



BLESSED JOHN XXIII CATHOLIC SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



ISSUE 7

MARCH 2011

A Lenten Prayer

**GOOD AND GRACIOUS GOD,
You call Your people back to You this
Lent.**

**May this sacred season renew our
desire to live fully the promises of our
baptism and to love You with a whole
heart.**

**Through more frequent prayer, acts of
charity, and fasting, may we remember
that loving You and one another is the
most important thing we can do. In
confidence, we ask these things
through Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord
and Saviour.**

Amen



PRINCIPALS MESSAGE:

Lent will soon be upon us. Lent is a time of preparation for the feast of all feasts, Easter. For this celebration of Easter to be a truly grace filled time, we must make a serious effort to prepare for it. Lent has two main purposes: it recalls our baptism, and it emphasizes a spirit of penance. Throughout Lent, we continue to take time to pray, to reflect and be charitable towards others. We take the time to think about others and our recommitment to Jesus. Throughout Lent, we will continue to prepare for Holy Week and the resurrection of the Lord.

LENT:



Blessed John XXIII school community will begin the Holy season of Lent participating in liturgy. Students read from the bible and talked about the significance of the season of

Lent, which is a time to pray and do good deeds, remembering that we need forgiveness. At morning prayers we listen to bible readings and reflections, which help us prepare for the great mystery of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus. Our prayers will continue to prepare us for the great mystery of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus.

ASH WEDNESDAY:

The custom of placing ashes on the heads of the faithful on the Wednesday before the First Sunday of Lent probably dates back to the fourth century. At that time, public sinners would come to the Church to have



Principal:	H. Peroni	
Secretary:	S. Pushie	905-279-9478
School Council Chair	L. Medeiros	
C. Saytar, Superintendent		905-890-1221
P. Ferreira, Trustee		416-805-7110
St. Martin of Tours Parish		905-279-5742
Fr. Joyson, Pastor		
Fr. Philip, Associate		

ashes placed on their heads by the Bishop as a sign that they wished to change their way of life, to do public penance during Lent and to return to full union with the community of God's people.

By the Middle Ages, it had become a custom for all the faithful, to come on Ash Wednesday to receive the Blessed Ashes as a sign that they wished to change their way of life, do penance and strengthen their commitment to Christ during the Lenten season. We will be having an Ash Wednesday liturgy on March 9, 2011 at 10:00 AM. All are invited to attend.

VIRTUES EDUCATION:

During the month of March, we celebrate the virtue of Kindness. Kindness is the act of loving and giving generously to others as God does. Our empathy for others is transformed into action, an action that extends beyond concern for others.

A kind person:

- gives their time to help others
- stands by their friends in time of need
- shares with their friends
- is polite
- cares about other people's feelings

PUBLIC SPEAKING WINNER:

On February 7, 2011, the Junior Public Speaking Competition was held at Blessed John XXIII School. In the Junior Division, Maya was awarded first place for an exceptional speech on Global Warming. She did an excellent job representing our school at the Mississauga South Public Speaking Contest. All the Students who participated demonstrated their dedication to improving their oral communication skills by preparing well organized speeches on a wide range of topics. The following students also succeeded in delivering speeches of high calibre: Cassidy, Samantha, Vivian, Matthew, Amanda and Jamie.

Special thanks to our judges: Mr. Zubac, Mrs. Gremmen and Mme Marangoni I would also like to thank Mr. Glicner for organizing this event.

LIVE FREE:

On Friday March 4, 2011, we will be participating in the Live Free - Toonie For Breakfast For Kids initiative. Students are asked to contribute a **\$2.00**

donation to support the Breakfast for Kids Program. Students are asked to bring their donation to the school **on Tuesday March 9, 2011**

UPDATED STUDENT INFORMATION:

We are continuously trying to contact parents to verify attendance or when a child has become ill, or hurt. At times we are unable to do so because the information is old. Please remember to provide the school with any change of information.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE:

The Dufferin Peel CDSB has arranged for low cost insurance through a private provider. Participation in the plan is optional. Forms went home in September for this service. Should you now decide you wish to participate in the program, please contact the school for an application form.

CRIMINAL REFERENCE CHECKS:

If you are planning to volunteer on a school trip and do not have a criminal reference check, please consider getting one now. The year end trips will be here before we know it, and it takes 4 – 6 weeks to get a criminal reference check. Call the office and we will send home a Criminal Reference Check form with your child.

FLEXIBLE BOUNDARY REQUEST FOR SEPTEMBER 2011:

This is a reminder that all families that have children in our school that live out of bounds, are to submit a letter to request flexible boundaries for the 2011 – 2012 school year. If you wish your child to continue at Blessed John XXIII for the 2011 – 2012 school year, please submit a letter to the office by March 31, 2011.

REMINDERS:

There are times in most families when money is tight. The school's policy is that a student should not miss out on a special event for financial reasons. If such a financial situation arises in your family, please feel free to contact the teacher or Ms. Peroni.

All such requests will be held in strictest confidence.

CONTINUOUS LATES:

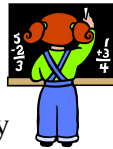
We continue to be concerned with the number of students who are arriving at school late. School starts at **9:00 AM**. Students should be in their lines at that time. If they enter through the front doors, they are considered late.

LUNCH DROP OFF:

On the rare occasion when you have to drop off a lunch or an item for your child, please be sure to have a note on it with your child's name. Children should know to come to pick up these items at the lunch break. Parents are not permitted to take the lunch or item up to the child's classroom as this is very disruptive to the class. Parents are also asked to remember to park in the parking lot. Please do not park in the driveway, as it is a Fire Route. This is a reminder that students are not permitted to run outside to get their lunches.

INTERRUPTIONS:

Your child's classroom is a very exciting and active place. Important learning activities are going on in there. Classroom interruptions, disturb not only your child's learning, but that of everyone else in the class as well. With this in mind, we ask for your help by encouraging and helping your child to arrive at school before 9:00 AM, by trying to schedule appointments etc., outside of school hours where possible, and by sending a note to the teacher if your child must leave early. Your child can be waiting for you at the office when you arrive. Parents of students who leave early are required to sign their children out at the office. Of course, in a true emergency, we will be happy to help you and accommodate you in every possible way. If you wish to speak with a teacher, we ask that you make an appointment and the teacher would be more than happy to meet with you. We are unable to put calls through to the classroom or have parents go to the classroom during the school day, as it is disruptive to the class and takes time away from your child's learning.



STUDENT SAFETY:

Please remember that students are supervised from 8:45 to 3:40. Please do not send your child to school before that time. Please do not give your child permission to play at the park before or after school. We do not believe that it is safe for the children. Children are unsupervised and can get hurt. The equipment is not always checked on a regular basis to ensure that it is safe.

DRIVEWAY SAFETY:

This is a reminder to all parents/caregivers to follow the flow of the Kiss & Ride. Please do not drive through the bus lane or pull out of the Kiss & Ride lane. We have had a few close calls over the past two weeks. Two students were almost hit by someone in a hurry. Thank you for putting the safety of our students first.

HANDICAP PARKING SPOT:

We have a handicap parking spot at the front and side of the school. Parents are asked not to park in these spots unless they have a handicap parking permit. Cars parked in the handicap spot, without a permit can be ticketed.

SNOWBALLS:



Snowball throwing is not permitted on school property. Accidents and injuries can occur when children are struck by a snowball. Students are aware of this policy. Please help us to keep the school yard safe for all students by reviewing this rule with your children.

SCHOOL SECURITY:

At Blessed John XXIII School, we are very fortunate to have all of our students inside the school and not in portables. This allows us to have only the front door unlocked, during the school day. Our custodian is very diligent about locking and unlocking the playground doors during recess and lunch hours. All students enter and exit from their assigned doors. All volunteers and supply teachers sign in at the office, so we know who is in the building at all times. When parents make an

appointment to meet with a teacher, either before or after school, they are also asked to sign in. By working together, we can continue to make this a safe place for your children.

SCHOOL PHONES:

Blessed John XXIII school telephone lines are installed for business use. As you can appreciate, it is therefore necessary for us to limit telephone calls by children to emergencies only. Likewise, in order to keep classroom interruptions to a minimum, we are not able to give messages to students unless it is an absolute emergency. There are also times when messages are left on the answering machine, and we are unable to get that message to your child prior to the end of the day. Please make certain that students are provided with all necessary information prior to sending them to school.

PIZZA LUNCH:

Our pizza lunch for this month is Thursday March 24th. Thank you to all the parents and students who are supporting the pizza lunches. Money raised pays for special presentations, cooking club, crafts club, busses for special trips, etc.

NEXT SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING:

Tuesday, April 26, 2011
at
6:30 PM
in the library
Everyone is welcome!

HOMEWORK HELP FOR GRADES 7 – 10:

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board is pleased to announce that once again it will be participating in the Math Homework Help pilot project funded by the Ministry of Education. Homework Help is free, real-time math tutoring, for students in grades 7 – 10, by certified Ontario teachers.

Our grade 7 & 8 students have already registered. They can log in from Sunday to Thursday, 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. for 20 hours a week. All them have to do is log into the following site.

www.ontario.ca/homeworkhelp.

INTERNET AND THE LAW:

Eric Roher, Lawyer and Counsel to the Board, will be doing an informative presentation regarding Internet Harassment and the Law. The presentation will take place on Thursday March 3, 2011 at 7:00 PM. at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Secondary School. Hear important information which will enlighten you to the dangers of the internet and the legal implication of inappropriate use. This is a wonderful opportunity to receive valuable information about the immense power of electronic communication and the implications for your children. All are welcome to attend.

Help Your Children with their abc123 Using Online Videos (from the Ministry of Education)

Every day at school, your children learn important skills. As a parent, you can help develop and strengthen those skills by encouraging your children to apply what they've learned in the classroom to regular activities at home and in the community



Pointing out words on signs or buildings helps children practise their reading and learn new words. A trip to the grocery store provides a great opportunity for a math and vocabulary lesson. Your refrigerator can act as a central learning zone where you post puzzles or games.

To complement these activities, series of video podcasts are available online at ontario.ca/abc123. These videos will help you identify lots of ways to support and develop your child's reading, writing and math skills. They are aimed at parents of children from preschool through Grade 6 and feature real families just like yours, learning together through everyday activities.

New videos will be posted every month and are available in English and in French.

All you need to watch the video podcasts is a computer with a media player, such as Windows Media. You can watch the videos online on the abc123 website, or download them to your computer for future viewing. You can even put them on a mobile device, like an iPod, with video capabilities and watch them on the go.

Complete instructions about how to download the videos are available at ontario.ca/abc123.

The abc123 website offers tip sheets and guides for parents who want to help their children improve their skills in reading, writing and math. These tips and guides are available in English and French, as well as: Arabic, Simplified & Traditional Chinese, Farsi, Hindi, Korean, Punjabi, Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog, Tamil, Urdu, Vietnamese.

MARCH IS NUTRITION MONTH:

Vegetables and Fruit are 1 of 4 food groups in “Eating Well with Canada’s Food Guide”. They help you stay healthy because they are loaded with vitamins, minerals, fibre and antioxidants. Vegetables & fruit are important for growth, development, weight control, bone health, heart health and reducing the risk of developing diabetes and certain types of cancer. People in Canada do not eat enough vegetables and fruit. Seven out of ten children aged 4 to 8 and half of adults do not eat even five servings each day.

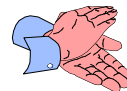
“Dietitians of Canada” recommends we:

- Eat dark green and deep orange vegetables such as broccoli, spinach, winter squash and carrots, as well as fruits such as berries, oranges and melons because they are filled with health promoting nutrients
- Include frozen and canned vegetables and fruit. They are as healthy as fresh. They can also be cheaper and more convenient.
- Try seasonal, colourful vegetables and fruit
- Enjoy vegetables & fruit more often than juice. Their crunch and fibre are more satisfying and filling. They also have more nutrients.

Recommended number of Vegetable and Fruit servings.	
4	2-3 years
5	4-8 years
6	9-13 years
7	14-18 females
7-8	14-18 males
7-8	19-50 females
8-10	19-50 males
7	51 years and older

March Break will be between Monday, March 14 and Friday, March 18, 2011. We wish everyone a relaxing safe break.

THANK YOU & APPLAUSE TO:



- * Parents for phoning the office when your child will be absent or late.
- * Parents for following the Kiss and Ride rules and making the driveway a safe place for students.
- * Parents for being patient and waiting for your children at the appropriate outside door.
- * Parents who submitted a current Criminal Reference Check
- Parents who are making sure that their children arrive at school on time.

DID YOU KNOW.....?

From a Catholic perspective, the purpose of education is not only the transmission of knowledge, but also the formation of the whole person. Catholic schools provide education for the mind and education for the future, but also education for the soul and the spirit of each young person. At the heart of Catholic education is Jesus and the good news of His Gospel. In Catholic schools, religious instruction, religious practice, value formation and faith development are integral to every area of the curriculum and school program.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Mar 1 Grade 3 Swim to Survive
- Mar 4 Live Free - Toonies for Breakfast for Kids
- Mar 4 Gr. 6 – 8 Skating
- Mar 8 Grade 3 Swim to Survive
- Mar 9 Ash Wednesday Celebration 10:00AM
- Mar 14 -18 March Break
- Mar 21 Classes resume
- Mar 22 School Council Meeting 6:30 PM
- Mar 24 Pizza Lunch
- Mar 25 Chocolate Fundraiser Begins
- Mar 28 You Go Dance Workshops
- Mar 29 Grade 7 to Rogers TV
- Mar 29 Rosary Apostolate