

# Archbishop Romero Catholic Secondary School



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Colin Hinds

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Tony Lettieri

*Mississauga Campus*  
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Anna Marie Mills  
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#### Our Lady of Victory Parish Gives Generously

Parishioners at Our Lady of Victory Parish showed their exemplary generosity and Christmas spirit for all the students of Archbishop Romero C.S.S. Organized by Father Jon Papago, students were all surprised with a special Christmas present purchased just for them. The gifts were presented when students returned from the Christmas Liturgy at the Catholic Education Centre on Wed. Dec 17, 2008. The Our Lady of Victory Parish community chose to give generously from the bottom of their hearts and as a school community we are all truly touched and grateful.



#### Archbishop Romero C.S.S. Celebrates Christmas Liturgy

On Wednesday, December 17, 2008 the entire Archbishop Romero C.S.S. community came together to share the Eucharist. The culmination of much preparation and hard work, staff and students gathered to hear the word of God and to prepare for the birth of Christ.

Prior to the start of the mass, all in attendance were treated to a moving presentation and living example of the meaning of advent and the significance of God coming to us as a baby, so vulnerable and needy. Father Jim Tobin presided over the celebration, spreading the love of God and warm wishes for a safe and holy Christmas season. One of the many highlights of the mass occurred when staff and students came forward to share their experience in their community outreach projects. All of the Romero sites participated and gave back to the communities in which we work and live.

The mass concluded with Mrs. T person in attendance, sending everyone c

## **Sheridan Pre-trades Dual Credit**

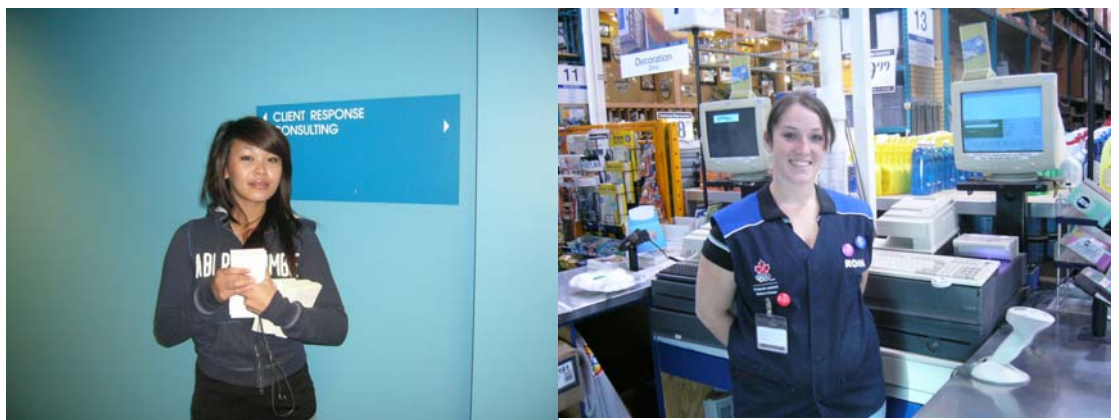
Students from a variety of schools across the board travel to the Skills Trade Centre at Sheridan College to participate in the COTT program. COTT (Career Opportunities in Trade and Technology) is designed for students who are considering the skilled trade area as a career path but are unsure which work area they would like to follow. In the first half of the semester, the students explore trade areas such as framing, dry walling and taping, tiling and industrial maintenance. Next, they will be exposed to precision machining and computerized numerical control machining (CNC). This course can later be applied to a diploma program in Mechanical, Electromechanical, or Manufacturing Engineering Technology at Sheridan College.



## **Co-operative Education at Archbishop Romero Main Street Campus**

At the beginning of the semester, the coop students were in class learning a selection of pre-placement topics such as resume writing, health and safety, work ethics and their rights in the workplace. All the students completed First Aid and earned their Emergency First Aid Certificate.

Now our Co-operative Education students are off to another busy semester of discovery and their work placements. They are in a variety of interesting placements throughout Brampton, Mississauga and surrounding areas and are earning credits while they explore these different career opportunities. These students can be found working in restaurants, gyms, construction sites, offices, and stores. All of them are experiencing what the “world of work” really expects of them. Students are learning many new skills including communication technology and many life lessons about the world of work!!!



## MESSAGE FROM BISHOP BOISSONNEAU:

The role of Parents in Catholic Schools at this time in history is crucial.

If there is ANY challenge to Catholic Schools then it is this part of Ontario that would have to respond. The GTA and Golden Horseshoe have the majority of Catholics. Our parents are the ones that have to be convinced and sold on Catholic Education, continuing to see and say the value of Catholic Schools.

If there is no conviction of the value of Catholic Schools and we lose them, do you think that children will attend the sacraments?

Through the CCCSC, we need to continue to promote the value of Catholic Education at every opportunity.

Ask the question. Discuss the answers. Why do you send your children to Catholic School? Remind, Maintain and Encourage. Each family should know why!!

## Archbishop Romero Students are making a Difference in the Community



Staff and students from Archbishop Romero's expulsion program are making regular Wednesday visits to Good Shepherd in an effort to give back to the community. Since September, staff and students have been volunteering at the Good Shepherd in downtown Toronto. The Good Shepherd is a homeless Shelter for men. It offers food, clothing, sleeping accommodations, drug and alcohol rehabilitation and support for those men to get back on their feet. The Good Shepherd provides meals for individuals and families who live in the community and are struggling to make ends meet. Our students are realizing that there is a great need for those volunteers in the community, and for showing empathy, compassion and support for those in need. While at Good Shepherd students and staff help to make beds, help to cook and clean the kitchen and sort tons of donated food.

Archbishop Romero strives to make a difference in the lives of the students they teach. Through a variety of diverse experiences, the staff hopes to facilitate a personal transformation via experiential learning. Students are given opportunities to focus on something outside themselves and see their purpose in service to others. As a Catholic community, we come together to help others in need.

## FREE STYLE SOCCER

Freestyle Soccer Inc, in association with Canadian Safe School Network presented, a one of a kind bullying prevention program, which incorporates freestyle soccer performances, while promoting a safe and caring school. Players from the association focused on building positive self-esteem and personal accountability. Archbishop Romero New direction north and south campus students had a unique experience with the freestyle soccer players at the Hershey Centre. The students had the opportunity to practice with the players and challenge the athletes in a soccer competition. It was a high energy, high impact, interactive presentation which captivated and engaged students.

"The stories they told are helpful for teens," Peter (gr. 12 student). "It was an experience the students and staff will never forget." (gr.11 student)





# Outward Bound Not For The Faint Of Heart

Peace, Love and Chow!

We're sitting here in the office a day later and still laughing at the memories of our trip. It was a tremendous experience and one that we think you can all be very proud of accomplishing. Think back to when you were just stepping off the bus and we were a couple of faces and the week ahead was just a list of activities you had to complete to get a credit. Think back to when you climbed back onto the bus with your heads held high; proud, happy and ready to go home and face new challenges. So many moments to remember...Helping Craig put straw in the dog house J.P. was scared to get too close to Keebler, but you did it...and then realized you had dog poo on your boots for your troubles. Climbing at the wall, watching Matt hold on with sheer strength while Chris crawled his way up like a monkey. Maybe next time let's do the wall before visiting the dogs! Seeing Matt, Gary and Chris go swimming in the freezing cold lake with the sun just poking its rays out from behind the clouds. Playing camouflage along the hiking trail, or at camp our last night, with epic dives to get hidden before the Eagle opened their eyes. Struggling n the 11km hike only to get to camp and set out for the overnight solo. We were proud to see everyone head into the bush, use their skills and creativity to build a shelter and then last through the night. Gary without the bug net...But Mr. 'Angry-Man' having two of them and a fence still didn't keep that raccoon away! Kervin starting a fire with just flint...and that laugh! You could set Mr. Greco howling with laughter just by laughing yourself. Having each and everyone of you challenge yourselves to go rock climbing when for some, the phobia of heights made it just that more difficult than the pouring rain could. Watching J.P.'s face as we walked out of the kitchen with the birthday cake, sparklers and tin foil party hats. Seeing our whole week in pictures to the tune of Bob Marley thanks to Annemarie. Having our last Evening Meeting with a blue Nalgene candle and listening to everyone successes and stories...and farts! (Sleeping or at least trying to!) in the wall tent where the beds were to short but at least it was skunk free. And of course Jo setting us off and welcoming us home from our journey with smile on her face. We are proud parents. We watched you learn and sometimes falter, but never give up. We watched you step outside your comfort zones and accept the challenges we threw at you. We watched you succeed. We learn from you. So in turn, we thank you.

STILL!

Mama Jules and Antonio





In September, the Ministry of Education launched a program called *Student Voice*. This initiative is designed to help all students reach success by giving students a chance to “voice” their ideas about school and learning.

The first step in this journey was to gather student representatives from all Dufferin-Peel high schools together for a three day *Student Voice Leadership Development Forum*. Archbishop Romero had great representation at this forum thanks to our two enthusiastic volunteers, Jessica Pittman, from the Brampton Campus, and Darragh Connaughton, from the Main Street Campus.

In the chilly, early hours of October 2<sup>nd</sup>, Jessica and Darragh boarded a bus bound for the Ontario Educational Leadership Centre on the shore of Lake Couchiching. Here, they joined 140 students for three days of idea sharing, team building, and leadership development.

This forum was an amazing experience that included workshops on a variety of topics from social justice to stress management to empowering self and others. The team building activities were especially popular and Jessica and Darragh excelled at both the rock wall climbing and the low rope activities. They even had a chance to explore their musical abilities during a Drumming Circle. Imagine 140 people playing percussion instruments in one room at one time!

But this leadership forum was just the beginning of the *Student Voice* initiative. Over the next few weeks, interested students will be able to participate in *Walk the Talk – Faith into Action* and *Community Connections – Passing the Torch*.

In addition to this, Archbishop Romero will be launching its own *Student Voice* project by creating a *Student Voice Council*. This council will include interested students from each of our many campuses. Student representatives will meet to share ideas and suggest activities that will continue to enhance the Archbishop Romero community.

Are you interested in becoming involved in any of the *Student Voice* projects? Let your teacher. Let your voice be heard!

**ADULT AND CONTINUING EDUCATION –  
DPCDSB INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES**

**ELEMENTARY PROGRAM**

Elementary International Saturday morning classes are available to students in grades JK to 8. No prior language experience is necessary. International Language programs comply with the Ministry of Education curriculum. Please contact the Adult & Continuing Education Office at 905-891-9263 for information regarding language offerings at specific IL Sites and registration information as well.

**Adult and Continuing Education DPCDSB  
General Interest Courses for Adults**

Discover a new talent, explore a new interest, put a hop in your dance step....come join us ...Various General Interest courses available....Look for our General Interest information in our Adult and Continuing Education Flyer. Our courses begin February 2, 2009.

**Adult and Continuing Education DPCDSB  
ESL Programs for Adults**

We offer a variety of ESL, Citizenship and Coop Programs for Adults throughout Mississauga and Brampton. Registration is on-going for many of our programs. Please see our Winter Flyer posted on the board website at <http://www.dpcdsb.org> or call us at 905-891-9263

**Night School Secondary School  
Credit Winter 2009**

**Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board  
SECONDARY NIGHT SCHOOL CREDIT COURSES  
WINTER SESSION 2009  
February 9 to May 25, 2009**

**MISSISSAUGA LOCATIONS**

**St. Aloysius Gonzaga S.S.  
2800 Erin Centre Blvd. Mississauga, ON  
Philip Pocock S.S.**

**4555 Tomken Rd. Mississauga, ON**

**BRAMPTON LOCATION**

**St. Marguerite d'Youville S.S.  
10815 Dixie Rd. Brampton, ON**

<http://www.dpcdsb.org>



**Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board**

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September 2, 2008

Dear Parents and Guardians:

In April 2000, the Child and Family Services Act was amended and a new law came into effect concerning our obligation to report concerns about children who may be "in need of protection". As in the Board's practice, we will continue our duty to ensure your child's safety this year.

Within our school system, every person who has reason to believe that a child is or may be abused or neglected must report his/her suspicions directly to the Children's Aid Society.

The definition of "child in need of protection" because of suspected child abuse or neglect has been expanded for Children's Aid Societies. The law says:

- School staff does not have a choice if they suspect that a student is or may be in need of protection. Staff must report their suspicion to a Children's Aid Society.
- Staff can be fined \$1,000.00 for failing to report that a student is or may be in need of protection.
- It is not the school's responsibility to investigate suspicion, evaluate the situation or assign blame.
- When a report is made to Children's Aid Society, school staff are required to share information about their concern which might otherwise be confidential.
- Parents and guardians need to be aware that it is not necessary for school staff to be sure or to have proof "that a student is in need of protection". The law says that school staff must only have reasonable grounds to suspect child abuse or neglect. "Reasonable grounds" is defined as being what the average person would expect given his or her training, background and experience.

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board is committed to meeting the legal requirements of the Child and Family Services Act. The safety of our students is a sacred trust.

Yours very truly,

S. McWatters,  
Superintendent, Special Education & Support Services

Glenn Carley,  
Chief Social Worker

SM/cb