



# ST. MARGUERITE BOURGEOYS SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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*A Prayer for  
the New Year*

*Come, Holy  
Spirit,  
Spirit of the*

*Risen Christ, be with us today and  
always.*

*Be our light, our Guide, and our  
comforter.*

*Be our strength, our courage and  
our Sanctifier.*

*May this new year be a time  
Of deep spiritual growth for us,  
A time of welcoming Your graces  
and gifts.*

*A time for forgiving freely and  
unconditionally.*

*A time for growing in virtue and  
goodness.*

*Come Holy Spirit, be with us today  
and always.*

*Amen*

## ACTIVITIES ...

December was an active month with our Dance unit and Christmas activities.

Thank you to the Parent Council who paid for our Hip Hop Dance instructor. The Physical Education Curriculums at each grade level have a dance component to them. The instructor is aware of the expectations and teaches the student modern dance while staying within the Curriculum guidelines. The result is an enjoyable unit for all the students and chance for the students to show their expertise in a group situation.

## MASS

Our Christmas Mass was very reflective of the true meaning of Christmas. Thank you to Mrs. Condarcuri for all her hard work in preparing for the Mass and for the song that ended our celebration. Thank you also to Mrs. Fulford and Miss. Baltazar for their work preparing the students.

## ANGEL ON THE TREE

This year for the first time we did our Angel on the Tree program. Several tags were placed on the tree with various ages of children. Students took home a letter with an attached permission form. When the permission form was signed the student was able to take a tag and then bring in a present appropriate to the age of the child. These presents were then given to the Knights Table who made sure that they got to children in need. Thank you to all who were able to participate in this worthwhile program.

We also collected several units of nonperishable food for the Knights of Columbus from St. Anthony's Church that they distributed to needy families. The Knights were very thankful to our community for the generous contributions that were made to the food drive.



## SANTA PICTURES / BOOK FAIR

Santa came for pictures while our book fair was on. Those that participated were very happy with the pictures. We look forward to having Santa back again next year only a little earlier in December.



## PEEL MANOR

Our Junior Choir went to Peel Manor to spread some Christmas Cheer to all those who live at the Manor. Thanks to Mrs. Gutt for sharing her love of music with

the students and extending it into the community.

### **RECONCILIATION**

Our Grade two students made their Reconciliation on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to the students and their parents for participating in this very important sacrament. Thank you to Miss Stewart for preparing the students.

### **HOLY NAME OF MARY HIGH SCHOOL**

Holy Name of Mary came and provided us with an afternoon of Christmas music from their music department. The band and choir were amazing and certainly put us in the Christmas Spirit.

### **WINTER DRESS**

It is that time of year when students need to be reminded of the necessity of dressing properly for the weather (mittens, hats, scarves, boots, etc.) Labeling items would be helpful, as many boots and mittens look very similar. Many items make their way to the lost and found box and are often not claimed. Please help us (and your children) by listening to the weather reports before deciding what they should wear to school each day.



Except under unusual conditions, students go outside during recess and lunch hour. Research indicates that fifteen minutes of fresh air allows students to refocus on their studies. The Board, with advice from the Peel Public Health department, has established the policy that all children will be inside when the temperature outside reaches -20 degrees Celsius (including wind chill factor) We will monitor weather conditions daily and make decisions based on local conditions. Students who are too ill to go outside should be resting at home.



### **WINTER SAFETY CONCERN**

Often during the winter months when there is snow on the ground, students renew their enthusiasm for rough play, unsolicited pushing and shoving, snowjobs, throwing snowballs and other unacceptable activities. We are asking students to keep snow and ice on the ground and not participate in any activities that involve rough play. We are also asking parents to assist us by regularly speaking with their children about the dangers of rough play and unsolicited shoving and

pushing. Staff will continue to work with students at school in this regard.. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter in the interest of student safety.



### **How Can I Help my Children Do Better in School?**

Make your family mealtimes more meaningful. Mealtime can provide the ideal setting for talking together, sharing events of the day and discussing individual problems and aspirations. In a relaxed, family atmosphere, youngsters have a chance to test their debating skills in friendly arguments and to talk out their differences of opinion. Such discussions will help develop you children's self-confidence and encourage them to speak up in the classroom. Don't allow TV to interfere with this perfect opportunity for family communications.

*Make television your servant not your master*

Children learn a lot from television- both good and bad. Help them choose appropriate programs to watch. Then watch with them and afterwards discuss what you've seen. This approach to television can help you and your children develop new interests that you can encourage them to read about.

One system for choosing programs carefully is to get the family together once a week to consider the television listings. Go over the listings as would a restaurant menu. (In a restaurant you wouldn't order just anything.) By choosing carefully in advance, you'll help your children form a habit of considering television as only one of many entertainment/learning tools available, and you'll give them a valuable thinking and decision-making experience.

*Keeping Computers in their Place*

Computers are definitely part and parcel of schools and learning today. They offer children incredible opportunity to explore and to develop knowledge and abilities-but the can also be an incredible consumer of time. Computer and video games are fun and they are one way to spend one's spare time. However, they can sometimes take away from time that would be better spent

on homework and studying as well as on more active forms of recreation.

*Take your children places*

Visits to nature and science centres art museums, historic sites, parks cultural centres, airports, farms, factories, supermarkets, pet stores and so on will help broaden their experiences. Such diverse activities are vital in readying younger children for reading.

*Read with your children*

It's a rare child who is not delighted to be read to by a parent or older friend, but, it's important to read with your children, not only to them.

As irritating as interruptions can sometimes become-whether the children are asking questions about the story of wanting to turn back and take another look at a picture-it's important remember that children's comments during the story signal that they are making connections between new material and something they already know-the essence of the learning process. So read with your children and welcome interruptions. They tell you that you are doing your job well.

**PARENT COUNCIL**

**Parent Council Meeting Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup> 2009**

Come and join us at 7:00 pm for our Council meeting. On our agenda items will be the Celebration of our 25th anniversary during this year. So come and bring us your suggestions or just be there to get the news first hand. Hope to see you on Monday the 26th

Attachments: Letter from The Terry Fox Foundation

**Wanted**

We are looking for a part-time lunchroom supervisor. If you are interested please call the school and speak with the principal.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

January 15<sup>th</sup> 2009 – Early Release – students leave school at 11:30 am  
January 28<sup>th</sup> 2009 – P.A. Day – no school for students on that day

**WEBSITE NEWS**

Ms. Reis, Ms. Stewart and Mrs. Chrysanthou have begun to post their monthly calendars on the school website. If you are at work and need to check your child's calendar you can find these under the "*Classroom Monthly Calendars*" page.

**Junior & Senior Kindergarten Registration for 2009-10**

Registration for the 2009-10 school year will be held at all Dufferin-Peel Catholic elementary schools on the following dates:

**Monday, February 23, 2009 - 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.\***

*\*Snow Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2009 - 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.*

**Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, February 25, 26 & 27, 2009**

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

*Junior Kindergarten - Children must be 4 years old by Dec. 31, 2009*

*Senior Kindergarten - Children must be 5 years old by Dec. 31, 2009*

Parents/Guardians should bring the following documents when registering their child:

- proof of age
- original Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate (or Baptismal Certificate of other rite in communion with the See of Rome)
- updated immunization records
- proof of Canadian citizenship or of Landed Immigrant status
- proof of address (utility bill, bank or credit card statement)

