



**BLESSED JOHN XXIII CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

**NEWSLETTER**



ISSUE 9

MAY 2011



***A May Blessing, in Honour of Mary***

*Lord God, you have given us life  
and guided us on our journey.  
Be with us as we honour Mary  
in song and prayer this month.  
We turn to you for protection,  
Holy Mother of God.  
Listen to our prayers  
and help us in our needs.  
Save us from every danger,  
Glorious and blessed Virgin.  
Amen*

**PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:**

This is a special time to remember our mothers, those living and those who have gone to be with the Lord. Take the time to thank our mothers, who have given us life. There are so many mothers to honour - grandmothers, godmothers, adoptive mothers, stepmothers, foster mothers and friends' mothers. We thank all of our mothers for showing us their love, guiding us on our journey, and bringing us joy on a continual basis. We also honour in a special way, Mary, who is our heavenly Mother. To all the mothers in the community, may you always know that we appreciate and value the wonderful work you do everyday with your child(ren). We wish all mothers a very happy and enjoyable Mother's Day on May 8th!

**MAY, THE MONTH OF MARY:**

Mary was a strong but gentle woman. She had the courage to question, and then decide for herself. She understood pain and suffering, and throughout her trials and tribulations, she continued to respond, believe, listen and serve. Mary's faith is a symbol for us all. She believed, even when logic told her that it was impossible. Under the Spirit's action, Mary was transformed and ascended. During this month of May, we are called to hear the word and to believe it. Mary continues to have much to teach us.



**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT DAY:**

Wednesday April 27th was Administrative Assistant's Day. I would like to publicly thank Mrs. Pushie for all the things she does on a daily basis for the students, parents and staff of Blessed John XXIII School. We appreciate everything she does for us and we are very fortunate to have her as our head secretary.

**VIRTUES EDUCATION:**

During the month of May we celebrate the virtue of Acceptance. Acceptance is the ability to respect the dignity and rights of all persons, even those whose beliefs and behaviours differ from our own.

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

Everyone should strive to love and respect their neighbour, as they love and respect themselves.

## CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK 2011

### *Celebrating the Spirit*

In our schools the Spirit of God is alive! When you next walk through the halls, stop and listen. You will hear the marvellous work of the students and staff reflecting God's graciousness in their learning and teaching. This year's Catholic Education Week (May 1-6) gives us an opportunity to shine a light on our schools with this theme: *Catholic Education: Celebrating the Spirit*. The scriptural text comes from St. Paul's letter to the Romans: "All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God." (Romans 8:14) St. Luke also refers to the Spirit when he writes, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me." (Lk 4:18) The Psalmist calls on God's Spirit to renew the face of the earth. During this Catholic Education Week, let's open our doors to God's Spirit in a special way and celebrate how the Spirit is renewing the face of our schools! We invite all members of our community, to participate in the celebrations and activities that will mark the celebration of Catholic Education Week 2011 in our school

There are five sub-themes, one for each day of Catholic Education Week:

Monday - *The Spirit of Hospitality*  
Tuesday - *The Spirit of Understanding*  
Wednesday - *The Spirit of Wisdom*  
Thursday - *The Spirit of Justice*  
Friday - *The Spirit of Gratitude*

### **LIVING ROSARY AND CROWNING OF MARY:**

On May 3, 2011, at 9:15, we will be celebrating the crowning of Mary and saying the rosary as a school community. Please feel free to join us.

### **WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN**

There will be an information/interactive evening, for children entering Junior Kindergarten in September 2011, and their parents, on:

**Tuesday, May 3rd 6:30-7:30 p.m.**

Children will receive a Welcome to Kindergarten bag and you will find out how to best prepare your child for school in September.

### **CONFIRMATION:**



Our grade 8 students will be receiving the sacrament of Confirmation on May 19, 2011 at St. Martin of Tours parish. Please join us to support our Confirmation candidates.

### **PIZZA DAYS:**

The pizza day for May is Thursday May 19, 2011. We continue to thank you for your support.

### **PROVINCIAL EQAO ASSESSMENT:**

Students in Grades 3 & 6 will participate in the Provincial Education Quality and Accountability Office Testing (EQAO) between May 30th and June 10th 2011. Attendance will be very important during EQAO testing, therefore, parents are asked, if at all possible, to refrain from arranging doctor or other appointments during this time.

### **LUNCH DROP OFF:**

This is a reminder that parents who deliver students lunches, must bring the lunches into the offices. For safety reasons, students are not permitted to wait at the door or outside. Thank you to the parents who are following our safety rule. Please remember to write your child's name on their lunches.

### **LEAVING SCHOOL PROPERTY AT LUNCH:**

This is another reminder that students are not permitted to leave school property without written permission from their parents. This includes during recess and lunch. If students do leave school property, with written permission from their parents, they are to return by 1:00 PM.

### **SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS:**

We have supervision for students from 8:45 AM until 3:40 PM. In case of inclement weather, students are reminded not to arrive at school prior to 8:15. Please remind your children not to use the playground going to or from school. It is not supervised or inspected for safety.

### **BREAKFAST PROGRAM:**

On Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30 – 8:45 AM, we provide breakfast for students. Students are asked to meet at the portapak doors in the play ground and a teacher will meet them.

## HEALTHY SNACK PROGRAM:

We continue to provide students who don't have a snack, with a healthy snack. If student's don't have a snack, and want one, the teacher will provide them with one. Some parents only want their child to eat what they pack for them. If you prefer that the teacher, not provide your child with a snack, please let the teacher know.

## UPDATED INFORMATION:

We continue to remind parents/guardians to provide us with updated contact numbers. We are running into situations where by we need to contact parents immediately regarding their child and are unable to do so. When you change a number, please provide us with the new number.

## BASEBALLS AND BATS:



It is that time of year when baseball and softball are on the minds of many. For safety reasons, hardballs, softballs and bats are not allowed at school. Students are able to use tennis balls or other soft balls e.g. sponge balls.

## PALS IS BACK

PALS is a playground leadership program offered by Peel Health that encourages all children to participate in fun activities. Khalid and student volunteers have been trained by our Public Health Nurse, Christine Kells to implement the program. The objectives of this program are to:

- Increase physical activity
- Decrease conflict and reduce the incidence of playground bullying
- Provide leadership opportunity for students.

## SUMMER SCHOOL AND SUMMER LITERACY CAMP:

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board offers Elementary Summer School for Grade 7 & 8 students (free of charge), as recommended by the Principal, from July 4 to July 22, 2011. This is a program for students who may have future difficulty in their high school subjects. For further information please contact your child's teacher. There will be a Summer Literacy Camp for Gr. 1 - 6 students, at St. Catherine of Sienna School from July 4 – July 29, 2011. There is a fee for this service. Contact Mrs. Ribeiro for more information.

## INTERNET CONCERNS:

The internet can be a wonderful tool which offers a vast resource. When used responsibly, it can be an asset as a research and communication tool. When used irresponsibly, however, it can be both harmful and dangerous.

For many of our students, a portion of their social world has moved online. The internet is often used as a tool for positioning themselves within their peer group. Boundaries are often tested in this environment, and lines are more readily crossed. Student communication online should be closely supervised by an adult. Students are aware that they are to be courteous and respectful in their messages to others. Profane, obscene or any other offensive language is inappropriate. As well students must never post pictures online. Many of our students are accessing social networking sites such as *Facebook*, and yet this site is for young adults 18 years and older. Once messages or pictures are posted and accessed by 'friends', it can be accessed as well by the related 'friends' and so on. At this point, it is virtually impossible to delete or retrieve a message/picture since all viewers (friends and their connected friends and so on) must delete as well.

We ask you as parents/guardians to get involved and learn what your child is doing online.

- Ensure the computer is in a central, common visible location, i.e. kitchen, family room
- Use filtering software
- Limit usage and supervise your child while online
- Check the websites your child visits by reviewing his/her history files
- View your child's instant messaging logs (i.e. Live Messenger, Yahoo!)
- Check to see that your child's program is set up so that no one can speak to him/her without permission
- Learn how to adjust/increase privacy settings
- Monitor webcam use and any posting or exchanging of pictures online
- Know your child's login information, email address, username or character names being used

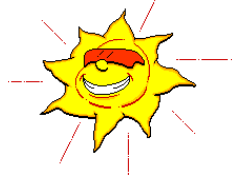
For more information regarding Internet Safety, visit these websites:

[www.kidsintheknow.ca](http://www.kidsintheknow.ca)

[www.cybertip.ca](http://www.cybertip.ca)

[www.mediaawareness.ca](http://www.mediaawareness.ca)

## HERE COMES THE SUN:



With the arrival of warmer weather we are aware of the concerns regarding the ultra violet rays. There are a number of scheduled outdoor activities and field trips during the months of May and June. We encourage you to dress your children for the events and weather. For example, hats, T Shirts with sleeves, etc. You may also wish to consider the use of sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or greater. We cannot accept the responsibility for applying sun screen at school.

We at Blessed John XXIII School will be teaching our students about the dangers associated with our exposure to the sun.

Recommendations from Peel Health to reduce the effects of radiation include:

- wear protective clothing to cover the skin
- wear a hat to protect both the eyes and skin on the head, particularly if there is little hair (students are reminded to remove hats before they enter the school building).
- wear sunscreen, (it is available in a variety of protection factors - the higher the factor number, the greater the protection).
- stay out of direct sunlight ie., remain in shaded areas, particularly during midday, when the sun's rays are most direct.
- know your skin type, for example - fair-skinned people are more sensitive to ultra-violet radiation.

Parents, please reinforce these recommendations with your children.

## DRESS CODE:

With the approach of the warmer weather, we ask you to review our dress code with your children.

At all times, clothing should be comfortable, tasteful and appropriate to our Catholic school environment.

- Clothing must display appropriate and acceptable words and graphics.
- Girls tops must have a minimum of 5 cm (approximately the width of 3 adult fingers) at the shoulders.
- Boys tops must have sleeves.

- Shorts and skirts must reach the bottom of the student's fingertips when hands are relaxed to their side.

**Specifically not allowed are:** Bandanas, string tops, tube tops, halter tops, or anything that exposes bare skin, midriffs, and/or undergarments, skin tight clothing, spandex shorts and pants, sheer materials (including mesh), cut-offs, torn or ragged clothing and pants which sag below the waist.

Thank you for your co-operation in helping to instill the values of common sense, good taste and modesty in our students.

## PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

We continue to have concerns with students bringing personal electronic devices to school. Students are not permitted to use these items on school property. When students disobey this rule and use these devices on school property, the item will be taken away and you will be asked to come pick it up. We strongly encourage the students not to bring these items to school.

## STUDENT INSURANCE:

With all the activities that take place at school, in the playground, the gym and in sports, accidents happen. **The School Board does not carry accident insurance for students.** Packages are still available from the office. This is optional for families.

## KISS AND RIDE REMINDERS:

This is another reminder to follow the directions for the Kiss and Ride. Please remind your children that they are never to enter the car from the drivers side and to stop and look before getting off the sidewalk.

## CLASS PLACEMENT FOR SEPTEMBER 2011

The staff at Blessed John XXIII will meet during the month of May to begin discussing an appropriate placement for each student for September, 2011. When determining placement some of the criteria we consider are:

- Academic ability
- Work habits & study skills
- Maturity / date of birth
- Social factors
- Placement history

If you have any concerns about your child's placement for September would you please put them in writing addressed to Ms. Peroni by May 13, 2011. Please do not make specific requests for

teachers. Rather, you may wish to describe the way your child / children learn best ( e.g." hands on learning, structured environment, language rich activities & so on). Our decisions are made after careful consideration of all the relevant information and are based on the individual strengths & needs of each child and as such requests for placements are not guaranteed. As well, class composition (i.e. combined grades) will be necessary due to guidelines established by the Ministry regulating class size.

**GRADE 8 GRADUATION:**

Our grade 8 Graduation ceremony will be held at Blessed John XXIII School on Monday, June 27, 2011 at 6:30 PM.

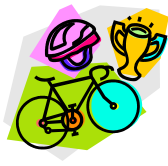
**ARE YOU MOVING?:**



If you are planning to move out of the school area and your child will not be attending Blessed John XXIII School in September, please let the school office know as soon as possible so that the necessary Transfer Papers may be prepared. If you are changing your address, please inform the office so we can provide you with the appropriate tax forms and keep our records updated.

**BICYCLES, SKATEBOARDS, HEELES, SCOOTERS:**

Bicycle season is arriving. We remind students of the importance of following traffic safety rules. Students are reminded that bicycles must be walked



anywhere on any school grounds and parked at the side of the property at the bicycle racks. All bicycles should be chained and locked at the rack. Unfortunately even chained bicycles can be quickly removed by determined thieves. It is suggested that expensive/hard to replace bicycles remain at home as the school cannot be responsible for stolen or damaged bicycles. Also a reminder to all students that the law requires that all children wear proper bicycle helmets.

Scooters, skateboards, heelies, and roller blades are not permitted on school property, therefore, students are not to bring them to school. It is a

liability issue and we are not set up to supervise activities using these items.

**THANK YOU & APPLAUSE TO:**

- Parents for reminding their children to be respectful towards others and to play safely.
- Parents who continue to practice safe driveway and parking routines.
- Parents who are encouraging their children to let an adult know if someone is bothering them.
- Parents who got their Criminal Reference Check so their children are not disappointed on the year end trips.

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- May 1 – 6 Catholic Education Week  
Book Fair
- May 2 Red & White Day for ShareLife
- May 3 Tacky Tie Day for ShareLife  
Living Rosary 9:15 AM  
Welcome to Kindergarten 6:30
- May 4 Crazy Hair Day for ShareLife  
Facebook 101 Gr 5 - 8
- May 5 Crazy Hat Day for ShareLife  
French Cafe
- May 6 Pyjama Day for ShareLife  
Primary Snuggle Up - 9:15
- May 10 Gr 7 Diversity Conference
- May 19 Pizza Lunch  
Confirmation 7:00 PM
- May 23 Victoria Day
- May 30 EQAO Begins
- May 31 School Council Meeting 6:30 PM

