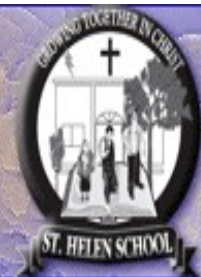




ST. HELEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Growing Together In Christ



**January
2012**

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Secretary
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School Council

Co-Chairs

S. Raymond

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Prayer for a New Year

Come Holy Spirit, Spirit of the Risen Christ,
Be with us today and always.
Be our light, our Guide and our Comforter.
Be our Strength, our Courage, and our Sanctifier.

May this year be a time
Of deep spiritual growth for us,
A time of welcoming your graces and gifts,
A time of forgiving freely and unconditionally,
A time for growing in virtue and goodness.

Come Holy Spirit,
Be with us today and always.
Amen.

Principal's Message

We welcome everyone back after the Christmas vacation and wish that the New Year is filled with all of God's blessings for you and your family.

As 2012 begins we all look forward to new challenges and opportunities with great anticipation and excitement. The New Year has just begun and our students and staff are working hard and striving towards the important goals for the remainder of the year. We will also see the many other great facets of student life continuing with our skiing program, various sports teams including both intermediate girls and boys basketball as well as our board game and chess clubs, with many more opportunities for our students on the horizon.

We would like to welcome back Mrs. Wagstaff from her Australian Teacher Exchange. We return to school with a renewed energy and a positive outlook as we look forward to the many initiatives taking place this term. Best wishes to all for a happy, healthy and successful 2012.

God bless,
B. Diogo
Principal

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EPIPHANY MASS

Please join us for our Epiphany Mass to be held in the gym on Wednesday January 18th, 2012 at 10:30 a.m.
All are welcome.

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. Also on the agenda that evening there will be the following presentation.

ST. HELEN SCHOOL PRESENTS:

ONLINE SOCIAL NETWORKING SAFETY 101 FOR PARENTS

Date: Tuesday February 7th, 2012

Location: Library

Time: 7:00pm / Duration: 90min Plus Q&A

Guest Speaker: Paul Davis from socialnetworkingsafety.net

Topics: FACEBOOK, Cyber Bullying, Hand Held Devices, Texting, Legal Matters, and a Common Sense Approach to dealing with the technology your children have, or are asking you for!

This presentation is targeted for adults only. Your children (Grade 4 onwards) will have an age appropriate presentation given to them during the school day.

Babysitting will be provided.

**RSVP by February 3rd, 2012
905-822-4564**

Forms will also be going home soon.

Breakfast With Santa

St. Helen School Council would like to thank the community for making this year's Breakfast With Santa a success. Thank you to all the volunteers and teachers for helping with the preparations. A big thank you to Mr. Stern for coming out and taking the photographs with Santa.



Hurricane News

Junior Volleyball

Congratulations to the boys team for placing second at the Family Tournament. Thank you to all the boys and girls for an exciting season.



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.

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

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.

Living Our Faith

Virtue Corner

JANUARY ~ SELF CONTROL

This month we will celebrate the virtue of SELF CONTROL.

A person with *self-control*...

- ◆ Is patient
- ◆ Knows how to wait his/her turn
- ◆ Can calm himself/herself down and think before reacting to a situation
- ◆ Knows how to avoid physical aggression (hitting, kicking, pushing, fighting)
- ◆ Can think things through and do what is best for all

Through prayer and concentration, we can become better at exhibiting self-control.



CHRISTMAS FOOD & GIFT CARD DRIVE

Thank you to the community for another successful Christmas Food & Gift Card Drive. Once again we were able to donate generously to support needy families within our own community this Christmas season. All food donations were forwarded to The Compass our local food bank and the gift cards were given to St. Christopher's Church for distribution.

Transitions

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.**

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 Centers 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.**

Jr & Sr Kindergarten Registration for 2012-13

Registration for Junior and Senior Kindergarten for the 2012-13 school year, will take place on the following days:

Monday, February 6, 2012* 7:00-9:00 p.m.

*Snow Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2012 7:00-9:00p.m.

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, February 8, 9 & 10, 2012 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. & 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Take Note

Parents/guardians should bring the following documents when registering their child for Kindergarten:

- proof of age (Birth Certificate)
- original Roman Catholic baptismal certificate (for child and/or parent/guardian) or baptismal certificate from an Eastern Church in full communion with the Holy See of Rome. If the child has not been baptized, and the parent/guardian is a baptized Roman Catholic or is baptized from an Eastern Church in full communion with the Holy See of Rome, the parent/guardian must bring their own baptismal certificate.
- updated immunization records
- proof of Canadian citizenship (Birth Certificate or Passport) or of Landed Immigrant status
- proof of address (tax bill, utility bill, bank statement)

DPCDSB Community Programs from Adult and Continuing Education

Winter 2012 DPCDSB Adult & Continuing Ed program flyers arrive at your doorstep the week of January 2, 2012. You are invited to join in these exciting community programs.

- o Computer ABC's Day Program
- o Adult Coop & Credit
- o Car Maintenance for Women
- o Health & Fitness
- o Secondary Night School Credit
- o French as a Second Language
- o General Interest Programs
- o Citizenship Classes
- o English as a Second Language

Register now for lifelong learning opportunities! Call 905-891-9263 ext.0 or www.dpcdsb.org/cec/cne

UPCOMING DATES

- January 9 - Gr. 5/6 Silvercreek Trip
- January 13 - Ski Trip
- January 16 - P.A. Day No School
- January 18 - Epiphany Mass 10:30 a.m.
- January 26 - Dr. Simone Trip

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)

P.A. DAY

There will be a professional activity day on Monday January 16th, 2012.

Please take note that there will be NO SCHOOL on that day.