



St. Bernard of Clairvaux Catholic School

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October 7, 2011

Newsletter #2

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Villanueva

The Memorare of St. Bernard

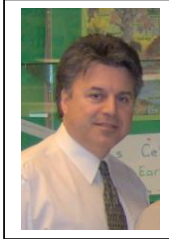
Remember, O Most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, and sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto thee O Virgin of Virgins, my Mother, to thee I come, before thee I stand sinful and sorrowful. 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 would like to thank all the parents, students and teachers for a wonderful Open House. As always we had an impressive turn out and I was thrilled to see so many new families join our school community. A special thank you to all the parents, teachers and students for their assistance ensuring the night went smoothly. I would encourage you to establish and maintain an open dialogue with your children's teacher addressing concerns or questions that may arise throughout the year. I

know we have a wonderful staff, who are eager and keen to help all our students find success. We all need to continue to work together in order to help every student grow to their potential.

As you receive this newsletter we are in the midst of our Thanksgiving food drive. Our students are working with our staff members to organize this event in order to reach out and help those in need during this time when we take a moment to give thanks for all our wonderful blessings. Thank you for your support of this event.

I would like to thank the parents on our School Council for all their hard work with our Chocolate Fundraiser. I would like to also thank all the parents and students for their support of this event. I know it will be a huge success and the funds will be used to further augment the resources we have at our school to help students further consolidate and enrich their learning.

On behalf of the entire school staff I would like to wish our school community a joyous Thanksgiving. I hope you will all have the opportunity to feast together as a family and give thanks for the many blessings we have been bestowed. And as we celebrate our blessings let us always remember those in need and those who are suffering during these times.

Sincerely yours

Nick Teti

"O give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever." Psalm 136:26



**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING!**

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

We thank You good Father
For Your abundant gifts:
For food and drink in
plenty
For freedom to think and
pray,
To run, to dance

Mostly we thank You for
Your love,
For thinking of us
For making us Your own,

We ask Your blessing this
day
On our loved ones near
and far,
On all who yearn for
peace,
On all who are in need.

May Your abundance
teach us to give,
Your reaching out teach us
to care,
Your universal love teach
us to see
So that we may be one.

Amen

Virtues for October

Empathy

God wants us to care about everyone's feelings.

An empathetic person...

- listens when people speak
- notices when someone is upset and tries to help
- can understand and name her/his feelings
- can see a situation from another person's point of view
- accepts that others may feel differently about things than they do

There are days in our lives that we may see others come to school sad, afraid, frustrated, or even angry.

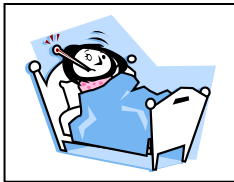
To live the virtue of EMPATHY is to walk in another's shoes, truly striving to understand their situation and seeking ways to help. We do not judge others because we never know what others are holding in their hearts. In your everyday life, try to remember that you may not always understand what others are feeling, but you can always be a good friend.

I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned for me, but had no opportunity to show it ...

I can do all things through him who strengthens me. In any case, it was kind of you to share my distress.

Philippians 4:10, 13-14

SICK CHILDREN



The School Board has installed hand Sanitizers in all classrooms and washrooms for our students to use. We would also like to remind parents that if your children are sick and coughing we would ask that you keep your child home from school so as not to affect the other children in their classroom and school. We continue to remind children to,

1. Wash your hands often, for at least 15 seconds, with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Wash your hands after: coming in contact with people who are sick handling

soiled tissues using the washroom touching surfaces such as door knobs and hand rails.

2. Cough or sneeze into a tissue (or your sleeve) instead of into your hands,
3. Do not share objects that have been in other people's mouths such as toothbrushes, drinks, unwashed utensils,

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.

ACCESS TO SCHOOL BUILDING

A reminder to parents that our school office and building is accessible from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Often parents return to school after hours when their child have forgotten a book or materials in their classroom. Please be aware that due to safety and security reasons the custodial staff will not give you access to your child's classroom. All doors are locked at 4:00 pm and the YMCA staff is not permitted to allow parents access to the school.

If your child has forgotten some materials at school please send a note to the teacher the following day explain the situation.

BUSSING

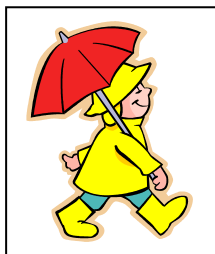


We continue to review all the requests for Courtesy Seats and will be contacting all parents as soon as possible to inform them if and when we are able to accommodate their requests.

We are not always able to accommodate all of the requests. We are encouraging all students to walk to and from school with a friend. We thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

RAINY DAYS

We realize that on Rainy Days we have many more parents arriving in their cars to drop off or pick up their children. We would remind all parents to please be patient and follow our usual Kiss and Ride protocols. I am sure you would agree that a



few minutes of delay is well worth the time to keep every child safe. Parents are not to park at the front of the school and wait for their children. This area is a bus loading zone. Our main goal is student safety and we need your help to ensure that all of our students are safe, arriving and leaving school. We thank you for your continued support.

OUR STUDENTS SAFE - BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



We appreciate that at times you may want to send in some treats into the school to celebrate children's birthdays. But due to "Sabrina's Law" we encourage you to bring **non-edible treats for special**

occasions such as birthdays, to share with others in the classroom. There are many alternatives to bringing in food for birthdays and special occasions. Some suggestions are: stickers, gift certificates or small dollar store items. Food brought into the school creates potential risks and concerns for those who suffer from various allergies.

Thank you for your co-operation in helping to make our school safe for all students.

INSECT STING ANAPHYLAXIS

The stinging insects that most often cause reactions /anaphylaxis are bees, wasps, yellow jackets and hornets.

The following are some coping suggestions for peak season (summer, early fall):

- Avoid areas where insects nest, such as bushes and trees.
- Do not walk barefoot, or with open-toed shoes.
- Avoid garbage cans.
- Make sure you are covered up when going outside.
- Do not wear bright colours, or flowery patterns.
- Do not wear any kind of fragrance.
- Stay away from open or uncovered food and

drinks.

If one lands on you do not swat it, brush it away or wait until it goes away on its own.

LATEX ALLERGY

Latex is a hard substance to avoid because you cannot tell by looking at something whether it is latex rubber or a manufactured rubber.

The following is a list of some products that may contain latex:

- erasers, tape/adhesives, craft supplies, seasonal crafts (*Halloween*)
- diapers, underwear
- balloons, soccer balls, volleyballs, basketballs, rubber toys
- band-aids, first aid tape, medical gloves
- carpet backing, mats (rubber), foam rubber
- rubber gloves for cleaning

Children with certain medical conditions and people working in the medical/dental profession may become allergic.

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.

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.

BALLS IN OUR YARD

Often students will bring soccer balls and other type balls to school to play with during recess periods. We encourage them not to play near the fences as when balls fly over the fence into nearby housing areas we cannot walk around to retrieve them. We need to be good neighbours and therefore we cannot trespass onto private property to retrieve equipment. We want students to be active and play but they need to understand to stay away from the fences for obvious reason. Please reinforce this so we do not have sad children at recess. Thank you for your understanding.

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 approximately 11:45 a.m. to pick up their food. 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.

ST. BERNARD BOOK FAIR 2011



Thank you everyone, for making our Book Fair such a great success. It was the best one yet. The excitement over books was overwhelming! I would like to thank the wonderful group of parent volunteers, who gave up their

time to help out that evening. We really appreciate it.

The book fair ran smoothly with all the extra hands. The money raised will be used to purchase books and materials for the library and classroom libraries. Once again, thank you for supporting our Library/Resource Centre.

Mrs. Marano

JUNIOR INTERMEDIATE CHOIR

The Junior Intermediate Choir is open to students from Grade 4 to 8. This ensemble rehearses each Tuesday and Thursday during lunch recess from 12:09 until 12:49 under the direction of Mrs. Cavanaugh, Ms. Magallanes dela-Cruz and Mrs. Boles. Training in choral singing is provided, which can also benefit students who take private music lessons outside the school to further ear-training skills. The choir participates in competitions and adjudications throughout the



school year. In addition to these events, the Junior Intermediate Choir will sing for many liturgical celebrations and sacraments throughout the year. Please encourage your child to raise a voice and be part of the Junior Intermediate Choir in the 2011-2012 school year!

MATH HOMEWORK HELP AVAILABLE

Dufferin-Peel continued to participate in the Ministry of Education's Math Homework Help pilot project. The project provides students in Grades 7 to 10 with free, real-time math tutoring by certified Ontario teachers, simply by visiting www.ontario.ca/homeworkhelp.

Students can log in Sunday to Thursday, from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., to receive individualized, confidential math tutoring. There are also online, classroom-like forums for each grade, monitored by teachers, where students can view questions other students have submitted, and hear the teacher's response while watching them work out the math problems on a whiteboard.

This is the third year Dufferin-Peel is able to offer Homework Help to its students.

AN ECO-REMINDER FROM THE ST. BERNARD GREEN TEAM:

In order to minimize our ecological footprint, St. Bernard of Clairvaux is introducing "Waste-free Wednesdays" where students bring in snacks and lunches that are packed in reusable containers instead of containing any disposable waste (for example: plastic bags/ containers, wrappers, saran wrap, etc.,).

We thank you in advance for helping St. Bernard put its *greenest* foot forward!

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

The sacrament of Confirmation will be held on April 27th, 2012.



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.

TUCK SHOP

In an effort to keep parents more informed this year with regards to food in our school and allergies which our student possess we have included below the items being sold at our Tuck Shop with their ingredients. This will hopefully help you and your children make good decisions. Please inform the school if you have any concerns with these items.

Verry Berry Smoothie

Apple Juice, Berry Puree Blend (Strawberry, Blackberry, Boysenberry, Raspberry), Banana Puree, Lemon or Lime Juice.

Mango Plus Smoothie

Apple Juice, Mango Puree, Banana Puree, Lemon or Lime Juice

Popcorn

Gourmet Popcorn, Salt, Artificial Flavor, Yellow#5 Lake, Yellow #6 Lake, Oil section: Coconut oil , Artificial Butter Flavor, Beta Carotene, Soya Lecithin

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

October 4	Hepatitis B/Human Papillomavirus vaccine (hpv)
October 5	World Teacher Day
October 7	Thanksgiving celebration at 10:30
October 10	Thanksgiving Day No School
October 12	School Council Meeting 7:00pm in Library
October 13	Cross Country Meet
October 14	Picture Day
October 19	Constable Giordano visiting classrooms
October 27	Parent Teacher Interviews for Progress Reports
October 31	Halloween Dance in Gymnasium

Attachments

- 1. Home & School Connections**
- 2. Math & Science Connection**
- 3. Reading Connections**

An Historical Understanding of Key Issues Related to Catholic Education

March 2009

Written by Dr. Robert Dixon Edited by John B. Kostoff, Director of Education Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

Our Catholic School Heritage

1. How long have Catholic separate schools been educating Catholic children and contributing to the public good in Ontario?

For about 170 years. In the early 1800s there were separate schools in many cities, towns and townships. In Peel, three separate schools opened before Confederation (1867): St. James in Malton in the 1830s, St. John's Agricultural College (1861) and St. Patrick's (1861), both in Wildfield.

2. Has the Ontario government always supported separate schools?

Yes, as did its predecessor, the United Legislature of Canada East (now Quebec) and Canada West (now Ontario) during its total life from 1841 to 1867. One of the first pieces of legislation it passed in 1841 was the *Common School Act*, with a separate school clause.

3. Why did the United Legislature of Canada East and Canada West keep improving separate school legislation?

It responded to Catholic parents, trustees, bishops and priests, editors of the four Catholic newspapers, members of the business and professional world, all of whom argued for legal and financial rights for separate schools.

4. Was there opposition to separate schools before Confederation?

Yes, as now, there were advocates of one school system. Protestant spoke persons believed in the adequacy of the common (now public) school's basic non-denominational Christianity, which constituted an important element of the common school's religion lessons and their readers. They held that beliefs specific to certain religions should be taught in the churches and homes.

5. Why did Catholics find the non-denominational religious education of the common school unsatisfactory?

Catholics wanted separate schools where all the beliefs of the Catholic Church would be taught, where the pupils would live their faith in a sacramental and community manner in proximity to the parish church and priest, and where religion would permeate the reading, literature and history curriculum. Furthermore, as modern times arrived, the multiculturalism of the public school's student body necessitated the eradication of the teaching of Christianity.

This is the first installment from this article that can be found in its entirety on our School Board's web site. More information will follow in the upcoming school newsletters.