



October 2011
Edition

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCHOOL

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Parish

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

Pastor

Father Joseph Grima

School Council Chairs

Siena Perrotta
Tom Vitale

Principal's Message

September was an exciting month at St. Francis of Assisi School. Our school population has now reached 520 students. We were very fortunate to be one of the few schools in Dufferin-Peel that required minimal reorganization to classrooms.

Much appreciation is extended to all the parents and helpers who assisted us in making our first month of the school year such a positive experience. Thank you to all who were able to join us at our Open House / BBQ evening. It was a pleasure to see everyone again.

During the month of September, our school has participated in the annual Terry Fox Run, School Council held its first meeting and we enjoyed an inspiring opening school mass. Many students from grades 4-8 are practicing 3 days a week for Cross Country. Our volleyball teams are well on their way to another successful season. Grade 4, 5 and 6 intramural volleyball and grade 7 and 8 flag football are about to begin. All classes are busy implementing their academic programs.

During this time, let us thank God for the many blessings He has bestowed upon us and ask Him to continue to guide us on our journey. Let us also be mindful of those less fortunate and share their plight. Thank you for your generous contributions to our Knights of Columbus Food Drive. Non-perishable food items will be gladly accepted until Thursday October 6th.

Enjoy your Thanksgiving holiday!

Sincerely,
Mr. S. Palmateer



Virtue of the Month

This month we will celebrate the virtue of empathy.

God has given us the ability to form connections with each other – to live together. Empathy helps us to connect and live together in safe, caring, inclusive communities.

We understand empathy to mean the ability to identify with and feel other people's concerns. We believe that in faith community we are nothing without relationships. Relationships that grow in a spirit of communion – an understanding that we share an identity based on being created in the image and likeness of God and being imbued with one Spirit. We are many parts of one body.

An empathetic person...

- Listens attentively
- Watches people's body language
- Notices and responds when someone is upset
- Can name her/his feelings
- Can see a situation from another person's point of view
- Knows that different people may feel differently about the same thing

*Gracious and merciful God of all creation,
You made us to live together in communities.
We are nothing without relationships.
You have given us the virtue of empathy to ensure*

*That we are able to identify with and feel other people's concerns.
May your gift of empathy lead us to know
and feel your presence among us. Amen*



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.

OCTOBER 12th IS PICTURE DAY!

Please remember to send your children to school with appropriate clothing for Picture Day. A reminder will be sent home prior to this date. If your child is ill and misses the picture date, a retake day will be available prior to Christmas.

PIZZA LUNCHES

We are pleased to continue with weekly pizza lunches. This year, Pizza -N-Joy will be providing us with our pizza. The pizza will continue to be sold at \$1.50 per slice every Wednesday **except for the last Wednesday of each month, starting October 5th.**

\$\$\$ CHANGE \$\$\$



When sending money with your child for the drink machine or pizza slices on pizza day, **PLEASE BE SURE TO SEND THE EXACT AMOUNT, AS THE OFFICE WILL NOT BE PROVIDING CHANGE.**

Milk is \$1.75, drinks are \$1.00, and extra pizza slices are \$1.50. Drink machines do not accept pennies, nickels or dimes.

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.

Criminal Reference Declaration

Anyone who completed a Criminal Reference Check last year at this time is required to sign a Criminal Reference Declaration, annually. Please see office staff.

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.

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>

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER GOES GREEN

We are continuing our effort to enhance communication and ensure delivery of important school information. As you are aware, we created an **UNATTENDED EMAIL MAILBOX** for the electronic delivery of school newsletters, school information and School Council updates beginning in November.

This initiative will ensure that you receive school information without relying on the "backpack". Environmentally, we will save paper, energy, and staff time.

Our newsletters and school information will continue to be added regularly to our school website.

Should you **NOT** be willing, or not be able to participate, we will make hard copies of school information available at the office. Please feel free to call the school, should you have questions or concerns,

School Bus Courtesy Seat Policy

There are a limited number of courtesy seats available on the school buses this year. Applications are presently being processed and parents will be notified around mid-October to confirm if their child will receive a seat under the courtesy seat policy this year. **Please note that under the "courtesy seat" policy, bus privileges may be removed at any time as the result of increased seating requirements for eligible transportation students.**



HALLOWE'EN



All students from Kindergarten to Grade 8 are encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes to school on Monday, October 31st. Also, please remember that **guns, swords or any other similar items are not permitted.**

DANCE-A-THON



Our Halloween fundraiser is underway and we are starting to collect donations from our local merchants in the community. We would also greatly appreciate any sealed gifts or toys that you may have at home that you may want to re-gift for this event.

In the previous years our school community has been very generous with donations in the form of cash, tickets for different events or gift cards. If the company you work for can provide us with a donation it would be greatly appreciated. Any items can be left in the school office.

Once again we will be having our Halloween Dance-a-thon for our students on Oct. 31st.

There is a lot of buzz in the school and students are excited to realize they have this to look forward to on Halloween. This is a fundraiser for items for the school that will be approved by the School Council.

Our school goal this year is to raise \$20,000.00 in fundraising.



PRIZES

This year we are asking for parents who have access to prizes or gifts if they could please donate them to the school. These gifts/prizes will be used in many of our school's fundraising activities throughout the year.

QSP MAGAZINE FUNDRAISER

QSP Magazine orders are **due on Thursday, October 13th!** Magazines make great Christmas gifts. Treat yourself to your favorite!

They are easy to order online—just follow these simple steps:

Go to www.qsp.ca to order online.

Use your School Code: #16570

and follow the instructions online.

Earn a prize just for sending 12 or more emails to friends and family.

Invite Facebook friends to support your school.

Go Green! Paperless Fund Raising!

Easy pay with credit cards.

Shop 24 hours a day, year round.

Online orders are processed immediately,
save up to 4-6 weeks delivery time.

Anyone from anywhere in Canada can help!

Thanksgiving weekend is a great time to get sales while visiting with family!

Complete your orders on line or send in your paper orders and payments to school by Monday, October 18th!

Thank you for your support!

NASCAR FUNDRAISER

On Wednesday October 5th, Dave Connelly, the driver of the Schneider's/Metro Stockcar will be coming to our school to provide hal hour presentations. He drives a Nascar Stockcar in Canada's #1 racing series. The race car and tent will be set up in the back school yard for all classes to have a look.

As well, the Metro Food Store at Sheridan Mall has adopted our school for this fundraiser which includes a family BBQ at the Metro Store following the presentations from 3 – 7 p.m., with 100% of the profits going to our school. The cost of the dinner includes a Schneider hotdog, an Oasis fruit drink and snacks at a cost of \$4.00 per dinner. Our school receives a cheque for all food orders that have been purchased at 7:00 p.m. All of the food items are provided free of charge by a variety of companies including: Schneider's, Kraft, Astro, Oasis, Dempsters, M & M's and Orville Redenbacher.

We hope that you will be able to join us for this fundraiser!



Athletics

CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING TEAM

The school cross-country team has been training for the past month for the upcoming Family of Schools cross-country meet on Friday October 14th. Thank you to the coaches: Ms. Ferens, Ms. Rubini and Ms. Worboys. Go Frames go!

INTERMEDIATE GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

The intermediate girls' team has been training hard under the direction of their coaches, Mr. Naughton and Ms. Ohinski. They showed their skill and sportsmanship at the Catholic Cup tournament, held on September 26th and 29th, taking first place. Congratulations and wishing the team a successful season! Team members include: Gracie B., Erika K., Emilie L., Lauren D., Melissa M., Sabrina M., Olivia S., Joanna R., Katelyn O., Claudia C.

INTERMEDIATE BOYS VOLLEYBALL

The intermediate boys team showed great sportsmanship at the Catholic Cup, placing first in their division and fourth overall. Congratulations to: Austin, Jeffrey, Melvin, Genick, Bryan, Jake, Luke, Michael, Liam and Martina. Also, thank you to the coaches: Ms. Jaseliunas and Ms. Marchesan.

HOMEWORK CLUB

Effective, October 5th on most Wednesdays we will be operating a Homework/Study Club in the Library from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. for students in grade 3 – 8. The purpose of this club is to:

- To allow children time to complete regular classroom work
- To read in an environment conducive to reading
- To use computers
- To complete projects or group work
- To get extra help from grade 8 or secondary school students
- As a discipline measure when parents and teachers are in agreement

It is important that children are well-behaved, have parents sign permission in their agenda, and that they have someone to pick them up, if transportation is required, at 4:00 p.m.

sharp. One teacher, grade 8 and secondary students will be available if children require assistance.

If you know of a secondary school student who has time on Wednesdays and would like to earn their service hours, please have them contact the school.



SCHOOL CHOIRS

We have now established two new St. Francis of Assisi Choirs: the Festival Choir, an auditioned group of 31 students from grades 4 to 8, and the Liturgical Choir, a non-auditioned group of students also from grades 4 to 8.

The Liturgical Choir, which practices on Tuesdays at lunch, will be providing music for our school liturgies.

The Festival Choir, which practices Wednesdays at lunch, will be preparing a challenging program of 2 and 3-part music to perform on special occasions and at festivals around the GTA, such as the Peel Festival, held in April, and the Canada's Wonderland Music Festival, held in May and June. Miss Fitzgerald, Ms. Koma and Miss Joes will be leading the choirs.

Introducing this year's Festival Choir: 2011-2012

Soprano

Natalie
Elizabeth
Isabel
Calista
Lupe
Stephanie
Taylor
Alyssa
Reannah
Jordana
Anthony
Sarah
Ursula

Alto

Melvin
Kaitlyn
Aidan
Alexa
Emilie
Andrew
Dimitri
Giordano
Brianna
Ellen
Cindy
Sandy

Thank you to everyone who auditioned for the Choir.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- October 1-St. Francis of Assisi Parish Pet Blessing & Knights of Columbus barbeque
- October 4- School Thanksgiving Mass & Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi at 8:45 a.m.
- October 5-Student Vote in the Library for grades 4-8
- October 5-Nascar Fundraiser
- October 6- Provincial Election
- October 6-Grade 5 Mass at 8:45 a.m. at St. Francis of Assisi church
- October 7-Food Drive items picked up in a.m.
- October 12 – Picture Day
- October 14 – Family Cross-country Meet
- Oct. 22 & 23: Gr. 8 Mass of Enrollment at the Church for Confirmation
- October 25: Progress Reports go home
- October 27: Interview evening for Parents
- November 1 – Gr 7 – Hep B shots, Gr 8 HPV shots
- November 9 – Picture Retake Day