon you will have an opportunity to visit the school on Curriculum Night to see the classrooms and meet the teachers. I encourage you to get involved in your children's education by attending or joining your Catholic school council, helping with homework and reading with your children. Studies show that when parents are engaged in their children's education children do better in school.

Always feel free to speak to your children's teachers, vice principal or principal about concerns or questions you may have. And as you know transportation issues are dealt with by our Transportation Department –STOPR. You may find more information in the school newsletter and on our board web site at www.dpcdsb.org. As well look to our web site for an interesting document titled *Achievement - A Report to our Catholic School Communities*. This newsletter is being distributed to parents/guardians the first week of September, as we begin the 2011-12 school year. This document provides a quick snapshot of some of the Board's accomplishments and activities during the 2010-11 school year.

I am proud to be your Catholic School Trustee. If you have any questions please never hesitate to contact me. We have a provincial election coming in October and I encourage you to become familiar with the issues around education in Ontario and VOTE!

As Canadians, we have a wonderful gift of democracy that many people in other countries do not have.

Dufferin-Peel is very proud of the relationship we have fostered between home, school and parish. For nearly 170 years Catholic education has been the foundation for millions of students to develop their full spiritual, academic, physical and social potential. With your faith and support we will continue this journey.

I wish you a wonderful school year and may the good Lord always hold you in the palm of His hand.





Message from the Superintendent
Cathy Saytar
Mississauga South Family
September 2011

Welcome back to another exciting school year. Special greetings to all those who are new to the Mississauga South Family of Schools. As the Superintendent of Mississauga South Family of Schools, I am excited to be a part of this vibrant and diverse community. Mississauga South consists of 26 schools; 4 secondary and 22 elementary, as well as 8 parishes, each of which supports our students' faith formation and catechetical programming. Four trustees represent our family's jurisdiction: Sharon Hobin, Peter Ferreira, Bruno Iannicca and Mario Pascucci, each of whom is a strong advocate for our schools and Catholic Education. It is our collective hope that you find your school to be a safe, caring, healthy and inclusive Catholic learning environment. It is our aim to provide excellence in Catholic education for your children.

Our Catholic teachers ensure that our young people become more appreciative of the gifts of our faith and realize their distinctive legacy as Catholic citizens. As parents and educators, you are witnesses to the hope that nourishes each child's faith formation and thus are empowered to help these young people in their journey.

Education is a co-operative endeavour and as parents and guardians, you play an absolutely essential role in your children's success. We ask you to set high expectations for your children's academic success. A parent's expectation of success becomes a driving force to motivate a child. When children aren't expected to do well, they often don't. So please don't accept mediocre grades and poor study habits; rather get involved and expect your child to achieve to their fullest potential. There are many ways to do this, such as by supervising homework, fostering reading at home, limiting TV, MSN messaging, video games, and talking with your children about the importance of education.

Your child's faculty have worked hard in preparing for the upcoming school year. The administrative team is prepared to ensure that programming and safety are paramount to your child's success. As parents, you must also set high expectations for your school. We welcome your involvement, support and suggestions which can help us to improve. Specifically, get involved with your children's schoolwork and tell us right away about any possible problems, for example, whether work is too easy or too difficult. Get to know your child's teacher and form a partnership.

I wish all our students a successful academic school year and many blessings.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION OF PEEL REGION STOPR

Information for Parents Regarding School Start-Up Transportation Procedures

June, 2011

- If your child is newly registered at their school, in late August or September, and eligible for transportation per Board Policy, you are required to assume responsibility for getting your child to and from school until transportation arrangements have been confirmed by the Transportation Department. This may range in time from a few days to two weeks.
- All transportation issues and concerns should be directed to your child's school of attendance. Please be aware that requests for bus stop location adjustments or additions or route adjustments will not be addressed until late October. The priorities for September and early October are eligible students requiring service, bus overloads and route timing adjustments.
- Please be aware that delays do occur to bus runs during the first few days of school as drivers are still familiarizing themselves with routes and students and significant delays occur with student pick ups in the morning and the initial few days of bus loading procedures at schools. After the first few days of school, route timing will become more consistent. If your child's bus is late, you can check to see how late it is running by looking on the website at: businfo.stopr.ca and clicking on "Delays and Cancellations".
- If your child is in Junior or Senior Kindergarten or Grade 1 at a Dufferin-Peel Catholic District school, or in K1 or K2 at a Peel District school, it is required that a parent/caregiver meet the child when they disembark from the bus at noon or at the end of the day. Children in these grade levels who are not met at the stop will be returned to their school.
- If you wish to challenge eligibility measurements, we will be pleased to do so; however, these have been carefully measured and in many cases are long established. As with stop adjustments, we are unable to address these until later in October as other system issues take priority.
- If you wish to request a change in your child's stop, please contact your school.
- Please be patient. The Student Transportation of Peel Region (STOPR) is responsible for the transportation of approximately 65,000 students to 300 schools on 1400 buses. This is being accomplished with an Operations staff of 15. Every effort is made to complete required adjustments as quickly as possible, but there are limitations, particularly communication processes with schools, parents, bus operators, and drivers, which limit the volume of changes which can be implemented each week.

MediAlert's No Child Without Program is at Our School

The *No Child Without* program offers a free MediAlert membership to students who attend our school and are between the ages of 4 up to their 14th birthday. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medication on a regular basis then you should consider a MediAlert membership through this program. MediAlert is your child's voice in an emergency,

MediAlert membership;

- Gives emergency first responders immediate access to a your child's medical information on their MediAlert bracelet or necklet
- Enables first responders to quickly obtain up to date medical information by means of the child's Electronic Health Record through the **24 Hour Emergency Hotline**.
- Communicates with the parent or emergency contact upon activation of the **Hotline**
- Allows free updates of the child's medical record as needed

MediAlert identification can alert school staff, friends, coaches and others about your child's medical condition should an emergency occur.

For further information come to the office for a brochure or go to www.nochildwithout.ca.

To register your child you will need a *No Child Without* brochure from the office.

If your child is already part of the *No Child Without* program and there have been changes to their medical condition, medications or emergency contact information, call MediAlert at 1-866-679-3220 to update your child's file.