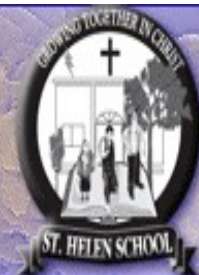




ST. HELEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Growing Together In Christ



**February
2012**

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Principal
Brian Diogo

Secretary
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School Council

Co-Chairs

S. Raymond

J. Zekorn



Principal's Message

Our liturgical Season of Lent begins with our "Celebration of Ashes" on February 22nd and continues until Easter. During our six week Lenten journey we recognize and discuss with our students our human frailties which causes us to sin. We prepare for the coming of Easter through reflection, prayer and charity. We respond to Jesus' call for a "change of heart" by becoming stronger in our will to say "yes" to God and "no" to our selfishness. Our school community will once again continue the important commitment to our Catholic charity of ShareLife and encourage everyone to support our activities as best as they can. We look forward to our Lenten journey together, a strengthened and renewed faith in God's will.

God bless,
B. Diogo
Principal

Spirit of God, breathed into our hearts,
As we prepare for Jesus' resurrection
Lift us up with new life,
New courage, new passion today.

Spirit of God, breathed into our midst
As we prepare for Jesus' resurrection,
Transform us with new fellowship,
New vision, new joy today.

Spirit of God, breathed into the world
As we prepare for Jesus' resurrection,
Work through us
To change the face of the earth.

Amen.

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ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY

Please join us for our Ash Wednesday Liturgy
to be held in the gym on
Wednesday, February 22nd, 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**

Hurricane News

Intermediate Basketball

Both the boys and girls intermediate basketball teams have been picked and have been practicing every day. The at home game will be February 15th. The away games will be February 8th at St. Louis and February 9th at St. Christopher. If the teams qualify they will go to the Family Tournament on February 28th. No students will be allowed to stay and watch the home game without **a note** from their parents. All spectators are to remain on the stage as the school halls are out of bounds.



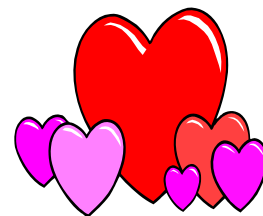
FAMILY DAY HOLIDAY

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH

NO SCHOOL

Valentine Cake Raffle

We are pleased to announce that once again St. Helen School will be holding a valentine cake raffle on Tuesday, February 14th. In order to be a success, we ask for the community to help by donating a cake for this event. All proceeds will be used for student activities in the spring.



Living Our Faith

Virtue Corner

FEBRUARY ~ RESPECT

This month we will celebrate the virtue of RESPECT.

A person with *respect*...

- ◆ Treats himself/herself and everyone else with equal consideration and courtesy
- ◆ Uses a positive tone of voice and body language
- ◆ Avoids swearing, name-calling, put-downs, and inappropriate gestures
- ◆ Says 'Excuse me', 'Please', 'Pardon me'
- ◆ Avoids gossip

God has given us the virtue of friends and companions to keep us company and to help us out along the way. Every person in our lives carries the Spirit of God - and so every person is our brother or sister through Jesus Christ.

As brothers and sisters who share one Holy Spirit, we are all valuable to God. We all deserve to be shown courtesy, consideration, sensitivity and thoughtfulness, which are different ways of saying *respect*.

That respect should come first and foremost from ourselves and then we will be able to respect others. We should be able to expect to be treated with respect by everyone we meet - our brothers and sisters in Jesus.

Through prayer and concentration, we can get better at respecting ourselves as well as respecting those around us.



Transitions

Extended French

Grade 4 parent(s)/guardian(s), who wish to enroll their child in a Grade 5 Extended French class for September, 2012 must have their applications in by 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 8th, 2012 at

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

French Immersion

Senior Kindergarten parents/guardians, who wish to enroll their child in a Grade 1 French Immersion class for September, 2012 must have their applications in by 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 8th, 2012 at

St. Margaret of Scotland School
2266 Council Ring Rd
Mississauga, L5L 1C1

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.

The following documents will be needed when registering:

- 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 Landed Immigrant status
- proof of address (any utility bill, bank statement)

Take Note

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.

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

P.A. DAY

There will be parent/teacher interviews on Friday, February 3rd.

Please take note that there will be

NO SCHOOL on that day.

UPCOMING DATES

February 3 - P.A Day No School Parent/Teacher Interviews

February 6 - Ski Trip

February 7 - School Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.

February 7 - Social Network Safety Presentation 7:00p.m.

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. 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)

February 16 - Gr 8 Girls Night In

February 20 - Family Day, No School

February 22 - Ash Wednesday Liturgy 10:30 a.m.

February 24 - Gr 7 Meningitis/Gr 8 Girls HPV Clinic

February 27 - Gr 8 Graduation Photo Day