



St. Bernard of Clairvaux Catholic School

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September 7, 2011

Newsletter #1

Principal

N. Teti

Secretary

L. Magi

G. Kuchan

Superintendent of Schools

D. Oude-Reimerink
905-890-1221

Trustee

E. O'Toole
905-812-5163

Parish

St. Josephine
Bakhita
289-997-2105

Pastor

Fr. Mark
Villanueva

The Memorare of St. Bernard

Remember, O Most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, and sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto thee O Virgin of Virgins, my Mother, to thee I come, before thee I stand sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate! Despise not my petitions, but, in thy mercy, hear and answer me.

Amen.

Love, Service

Peace

Excellence

Dear Parents and/or Guardians

I am very excited to begin a new year at St. Bernard of Clairvaux Catholic School. We continue to grow as a school and community and I would like to welcome the new families that have joined us this year. I encourage you to become actively engaged in our school environment. I would also like to welcome our new staff members, Miss. Woods, Mrs. Sylvestre, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Matos, Mrs. Curia and Mr. Salerno.

Our school population has now climbed to over 650 students and we are all very excited to begin another school year. Our Full Day Kindergarten Program has grown to six classes and we anticipate another successful year as we learn and grow from our experiences in the previous year. We welcome the many new Kindergarten students that will enter our school for the very first time this year.

There are some key events happening in September that I would like to bring to your attention. **Firstly**, with a growing community there is always a possibility that we may have to reorganize some grade levels early in September. If this is to happen it would occur on the P.A. Day scheduled for Friday September 16th. If necessary, and if your child is affected, you will be notified as soon as possible. We remind all students not to fall in love with their teacher until after Sept. 16th.

Secondly, very soon you will receive information regarding our School Council's first and major fundraiser for the year. Your continued support is appreciated. **Thirdly**, you are encouraged to consider joining our new School Council. Nomination forms can be picked up at our school office. **Fourthly**, we will be running our annual Magazine program, encouraging our students and families to read for pleasure developing lifelong literacy skills. **Fifthly**, we will be having our Open House on Thursday September 22nd. **Lastly**, we will again be participating in the Terry Fox Fundraiser held on Friday Sept. 23rd.

Our school has always been a very busy place with a great deal of opportunities for our students to grow and participate as well as opportunities for our greater community to be actively engaged in their children's education. The education of our students is a shared responsibility and I encourage you to continue to communicate with our staff as we work together to build the partnership required to enable all of our students to have a successful year.

I look forward to another year working closely with our school community and school staff as we continue to work together to build on our accomplishments and set new goals and blaze new pathways. I thank you in advance for your cooperation and dedication to Catholic Education. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at the school.

Sincerely yours,

Nick Teti

"There are those who seek knowledge for the sake of knowledge. That is curiosity.

There are those who seek knowledge to be known by others. That is vanity.

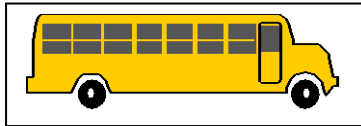
There are those who seek knowledge in order to serve. That is love."

St. Bernard of Clairvaux

teacher. Throughout much of the curriculum, the skills, process and overall concepts taught are similar, varying in depth and breadth of the information presented. We will work as a school team to do all we can to meet the needs of all our students. I would encourage all parents to maintain communication with their child's teacher throughout the year so that together we can work to help each child reach their potential.

Attached is a document speaking to the many questions that sometimes arise with regards to split grades. Please take a moment to read it and if you have any further questions please feel free to contact the school office or your child's teacher.

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION



Transportation is provided for students who reside more than the following distances by road, path or walkway from the school they are eligible to attend:

Kindergarten and Gr. 1	1.0 km
Grades 2-4	1.6 km
Grades 5 - 8	2.0 km

The initial bus list is generated by the Transportation Department. To verify whether your child qualifies for busing you can visit the web site <http://businfo.stopr.ca>. Students must have a bus tag to ride the bus. JK to grade 1 tags are red, grade 2 through 8 tags are purple. These will be distributed to students once it has been confirmed that they qualify and are accessing the bus. Students who do not meet the eligibility requirements may apply for a seat in accordance with the "Courtesy Seat policy". If you are interested in the Courtesy Seat policy for your child please submit your request in writing to the school office. **Courtesy Seats will not be distributed until the first week of October.** Please contact the school if you have any busing inquiries or requests.

Courtesy seats will be offered to younger students first. If more families move into the area, which qualify for bussing, there may be a need to rescind the offer to make room for those students that qualify for bussing.

WALKING TO SCHOOL

As children walk to school we encourage them to walk with friends in groups and we advice parents to help their children by identifying the walking route that they would like their child to take to and from school. Sidewalks have been established and students need to use them while being careful of some construction work that continues to take place in our vicinity.



SCHOOL HOURS AND DROPPING OFF STUDENTS

Please be aware that school begins at 8:45 a.m. There will be teachers on duty beginning at 8:30 a.m. Therefore, please do not drop off your children at school before 8:30, as we will not have supervision available. This also applies during inclement weather days.

SCHOOL SCHEDULE

This is to remind you that we have made a slight change to our daily school schedule.

8:45 A.M.	INSTRUCTIONAL DAY BEGINS
10:11 A.M.	MORNING RECESS ALL GRADES
11:49 A.M.	LUNCH
12:49 P.M.	AFTERNOON INSTRUCTION BEGINS
2:14 P.M.	AFTERNOON RECESS ALL GRADES
3:15 P.M.	DISMISSAL

As you can see there has been only slight changes to the recess times and lunch now begins and ends four minutes later.

PARENTS ON SCHOOL YARD AND PARENT VISITORS

Parents are asked to please call the school to make an appointment to come in and speak to a teacher when required, as it is difficult for them to give you the attention and time you require when coming to school at an unexpected time.

We also ask that after the first two weeks of school parents avoid from standing in the schoolyard when dropping off their children. Please kiss them goodbye at the sidewalk.

In this way students will clearly know that if the adult in our yard does not have an orange vest they should not approach that individual and treat them as an un-welcomed stranger. Your child and their friends may know who you are, but to the other children and staff members you are a stranger. All staff members do wear their vests to help create a safe environment for the children.

We believe that after the first two weeks of school the students are comfortable and into the morning routine, so by then we ask all parents to cooperate with this request. Please see your child's teacher if your son or daughter continues to have difficulty with separation anxieties.

At 3:15 for dismissal you are welcome to wait at the door for your children as they exit the building. There will be a teacher at the primary door ensuring that grade 1 students are met by a parent or guardian.

Also, in our continued efforts to keep this a safe school for children please note that **EVERYONE** entering the school is expected to sign in at the office. You will be given a visitor's badge to indicate that you have signed in at the office.

STUDENT ABSENCES AND PUNCTUALITY



If your child /children are going to be absent from school for any reason (e.g. illness, doctor or dental appointments) please call before 8:45 a.m. on the day they are away: **905-542-9203**

Parents can call the above number anytime after 4:15 p.m. for the next day and leave a message. Also, we ask parents to encourage and assist their children to be on time for school. Time management is important for children to learn at an early age.

Children who come to school are expected to participate fully in the day's program. This includes going outside for recess and lunchtime. If illness is severe, we respectfully suggest that the child not be sent to school. A statement from the family doctor should be presented if there are medical reasons for having the student remain indoors.

PICKING UP OR DROPPING OFF YOUR CHILD

Please make arrangements with your child as to where you will be picking them up if they are not taking the bus home. We have a wonderful Kiss and Ride lane for parents to use. If you run late and your child does not see you please remind them to re-enter the school and go to the office area. The grade 1, 2 and 3 teachers will be dismissing their students from the South West and North West door. I would encourage parents who are picking up their child in grade 1 to meet them at the South West door when school ends unless an older sibling is picking them up at the door. Please remind

your child not to leave unless they see their parent, sibling or an adult there to pick them up. If there is no one there, they will be sent to the office and a phone call will be made to their home. Most problems we have encountered after school are a result of the child not following the expectations of the parent or a misunderstanding between the home and school. The grade 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 teachers will be dismissing their students from the North West and North East doors. Please know what door your child will use to enter and exit the school.

Those taking the bus will be directed to the bus loading area where a teacher will supervise the loading of our buses.

If you are picking your child up early or dropping your child off during the day, please check in at the office to sign your child in/out. We thank you for your cooperation in not going to the classroom, or waiting in the hallway to pick-up your child, as this fosters independence and supports safe arrival/dismissal practices. Please help us keep everyone safe.

ALSO WE ASK ALL PARENTS TO PLEASE OBEY THE SIGNAGE INDICATING WHERE CARS ARE PERMITTED TO PARK. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO RESPECT OUR COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBOURS.

THANK YOU in advance for your cooperation!

BEFORE SCHOOL AND AFTER SCHOOL DAYCARE

Please be informed that we have the YMCA providing child care before and after school. For details you may contact the school to speak with their staff or contact the YMCA program directly by calling 647-267-2400. Drop off before

8:30 a.m. and Pick up after 3:30 p.m. will be through the Kindergarten doors.

NUT ALLERGY



Please note that some students in our school are severely allergic to foods such as nuts and peanut butter. It is important that parents remind all children to be aware of instructions that teachers give their students, should they have a peer in the classroom with severe allergies. We ask you to encourage them to be respectful and courteous concerning this matter. We are working together to maintain a safe learning environment for all students.

Also we remind parents that if your child has allergies and requires an EPIPEN or puffer please see the office staff as appropriate forms need to be completed and signed by your family doctor. We ask parents to please check the expiry dates on all medication before bringing it to the school. Your help is needed, and appreciated, for us to create and maintain a safe environment for all of our students.

DISTRIBUTION OF MEDICATION



Please speak with the office staff if there are any concerns or needed consideration regarding the storage of medication.

Parents are required to complete a "Request for Storage of Medication" available through the school's office.

HOME/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION



It is a very important that the lines of communication between the home and school be open and accessible. If you wish to speak to a teacher, please telephone the school and leave a message. We will ensure that the message is passed on; we will not pass on messages during teaching times. Please do not drop into classes unannounced to speak to a teacher. To ensure our undivided attention and sufficient time for discussion, please contact the school in advance to make arrangements for meetings.

HEPATITIS B, MEN C AND HUMAN PAPILOMAVIRUS VACCINE (HPV)

Each year, Peel Health vaccinates grade seven students. The first vaccination for grade sevens will take place on Tuesday, October 4 2011. Grade 8 girls will also have the option of receiving the HPV vaccine. More information and permission forms, will be forwarded to concerned parents once received by the school.



FOOTWEAR



Students are expected to wear shoes in the school building and classrooms at all times. If the fire alarm is sounded, students will not be permitted to stop to put on shoes, clothing articles etc. Please ensure that your child has an extra pair of shoes at school, to keep their feet dry and warm during the wet and/or snowy weather. Student health and safety is a priority.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE FORMS

"As required by the Education Act and the Ministry of Education, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board annually provides parents with information about cost-effective student accident insurance coverage via student courier. Although enrolment is voluntary, the board encourages parents to take advantage of the inexpensive insurance coverage, especially if their child/children participate in sports, excursions/field trips, or, if parents do not have dental insurance coverage.

Parents alone have the right to insure their children. Please read carefully the attached brochure and fill out the necessary information if you wish to apply for this insurance program.

SCHOOL COUNCIL NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

We will be forming our new School Council and I would encourage all parents to consider getting involved. Attached you will find

information regarding how to nominate yourself or a friend to be part of our School Council. Please note the deadline for nominations is September 30, 2011. If an election will be necessary, it will be held on Thursday, October 6, 2011 from 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Notice will be sent out by Monday, October 3, 2011 indicating whether an election will be required.

The first Catholic School Council meeting for the new Council will be held on Wednesday, October 12, 2011 at 7 p.m. in the School Library. I look forward to working with all the parents of our community.

Our last **School Council meeting** for the 2010-2011 council will be held on **Wednesday September 14th** in our school library at 7:00 p.m. As always, all parents are welcome to come to all meetings.

CAREGIVERS IN THE COMMUNITY

If you are interested in providing daycare for children in our community you may contact the school office and leave your information with our secretary. We are compiling a list which we share with parents from our school community who inquire. This list is kept for the convenience of our parent community but we cannot recommend or provide references for these individuals on our list.

MEET THE TEACHER / CURRICULUM NIGHT

On Thursday, **September 22, 2011** from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. parents are invited to come to the school and meet their child's teacher as well as take a tour of the school. This is a night dedicated to introductions and discussions about curriculum not individual students. In the following week you will be receiving a newsletter with more details.

Please star this date on your fridge calendars.

P. D. DAY – FRIDAY - SEPTEMBER 16, 2011

Please note that on September 16, 2011 there will be no school. If warranted, due to enrollment, restructuring of classes will be organized at this time. More information will follow if we find ourselves in this situation.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION FORMS

Emergency information forms will soon be sent home to parents. **It is very important that information is up to date and returned promptly to your child's teacher.**

If all the information is the same, please sign and return the form as is. If there are changes, please cross out the incorrect information and insert the new information, sign, and return the form. All forms should be returned to the school as soon as possible. We need this information in case of an emergency.

We appreciate parent co-operation in keeping us up to date concerning changes such as addresses, phone numbers, baby-sitters,

emergency contacts, work location and numbers, family doctors, etc. Please remember that if you move from one home to another and remain in the same school area, we require a new tax assessment form for your new address. If there are any further changes, please notify the school immediately.

LUNCH DROP OFF

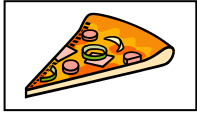
All lunches should be dropped off at the lunch-table located near the office. Please label the lunches indicating your child's name. As well, you need to write their name into the book located on the table. This list of names is announced at 11:49 a.m. asking students to come to pick up their lunches. Children will not be allowed to wait outside the school doors for their parents to drive by with their lunch. Children are to wait in their classrooms until their food arrives. **As well we ask parents not to stand in the foyer waiting for their children with their lunches, because again we are trying to control and identify the people who enter our school.** We also encourage all parents to have their children help in packing a lunch the night before. This helps to minimize the traffic in and out of our school each day. Thank you for helping us with these safety measures.

MILK PROGRAM



Again this year, Mr. Caetano will be coordinating the Milk program for all students in our school. Soon an order form will be sent home with all the necessary information. Last year we had many children making the choice to drink milk.

PIZZA DAYS COMING SOON



students.

Soon we will be sending home the order forms for our pizza days. We hope to provide pizza for our students every other Friday. We thank Mrs. Magi for coordinating this program for our

LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

Parents do not need a special invitation to come and celebrate with us. If you are home, please do join us. Our opening school Mass will be on Thursday, September 29th, at 1:15 p.m. here at our school.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR IS COMING!!!



The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to our school! We invite you to share in this celebration of books and reading with us. The Book Fair will take place during our school's Open House on Thursday September 2nd. The Book Fair will be open from 5pm to 8 pm in the library/resource centre. I am also looking for some parent volunteers to help out that evening if you are available. Please contact the school office if you are available to assist. Thank you, Mrs. Marano (teacher-librarian)

SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST COMMUNION

Registration for First Reconciliation and First Communion will be on September 17 & 18, 24 & 25 2011 before or after all the Masses at St. Joan of Arc School



The date for First Reconciliation Celebration is Tuesday December 6, 2011 at 9:30 to 10:30 am at Merciful Redeemer Parish. More information will be forwarded as we receive dates and times from Father Mark.

FIRST COMMUNION

First Communion for our grade 2 students will be held on Saturday May 5, 2012 at 11:00 am at Merciful Redeemer Church.



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION CONFIRMATION DATE

Details and dates will be provided once confirmed with the Parish .

The sacramental celebrations will continue to be held at Merciful Redeemer Parish. We thank Father Vid and his parish team for their continued support and generosity as we work to build a church for our new parish community.



Again this year you will soon be receiving information about the **QSP/Reader's**

Digest's Family Reading program.

This magazine subscription sale will help raise needed funds for programs and activities that benefit our students, yet it costs you only the price of a magazine, and it helps to promote reading and literacy at the same time.

We are not looking at this as a fundraiser but a vehicle in which to promote family reading which will also produce some fundraising for the school which will be used to augment classroom reading libraries.

This is a school program we hope to run each year. We hope that the magazines help to encourage families to read and find various topics and materials they enjoy reading.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

September 14	School Council Meeting
September 16	P.A. Day no school
September 29	Opening School Mass 1:15
September 21	Leadership Retreat for grade 8 students
September 22	Open House / Meet the Teacher Night 5:00 – 7:30
	School Book Fair
September 23	Terry Fox Walk Run
September 28	School Council Fundraiser Kickoff
September 30	Deadline for School Council Nominations
October 4 2011	Hepatitis B/Human Papillomavirus vaccine (hvp)
October 14	Picture Day

Attachments

1. **School Council Elections Information**
2. **Home & School Connection**
3. **Math & Science Connection**
4. **Reading Connection**
5. **Teaching Combination Classes**
6. **Elementary School Organization Plans for 2011-2012**
7. **Kiss and Ride Brochure**
8. **Allergy Letter**
9. **Achievement – A Report of our Catholic School Communities**
10. **Facebook 101 Presentation**
11. **Student Accident Insurance Forms**
12. **Play it Safe When Gaming Online**



WELCOME TO INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LEVEL

- Register *Saturday September 10th* for International Language classes of your choice
- 24 languages offered throughout DPCDSB
- For details refer to our Fall 2011 Adult and Continuing Education Flyer posted on our website at www.dpcdsb.org/cec/cne
- Or call 905-891-9263 ext. 0

The elementary school International Language program (JK-8) takes place on Saturdays beginning September 10 through June 3 (Sundays at St. Herbert) from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m..

Parents who wish to register their child in this program may attend a walk-in registration at the school which offers the language of interest to them, on Saturdays (Sundays at St. Herbert) from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. as of September 10. Registration is ongoing (space permitting) throughout the school year.

For specific International language classes not currently offered please call our office at 905-891-9263 Ext. 0.

WELCOME TO INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES SECONDARY SCHOOL CREDIT LEVEL

- Register *Saturday September 10th* for Secondary credit International Languages
- 19 languages offered for credit at three secondary school sites
- For details refer to our FALL 2011 Adult and Continuing Education Flyer posted on our website at www.dpcdsb.org/cec/cne
- Or call 905-891-9263 ext. 0

Students may earn up to 3 International Language credits towards their Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Students currently attending secondary school are welcome to register for this program. Walk-in registration at the school which offers the language of interest to them, is scheduled for September 10 from 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m..

For specific International language credit classes not currently offered please call our office at 905-891-9263 Ext.0

WELCOME TO GENERAL INTEREST COURSES FOR ADULTS

- General Interest programs in personal development, communication and health and fitness are available throughout the DPCDSB Region
- For details refer to our FALL 2011 Adult and Continuing Education Flyer posted on our website at www.dpcdsb.org/cec/cne
- Or call 905-891-9263 ext. 0

General Interest Programs are offered to the community by the DPCDSB. We encourage you to get involved and to join others with similar interests. Register now to ensure a place in the program of your choice. Registration deadline is September 23, 2011.

WELCOME TO ADULT ESL PROGRAMS

- Adult ESL and Citizenship Programs are offered throughout Mississauga and Brampton
- Registration is on-going for many of these programs that run during the day and in the evenings seven days a week
- Please see our Fall 2011 Catalogue posted on the board website at www.dpcdsb.org/cec/cne
- or call 905-891-9263 ext. 0

WELCOME TO ADULT FSL (FRENCH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASSES)

- Adult FSL programs are offered at BJJ Adult Learning Centre and St. Gabriel Adult Learning Centre
- Classes are offered during the day and in the evenings
- Please see our Fall 2011 Catalogue posted on the board website at www.dpcdsb.org/cec/cne
- or call 905-891-9263 ext. 0

JOIN THE DPCDSB ADULT CREDIT AND COOP PROGRAMS

- We offer Accounting, Office Administration, and Coop Work Experience for Foreign Trained Professionals
- Registration is ongoing throughout the year
- Please see our Fall Catalogue posted on the board website at www.dpcdsb.org/coopcentre
- Call 905-362-0701 for classes in the North or 905-891-3034 for classes in the South