



### The Principal's Message

Just as January is about the start of a new year, this newsletter coincides with the beginning of a new semester, a new start for your son or daughter. Take a moment to review the results of their report card with them, applaud their successes or discuss the challenges they have faced and what has to change to ensure success in the new semester. **A major component for success is good attendance and completion of all assignments.** To this end we ask that parents call in absences prior to the start of the school day or send a note the day the student returns. We all need to work together to ensure the success of our young people. If you have any questions or concerns, regarding your son/daughter's academic progress please do not hesitate to contact the guidance counselors or administrators at the school.

At this time we are beginning to prepare for next year. All students should have completed and submitted a course selection form indicating their program choices for next year. If your son/daughter has not submitted this form they should do so if they wish to return to Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Verification sheets will be available in April, and at that time please take a moment to review your son/daughter's selections.

Our Grade 10 students will be very busy preparing for the Ontario Literacy Test which will take place on Mar. 29<sup>th</sup>. We have implemented a preparation model that we know will equip the students for this test. Letters have been sent to parents regarding the after school classes for Grade 10 students who require additional preparation. We encourage you to enroll your child in this program. If you have any questions regarding the literacy test, please contact the school.

As you read this newsletter you will see what a busy and dynamic place Mount Carmel was in Semester 1. Thank you to all the staff and students who continually give of their time and energy to make Mount Carmel the best school in Dufferin-Peel. We are looking forward to Semester 2 which will be just as busy and exciting with a variety of activities already planned. We welcome Mr. Kalat, Social Science and Paul Daley, Tech Department. We welcome back Mrs. Dennis from maternity leave and Mr. Niedzwiecki who spent time in the Australian Outback. We would like to thank Ms. Cleverton and Ms. Young for all their hard work and wish them well in their new positions.

To those students leaving after Semester 1, we wish you good luck and much success in your future endeavours.

*Catherine Kwiatkoski*

### DPCDSB PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE (PED) POLICY

To promote respect for the dignity of all members of our school community and to enhance student achievement and safety, the use of a PED is strictly prohibited in the school (including portables) or during school related activities (such as retreats, field trips, sports events etc.).



Failure to comply with this policy may result in the confiscation of the PED and/or disciplinary action as outlined in the Catholic Code of Conduct 2001. The school and the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board assume no responsibility for the loss, recovery, repair or replacement for any PED brought onto school property.

It is the policy of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board that PEDs are to be kept out-of-sight, turned off and not used on school premises or during school-sanctioned events. To prevent the loss or damage of PEDs, the school encourages students to leave their PEDs at home or in their locker.

*Principal*  
Catherine Kwiatkoski

*Vice - Principals*  
Shawn Clarkin (A-F)  
Patricia Romero (G-N)  
Dan Compagnon (O-Z)

*Student Services*  
Darlene Danis (A-Da)  
Mary O'Connor-Lehoux (De-I)  
Caroline Mallozzi (J-N)  
Rosemarie Diaz (O-S)  
Larry Young (T-Z)

*Academic Resource*  
Sheena Judd

*Chaplain*  
Anne Brisbois Abbott

*Attendance Secretary*  
Daniela Kobialko  
905-824-1025 -Ext. 68103

*Superintendent*  
Michael Prospero  
905-890-1221

*Trustee*  
Esther O'Toole  
905-812-5163

*School Council Chair*  
E. O'Hearn  
905-824-6696

*St. John of the Cross Church*  
6890 Glen Erin Drive  
905-821-1331

*Pastoral Team*  
Fr. Leo Huard, O. Carm.  
Fr. Abraham Kylanjiyil  
Fr. Joseph Kalluvila  
Kate Watkiss  
Julie Flynn

*Masses*  
Saturday - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday- 8:00, 10:00 a.m.  
12:00p.m., 5:00 p.m.

Monday, Tuesday,  
Thursday, Friday  
9:00 a.m.

Wednesday- 7:15 p.m.

# Resources & Services

## From the Chaplain's Desk

***"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness sake, for they shall be filled"***

Matthew 5

We have much to celebrate in terms of this beatitude at Mount Carmel. Our students and staff have made a conscious effort to be beatitude people. There have been so many initiatives here over the 1<sup>st</sup> semester that it would be hard to mention all of them in this newsletter. It seems to me that if a visitor were to have dropped by our school at any point during the semester they would have seen us raising awareness and money for one good cause or another.

"**The Holy Cow**" initiative; was an initiative to raise awareness for the people of Uganda. With milk-drinking contests as well as bracelet and treat selling we were able to buy dairy cows for the people of Uganda. It was "a heads up" rather than a "hand out". There have been several initiatives to raise awareness and money for **cancer research**. Most recently we had a civvies day where the proceeds of the day were donated in the name of one of our staff members, Terry McLaughlin, who lost her struggle with cancer in the fall of 2006.



Our school responded enthusiastically to the food drive and "**Christmas Baskets Campaign**" which helped meet the needs of the financially marginalized in the Meadowvale community.

Students and staff continue our commitment to serve dinner at the **Out of the Cold Program** at St. Michael's Cathedral one Friday of every month throughout the winter months. Our students and staff join together to make desserts for the dinner in our cafeteria hospitality kitchen. We craft delicious, nutritious desserts made with love and serve them to the needy in downtown Toronto.

Our retreat program for the grade 9s and 10s is now complete. During 2<sup>nd</sup> semester the grade 11 and 12 homeroom classes will attend their retreats. Grade 11 students will be attending the **Queen of the Apostles Retreat Center** focusing on God and Creation. Grade 12 students will revisit **Rocky Ridge Ranch**, the location of their grade 9 retreat, where they are asked to reflect on the blessings of their Catholic education as well as ponder their life journey as Catholics as they leave Mount Carmel.

A. Brisbois-Abbott

## Student Services

**Course Selection/Registration 2007/08** forms were due on January, 15, 2007. Students were invited to attend the "Course Fair", on January 11, 2007 hosted by all departments where students had the opportunity to research course choices and speak to teachers about programs available at Mount Carmel.

**Community Service Hours** must be submitted to the Guidance Dept. **Graduates** must submit their **community**

**service hours by June 1, 2007**, to be eligible to participate in the Commencement Ceremony.

**Graduating students** who are not returning to Mt. Carmel should be aware of the following applications and workshops:

- **Apprenticeship** pathway students must obtain a place of employment in their related trade prior to applying for OTAB. Some colleges host Apprenticeship programs.
- **College Applications** were due on February 1, 2007, by electronic format.
- **University Applications** were due on January 10, 2007, by electronic format.
- **Work** pathway students will be invited to attend workshops in the spring hosted by the YMCA.

**Career Search Websites** are available for all students through the Guidance Dept. Students are encouraged to meet with their guidance counselor to explore appropriate pathways regarding post-secondary destinations.

**Scholarship Club** – The following seminars will be hosted in Semester two:

- "How to pay for your post secondary education."
- "Applying for OSAP"
- "Taking Advantage of Bursaries" – Guest speaker from Sheridan College

D. Danis

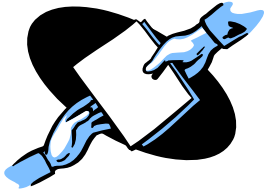
## Graduation Committee

Preparations are well under way for many important and special events for Grade 12 students. During the upcoming months, students are encouraged to pay attention to announcements for the following events:

DATES AT A GLANCE	
February 9, 2007	Commencement Ceremony information and application – sent home with Report Card!
February 26 - March 2, 2007	Collection of Commencement Fees – Period 1 Homeroom Class
Friday, June 1, 2007	Deadline to submit Community Service Hours to Guidance Department.
Wednesday, June 13, 2007	Graduation Mass – 7:15– St. John of the Cross Church; Reception to follow in Nessinger Hall
Friday, June 15, 2007	Grade 12 Breakfast – OLMC Library
Monday, June 25, 2007	**Gown pickup – OLMC 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Classrooms 10:30am-12pm. Watch for signage!!**
Tuesday, June 26, 2007	<b>Ceremony Preparation at Hershey Center – Grads please arrive at 5:30</b> <b>Commencement Ceremony – Hershey Centre 7pm</b>

# Department News

## Cooperative Education



All 45 students from semester one successfully completed either the 2 or 4 credit cooperative education program (1/2 day or full day). Five of those students were in local elementary schools "testing the

waters" to become future teachers and four students were placed with local physiotherapists to help them decide their future pathways. Many of our students are offered employment at the conclusion of their placements!

Our annual Apprenticeship Fair ran very successfully in November as well as our Employer/Student Career Showcase.

### *What to expect in Co-op...*

Second semester, over 70 students will be trained in Workplace Health and Safety, receive a First Aid Certificate, update their resumes and cover letters in preparation for "interview day" and listen to a speaker on unions, in the first 3 weeks of class.

The first day at work is Feb. 26 and students will work either the afternoon or a full eight hour day at their placements with law firms, veterinarians, electricians, plumbers, carpenters or in one of our local restaurants.

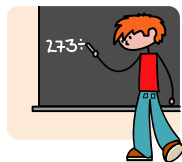
We thank Ms. Brisbois Abbott for the special reflective retreats she provides each semester.

This semester we said farewell to Ms. Davis and welcomed two new teachers: Ms. Chollette and Mr. Young and watched the co-op department grow again!

Students who are interested in a co-op placement should see your teachers, Ms. Luchesa or Mr. Potter or guidance counsellors for more information. We wish all of our students much success as they explore their career choices and build their portfolios for the future.

*M. Potter*

## Math



The math department has been busy setting up several math contests. Math contests are geared to students who need more of a challenge than that already presented by the rigorous curriculum. On December 6<sup>th</sup>, grade 9, 10, and 11 students participated in the Champ math contests. Stay tuned, the results should be in soon. As well, approximately thirty students have undertaken the task of preparing for and participating in the Waterloo Math Contests for grades 9, 10 and 11 students. These contests will take place on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> during period 1 in the library. Students are encouraged to visit the Waterloo website

where they can download practice papers. We wish them all the best of luck.

Registration for the Euclid math contest for grade 12 students will take place during the first two weeks in February. The contest will be written on Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> during periods 1 and 2 in the library. Students are encouraged to visit the Waterloo website where they can download practice papers. We wish them all the best of luck.

Parents are asked to encourage their son/daughter to set aside 30 – 60 minutes each evening to review the notes presented in class and to complete their math homework. Homework is assigned every day. As well, students experiencing difficulty with the material presented in class are encouraged to make an appointment with their math teacher and/or visit our extra help lab which runs every Tuesday and Thursday from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. in room 15.

In addition, we ask you to thoroughly check the math course that your son/daughter has chosen for next year. Students often find themselves in the inappropriate course/level at the beginning of a semester and face having to remain there because the one that they should have registered for is full.

*N. Stratako*

## Music

Mr. Notarfonzo and Mr. Bove would like to congratulate the performers who did an awesome job at the Christmas concert. It was truly a special night.

Looking forward, the concert band is excited about the prospects of getting the opportunity to participate in the Ontario Band Association music festival. With weather canceling our first two attempts to join in the festivities, we are keeping our fingers crossed that the skies will be clear on February 14. We have our hearts set on it (no pun intended). Please ensure that band members return their permission forms ASAP if they have not already done so.



Musically,  
*Mr. O. Bove & Mr. R. Notarfonzo*

## Religion

With another semester over, we are now preparing for a new start. The Religion Department will be up and running and getting involved in new activities. We have just celebrated the birth of Christ and now we are preparing for Lent the most important time for Catholics. As society has become more secular it is essential that we as Catholics become the driving force in ensuring the presence of Christ in our community.



The Religion Department will be represented in Africa this summer, Ms. De Cordova will be part of a team of 30 teachers that will help build schools. If you can help her with fund raising please let us know. We can be reached at extension 68224.

See you in the new semester, good luck and God Bless.

*Mr. J. Gasparini*

## Science



The Science Department has experienced a lot of exciting activities and changes in the last few months. We said farewell to Ms. Julie Grando who left our department after serving as department head for six years. She has taken the new position of Science

and Math Consultant with the School Board and we wish her well, knowing she will do a superb job. In her place, Mrs. Liz Everitt has assumed the position of Acting Department Head and is settling into her new responsibilities quite smoothly! We also extend a very warm welcome to Mr. Aaron Aquilizan, who has recently joined our department.

The dust has finally settled and three brand new science labs are ready for our students! One is a designated senior chemistry laboratory with a double fume hood and functional lab peninsulas. The other two rooms are general science rooms for all grades. Several other classrooms are slated for renovation and their completion will transform the entire department into one where teachers and students will have access to a better delivery of the science curriculum.

In addition to all the construction, the Science Department was a flurry of activity. Grade 11 and 12 biology students extended their knowledge of internal systems by performing pig and dogfish shark dissections. Various classes also went on trips to the Ontario Science Centre and York University. There is always something going on in Science and we eagerly await the unfolding of Semester III!

*Mrs. A. Vukojevic*

## Sports

### Senior Boys Basketball

The Senior Boys Basketball Team is off to their best start in years, with a record of 5 wins and 1 loss in league play. The team has competed in four tournaments and has posted a 500 record, losing in the finals of the Port Credit Invitational. Come out and cheer the team on for their final 4 games of the season.

In related news: Our Lady of Mount Carmel has once again co-hosted 3 Rimrocker Tournaments; Senior Girls in September, Senior Boys in December and Junior Boys in January. We are looking forward to next year's events to be held in the same months mentioned above.

*Mr. R. Tucci*

### Senior Boys Hockey

The Varsity Boys Hockey Team is a young team and the key to the success of this year's



rebuilding and hardworking team begins with the players returning from last year's Championship Team and an infusion of fresh young talent. Returning players include: Goalie **Frank G**, Forwards **Kevin C**, **David H**, **Andrew H (Team Captain)**, and **Richard T**, Defenceman **Jon S**, **Brian D**, and **Taylor B**.

The Crusaders took to the ice this season looking to defend their 2006 Ontario Federation of Schools Athletic Association (**OFSAA**) Senior Boys Hockey Title. The Crusaders are also looking to set a Region of Peel Secondary School Athletic Association (**ROPSSAA**) Record in Senior Boys Hockey by capturing its fifth title in seven years.

Thus far the team has competed in four tournaments including **The York University Early Bird**; **Mississauga Ice Dogs Tournament**; **Carter Cup in North Bay**; **MacPherson Cup in Aurora**; and most recently in the **Fr. Goetz Classic**. The Crusaders reached the semi final in two tournaments, and reaching the final in another only to lose in overtime.

Top point getters for the Crusaders are first year players **Justin B**, **Tyler M**, **Josh B**, and veteran **Kevin C**. The team has an overall record of 19 Wins 6 Losses and 5 Ties including a League Record of 6-0-2 and good enough for first place in the South Division. Next up for the Crusaders are four remaining League Games, and the Playoffs which begin at the end of February. We wish the boys much success!

*Mr. D. Parisotto*

# Special Events

## *The Harmony Movement*

The Harmony Movement was incorporated in 1994 as a non-profit organization, to take a stand against all forms of discrimination in Canada. The mission of the Harmony Movement is to promote the concept of understanding, appreciating and valuing human diversity in its broadest sense. Harmony Movement believes the best way to do that is through public education in the community, and in the classrooms.

A selection of students in all grade levels have been invited to take part in a 6 week leadership certificate program at Mount Carmel presented by the Harmony Movement. The grade 9 classes will also be involved in a presentation focusing on the cultural dynamics and diversity in Canada and how youth can benefit if they choose to fully embrace the social differences that compose our society.

## *Experience Success Program*

The grade 9 ESP class has been hosting a monthly café. The purpose of the café has been to introduce students to employability skills in a controlled environment. Students in the class have been introduced to the various aspects of running a business, such as marketing, customer service, money management, food preparation and care and operation of equipment.



We have developed a partnership with Second Cup and have been guided through the process of setting up a café, correct preparation of coffee and tea, as well as care of the equipment being used. In their grade 10 year, the student will have an opportunity to job shadow at a Second Cup location, and potentially complete a

We have observed and increase in their confidence and employability skills. Students who were reticent at the beginning of the year are now enthusiastically involved in greeting customers, taking orders and making coffee, tea and hot chocolate.

*D. Cameron , M.J. McArthur-Scott*

## *Rock the Ribbon*



Every year since 1984, December 1<sup>st</sup> has been recognized as World AIDS Day. Mount Carmel participated in this year's recognition by having each student, faculty and staff sign their name on a red paper ribbon. The ribbons were then joined in a huge chain and hung all around the front foyer to signify the unity we feel for those who are infected and to make the AIDS Awareness message more visual as well as vocal.

In the evening, a huge rock showcase was held called "ROCK THE RIBBON" as a part of the day's recognition. From Mount Carmel we had Apollo, This New Disease, Mayday and Apophenia take to the stage. Dance Electric from Oakville was also with us priming the audience for our special guests, The New Cities who came in from Montreal.

We had 475 guests with us for the evening helping to raise \$3500 to be donated to Peel HIV AIDS Network. PHAN exists as an AIDS Awareness programme, operates the Peel Hospice and assists those infected with their therapeutic drug costs.

A special thanks to the Alternative Education Programme students for working security, doors, coat check and clean-up. Mount Carmel has been hosting charity rock shows since 1991 and it looks like we'll be doing them for quite a while to come.

*D. Rogers*

## Student Council

Semester one has been an intriguing one for everyone! The Student Council would like to thank all the students that made major events exciting and fun for all.



After three years this year's student council brought back school dances!! The Halloween dance was a bigger success than anyone could have imagined.

In November, we gave out Poppies and in December, we had our First Winter Formal which was a smashing success. We also handed out candy canes to all. We have quite a few upcoming events for next semester. Due to the widespread acclaim of the last two dances, a third one has been discussed and will come at a later date, so look out for it!

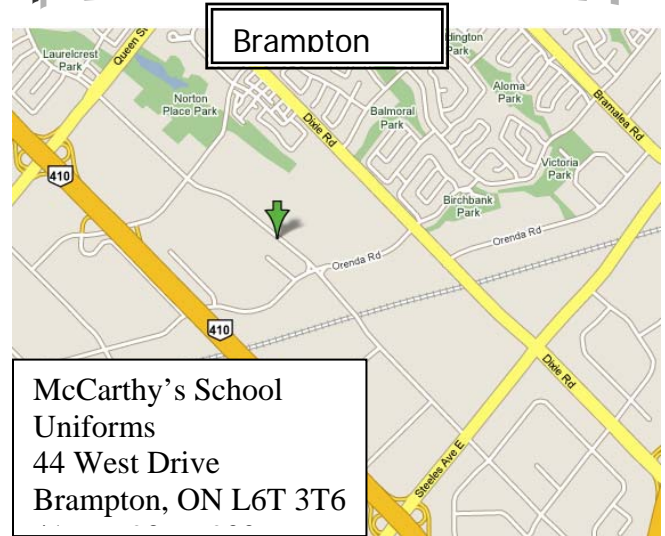
February will bring the grade 11 semi-formal which should be a fantastic event for all involved. Student Council will be selling valentine roses for you to purchase for a special someone. We encourage you to continue to lend us your support in the coming months, and we will do our best to meet your expectations.

Best of luck in the new semester!

## Student Council



# McCarthy's New Location



## Planning for Independence –Artist at Work



Each afternoon for a week, Room 002 transformed itself into an art studio while artists quietly concentrated as soothing music played in the background. Our piece was a group effort depicting the apostles - done all in a stipple effect using our fingerprints. The joy of creation was so contagious, staff, administrators, visiting students, and custodians alike couldn't resist lending their 'prints'. On Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup> the Planning for Independence Class participated in another 'first' for the program – Inspirations Art Show 2006 followed by a lunch and dance also hosted by St. Joseph's Secondary School. What a marvelous experience - highlighted by the above photo which appeared in the Mississauga News.

A. Braine

# General Information

## OLMCSS Catholic School Council News

**Happy New Year from your Catholic School Council !**

**Your Catholic School Council** is composed of parent, staff, student, parish, community and OAPCE (Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education) representatives.

Council's **role** is to **represent** and **reflect** the needs of the OLMC school community.

Being mindful of that role, Council has been involved in many activities:

- sponsoring a needy family for the St. Vincent dePaul Christmas campaign
- hosting very successful Used Uniform Sales
- providing informative presentations and guest speakers, to share information at the School Council meetings, on topics such as; OLMC Retreat Program, Christmas Liturgy, "In Harmony with Mount Carmel", OLMC Social programs, YSAP (Youth Substance Abuse Program) , NPU (Neighbourhood Police Unit) Liaison.
- Communicating with Grade 8 parents
- participating in School Council inservicing
- Council members being very active members on many Board committees.
- Successful PRO (Parents Reaching Out) Grant rewards from the Ministry of Education to subsidize parent involvement projects (we will update you in the next newsletter).

**Used Uniform Sale:** Council will be hosting the next Used Uniform Sale **Thursday, April 26, 2007** (Parent/Teacher Interview Night) from **6:00-9:00pm** in the foyer. This event is very popular so shop early for best selection! All proceeds are used to support Council projects, such as Academic Awards, St. Vincent De Paul Christmas initiative and purchasing a bench for the school butterfly garden.

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel Dinner Theatre** is back by popular demand!! Our Catholic School Council will be hosting a dinner theatre on the evening of **Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup>**. The "Stage West" style evening will include a hot dinner menu, fabulous desserts and the unbeatable entertainment of this year's school play! Ticket information will be available soon through the school office, school web site or please contact the Council Chairs through email. **This promises to be a spectacular evening, so mark your calendar!**

**We invite** and strongly encourage parents/guardians to attend your School Council meetings.

Much information is shared and we truly value input and feedback from our school community. To be effective representatives, we need to attend to the needs and concerns of our community.

**The next meeting dates are:** **Thursday, Feb. 22 , March 22, April 26 and June 7.** All meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. in the school library.

**Please join us!**

For more information or to receive Council communications (minutes, agenda etc.), please contact the School Council Chairs:

Ehretia O'Hearn [eaohearn@rogers.com](mailto:eaohearn@rogers.com) 905-824-6696

Elaine Lord [o2cudle@sympatico.ca](mailto:o2cudle@sympatico.ca) 905-824-0733

**Lisgar Residents Association:** updates on community events/concerns, including the public tennis courts on Doug Leavens Dr. being possibly changed to private courts situation, can be found on the association web site [www.lisgar.com](http://www.lisgar.com)