



St. Jerome Journal

Volume 3, Issue 6

February 2010

Prayer for Lent

Lord of heaven and earth

You lead us up the mountain to show us something new,

You show us the beauty of life, the wonder of creation, the goodness of family, the fun of good friends.

You ask us to let go of pride, of selfishness, of meanness.

You invite us to open ourselves to gentleness, to love, to You.

Lead us up the mountain this Lent and back home to you this Easter.

Amen

Keeping a Holy Lent

Principal's Message

As we approach the season of Lent, we are reminded that this special season provides all of us with a time to prepare for the essence of our faith—the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As in previous years, the students will embark upon the Liturgical Season of Lent with the distribution of ashes and their own Lenten promises. These promises will be their focus for the forty days of Lent and will be a reminder that Lent is a time to change the things in our lives which separate us from Jesus.

It is my hope that by all of us taking time from our busy schedules to develop our relationship with God, we can use the Lenten season to develop a greater appreciation of the life that God is calling each of us to lead.

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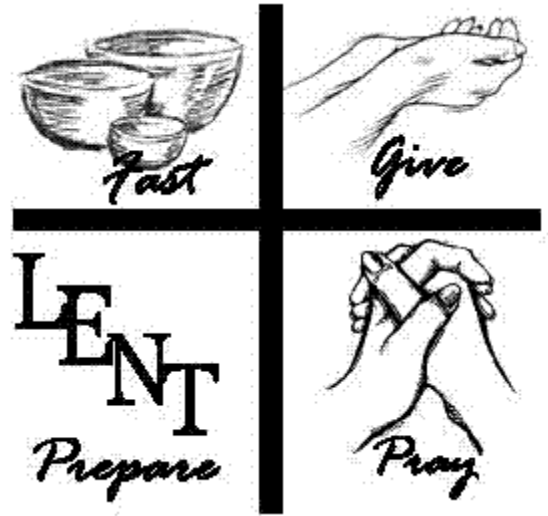
**St. Martin of Tours Church
905 279 5742**

Lent for Children

Forty days is an unimaginably long time for primary age children. They will hear about Ash Wednesday and Lent at school, and of course they will be prepared for Easter six weeks later. It seems to be more appropriate to encourage them to do more good things in Lent, rather than to “give something up”.

Tell your child that Lent is a time of getting ready for Easter. Together with your child, sit down and decided about two or three good things that deserve a little more attention and review your decision every week until Easter. Be sure to listen to your child and affirm his/her ideas.

The ideas may involve more discipline for you. Perhaps you will agree to pray together more consistently or to read a book together more often. If family meals have become a little chaotic, perhaps you can decide together on good behavior at meal times (but don't allow it to become a time of tension or power struggles). Perhaps they can try harder to get along with siblings or friends. Perhaps, especially if they receive a weekly allowance, they can find a way to share with the poor.



Winter Carnival



St. Jerome School will be having it's annual Winter Carnival the week of February 22-26th. Below is a list of activities that the students will be enjoying. Please make sure that your children

have the appropriate winter clothing to wear outside for recess on the days that they are dressing up.

Activities

- **Monday, February 22nd**
Bingo begins
Canada Day—show your Canadian Spirit by wearing red and white and maple leaves
- **Tuesday, February 23rd**
Tacky Tuesday—wear crazy mismatched clothing and hair to school today
- **Wednesday, February 24th**
Hat Day—wacky or normal, today is the day you don't have to “flip your lid”
- **Thursday, February 25th**
Retro Day—sorry moms and dads, today is the day students get to raid your closets and choose their favourite decade and dress like they are living it
- **Friday, February 26th**
Olympic Day - this is an outdoor activity—please dress appropriately
Backwards Day—wear your clothes the wrong way today

Shrove Tuesday—Ash Wednesday



Shrove Tuesday

Through the co-operation of our School Council and parent volunteers we will once again be providing a pancake

“brunch” to all students at St. Jerome School on Tuesday February 16th in the morning. Our army of flippers will be preparing pancakes and

juice for the children as they are called down to the gym to enjoy this pre-Lenten treat.

If you are able to help in the flipping brigade, please contact us at the school so that your information can be passed along to Mrs. Milano who will be organizing the morning.

Ash Wednesday

On Wednesday February 17th, we will mark the season of Lent by observing Ash Wednesday through a liturgy in the gym. This will mark the

beginning of a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Students will receive ashes during the liturgy. If you would like to attend, the liturgy will be held at 10:00 am.



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School Bus Cancellations



A decision to cancel school transportation and/or to close the school is usually made by 6:30 am and will be announced on the following radio stations: CKFM, CHUM, CFTR, CFNY, Q107, CJCL, CHFI, CFRB, ENERGY, CJEZ, CJBC, CHIN, CJMR, CHWO, and CITY TV.

Should the announcement be: *THE DUFFERIN PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL AND PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD BUSES ARE CANCELLED.*—This means that **ALL** transportation services provided by the school board have been cancelled for the **ENTIRE** day.

Should the announcement be: *THE SCHOOL 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 school and offices are closed to students and staff.

Should the announcement refer to cancellation only in the **COUNTY OF DUFFERIN**, this does not affect St. Jerome School.

We are on the web: <http://www.dpcdsb.org/JEROM>

Personal Electronic Devices (PEDs)



As part of our efforts to promote and maintain a positive Catholic climate in our schools, the board recently approved a new policy regarding Personal Electronic Devices (PEDs) on school property. We encourage you to read this important message as it may impact on your child.

The board acknowledges that the dignity of the human person, as promoted by the Catholic Church, may be compromised by the potential for invasion of personal privacy

made possible by inappropriate use of PEDs on school premises. The board also recognizes that unregulated use of PEDs may pose a risk to the individual safety of students, staff and visitors in our schools. In some cases, unregulated use of PEDs may facilitate illegal activities in the school environment or during school-sanctioned activities. Further, the board realizes that the promotion of academic excellence and the preservation of academic integrity may be compromised by the unregulated use of PEDs during the instructional day, at assessment times and on formal exam days.

In this regard, effective immediately, all PEDs must be kept out of sight, turned off and not

used within school premises (including portables) 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 or in their lockers. 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.

There may be exceptional circumstances under which a PED may be used on school premises or during school-sanctioned activities. For further information on this and any other aspects of the PED policy, contact your school principal.

Lates

A number of our students continue to arrive late daily. In some instances, it is the same students arriving after 9:15 am without parental accompaniment. This is a safety concern for us. Any student arriving after 9:15 am is considered late and should be accompanied by an adult.

Please make every effort to have your child/ren at school on time. When a child is late, they not only miss opening prayer and



the anthem, but they also miss valuable teaching time.

Late arrivals cause disruption to the other students and also to the teacher who may have already begun his/her lessons for the day.

Developing good work habits and time management skills can maximize a child's learning potential.

Let's work together to develop these skills!





February 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Grade 7 Trip	2 Groundhog Day Grade 4-6 Trip Gr 7 Diversity Conference	3 PM-Intermediate Speeches	4 Ballroom Dancing	5 Dance for Haiti	6
7	8 AM-Junior Speeches 7:00 pm- Kindergarten Registration	9 Ballroom Dancing Rosary Apostolates	10 Winter Walk for Haiti 7:00-Carole Bertuzzi-Luciani	11 Ballroom Dancing Sub Day Family of Schools Speech Competition	12 Red/White/Pink/ Hearts Day for ShareLife	13
	KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION					
14 Happy Valentine's Day	15 FAMILYDAY	16 Pancake Tuesday 7:00 pm-School Council	17 Ash Wednesday	18 Ballroom Dancing	19 Ballroom Dancing Grade 7 Trip Family of Schools Chess Tournament	20 First Communion- Rite of Enrolment
21 First Communion- Rite of Enrolment	22 9:30-Black History Month Presentation (Gr 4-8)	23 Ballroom Dancing	24 Grade 8 Grad Photos	25 Ballroom Dancing Pizza Day	26 Winter Carnival Board Chess Tournament	27 First Communion- Rite of Enrolment
28 First Communion- Rite of Enrolment	March 1 PADAY					

And people laugh at me because I use big words. But if you have big ideas you have to use big words to express them, haven't you?"

Anne of Green Gables

Living and Learning in Faith



From School Council



Thank you to all the families who turned out for our St. Jerome Night with Chuck E. Cheese!

A lot of fun was had by all, tickets were flying out of the machines and prizes were purchased from the shelves!

Close to \$200 was raised to support activities at St. Jerome School.

Stay tuned for our St. Jerome Night at Chapters!

Lunch Moms Inc.

Now offered at St. Jerome School!

"HOT" Home style lunches prepared fresh daily

Visit their website at www.lunchmomsinc.com

- Healthy snacks
- Individually labeled lunches
- Milk included
- 3 entrée choices each day
- 100% pure juices

Central Committee for Catholic School Councils

presents

Carole Bertuzzi Luciani

Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Mississauga Convention Centre, 75 Derry Road, Mississauga

Inigorating and innovative presentations are her specialty. Through her experience in Education, Recreation and Healthcare Public Relations, Carole Bertuzzi Luciani successfully develops programs to meet the needs of today's challenged society. Her humour is engaging, her wisdom is enlightening and her style is entertaining. Carole has spoken to hundreds of thousands of individuals in North America since becoming a professional speaker in 1985. She successfully uses her background to develop programs that are fun, informative and guaranteed to get your attention. Each is designed to enhance the workstyles and lifestyles of the individuals she reaches. With the blend of storytelling and creative problem solving techniques to everyday issues, Carole easily relates to every audience. ***She has the 'pulse on parenting' and infuses her own experiences into her presentations as a way to engage the audience.***

Her meaningful messages are delivered with a dynamic communication style and are balanced with common sense and creative applications. As Carole sprinkles each session with her infectious brand of humour, audiences cannot help but 'get the message!' ***As a self proclaimed 'Moodivational Speaker', Carole sets a lofty goal for her session ... that you too, 'leave the room feeling better than you did, when you walked in'.***

Be sure to join us for this high energy session ... you'll be happy you did.



JK Registration 2010–2011



Registration for Junior Kindergarten will take place on Monday February 8, 2010 from 7:00 pm–9:00 pm and Wednesday February 10, 2010 to Friday February 11 from 9:30 am–12:00 pm and 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm.

This registration is for children currently not attending school in the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board. Junior Kindergarten children must be 4 years of age by December 31, 2010. Senior Kindergarten children must

be 5 years of age by December 31, 2010.

Parents/guardians should bring the following documents for registration:

- Proof of age/birth certificate
- Original baptismal certificate in communion with the See of Rome
- Updated immunization records
- Proof of Canadian citizenship or landed immigrant status
- Proof of address

Please note that if your child is enrolled in the JK program at St. Jerome, he/she will automatically be registered in SK and no further action on your part is required.

Parent Info Session for Children with Special Needs

There will be an information session for parents of children with special needs such as vision, hearing, physical, developmental or autism who are entering JK or SK in September 2010. The information session will be held at the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board – Catholic Education Centre Room 301 on February 3, 2010 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Parents are also reminded to register their child here at our school office as soon as possible in order to plan a successful entry for September.

Toonie Tuesdays

Toonie Tuesdays continue to be a tremendous success. We will be returning to the original choices—chocolate chip, double fudge or oatmeal apple cookies and apple or tropical fruit juices. We will continue to sell the cookies and juice every Tuesday as long as there is a demand for it.

On Tuesday February 24, toonies for Toonie Tuesday will go towards Shrove Tuesday pancake day and all

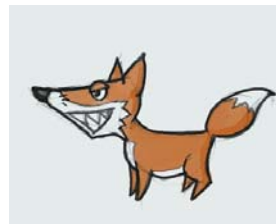
money will be donated to ShareLife. Thank you for your support!



Recess Snacks

During the fall, we had numerous visits from a neighbourhood fox family.

In order to discourage their return, reduce the amount of garbage left



on the ground outside and to be proactive in protecting our allergy students, we have implemented a no food outside policy during recesses.

Students are given time prior to and/or after recess to consume the snacks sent from home.

We ask your co-operation in supporting this initiative by sending snacks that your child can consume easily and quickly.

Student Immunization

This month Peel Public Health will be collecting all student immunization records from every school in the Peel Region. To ensure our school immunization records are up to date, we are asking all parents to ensure that they have informed the school of any changes or updates to their child's immunization records or changes to your current address and contact information. A series of letters will be mailed to parents starting on February 11th for those outstanding immunization records. If not updated by a third letter, schools will follow up with a **mandatory 20 day suspension** for the student until their immunization records have been updated. Please ensure that you have met all the requirements for your child's immunization records and ensure that the school re-

ceives the appropriate documentation for these records. Below is the list of dates in which Peel Public Health will be contacting parents/guardians of students with outstanding immunization records:

- February 11—First letter package mailed to parents
- March 12—Second letter package mailed to parents
- April 14—Third letter package (Suspension order) mailed to parents
- April 28—Suspension starts (in effect until requirements are met or 20 days)



Black History Month



Once again we begin our recognition and celebration of all “Black Historians and Heroes” who have touched our lives throughout history.

Students will be recognizing these honoured individuals by sharing a daily brief synopsis during morning announcements.

We look forward to being enlightened as we continue to treasure the diverse individuals who

have graced the pages of our history throughout the world.

Spirit of God

In the month of appreciating
The gift of your children of African descent
May we be inspired to see your kingdom's
mystery

In one facet of the jewel
Of our Human Family's descent.
Fr. Clarence Williams, CPPS

Virtue for February – Respect

This month we will celebrate the virtue of **respect**. God has given us the virtues of friends and companions to keep us company and to help us out along the way. Every person in our lives carries the Spirit of God – and so every person is our brother or sister through Jesus Christ. As brothers and sister who share one Holy Spirit, we are all valuable to God. We all deserve to be shown courtesy, consideration, sensitivity and thoughtfulness, which are different ways of saying *respect*. That respect should come first and foremost from ourselves. We have to respect our selves and then we will be able to respect others. We should also be able to expect to be treated with respect by everyone we meet – our brothers and sister in Jesus. Through prayer and concentration, we can get better at respecting ourselves as well as respecting those around us.

REFLECTION...How will the people around me know that I consider them my spiritual brothers and sisters?


OUR DAILY PRAYER FOR FEBRUARY

Let us now pray... for the virtue of *respect* so that everyone we meet will feel like we are their brother or sister in Christ.

AMEN

PEOPLE OF RESPECT...

- SEE GOD'S PRESENCE IN THEMSELVES AND OTHERS
- TREAT OTHERS AS THEY WOULD LIKE TO BE TREATED
- WELCOME OTHERS WITH SMILES AND FRIENDLY GREETINGS
- ALWAYS DISPLAY GOOD MANNERS
- SAY 'EXCUSE ME,' 'PLEASE' AND 'THANK YOU'
- AVOID THE TEMPTATION TO SWEAR OR GESTURE INAPPROPRIATELY
- LOOK FOR WAYS TO ENCOURAGE AND PRAISE OTHERS
- TALK KINDLY ABOUT OTHERS AND AVOID GOSSIP



Winter Safety

Snow and Ice

When the cool months arrive and snow and ice on the ground 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 four 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 must be that snow stays on the ground – no snowballs, kicking snow or any other activity with snow or ice that could be harmful.

Winter Dress

Now that January is upon us, it seems appropriate to remind everyone to please ensure that your child comes to school prepared for winter weather. Fresh air and exercise are important and the students go outside regularly for recess unless the weather is extremely cold. Boots, hats, scarves, gloves, winter coats and snow pants are necessary to keep warm and dry. Wherever possible, please put identification on your child's belongings. It is also important that



indoor shoes are available at school at all times.

Staying in for Recess

Throughout the school year, with cold temperatures, and so many students recovering from, or away from school because of colds, flu, etc., we receive numerous requests to all children to remain indoors during recesses. Please note that we CANNOT comply, as we have neither the facilities or the staff to supervise these students. If your child is too ill to go outside for recess, then he/she is too ill to be at school. On extremely cold days, we limit the amount of time the students spend out of doors. We obtain our weather information from the Environment Canada Weather info line and follow School Board guidelines.



The Last Word

PSYCHOLOGY MONTH 2010 AT DUFFERIN-PEEL

Dufferin-Peel Psychology Services:

TIPS FOR PARENTS: WHAT PARENTS CAN DO TO HELP THEIR CHILDREN IN SCHOOL

Parents often ask psychology staff and educators what they can do at home to help their child "do better in school". While most parents are referring to the basic core skills of reading, writing and arithmetic, a wide range of emotional, social, behavioral as well as intellectual skills are needed for students to learn, work and function successfully in school.

Building on this normal parental concern, the media bombards parents with information about games, tutoring programs, educational computer software, etc. which are all described as being essential for student success. As a result, parents are understandably worried about how to best support their child at home.

While many developmental and educational products on the market are excellent, the following are some suggestions for parents of younger elementary school children, which substantially help with their child's skill development yet do not require the purchase of expensive materials.

- Talk to your child, engage them in conversation, encourage and answer questions from your child. This can be done while driving to activities, preparing dinner, shopping, etc.
- Encourage your child to talk, e.g. relate their experiences, retell a story or film, tell a joke, describe a situation at school, etc. Actively listen to their message and through an occasional question, encourage them to develop their ideas logically and sequentially.
- Provide books and reading materials. A regular excursion to the community public library allows access to a large variety of books, magazines as well as books on tape. Try to read to your child daily, even if for 5-10 minutes.
- Give your child plenty of materials to draw and write. Encourage writing through informal activities, e.g. making a shopping list, writing out an address, copying a recipe, etc. Remember that writing is writing, whether with paper and pencil, or on the computer.
- Play word, board or card games. Try to set aside some time each week to play a game with your child or encourage them to play with their friends. Such games involve many skills such as learning to take turns, losing or winning graciously, reading, counting, thinking of strategies, etc.
- Make music a daily part of your child's activities. Listen to music and encourage them to dance, move or sing.
- Research has consistently shown that children who sit down with their family for regular meals are more engaged in school, and have less social or behaviour problems. While most families have very busy evening schedules, try to set aside a couple of nights each week for the whole family to sit together for a meal. Meal time is a perfect occasion for your child to share experiences, talk about school, friends, and activities.
- Provide the opportunity to develop social skills. Make sure your child has lots of interactions with other children either through participation in group activities (Scouts, sports, dance, etc.) or by encouraging play with neighborhood friends.
- To help your child develop responsibility and a sense of competence, give them chores and responsibilities at home, e.g. putting away toys, cleaning up after dinner, etc.

Remember that every child is different and variability exists in the various skill levels of each child. Learning is an ongoing process, so parents should look for ways to encourage their children to experience new things and keep on learning.

For further information contact your school psychology staff or Dr. Debra Lean, Chief Psychologist.

Prepared by Dr. Christina Kowalsky, Senior Psychologist, ref. from *School and Home*, NASP

This and other helpful articles can be found on the Psychology Department's website: <http://www.dpcdsb.org/CEC/Programs/>



We are on the web: <http://www.dpcdsb.org/JEROM>

Living and Learning in Faith