



# St. Margaret of Scotland School

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Mississauga, On  
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Principal: M. Coburn Vice Principal: A. Scigliano Head Secretary: D. Langley

## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



### Advent Prayer

Lord Jesus,  
Master of both light and darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparation for Christmas.  
We who have so much do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.  
We who are anxious over so many things  
We, who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.  
We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.

### Virtue of the Month: Hope

This month we focus on and celebrate the virtue of hope. People of Hope

- Keep a positive attitude
- Can bounce back from tough situations
- Set and stick to their goals
- See the good in others even when they make mistakes
- Work to include others

Let others know that they too are good people

Through prayer and concentration, we can become better at truly becoming people of hope.



### Advent Mass

Father Joseph will be here to celebrate our Advent Mass on Tue . Dec. 6, 9:30. The mass is here at the school and as always, all are welcome to attend.

### Breakfast with Santa

Please mark Saturday December 3 on your calendars as our School Council will be holding our annual "Breakfast with Santa" from 9:00-11:30 a.m. here at the school. Breakfast will be sausages and pancakes and we are expecting a visit from Santa from 9:30 – 11 a.m. There will be a photographer here to offer the opportunity for your child/ren to have their picture taken with Santa. We hope that it will be an enjoyable family event and request that children be accompanied by an adult.



## 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

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Parish: St. Francis of Assisi

Pastor: Fr. J. Grima

905-822-8132

### Primary Christmas Concert

Our primary classes and our school choir will celebrate the Christmas Season with a concert at 9:30 on Dec. 21 in gym.

### Kindergarten Christmas Concert

Our kindergarten classes will have their Christmas concert on Dec. 16 in the school's Library/Resource Centre. The morning class concert will begin at 10 a.m. and the p.m. classes will begin at 1:30 p.m.

### Allergy Alert

With the upcoming Christmas season upon us I ask that we all be vigilant in checking food product ingredient lists to ensure that products containing peanuts, nuts, or peanut/nut by-products are not sent to school.

### French Immersion in Dufferin-Peel

French Immersion is a Canadian educational program designed to give students whose first language is not French the opportunity to learn in the French language. The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board offers a French Immersion program starting in Grade 1 at four sites. St. Margaret of Scotland is one of the sites. Students registered in this program will spend 90% of their day learning in the French language. All subjects and activities in the French Immersion classroom, except for English language arts, will be delivered in French.

The programme is open to any child living in Peel Region or Dufferin County who is entering Grade 1 in September 2012 and is eligible to attend Ontario's publicly funded Catholic schools.

French Immersion school boundaries are based on Brampton, Caledon, Bolton Dufferin County, and Malton residents accessing the Brampton site and Mississauga residents accessing the Mississauga site.

Please note that transportation to this program of choice will **NOT** be provided by the board. Parents and guardians of students registered in the program are responsible for ensuring that their children arrive and depart safely each day to and from their registered French Immersion site.

If you are interested in this programme please discuss with your child's kindergarten teacher during the Parent/Teacher/student conferences in December.

A parent information evening will take place on January 11, here at St. Margaret of Scotland beginning at 7:00p.m

### Christmas Vacation

Please note that the Christmas Vacation is Dec. 26 – Jan. 6 inclusive. The school is closed during this time. Classes will resume for all students at 8:45 a.m.. January 9, 2012.

### Lost and Found

Our lost and found bin is located outside the gym doors. Please take a moment when you are in the school to look through these items in case your child may have lost an article and it was found and placed here.

### **SCHOOL CLOSING/BUS CANCELLATIONS DUE TO BAD WEATHER 2011-2012**

During the winter months inclement weather may cause disruption of bus transportation and regular school operations. A decision to cancel school transportation and/or to close schools is usually made by 6:00 a.m. and will be announced on the following radio stations:

CHUM AM 1050 CFTR AM 680, CFNY 102.1, CJCL 590  
CHFI FM98.1, CFRB AM 1010 EZ ROCK FM97.3,  
Z FM103 CJBC (FR) AM860 Virgin Radio FM 99.9,  
CHIN FM 100.7 FM/1540 AM FM93.1  
CITYPULSE, CBC, GLOBAL NEWS, CTV

We will be communicating one of four standard messages to the radio stations. The four announcements and their effect on the transportation system are as follows: (Please note that the highlighted text only will be communicated by the radio stations)

**Please note only announcements # 1 and #2 affect St. Margaret of Scotland students.**

1. "THE DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD AND THE PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD BUSES ARE CANCELLED." This means that: **ALL** Transportation services provided by the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board and The Peel District School Board, including buses, vans and taxis have been cancelled for the entire day.

2. "THE SCHOOLS AND OFFICES OF BOTH THE DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD AND THE PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ARE CLOSED."

This means that:

**ALL** Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board and Peel District School Board schools and offices are closed to all students and staff.

3. "DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD BUSES SERVING ST. ANDREW, ST. BENEDICT AND ST. PETER ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AND R.F. HALL SECONDARY SCHOOL ARE CANCELLED FOR TODAY."

4. "THE DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD BUSES AND THE PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD BUSES IN THE TOWN OF CALEDON AND THE COUNTY OF DUFFERIN ARE CANCELLED". This means that all runs listed under announcement #3 PLUS the following are cancelled.

All schools in the Town of Caledon including St. Patrick and all school runs that begin in the Town of Caledon.

Individual schools will be notified if this cancellation affects their school.

N.B. For Secondary School students riding Public Transit, cancellation of service will be communicated by the respective transit property over the radio. Please be advised that Public Transit rarely cancels and that the level of service on days with inclement weather is unpredictable.

### Youth Faith Corner

During the month of November the St. Margaret of Scotland Youth Faith Ambassadors initiated two activities. We helped distribute poppies during Veteran's week to classrooms for students to wear to support the war veterans and to remember the significance of Remembrance Day. The week of Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> was Bullying Awareness Week. We prepared and presented skits to the primary and junior students to help make them aware of the different forms of bullying and how to prevent bullying. After our presentations there was good discussion in the classrooms. In December we will be helping out by collecting and sorting items for the Christmas Food Drive.

## Recess

When students are in attendance at school they are expected to participate in all school activities which includes recess. Therefore students are expected to arrive at school with the appropriate dress for weather conditions.

It is also advisable that students bring an indoor pair of shoes that may be left at the school. This is important as in the event of an emergency evacuation we are not able to take the time to put boots/outdoor shoes on before leaving the building.

## Student Supervision Times

We still have students arriving at the school prior to supervision time. Please note that teachers are on supervision duty 15 minutes before the start of the school day. For safety reasons we ask that you not drop your child off at the school prior to 8:30 a.m. unless they are in the P.L.A.S.P. Program Students are not allowed in the school prior to 8:45 a.m. or after 3:20 p.m. unless they are under the direct supervision of a teacher.

## Full Day Kindergarten Registration for 2012-13 At SMOS Registration for the 2012-2013 school year will be held at all Dufferin-Peel Catholic elementary schools on the following dates:

**Monday, February 6, 2012 - 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.\***

*\*Snow Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2012 - 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.*

**Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, February 8-10, 2012**

**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 December 31, 2012*

*Senior Kindergarten - Children must be 5 years old by December 31, 2012*

## Winter - Exposure to Extreme Cold

At rest, an unprotected person is able to maintain their core body temperature until the temperature falls to or below minus 25 degrees Celsius. The main risks of exposure to extremely cold weather for relatively short periods (recess or lunch periods) is that of frostbite. Someone who is protected by clothing or is physically active may be able to withstand exposure to colder temperatures. Therefore it is recommended that consideration be given to reducing the amount of time outdoors for children (grade 8 and under) when the temperature is -20 degrees Celsius or colder. When the temperature or equivalent wind chill temperature is minus 25 degrees Celsius or lower children must be kept indoors. Therefore it is recommended that consideration be given to reducing the amount of time outdoors for children (grade 8 and under) when the temperature is -20 degrees Celsius or colder. When the temperature or equivalent wind chill temperature is minus 25 degrees Celsius or lower children must be kept indoors. Procedures 502.14)

## School Council News

St. Margaret of Scotland School held their Dance-a-thon Fundraiser on Friday Oct. 28th. The dance was to raise funds for school activities, performers, trips and special events for the 2011-2012 School Year. The students had fun and the Grade 7 and 8's are to be commended for their Music and video selections for the students to dance to.

We would like to thank all who participated and collected money for the dance-a-thon. With all your efforts we raised \$7103.25. The dance was a fun day and all the children had a blast. Here are the winners of all the prizes.

## Pizza Party Winners

Mme. Johnson 89% Participation

## Hot Dog Party Winners

Mme. Salituro 88% Participation

Ms. Schmid 88% Participation

Special thanks to all who donated prizes.

## Movie Night

November 17<sup>th</sup> was our first movie night of the school year hosted by the School Council and it was fun night had by the 60 children that attended and watched Night in the Museum. We would like to thank the Dous family who owns The Collegeway Pharmacy and donated a gift basket for the raffle draws. As well we would like to thank all the volunteers that made the night a success. We look forward to seeing everyone at the next movie night in the New Year.

## Extended French

Parents of students in grade four may wish to consider the Extended French program as a possibility for Grade Five in September 2012. There is an Information Meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. January 18, 2012, at St. Christopher Catholic School, 1195 Clarkson Road North, Mississauga, L5J 2W2

## School Activities at a Glance

Dec. 3	Breakfast with Santa
Dec. 6	Advent mass 9:30 a.m.
Dec. 15	Kindergarten Christmas Concert
Dec. 21	Primary Christmas Pageant
Dec. 23	Last day of classes before Christmas
Dec. 26-Jan6	Christmas Holidays
Jan. 9	Classes resume
Jan.11	Gr. 1 FI info session 7 PM St. Margaret of Scotland

## Prayer for Christmas

Lord,  
Thank you for showing yourself to us in Christmas. You are present in all of nature, in friends and relatives, in social gatherings, in the words of scripture and in our conscience.  
Thank you for teaching us that we find you not by ourselves but in and through others and in and through all of your creation.  
Lead us to a better appreciation of your presence in our family, in our community of faith, in our network of friends, in those we need and in those who need us.  
Amen

On behalf of the entire staff of St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Elementary School, I wish you and your family peace and joy during this Christmas Season and God's blessing throughout the New Year.

Attachments:

Letter from our trustee S. Hobin  
St. Francis of Assisi Church



From Your Catholic School Trustee, Wards 2 & 8  
Sharon Hobin



Well the school year is moving quickly as it always does (especially as we get older)! I am pleased to report that to date this has been a wonderful start up with many exciting events happening in our schools. Thanks to everyone who organized the many tributes to our veterans on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Both my parents were veterans of World War II. It is very important that our children know and understand the terrific sacrifice made in the past and continues to be made by our armed forces. As the Christmas season approaches it also means it is time for the school board to hold its elections for chair and vice chair as well as committees chairpersons. The organization board meeting will be on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Information as to who has been elected will be on our board web site at [www.dpedsb.org](http://www.dpedsb.org).

We welcome the opening of another Catholic school in Brampton. Our Lady of Lourdes opened its doors in September. It will serve a large population in the Brampton area and is predicted to grow in numbers every year. The new Loyola is moving along and is right on time if not ahead of schedule. We look forward to the opening in September. Course choices will include many of the new programs. And while writing about Loyola, sincere congratulations to the Loyola Senior Girls Basketball team for winning the AAA (ROPSSAA) Tier 2 Championship. This is Loyola's 27th championship team in the last eight years. Congratulations also go to the entire Cross Country team! They participated in the ROPSSAA championship on October 28th. It was a very cold day and the course was muddy but this did not deter the Loyola Warriors for a ROPSSAA gold medal!!! Many of our elementary schools are winning Family and board wide championships as well...too many to list. Sincere congratulations to all.

Congratulations to MPP Laurel Broten who has been appointed Minister of Education. We look forward to a positive partnership and wish her all the best in her endeavours. Congratulations to MPP Bob Delaney who has been appointed Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education.

We will be inviting our local MPPs to meet with the board of Trustees and senior staff in the New Year to discuss goals, concerns and issues. I hope that our local MPP will be able to attend.

I am hoping that you will make an effort to attend your Catholic school council meetings. This is an opportunity for you to hear the latest news about your children's school and to ask pertinent questions. Thank you so much to our school council members and volunteers for your time and talent.

As I visit my schools I am acutely aware of our outward signs of our Catholicity. It is crucial that we continue to make our elected representatives aware that we expect that they will stand for Catholic education in this province. I wish each and every one of you a blessed Christmas and all the very best for the New Year. May the good Lord always hold you in the palm of His hand.



**Dufferin-Peel  
Catholic District  
School Board**

Father Joseph's Christmas Message...

Dear friends of St. Margaret of Scotland school,

I pray this newsletter finds you embarked on a blessed Advent Season and that you are looking forward to the Christmas days. I look forward to seeing you all during the many Masses that we can share together and this year, everything is new, with a new Roman Missal, new prayers at our liturgies – all very exciting. It really is the way we capture the true spirit of Christmas. When we find ourselves caught up in decorations and advertisements, God invites us to take a moment to recognize the Light and the Word which is at the heart of our lives.

Above all, may this Christmas season revive in us a sense of solidarity, sharing and simplicity. May it also help us rediscover what is most essential in life: to love God, and to love our neighbour, yes even as we love ourselves.

May God bless and protect each and every one of you and a truly Merry Christmas to you and all those you love.

Fr. Joseph Grima  
Pastor

### **CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE**

**Christmas Eve – Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

Masses at 6:00 p.m., 8:30 p.m., 10:00 p.m. and 12 a.m. (midnight)

**Christmas Day – Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

Masses at 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

**New Year's Eve – Vigil of Mary the Mother of God**

**Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011 - Mass at 5:00 p.m.**

**Feast of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)**

**Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 –**

Masses at 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

**ADVENT RECONCILIATION  
SERVICE**

(with 8 priests in attendance)  
on Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.