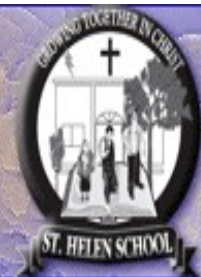




ST. HELEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Growing Together In Christ



**December
2011**

1325 Bodley Road
Mississauga ON,
L5J 3X1
Phone 905.822.4564
Fax 905.822.5622

Ward 2
Trustee
Sharon Hobin

905-301-1210

Sharon.Hobin
@dpcdsb.org

Superintendent
Cathy Saytar

905-890-1221

Principal
Brian Diogo

Secretary
A. Litster

School Council

Co-Chairs

S. Raymond

J. Zekorn



Principal's Message

On behalf of the staff of St. Helen School, I extend our best wishes during this Christmas season to all our families. We hope that you will be blessed with the spirit and gifts of that first Christmas; peace, love and goodwill toward all. May the promise of Christmas help to show God's boundless love for you and your family, and may you be blessed with good health, prosperity and happiness throughout the New Year as we strive to work with and for you in providing excellence in Catholic education in our community.

God bless,
B. Diogo
Principal

A very warm welcome to Mrs. Pietrangelo who has returned to us from her maternity leave. As Ms. Terra leaves us we would like to send best wishes to her in her future teaching endeavors.

God of power and mercy,
open our hearts in welcome.
Remove the things that hinder us
from
receiving Christ with joy,
so that we may share his wisdom
and become one with him
when he comes in glory,
for he lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God,
for ever and ever

Amen.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

School Council	2
Hurricane News	2
Transitions	3
Living Our Faith	3
Take Note	4
Upcoming Dates	4

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

We are proud to announce that once again all the students of St. Helen School (JK to Grade 8) will be putting on a spectacular performance on Tuesday December, 13th at 7:00 p.m.

Orders for DVD's will be taken that evening for \$15.00 each.

School Council

The next St. Helen School Council meeting will be held on February 7th at 6:30 p.m. in the conference room. We welcome all parents, please come out and join us.

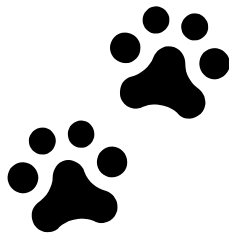
Breakfast With Santa

Please mark Saturday, December 3rd on your calendars as our School Council will be holding our annual "Breakfast with Santa" from 9:00-11:00 a.m. here at the school. Breakfast will be sausages and pancakes and we are also expecting a visit from Santa. There will be a photographer here to offer the opportunity for your child(ren) to have their picture taken with Santa. We hope that it will be an enjoyable family event and request that children be accompanied by an adult. Please contact the office if you did not receive an order form. Please note that only one meal package is required for all your children to be photographed with Santa.



Loretta Penny Presentation

Once again Down to Earth Conservation Education brought an informative presentation to the school on November 4th. School Council would like to thank all those that participated in this event.



Spook-a-thon

On October 31st, St. Helen students celebrated Halloween in style with help from our School Council members and our "DJs" Ms. Caruso and Mr. Maurizio. The individual winners with the most funds raised were Jamie D., Kyle D., Alek C., Jamie H. and Lindsey D. The class winners were Mrs. Rocco's class and Ms. DeMelo's class. Congratulations to all for participating. The total raised was \$4,051.61.

Hurricane News

Junior Volleyball

Congratulations to the boys and girls junior volleyball teams for all their hard work and dedication. The boys team has qualified to go to the Family Tournament on December 1st at Iona S.S. Thank you Mrs. Ryan, Ms. DeMelo and Mr. Diogo for giving up your time to coach the boys and girls.



Parent Drivers

We would like to take this time to thank all our parent volunteer drivers. Without your help we would not be able to participate in many events. It is through your efforts that we continue to be able to offer extracurricular events to the students.

Snack and Treats for Students

We are asking that all parents please refrain from bringing in eatable snacks and treats to 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 a great alternative. Again, we thank you for your co-operation.

Boys Night In

Thank you to Mrs. Hasrouny for putting together a fantastic program for the Grade 8 boys. Everyone enjoyed the evening and had a great bonding experience.

Transitions

Living Our Faith

Extended French Information Meeting

Grade 4 parent(s)/guardian(s), who wish to enroll their child in a Grade 5 Extended French class for September, 2012 are invited to attend an information meeting at:

St. Christopher
1195 Clarkson Rd N
Mississauga, L5J 2W1

Wednesday January 18, 2012 @ 7:00 p.m.

At the present time, the above mentioned school is the designated centre for our area. Applications will be accepted at that centre until **3:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 8th, 2012.**

Iona Parent Information Night

On Wednesday December 7th, 2011, Iona will host an information night for grade 8 students and their parents from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Changing Weather

Students are asked to ensure that they have a pair of indoor shoes or slippers at school. We ask that children change their footwear when they come inside in an effort to keep our classroom floors clean. Children are expected to participate in recess activities and are reminded to dress for the weather. Children may also wish to have a change of clothing at school in the event that they get wet while playing outdoors.

French Immersion Information Meeting

Senior Kindergarten parents/guardians, who wish to enroll their child in a Grade 1 French Immersion class for September, 2012 are invited to attend an information meeting at:

St. Margaret of Scotland School
Wednesday January 11th, 2012
7:00 p.m.

This meeting location is for the French Immersion Centres Divine Mercy, St. Elizabeth Seton and St. Margaret of Scotland.

The deadline for submission of Applications will be **2:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 8th, 2012.**

Virtue Corner

December ~ HOPE

This month we will celebrate the virtue of HOPE.

We believe that God comes to us as a real human who can show us the way of life.

We understand that both the world and its people are from God and so are essentially good. Furthermore, God has given us this Advent season year after year in order to focus our minds and our hearts on the good all around us. Year after year, we are reminded that God chose to send His Son to us because we are worth it. God knows how great we can be when we all come together.

A person of *hope*...

- ◆ Expects the best to happen for everyone
- ◆ Hold on to their dreams
- ◆ Always count on God to help them in tough situations
- ◆ Trust that things will work out in God's way
- ◆ Look for something good to come out of problems
- ◆ Are looking forward to life's blessings
- ◆ Set and stick to their own goals



CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE

St. Helen School is holding a Christmas Food Drive. We encourage all families to donate generously to support needy families within our own community this Christmas season. All donations will be forwarded to The Compass our local food bank.

Take Note

Visitors

Anyone entering the school must come 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 be released through the front office as they must sign out. If your child arrives late we ask you to NOT accompany them to class.

Winter - Exposure to Extreme Cold

At rest, an unprotected person is able to maintain their core body temperature until the temperature falls to or below minus 25 degrees Celsius. The main risks of exposure to extremely cold weather for relatively short periods (recess or lunch periods) is that of frostbite. Someone who is protected by clothing or is physically active may be able to withstand exposure to colder temperatures. Therefore, it is recommended that consideration be given to reducing the amount of time outdoors for children (grade 8 and under) when the temperature is -20 degrees Celsius or colder. When the temperature or equivalent wind chill temperature is - 25 degrees Celsius or lower children must be kept indoors. (Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board-General Administrative Procedures 502.14)

UPCOMING DATES

December 3 - Breakfast With Santa 9:00 a.m.
 December 7 - Gr. 8 Iona Tour
 December 7 - Iona Parent Information Night 6:30 p.m.
 December 8 & 9 - Gr. 8 Teen Ranch Trip
 December 13 - Christmas Concert 7:00 p.m.

Take Note

Student Absences/Lates

Please use our 24 hour answering service to inform the school of late or absent students. We must hear from a parent or guardian if a student will be absent, arriving late or leaving early.

Phone 905-822-4564

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



CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Please be reminded that the school is closed for Christmas holidays December 26th, 2011 –January 6th, 2012. The first day of classes in the New Year is January 9th, 2012.

We, the staff of St. Helen wish you and your family a very joyous Christmas and may your New Year be filled with God's Blessing.

December 23 - Last Day of School
 January 9 - First Day of School
 January 9 - Gr. 5/6 Silvercreek Trip