



September 2011
Edition

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCHOOL

2480 Thornlodge Drive
Mississauga, ON
L5K 1K5

Telephone: 905-822-3183

Fax: 905-822-7540

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

Principal

S. Palmateer

Vice- Principal

C. Klein

Head Secretary

M. Franke

Assistant Secretary

D. Malho

Superintendent

Ms. C. Saytar
905 890-1221

Trustee

Ms. S. Hobin
Bus.:(905)890-1221
Cell: (905)301-1210
Email:
sharon.hobin@dpcdsb.org

Parish

St. Francis of Assisi Church
2473 Thornlodge Dr.
Mississauga, ON L5K 1K5
905-822-8132

Pastor

Father Joseph Grima

School Council Chairs

Sienna Perrotta
Tom Vitale



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 continuing to serve 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 remains at about 530 students.

The School Council is organizing a community Bar B-Q on our Open House/Curriculum Evening on September 20th and I invite all families to attend.

This year there will be many school events, activities and house league sports for children. In May, our children will be performing in a Talent Show/French café/Arts & Displays. 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 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 Tuesday , September 13th.

Sincerely,
Mr. S. Palmateer

Virtue of the Month

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 & Vice Principal Wine & Cheese Social

I would like to take this opportunity to meet many of the parents in an informal setting on **Tuesday, September 13th**. All parents are invited to a wine & cheese social in the school library starting at 6:30 p.m. Father Grima and our Trustee, Sharon Hobin will be present and available to share information. I will be sharing information about the many events for our upcoming year.

FROM THE OFFICE

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 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 16, 2011.**

THERE WILL BE NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS ON THIS DAY.

FROM THE OFFICE

KISS N' RIDE

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents and caregivers at St. Francis of Assisi School who are using the Kiss N' Ride program during drop-off and pick-up times. The Kiss N' Ride works well when drivers pull up as far as they can and have their children ready to exit the vehicle as soon as they stop. **Children should be exiting the car on the passenger side only.** Problems with the Kiss N' Ride program arise when drivers stop too soon and the cars behind them cannot enter the parking lot.

During the afternoon dismissal time, cars must keep the bus lane open at all times so our buses may depart. Parents should never park cars or leave them unattended in the drive-through lanes. If you must leave your car, please park in a parking spot.

Teachers are on duty in the Kiss N' Ride area from 8:15am – 8:30am, as well as 3:00pm-3:15pm. Please look to them for direction during busy times. **We would also like to thank the parents who volunteer during the drop-off times.** If you would like to volunteer in the Kiss N' Ride program, please notify the office. We would truly appreciate any time you may have to help with the program.



VOLUNTEERS IN THE SCHOOL

We are pleased to welcome our volunteers for another year to supporting learning in our school. We appreciate their commitment & support and look forward to a great year! Thank you to all who have applied for their Criminal Reference Check. We look forward to working with you.

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.

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.

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.

Medication

School staff cannot administer medication, including aspirins 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).

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 about what is happening in class and in the school. Agendas are to be signed daily by parents and teachers.

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 1-3
- Flag Football – Grades 7/8

Dress Down Days

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 beginning September 30th that they wear their casual clothes to school.

Professional Development Day

Friday, September 16th, 2011 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>

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 13 – Welcoming Social for Parents 6:30 pm
September 16 – P.A. Day – no school
September 19 – Opening School Mass – 9:00 a.m.
September 20 – Open House/BBQ/Curriculum evening
6:00 p.m., classroom visits 7:00 p.m.
September 23 – QSP Kickoff - fundraising
September 27 – Gr 7 & 8 students Stratford Festival
“Jesus Christ Superstar”
September 28 – Terry Fox Run
September 29 – School Council meeting 6:45 p.m.
School Council elections if needed
October 6- Provincial Election
October 12 – Picture Day
November 1 – Gr 7 – Hep B shots, Gr 8 HPV shots
November 9 – Picture Retake Day

School Bus Courtesy Seat Policy

At this time, transportation is only available to students who are eligible for the bus according to the Board eligibility distance criteria.

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board Bus Eligibility:

Kindergarten/Grade 1	1 km
Grades 2 – 4	1.6 km
Grades 5 – 8	2.0 km

Those wishing to access empty seats under the Courtesy Seat Policy, are asked to pick up an application form at the school office and return it to Ms. Klein, the school vice-principal. Depending on availability, seats will be allocated in mid-October. Please note that all children who were previously granted permission to ride the bus under this policy must find alternative transportation until the seating situation on the buses has been assessed and new bus cards are issued.



Council Corner

Open House/Curriculum & Bar-B-Q

Mark your calendars! The evening is booked for Tuesday September 20th. 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 29, 2011 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 29th at 6:45 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

School Council Fundraising Hallowe'en Dance-a-thon October 31st

Any parents who are able to donate prizes for the Dance-a-thon may drop off items at the office at any time. Thank you in advance for your contributions.

Sacramental Dates at St. Francis of Assisi Church

Gr. 2 – Reconciliation – Tues. March 22, 2012 @7:00pm
Gr.2 –First Holy Communion – Sun. April 22, 2012 @3:00pm
Gr. 8 – Confirmation – Mon. May 14, 2012 @ 7:00 pm
Gr. 8 - Graduation Para liturgy – Tues. June 26, 2012@ 6:45pm

