

St. Francis of Assisi School

Chalk Talk



PRINCIPAL
S. PALMATEER

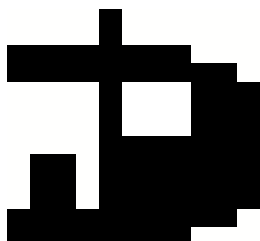
VICE-PRINCIPAL –
C. BOULANGER

SECRETARIES –
M. FRANKE
D. MALHO

SUPERINTENDENT
C. SAYTAR
(905) 890-1221

PASTOR –
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September 2009

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI
2480 THORNLODGE DR
MISSISSAUGA, ON L5K 1K5

PHONE
(905) 822-3183

ATTENDANCE
(905) 822-3183
Press # 1

FAX
(905) 822-7540

All Are Welcome
build a house where
an dwell and all can
safely live.

**A place where saints and
children tell how hearts
learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams
and visions, rock of faith
and value of grace.
Here the love of Christ
shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are
welcome, and all are
welcome in this place.**

By Marty Haugen, Gia Publications

Virtue of the Month September

This month we will celebrate the virtue of faith.

To begin the new school year, we'll focus our attention on the first of our virtues – faith. Faith is the great virtue of believing in God and trusting that God is with us.

A faithful person believes that we are created, guided by and destined to be reunited with God.

A faithful person believes that God's plan for us includes the right to be safe, especially at school.

A Faithful Person...

- Prays regularly and reverently
- Learns from Scripture stories
- Honours people's God-given names
- Assumes that there is good in everyone
- Accepts the God-given worth of themselves and others

Meet the Principal Wine & Cheese Social

I would like to take this opportunity to meet many of the parents in an informal setting on Thursday, September 10th. All parents are invited to a wine & cheese social in the school gym starting at 6:30 p.m.

Principal's Message

Welcome back to all students, staff and families to what will be an action-packed, energy filled year of quality education at St. Francis of Assisi School.

As Principal, I look forward to serving in this community for many years to come and will be working collaboratively with all of our partners in ensuring the success of all students.

Our student population is about 520 and as well as myself being new, we also have an awesome new vice-principal, Mrs. Boulanger.

The School Council is organizing a community Bar B-Q on our Open House/Curriculum Evening in September and I invite all families to attend.

This year there will be many school events, activities and house league sports for children. I ask all parents to encourage your children to get involved.

I also invite all parents to take an active role in your children's education by attending School Council meetings and coming out to school events and classroom excursions. Your opinions, suggestions and concerns on improving our amazing school are always greatly appreciated.

I look forward to working with all of you in my first year as Principal to ensure that all of your children experience a tremendous successful year.

Please come out to an informal Wine & Cheese Social for parents in the library from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 10th.

Sincerely,
Mr. S. Palmateer

School Hours

Our school hours remain the same as in previous years.

8:30	Start Time
11:30-12:30	Lunch
3:00	End Time

Staff are on duty for 15 minutes before the start of the school day and throughout the entire noon hour; therefore, you may safely leave your child at school upon arrival in the morning or upon returning to the school after lunch.

Visitors to School

Please remember that to other children, you are a stranger. When entering the school, please report to the office. Any individuals wandering the school without appropriate identification will be asked to go to the *office*. Please help us to monitor a safe and welcoming environment for your children.

When you come to the school, please report to the office, sign in, and take a tag. Prior to leaving, sign out and return your visitor's tag. As well, parents are asked to bid your children farewell from beyond the playground. Only students and staff are to be in the schoolyard. Again, this is to ensure the safety of your children and your attention to this is most appreciated.

Please be reminded that dogs **are not permitted** in the schoolyard area at any time. The excitement of the children or the bell ringing can frighten dogs.

Going Out For Lunch

Please inform your child's teacher of regular lunch arrangements for your child. Also, for safety reasons please be advised that a note signed and dated to the classroom teacher must occur each time there is a change in the routine. This is especially important for a child who has permission to leave school property during the noon hour who normally stays for lunch. **Students in grade 7 and 8 are allowed to go out for lunch only if a note is provided. Please use the student agendas for your lunch notes.** As a school staff it is important for us to know each time a child leaves our care at noon hour that permission has been given and that parents know the exact whereabouts of their child (ren). In addition, any students leaving or returning to the school due to appointments must be signed out and in at the office by a parent/guardian.

Your co-operation and support of this important supervision/safety initiative is appreciated. Thank you in advance.

Safe Arrival Program - Are You Getting The Answering Machine?

We are requesting your assistance. This system, which allows parents to call in student absenteeism 24 hours a day, supports our Safe Arrival Program. If both lines into the school are busy, your call is automatically routed to the School Answering System. The office staff picks up the phone messages on a regular basis and will relay messages to staff members. We thank all parents/guardians who continue to call the school when their children are absent. Your support ensures that our Safe Arrival Program works efficiently to ensure the safety of our students.

When we do not receive your call, we are concerned about your child. We then call home, your workplace or an emergency contact number. Please let us know if your telephone numbers change.

Please help us to save valuable time and ensure the safety of your child by calling in all absences. Our Attendance Verification Phone number is (905)822-3183 press 1. When calling please state the

child's first and last name (spell the last name), grade, teacher and reason for absence.

It is important for all students that they arrive on time for school. Students who are late for school are required to report to the office to obtain an Admit Slip prior to going to class. Students who are habitually late may be required to make up the time through detentions at recess or after school.

Student Verification Sheet

A student verification sheet for each child has been sent home. All sheets (even those which have correct information) should be returned to the appropriate classroom teacher. If you have not returned yours, please do so, as this will help us to update our records.

Kiss & Ride Safety

St. Francis of Assisi School is proud of its Kiss and Ride Program. In order for it to continue to run smoothly and safely for all our students, everyone needs to follow the same procedure.

- 1) To drop students off at school please drive into the west entrance and along the center lane until you reach the person on duty.
- 2) In order to ensure the safety of your children, please do not let your children out of the car until you are at the front of the lane
- 3) Never drive in the bus lane.
- 4) Never leave your car unattended in the school driveway or on either side of Thorn Lodge. It is against the law and you may be ticketed by police who regularly patrol the area.
- 5) If you need to walk your child to the yard or you need to stop into the office, please park in the church parking lot across the street. We appreciate your cooperation in following these procedures. **Your children's safety is our main concern.**

Once again we need your help to assist us with the Kiss & Ride program. If you wish to volunteer, please contact the school office at (905)822-3183.

Class School Organization Subject to Change

Each school year start-up often brings some unexpected changes in terms of enrolment. As a result of families moving out of our school community or registering at our school over the summer, class organization is subject to change within the first few weeks of the school year. Parents will be contacted directly if any change should involve their child (ren). Your support and cooperation is greatly appreciated. Reorganization day for St. Francis of Assisi School is Friday, September 18, 2009

THERE WILL BE NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS ON THIS DAY.

Medication

School staff cannot administer medication, including aspirin and Tylenol without a "Request and Consent for Administration of Medication" form, completed and signed by a doctor. A properly labeled container is required, including the instructions and conditions that are to be followed for the administration of the medication for the safety of the child.

Parents of children with life threatening medical concerns/allergies are asked to notify Mrs. Malho in the school office and fully complete an Emergency Medication Protocol form each September and return it to the school as soon as possible. All medication is stored in the office area. The only exception to this requirement has to do with any child who, because of life threatening allergies, must carry medication.

Peanut and Other Life Threatening Allergies, Sabrina's Law Anaphylaxis Reaction

As we begin the new school year, we would like to inform you that St. Francis of Assisi School is an allergen aware school. There are pupils in attendance at our school who suffer from severe and life threatening allergies to certain foods, such as peanut and nut products. Exposure to the smallest quantities can cause severe and life threatening reactions. Anaphylaxis is a severe and life threatening allergic reaction. The most common allergen triggers are food, insect stings, medications, exercise and latex. An anaphylactic reaction involves symptoms from two or more body systems. **We would appreciate the cooperation of the entire school community by NOT sending any lunches or snacks that contain peanuts, peanut products. We want St. Francis to be a safe environment for all students. Thank you for your assistance with this initiative.**

Student Accident Insurance

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.

Enrolment is required in writing -- **there are two options for enrolment:**

- 1) Complete the traditional form and mail it in
- 2) Photocopy the form and fax it to Reliable Life at 1-905-522-7211 or 1-800-463-KIDS (5437).

"Parents alone have the right to insure their children."

School Agendas

We would like to thank once again our School Council for providing all our students with agendas.

Students in Grades 1-8 will be using school agendas to help develop their organizational skills. Please take some time to look over your child's agenda. School policy and rules are outlined in the front section of the book. The agenda is used daily to help assist your child with organization. It is also an effective vehicle we use to keep parents informed on what is happening in class and in the school. Agendas are to be signed daily by parents and teachers.

How about Pizza and Sub Days?

Pizza lunch days will begin again in October. Pizza days will be on Wednesday and Sub day on the last Wednesday of the month, as usual. Watch for order forms in late September.

Criminal Reference Checks

Anyone working in our school as a new employee or volunteer must have a Criminal Reference Check completed by the Peel Police. **CRC are free of charge for volunteers.** Forms will be available from the office and at the Community Information Board.

Volunteering

It is only with the help of volunteers that the events at St. Francis of Assisi School can be run. We are always looking for dedicated parents/guardians to help with events within the school. If you are interested in sharing some of your time with us, please call the school office and register your name.

September Sports

Watch out for the upcoming sports in the month of September.

- Cross Country Training – Grades 4-8
- Intermediate Boys & Girls Competitive Team Volleyball
- House League Volleyball – Grades 5-8
- Primary Choir – Grades 3-8

Dress Down Day

St. Francis of Assisi School Faculty participates in Dress Down Fridays. The staff will donate money to the United Way/ Share Life charities each Friday that they wear their casual clothes to school.

Professional Development Day

Friday, September 18th, 2009 is a Professional Development Day for teachers. There will be no classes held on this day. Please make sure you mark your calendars and make appropriate arrangements.

E-mail Policy

Please be aware that parents and guardians are not to e-mail school staff. We encourage you to continue to contact your child's teacher or office staff by telephone and we will make every effort to respond to you promptly.

School Website



Check out some of our amazing presentations on the school website.

<http://w3.dpcdsb.org/ASSIS/Presentations.htm>

Council Corner

Open House/Curriculum & Bar-B-Q

Mark your calendars! The evening is booked for Wednesday, September 30th. This is your chance to enjoy burgers and hot dogs with your children, then visit their classrooms and meet the staff. More information will follow regarding times.

School Council

What is the Parent Council and what do we do?

1. The purpose of Catholic School Council is, through the active participation of parents, to improve pupil achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents.
2. A Catholic School Council's primary means of achieving its purpose is by making recommendations in accordance with this policy and regulation to the principal of the school and to the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board.
3. To help the Principal and the Teachers bring appropriate community resources to the school.
4. To help the Principal and the Teachers ensure that Parents recognize and exercise their right to participate in the education of their children.

How to become a Member:

Each parent/guardian seeking election must be nominated or self-nominated in writing, must have a child registered at the school and must declare if he or she is employed by the school board.

Should an election be necessary, each parent/guardian of a student enrolled in the school shall be entitled to one vote for each vacant parent/guardian membership position on the council.

If necessary, an election committee shall be struck by the school council to help plan the election process, the gathering of nominations, and the running of the elections. No one standing for election, or the spouse of anyone standing for election, shall be a member of the election committee.

The minimum number of parent members on the school Council shall be six (6).

The maximum number of parent members shall be fifteen (15).

A parent member cannot be employed by St. Francis of Assisi School.

There are generally five or six meetings per school year. They start at 6:30pm and usually run 2 – 2 ½ hours in length.

All parents are always welcome to attend and provide input. Babysitting is provided for the meetings.

School Council Election

It is a pleasure to invite all parents to consider becoming a member of the School Council. Please note that our School Council will be comprised of parents, school staff and a parish representative. School Council nomination forms are available at the office. Please return to the office by September 24, 2009 or bring form to the first school council meeting. If you do not want to run for a position, you are still always welcome to attend the meetings and offer your thoughts and ideas.

Do you know a good Babysitter?

The Parent Council tries to offer a **FREE** babysitting service for all parents and members during the Council meetings. We are looking for a couple of high school teenagers who would like to babysit and earn hour credits towards their mandatory community hours. If you know someone who is interested, please call the school office and leave their name and phone number.

Next Council Meeting

Thursday September 24th at 6:30 pm in the Library. All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend. There will be free babysitting available for the duration of the meeting.

Questions?

If you have any questions for the Parent Council, feel free to leave a message/ note in the Parent Council 'mail box' in the school's office.

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 18 – PA Day – no school for students
September 21 – Opening School Mass – 9:15 a.m.
September 22 – Reconciliation & Communion Gr 2 – Parent Meeting 8:15 p.m. SFA Church
September 24 – School Council Meeting – 6:30 p.m. Library
September 30 – Open House/Curriculum/BBQ – 6:00 p.m.
October 1 – Early Release Day - 11:30 dismissal
October 3 – St. Francis of Assisi Feast Day
October 5 – Thanksgiving Mass – 8:45 a.m.
October 8 – Hep B Shots Dose 1 Gr 7, HPV – Gr 8 girls only
October 8 – Parent Mtg – Gr 8 Confirmation – 7:00 p.m. Church
October 12 – Thanksgiving
October 21 – Picture Day
October 30 – **Much Music Dance-a-thon**
November 11 – Remembrance Day
November 16 – PA Day – no school for students
November 18 – Picture retake day
December 1 – Report Cards sent home
December 3 – Interview Evening
December 8 – SFA Ice Hockey Varsity – 7:15 a.m. Erin Mills Arena
December 9 – Family Advent Mass – 6:45 p.m.
December 15 – SFA Ice Hockey Varsity – 7:15 a.m. Erin Mills Arena
December 21 – January 1 – Christmas Holidays
January 11 – Early Release Day – 11:30 dismissal
January 12 – Grade 7 Ski Trip
January 26 – Grade 7 Ski Trip
February 1 – February 4 – Grade 8 Muskoka Woods Trip
February 2 – SFA Jr. Ice Hockey – 7:15 a.m. Erin Mills Arena
February 5 – SFA Ice Skating – Erin Mills Arena
February 9 – SFA Jr. Ice Hockey – 7:15 a.m. Erin Mills Arena
February 12 – SFA Ice Skating – Erin Mills Arena
February 15 – Family Day
February 16 – SFA Jr. Ice Hockey – 7:15 a.m. Erin Mills Arena
February 17 – Ash Wednesday – 9:00 a.m. school gym
February 19 – SFA Ice Skating – Erin Mills Arena
February 23 – Grade 7 Ski Trip
February 24 – First Reconciliation – 9:00 a.m. SFA Church
February 26 – SFA Ice Skating – Erin Mills Arena
March 1 – PA Day – no school for students
March 15 – 19 – March Break
March 23 – Report Cards sent home
April 2 – Good Friday
April 5 – Easter Monday
April 10 – First Eucharist – 2:00 p.m. SFA Church
April 12 – Easter Mass – 9:15 a.m.
April 26 – 27 – See and Hear
May 12 – Confirmation Confession – 1:00 p.m. SFA Church
May 17 – Confirmation – 7:00 p.m. SFA Church
May 24 – Victoria Day
June 22 – Year End Mass – 8:45 a.m.
June 24 – Graduation Mass – 7:30 p.m.
June 28 – Report Cards sent home
June 30 – Last Day of School



St. Francis of Assisi Staff Directory (2009-2010)

Staff Member	Grade
Mrs. Vasquez	JKAM - SKPM
Mrs. Batz	JKPM - SKAM

Mrs. Male	Grade 1
Mrs. Harty	Grade 1
Ms. Amoroso	Grade 2
Ms. Baldisarrelli	Grade 2
Mrs. S. Camilleri	Grade 2/3
Mrs. Dhue	Grade 3
Ms. Marasco	Grade 3
Mrs. Thibault	Grade 3
Mrs. Siemons	Grade 3/4
Mr. Da Silva	Grade 4
Mrs. Rubini	Grade 5
Mrs. Ruffolo	Grade 5/6
Mrs. A. Camilleri	Grade 6
Ms. Marchesan	Grade 6
Mr. Naughton	Grade 7
Mrs. Ferens	Grade 7
Ms. Worboys	Grade 7/8
Mrs. Jaseliunas	Grade 8
Mr. Maguire	Library
Mr. Carreiro	Planning
Mrs. Savoia	SERT/SERC
Ms. Policelli	SERT/ESL
Mrs. Ball	SERT/PT/K
Mrs. Bradford	FSL
Mrs. Discenza	FSL
Mrs. Oliveira	ERW
Mrs. Koma	ERW
Mrs. Stathakos-Gountzounis	ERW
Mrs. Kapela	ERW
Mr. Palmateer	Principal
Mrs. Boulanger	V.P.

Mrs. Franke	Head Secretary
Mrs. Malho	Ass't Secretary
Mr. Parkinson	Custodian
Mr. Penman	Custodian
Mrs. Jones	Custodian

**Mrs. Sheehan
Mrs. Gates
Mrs. Ellis
Mrs. Moeser**

**CYW
Psych.
SW
Sp./L.**

A Message from the Church

Dear parents and students of St. Francis of Assisi School,

I would like to take the opportunity of this first newsletter to welcome you all back from your vacations and time away from work and school. I myself am looking forward to another scholastic year filled with enthusiasm and enriching contacts and experiences. Back to the grind, as they say – and we're ready to grind away at another faith-filled journey of school, Church and home.

A huge welcome to Mr. Steven Palmateer, our new Principal at St. Francis School and to all newcomers to the staff and also to the parish family at large. We hope that already you have been experiencing beautiful things and people in your new community. I look very much forward to celebrating Eucharist with you on Saturdays and Sundays. This is the glue that keeps us together as a family of Faith.

Information about us and our liturgical celebrations is available on our website at www.st-francisofassisi.ca. Please tap into it and we hope that the website is for you a valuable tool. May I also remind you that during the week, in particular on Tuesday and Thursday mornings we have specifically designed our Mass time to accommodate the children and their respective classes to coming over and celebrating Mass with us class by class. We also encourage parents who are able to join us to come as well. Mass begins at 8.45 a.m.

I would like to welcome in a special way the grade 2 students and also the grade 8's of St. Francis of Assisi School; a very important year for you and your faith journey. The sacraments of Communion and Confirmation help you complete your initiation into becoming disciples for Jesus. What an awesome task!!

I remind the parents of the Grade 2's that there is a very important information meeting coming up for you regarding the sacraments on **Thursday, September 24th at 6.45 p.m.**

For the grade 8's and your parents, your information meeting is on **Thursday October 8th at 7 p.m.**

Please do not miss these meetings as they give us direction on how to properly help prepare these students for their sacraments. I kindly remind that due to a heavy parish schedule there will not be any make up meetings for those who do not attend the information sessions. Thank you for understanding.

With this, I wish you a beautiful year at St. Francis of Assisi School and Parish and please know that if I could be of any assistance to you my email is frjoseph@st-francisofassisi.ca or else 905-822-8132.

God bless and protect you all
Fr. Joseph Grima

Message from the Superintendent - Cathy Saytar Mississauga South Family- September 2009

Welcome back to another exciting school year. Special greetings to all those who are new to the Mississauga South Family of Schools. As the new Superintendent of Mississauga South Family of Schools, I am excited to be a part of this vibrant and diverse community. Due to a re-alignment of schools throughout the board, Mississauga South now consists of 26 schools; 4 secondary and 22 elementary, as well as 8 parishes, each of which supports our student faith formation and catechetical programming. Our family's jurisdiction is represented by 4 trustees: Sharon Hobin, Luz del Rosario, Bruno Iannicca and Mario Pascucci, each of whom are strong advocates 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.

Message from Your Catholic School Trustee Sharon Hobin

Welcome back! Just a note to wish all of you the very best as we enter another school year. For some this will be the final year as your children enter grade 12. For some your children are entering the wonderful world of junior kindergarten. No matter, it is my hope that you have a healthy and productive school year.

It is my sincere pleasure to welcome Cathy Saytar who is the new Superintendent of our Mississauga South Family of Schools. I have worked with Ms. Saytar before and I have a great deal of respect for her talent and high level of professionalism. I know she will enjoy working with the parents and communities that encompass our Mississauga South Family of Schools. This year already presents some challenges for us but the board and staff are ready to face any challenge that may come along. I know that you have been reading about some of the challenges that have come to pass over the summer. I do ask you to make sure you know the facts before you reach your own conclusions.

Ms. Saytar and I believe that we work with a very talented team of Principals and Vice Principals and we look forward to working with those who have joined us just this year. I will be visiting all the school councils throughout the year but you know that you may call me if you have questions or concerns. Enjoy the rest of your summer and fall. As ever, may the good Lord always hold you in the palm of His hand.