

Mary Fix Catholic School Newsletter

Learning and Living
Through God

486 Paisley Blvd. West
Mississauga, Ontario L5B 2M4
(905)270-3140 Fax: (905)270-3475
www.dpcdsb.org/MAFIX

October 2010

Newsletter #2



THANKSGIVING

For each new morning with it's light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food,
For love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends
(Ralph Waldo Emerson)

Principal:

A. Milanetti

Secretary:

M. Kivell

Pastor,

St. Catherine of Siena Church

Fr. Ruggiero (905)272-1454

Trustee:

B. Iannicca (905)270-0536

Superintendent:

C. Saytar (905)890-1221

School Council Chair:

K. Ruffolo



Principal's Message...

It is hard to believe that the first month of school is already gone by. The fall weather has certainly come upon us quickly. We are however, truly blessed by the abundance of beauty that surrounds us at this time of year. September has been a busy month at Mary Fix Catholic School with many activities getting underway. It was wonderful to see so many of our families come out to our Barbecue and Open House on September 23rd. Thank you to our Catholic School Council for their financial support and many volunteer hours that made this such a successful community event. On September 30th, enthusiastic students, staff and parents raised funds to support cancer research through our Toonies for Terry neighbourhood walk event organized by J. Pilling and G. Senra. Our Junior Kindergarten students have all started as of September 20th, and they have settled nicely into the routine of school. This month, students are preparing to pursue Catholic leadership roles through their involvement in the Student Council. Our intermediate volleyball teams began their season with a double header for the boys' and girls' teams on September 30th at St. Jerome.

Pegasus School Images will be at our school for the student photographs on Friday, October 8th. Our school cross country team has been busy training to prepare for the family meet on October 15th.

Also in October, we celebrated World Teacher's Day on October 5th. We take this opportunity to recognize and thank our teachers for their commitment and dedication to Catholic Education. Mary Fix teachers have a great influence on the lives of your children. They help prepare them for life, teaching them skills to participate and compete, help them recognize their strengths and weaknesses and how to choose to use them to become better people.


To our outstanding team of teachers, I say, thank you for making Mary Fix Catholic School a vibrant, exciting place for children to know they can learn, be involved, develop our Catholic faith and excel to the highest levels of learning. You do make a difference!

A. Milanetti
Principal



2010/2011 School Year

Dates to Remember:

- Oct 5 World Teacher Day
- Oct 7 Spirit Day-Blue & White
- Oct 7 Chocolate Fundraiser Kick-off
- Oct 8 Picture Day
- Oct 11 Thanksgiving Monday
- Oct 15 Family Cross Country Mt
- Oct 25 Municipal Elections
- Nov 3 Immunization Clinic #1
- Nov 10 Retake Day
- Nov 11 Remembrance Day 
- Nov 26 P.A. Day
- Nov 30 Gr 3-8, Reconciliation
- Dec 1 Family Advent Mass
- Dec 17 Last day of school before Christmas Break
- Jan 3 First Day back after Christmas Break
- Mar 14-18 March Break
- Jun 30 Last Day of School

**Catholic School Council**

A meeting was held on Wednesday, September 29th, 2010 in order to establish the council members for 2010-2011 school year. We thank and welcome all those who were able to attend the meeting.

The Mary Fix Catholic School Council members are:

Chair: K. Ruffolo

Treasurer: C. Balaz

Secretary: L. Ieraci

Non-Teaching Representative: J. Pilling

Teaching Representative: J. Telfeyan

OAPCE Representative: R. Quattrociocchi

Parish & Community Representative:

F. Nimer-Boutros

Principal: A. Milanetti

Parent Representatives:

M. Araujo, P. Borg, N. Brum, R. DeRenzis, K. Kozar, A. Orme, G. Renda E. Speziale and J. Tomczak.

We invite and encourage parents to attend future meetings and to get involved in any way possible. The Catholic School Council meetings will be held on the following dates: October 20, November 17, December (TBA), February 16, April 6 and May 18th. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. in the library.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. We look forward to a wonderful year at Mary Fix Catholic School. Let's work together for our children and our school community!

**Visitor Policy**

Visitors to the school are welcome. However, to ensure the safety of all children in the school, visitors must report to the office. To go beyond the office, visitors must receive permission from office personnel, sign the visitor book and wear an identification badge. Parents are visitors to the school and must follow the visitor protocol. Students have been taught to immediately report any unfamiliar adult in the building who is not wearing a visitor badge. Please reinforce this with your child.

Parking

Many thanks to all the parents who have co-operated with us in parking on the street. Students walking across the driveway behind the kiss 'n' ride are much safer now. If you are parking on the street, please observe all signs, especially close to the driveway entrance, exit and the crosswalk and stop sign on Paisley Blvd. We want to ensure that students are safe as they walk across the street at the crosswalk, so it is important that all drivers can see them.

During inclement weather please continue to observe the Kiss & Ride protocol. **The Bus lane is never open** to parents/guardians dropping off their children as this creates a hazard for students and volunteers.

**All Star Reading**

Mrs. Nucci and Mrs. Gaipo are kicking off the 'All Star Reading' program. This early intervention program, as part of balanced literacy, supports early readers as they move into the wonderful, exciting world of literacy. Grade 1 and 2 students learn strategies to become independent, self-directed readers. It is a wonderful way to help students in the early primary grades to become more confident, successful readers.

The program depends on parent volunteers who take on the important role of becoming reading coaches. If you are able to offer some time to participate in this program, please inform the School office.

**Keeping Healthy**

In an attempt to keep our community healthy, we are asking all families to please do the following:

- Ensure children are dressed for the weather
- Have an extra pair of socks for wet days
- Send a pair of indoor shoes— labeled please
- Small nutritious snacks and lunch
- Encourage frequent hand washing

In addition, this is the beginning of cold and flu season. If your child is ill, please keep them home until they are well enough to return. If we all take special care, we will keep our community healthy.

St. Catherine of Siena Parish

Fr. Ruggiero celebrated Opening Mass on September 24th in our school gym. Thank you to our Junior Division for preparing the meaningful liturgy. We are reminded of Fr. Ruggiero's words for all to be people of faith and to keep Jesus close to our hearts throughout this school year.

Important Dates For The Reception of The Sacraments:**Sacrament of Confirmation:**

Sacrament of Confirmation on June 7th, 2011, at 7 p.m.

Sacraments of Reconciliation & First Communion:

Sacrament of First Reconciliation on Monday, March 28th, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Sacrament of First Communion on Saturday, May 14th, 2011 at 1p.m.

Keep Us Informed

Thank you to all parents who returned the student verification forms for your child. If you have a change of address, telephone number, place of employment or other important information, we would appreciate knowing. Please call the office or send a note with your child. It is also vitally important if your child has a health concern such as allergies, asthma, etc. that we are aware of this at school.

International Languages

Elementary International classes are available to students in Grades JK to 8 at specific elementary schools within Dufferin Peel on Saturday mornings. No prior language experience is necessary. International Language programs comply with the Ministry of Education curriculum and will be of interest to students who wish to preserve their language and cultural heritage and to those who wish to study the language and heritage of another culture. Enrolment is limited at each location. On-going Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis on Saturdays throughout the year.



If you have any questions please contact: Adult and Continuing Education office at (905)891-9263. **Do not contact the Mary Fix Office for International Language Information.**

Fire Drills & Lockdown Procedures

This year we will have six occasions where the students will practice exiting the school building at the sound of the fire alarm.

We would like all households to check that their smoke alarms are working. Also, this is a reminder to each of us to plan and practice our home fire escape plan so that everyone knows what to do safely in the event of a fire in their home.

Throughout the school year, staff review safety procedures with students on a variety of topics. Emergency evacuation drills are conducted to ensure that in the event of a real emergency evacuation situation, everyone is aware of the procedures to follow in order to exit the building safely. In addition, our students are alerted to Internet safety and stranger awareness. Over the following months, our students will be shown procedures that will be implemented in the event of an emergency lockdown situation. It is always helpful if you discuss and review these safety procedures with your children at home.



Virtue for October - Empathy

This month we will focus on the virtue of empathy. God has given us the ability to form connections with each other - to live together. Empathy helps us to connect and live together in safe, caring and inclusive communities. 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 - an understanding that we share an identity based on being created in the image and likeness of God and being imbued with one Spirit. We are many

parts of one body.

An empathetic person...

- 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.

Please join us for our Virtue's assembly on October 14th.

Roots of Empathy (ROE)

"This year, our school Child & Youth Worker, Mrs. Sheehan will be introducing the Roots of Empathy Program into Mrs. Belisle's grade 2/3 classroom. The program is now being run by various trained instructors in several elementary classes across the school board. The program runs from early November once weekly for the school year, covering 9 themes.

Established in 1996, Roots of Empathy (ROE) is an award-winning, evidence-based classroom program that has shown dramatic effect in reducing levels of aggression among school children while raising social/emotional competence and increasing empathy. The mission is to build a caring and peaceful classroom. The program involves an infant and parent who visit the classroom once a month throughout the year, with the instructor, Mrs. Sheehan presenting the curriculum to the class covering each theme.

This year, baby Maddie and her mom will be joining our Roots of Empathy program.



Pediculosis (Head Lice)



Often, at this time of year, schools experience an infestation of head lice (pediculosis).

Unfortunately, in recent years, head lice have become increasingly common in North America. They are parasites which have been common among human beings for centuries. They are not connected in any way with dirt or neglect. Anyone can become infected by them.

In order to control these pests, we shall follow the procedures outlined below.

We request your full cooperation.

If cases are found in the school, we shall inform all parents. We shall check friends and classmates of the affect students and, if necessary, seek help from the Region Health Department. However, we would ask that you check your own children and, if you find them to be infested, please let us know. This information can also be obtained from a pharmacist or the Regional Health Department.

Even if cases are not reported from the school, it is wise to check your children periodically.

If your child does become infested by head lice, we will ask you to keep them out of school until after they have been treated with the correct shampoo and their hair is entirely clear of both lice and nits (eggs.)

If we all cooperate in these procedures, we may not entirely escape outbreaks but we will be able to bring them under control quickly.



Pizza Day is Underway

Thanks to R. DeRenzi, L. Ieraci and a group of parent volunteers, our Pizza program is back up and running. Order forms have been sent home and Pizza day will start running every Friday, beginning on October 15th. If you missed ordering in October, order forms for November will be sent home shortly with money being due October 28th.

Take a day off from making lunch, give your child a treat and help support the many programs and extras made possible from the proceeds from Pizza Days.



Mary Fix Parent Council News

Welcome back Mary Fix Families and Staff. Another exciting school year is underway and we are so excited about our Lamontagne Chocolate Fundraising Event. Funds raised in our campaign this year will benefit every student at Mary Fix. With your help selling chocolate, our campaign will be a huge success. There are many wonderful prizes this year and our top prize is a Nintendo Wii.

As a reminder, we are also offering SPC cards at \$9.00 each. The SPC card gives students the opportunity to save anywhere from 10 to 15% off items purchased at our most popular stores and restaurants.

Our QSP campaign runs throughout the 2010-11 school year. Subscribe to your favorite magazines and support Mary Fix at the same time..the savings on subscriptions are truly amazing and this campaign supports literacy too!!

Food Days are Back!! This year we are offering Pizza and Sub Sandwiches. Look for your Food Day order forms each month and your children can enjoy and look forward to Fridays even more...and a day off in the kitchen for parents too.

Finally, we invite parents to join in the discussion. **Through your School Council, you can have a greater influence in your child's education.** Attend meetings as often as you can. Catholic School Councils promote the vision, values and sacramental life of our students. Upcoming meeting dates for 2010 are Oct. 20th, Nov. 17th, Dec.(TBA). For 2011 dates are Feb. 16th, April 6th and May 18th.

Thank you Mary Fix Families, your continued support is very much appreciated and benefits all of us.

Karolina Ruffolo

Mary Fix Council Chair

We are proud to publish our EQAO results for the 2009/2010 School year.
For more information, please visit www.eqao.com



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

Municipal Election 2010—Monday, October 25, 2010

Voting Information for Catholic Ratepayers

Protect and preserve Catholic Education...

Ensure you are registered to vote as a Catholic Separate School supporter

- Have the opportunity to elect trustees who will represent and address your interests and concerns

How to check if you are registered: Call your Municipal Clerk's Office to check the local list of electors.

At the Polling Station:

- Verify that you are registered as a separate school supporter. If not, ask for an "Application to Amend Voters List" form to complete at the polling station.
- Ensure the ballot you are given is a separate school ballot.

Voting for Catholic School Board Representation:

- Catholic ratepayers must declare themselves to be Catholic and separate school electors in order to cast a vote in the election of separate school trustee in municipal elections.