



ST. HELEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Growing Together In Christ



**October
2011**

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Principal
Brian Diogo

Secretary
A. Litster

School Council

Co-Chairs

S. Raymond

J. Zekorn



Prayer for the Season of Thanksgiving

Loving God,
All that we have comes from your goodness
And all the work of those who love us.

Bless us and the food we share
Watch over those who care for us.
Open our eyes to meet the needs of the poor

During this time of harvest and thanksgiving.
We make this prayer in the name of Jesus,
Who is Lord forever and forever.

AMEN

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Principal's Message

It's hard to believe that October is here. It seems that we just welcomed everyone back yesterday and yet a full month has past. It has been a very busy month. I would like to thank you for your patience, understanding, and support during the first month of school. Adjusting to a new school or new teacher can be a trying time for young students. We thank you for working with us to make this transition as smooth as possible.

I would like to thank everyone who helped with our Open House and BBQ evening. Your attendance sent an important message of commitment to your child and the school. This was a great opportunity for building community for new families, parents and students.

I am very pleased to share that the academic success of our student body as well as the teaching effectiveness of our staff has resulted in our recent EQAO scores surpassing both Board and Provincial scores in 5 of the 6 areas. We will continue to fine tune our teaching in the areas that we hope to further improve and achieve similar goals for this year.

We have started collecting non-perishable food for the Thanksgiving Food Drive. All food will be picked up by St. Christopher Parish for distribution to families within our community on Friday, October 7. Thank you for making this a special Thanksgiving for those in need.

On behalf of the St. Helen staff I would like to wish all families a safe and joyous Thanksgiving weekend.

B. Diogo
Principal

THANKSGIVING DAY

There will be no school for the students on Monday October 11th, 2011. The school will be closed as we all give thanks for our blessings.

School Council

The next St. Helen School Council meeting will be October 12th at 6:30 p.m. in the conference room. We welcome all parents, please come out and join us.

Your 2011—2012 School Council

Co-Chair	Mrs. Raymond
Co-Chair	Mrs. Zekorn
Secretary	Mrs. Broden-Scoffield
Fundraising	Mrs. Raymond
	Mrs. Zekorn
Teaching Rep	Mrs. Cory
Parish Rep	Mrs. Waters
Non Teaching Rep	Mrs. Litster
Parent Rep	Mrs. Iafrate
Parent Rep	Mrs. Soares
Parent Rep	Mrs. Briand-White

Family Movie Night

On Thursday September 15th the St. Helen School Council hosted a Family Movie Night in the gym. A fun time was had by all. Thank you to all the families that were able to come out and support this great event. We look forward to seeing everyone at the next movie night.



Spook-a-thon

Once again it is that time when St. Helen holds their major fundraiser of the year. We ask parents to please watch for the Spook-a-thon sponsor sheet that will be coming home with their children. There will be early bird prizes starting every day from Monday October 17th. Prize donations are welcome from the community.

Hurricane News

Cross Country

St. Helen has put together a cross country team and they have been training very hard. The Cross Country Family Meet will take place Friday October 14th at Centennial Park. Please feel free to come out and cheer on the team. We wish all participants the best of luck.



Intermediate Volleyball

Both the boys and girls intermediate volleyball teams have been picked and have been practicing every day. The at home games will be October 3rd & 11th. The away games will be October 12th at St. Louis and October 18th at St. Francis. If the team qualifies they will go to the Family Tournament on October 26th at St. Martin S.S. No students will be allowed to stay and watch the home games without a note from their parents.



Terry Fox Day

We would like to thank everyone for their generous donations toward the Terry Fox Foundation. This year we were able to donate \$315.00 to this worthy cause.

REMEMBER

Drink Milk, Make Mats!!

Remember Those In Haiti

Transitions

Living Our Faith

Visitors

Anyone entering the school must indicate their presence in the school by coming to the office right away. The school is a very busy place and we have many visitors/parents dropping in for a variety of reasons. To ensure we maintain the integrity of the classroom program by avoiding interruptions, and for the safety of our students, all visitors must come to the office first. We ask that you also convey this information to older brothers and sisters of our students. This way we know that anyone in the halls or in the school yard is an authorized visitor. All students leaving the school early will only be released through the front office. If your child arrives late we ask you to NOT accompany them to class.

Parents In The Yard

For your child's safety we request that he/she not be on school property until supervision begins at 8:45 a.m. Please do not drop your child off at the school prior to 8:45 a.m.

We would also like to remind you that parents should drop off/pick up their children outside the school gates. Parents are not permitted to be in the school yard at any time. Although you may be known to your own child you are a stranger to the other students in the yard.

Snack and Treats for Students

We are asking that all parents please refrain from bringing in eatable snacks and treats for all students in the classrooms. Several students in our school suffer from a severe food allergy to all nuts, peanuts and all nut products. There is also a Ministry PPM where the purpose of this memorandum is to set out nutrition standards for food and beverages in publicly funded elementary schools in Ontario. For more information about the new PPM please visit, <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/extra/eng/ppm/150.html>. If you would still like to do something special for the classroom, a small non-eatable gift for each student or perhaps a classroom gift, i.e. Board game for inclement recess, may be other great alternatives. Again, we thank you for your co-operation.

Virtue Corner

October ~ EMPATHY

This month we will celebrate the virtue of EMPATHY.

A person with *empathy*...

- Listens attentively
- Watches people's body language
- Notices and responds when someone is upset
- Can name his/her feelings
- Can see a situation from another person's point of view
- Knows that different people may feel differently about the same thing

God has given us the ability to form connections with each other—to live together. Empathy helps us to connect and live together in a safe, caring, inclusive community. We understand empathy to mean the ability to identify with and feel other people's concerns. We believe that in a faith community we are nothing without relationships. Relationships that grow in a spirit of communion— and understanding that we share an identity based on being created in the image and likeness of God and being imbued with one Spirit. An empathetic person believes that we all share one Spirit; that we are many parts of one body because we are all created in the image and likeness of God.

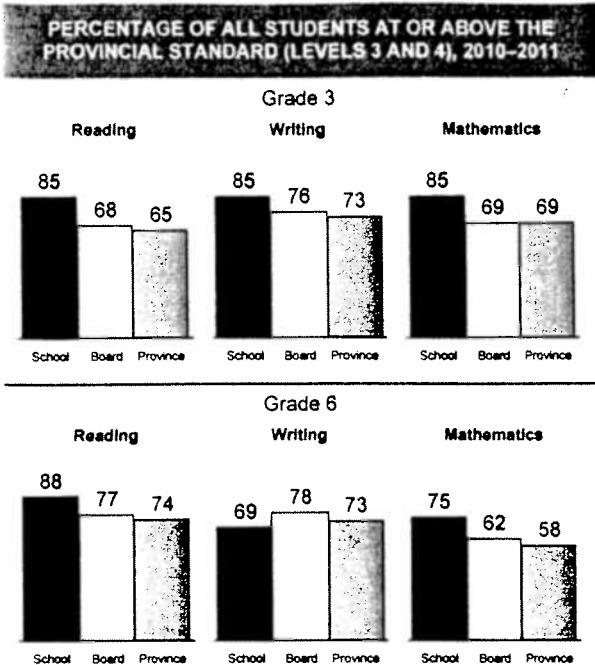


OPENING/THANKSGIVING MASS

The first school Mass of the year is scheduled for Tuesday October 11th at 10:30 a.m. Parents are always welcome to attend our school celebrations.

Take Note

St. Helen 2010/2011 EQAO Results



Indoor/Outdoor Shoes

We are heading into that time of year again when the students will need to have an indoor and outdoor pair of shoes at school. Please arrange to send an extra pair of shoes with your child in order to help keep the floors from becoming too muddy.

Student Absences/Lates

Please use our 24 hour answering service to inform the school of late or absent students.

Phone 905-822-4564

If a pattern of unexcused lateness or absents becomes apparent, parents will be contacted by the school.

Yes, I need a printed copy of the newsletter:

Student Name : _____

Teacher Name: _____

Take Note

Hot Dog and Pizza Lunches

We are resuming our Hot Dog and Pizza Lunches. We will be starting the pizza lunch on October 18th and the hot dog lunch on October 14th. A reminder will be sent out next week.

UPCOMING DATES

- October 7 - Milk Bags/Haiti presentation 10:30 am.
- October 10 - Thanksgiving, No School
- October 11 - Mass at the school 10:30 a.m.
- October 12 - School Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- October 14 - Cross Country at Centennial Park
- October 31 - Spook-a-thon Dance

St. Helen is 'Going Green'

St. Helen School is taking into consideration our environment and promoting a 'going green' initiative by providing any school related information via our website. Every month our newsletter will be posted on our website where you will be able to print a hard copy.

<http://www.dpcdsb.org/HELEN>

If you are unable to access a computer we would gladly provide a printed copy for your use. Please fill in the following and return it to the classroom teacher. **THIS WILL BE OUR LAST MASS MAILING OF THE NEWSLETTER.** Thank you.