

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

January 2011

Principal: A. Milanetti

Secretary: M. Kivell

Pastor, St. Catherine of Siena Parish
Fr. Ruggiero (905)272-1454

Trustee: B. Iannicca (905)270-0536

Superintendent: C. Saytar
(905)890-1221

School Council Chair: K. Ruffolo

Dates to Remember

- Jan. 7 Intermediate Skiing #1
- Jan. 13 Swim to Survive, #1 (Gr. 3)
- Jan. 14 P.A. Day**
- Jan. 20 Swim to Survive, #2 (Gr. 3)
- Jan. 21 Intermediate Skiing #2
- Jan. 21 Pizza Day
- Jan. 26 Meningitis Vaccine—Gr. 7
- Jan. 27 Swim to Survive #3 (Gr. 3)
- Jan. 28 Intermediate Skiing, #3
- Jan. 28 Sub Day
- Feb. 1 Report Cards Home
(Gr1-8)
- Feb. 2 Gr 7 Safe Schools/Diversity
Conference @ Iona
- Feb. 3, 11 & 18 Pizza Days
- Feb. 3 Term 2 Interview Evening
- Feb. 4 P.A. Day, Interviews**
- Feb. 7-11 2011-2012 JK Registration
(see inside for details)
- Feb. 25 Sub Day
- March 9 Ash Wednesday
- March 14-18 March Break**
- April 22 Good Friday**
- April 25 Easter Monday**



Prayer for The New Year

*Come, Holy Spirit, Spirit of God,
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 new year be a time
of deep spiritual growth for us,*

A time for welcoming Your graces and gifts,

A time for 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:

On behalf of the Mary Fix staff, Happy New Year, and welcome back. I hope everyone was able to conclude the Advent season with a restful, enjoyable and Holy Christmas holiday season. Once again the Christmas baskets, delivered to needy families in our parish, were overflowing with goodies and gifts, testimony to our generous Mary Fix community. Thank you to Mrs. Zita, Mrs. Ruffolo, Ms. Navarra, Mrs. Liczner, Mrs. Quattrociocchi, Mrs. DeRenzis and Mrs. Balaz for all their hard work in sorting and organizing the food and Angel tree gifts. Thanks to the many volunteers who assisted in the delivery of the baskets including Mrs.

Mailloux, Mrs. Sheehan, Curtis Mailloux, Philip Derenzis, and the Mizzi family. We provided Christmas for 22 families this year!

January is the time when we settle into the winter term and look forward to the many exciting things that the remainder of the school year brings. Rehearsals are about to begin for our musical 'Seussical' which will be presented in May. Our Grade 2 and Grade 8 students are beginning preparations to receive the sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation respectively. Please keep them in your prayers.

A. Milanetti





Parish Information

Sacraments:

Grade 2 Reconciliation -

Monday, March 28, 2011 @ 7:30 p.m.

Grade 2 First Communion -

Saturday, May 14, 2011 @ 1 p.m.

Grade 8 Confirmation -

Tuesday, June 7, 2011 @ 7 p.m.

March Break

March Break begins on Monday, March 14 and ends on Friday, March 18. Students return to school on Monday, March 21.

P.A. Days

Friday, January 14 is a P.A. Day for Assessment and Student Evaluation. There is no school for all students on this day.

Friday, February 4 is a P.A. Day for Term 2 Parent/Teacher Interviews.

There is no school for all students on this day.

Bus Cancellations

Bus and school cancellation information is made available on the radio and television stations. In addition bus cancellation updates can be accessed at www.busmonitor.com.

If the weather is bad and schools are open, please call the school's attendance line if you choose to keep your child(ren) at home.

Lost and Found

We have many pieces of clothing and other personal items such as lunch bags, backpacks and even shoes in our Lost and Found box. Please take a moment to check to see if your child's clothing has been placed there.

Please check in at the office for assistance and to receive a Visitor's badge.



French Immersion Information

Meeting

Senior Kindergarten parents/ guardians, who wish to enroll their child in a Grade 1 French Immersion class for September, 2011 are invited to attend an information meeting on Thursday, January 13th, 2011 at **St. Gertrude School:** 815 Ceremonial Drive

Mississauga L5R 3S2
(905)568-7660

The deadline for submission of applications will be 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 9th, 2011.

Extended French Information

Grade 4 parents/guardians who wish to enroll their child in Grade 5 Extended French for September 2011 are invited to attend an information meeting on Thursday, January 13, 2011, at:

St. Philip School,
345 Fairview Rd., West
Mississauga, L5B 3W5
(905)306-8420

The deadline for submission of applications will be 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 9th, 2011.

Kindergarten Information Session

There will be an information session for parents of children with special needs such as vision, hearing, physical/medical, developmental or autism who are entering JK, SK or the Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program in September 2011. The information session will be held at the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board—Rm 301 on January 26, 2011 from 7:00-8:30 p.m.



Kindergarten Registration

Mary Fix will continue to provide the regular half-day Kindergarten program in 2011-2012.

Registration for the 2011-2012 school year will be held at Dufferin-Peel Catholic elementary schools on:

February 7 from 7-9 p.m.

(snowdate: Feb. 8 from 7-9 p.m.)

February 9-11 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. and 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Junior Kindergarten - Children must be 4 years old by Dec. 31, 2011

Senior Kindergarten—Children must be 5 years old by December 31, 2011

Parents/Guardians should bring the following documents when registering their child:

- proof of age
- original Catholic Baptismal Certificate of the Roman, Greek or Ukrainian Rite, for both the parent and child
- updated immunization records
- proof of Canadian citizenship or of Landed Immigrant status
- proof of address (utility bill, bank or credit card statement) for schools in Caledon and Dufferin County: emergency rural address numbers for identifying your property.

For more information, contact the office or the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board at (905) 890-1221.



January is ‘Self Control’ Month

Mary Fix Catholic School will continue to focus and work on developing a different virtue each month. To date we have focused on Faith, Empathy, Conscience and Hope. This month we will celebrate the virtue of Self Control.

God has given us the ability to choose. We are able to control how we react to what happens around us. We may feel pressure from inside or from outside ourselves to react violently to a situation. We’ve all ‘lost’ it at one time or another. We are never proud of these moments. As soon as they happen we make a promise that they will not happen again.

Through prayer and concentration, we can get better at controlling our reactions. We can get better at demonstrating self-control.

When we all use self-control, we can be sure that our school will be a safe, caring and inclusive place to live and to learn.

A person with self-control:

- Is patient
- Knows how to wait his/her turn
- Can calm him/herself down and think before reacting to situations
- Knows how to avoid physical aggression
- Can think things through and do what is best for everyone.

We will continue to highlight each month’s Virtue and encourage parents and guardians to reinforce these messages at home. Next month we will celebrate the virtue of ‘Respect’.

Parents are invited to attend our Self Control Assembly, presented by our morning kindergarten classes on Monday, January 10th at 10:30 a.m.



Winter Fun

As we settle into the winter months, we want all students to enjoy being outside during recess but it is equally important that they are aware of the winter guidelines which help to keep them warm and safe during snowy and cold conditions.

Winter Wear: Please ensure that your child comes to school prepared to participate in all activities, including outdoor recess. All children should have hats, scarves, gloves, warm coats and boots, all labeled with their names. It is also a good idea to keep an extra pair of socks in your child’s backpack. Snow pants keep children dry and warm on snowy or wet winter days and are highly recommended.

Children and parents are also reminded of the importance of **indoor shoes**, especially during ‘boot’ season. Indoor shoes keep the halls clean, dry and safe for students and staff.

Winter Safety: Students without snow pants and boots will not be allowed on the field and must remain on the paved portion of the school yard. Snow must remain on the ground. Children are also asked to stay off any snow hills created by the snow plows. We also remind children to stay off any icy patches in the school yard. This will be enforced by teachers and supervisors during yard duties.



Students who do not adhere to all Winter Safety Rules will receive written warnings.



QSP Reminder

If you are renewing any subscriptions at the beginning of this new year, please remember that Mary Fix School is eligible to receive a commission on any **renewals or new subscriptions** available through QSP. Simply log onto **www.qsp.ca** and enter the **Mary Fix access ID:8351**.

Please contact QSP Customer Service at 1-800-667-2536 for any magazine inquiries.

Catholic Ratepayers—Check your Tax Bill to Ensure Proper Tax Support

If you are a Catholic ratepayer, we urge you to check your property tax bill to ensure that your support is directed to your local Catholic school board, in our case, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. If you are a tenant, you can verify your support by contacting our Admissions Department at (905)890-0708, ext. 24511, 24512, or 24519, or your local municipal office. By ensuring that you are accurately recorded as a Catholic school supporter, you can help deliver a powerful message to the government about the level of support for publically-funded Catholic education in Ontario. To be eligible to vote for the your local Catholic school board trustee, you must be registered as a separate school supporter.





A Message from Mary Fix Catholic School Council

Firstly, we are sending our families a Great Big Thank You for your generous contributions to our Angel Tree and food donations.

A special thanks to the **Staff from NRCS Inc.** who decided to support our Angel tree this year as their Christmas charitable donation.

Mark your calendars for upcoming events:

- The next Council meeting is on **Wednesday February 16th, 2011** in the Library at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Being involved in your school community is very rewarding and will enrich and benefit our children's education and catholicity in so many ways.

- **Tuesday March 8th, 2011** is "**Pancake Tuesday**" also known as Shrove Tuesday. The Mary Fix Catholic School Council will be celebrating this date with our community and is hosting a **Pancake Dinner** evening. Look out for an invitation coming next month.
- **Facebook 101 and Twitter** Presentation by Chris Vollum will take place on the evening of **March 29th, 2011**. An absolute **MUST-SEE** event as described throughout Ontario's School Boards, by parents and police services. **Mark your calendar** for this one-of-a-kind Facebook presentation for parents and caregivers only. A Facebook and Twitter presentation customized for students will be given to students earlier on this date.
- **Wednesday, April 13, 2011**— School Council Meeting in the Library at 7:00 p.m.

The Mary Fix Catholic School Council thanks you in advance for your continued support and we look forward to meeting with our community often.

K. Ruffolo

Mary Fix Catholic School Council

The Toy Bazaar

Thank you to families for donations and thank you to our Catholic School Council for supporting and organizing a very successful Toy Bazaar which raised over \$1300.00. Thanks especially to Mrs. Zita for giving so much of her time during the first two weeks of December to sort, clean and organize the donations. The number of parents/guardians who came to help during the event was much appreciated—we couldn't run this fun and important morning without you!

Congratulations to Kevin E., Patrick T., Gabriella P., Dario B., and Andrew F., our prize winners.

All Star Reading

Mrs. Nucci and Mrs. Gaipo are looking for **volunteers** to help with the All Star Reading program for the 2nd and 3rd terms. Due to a lack of volunteers they were unable to run this program during first term and are hoping to get it up and running for the final 2 terms of the year.

This early intervention program, as part of balanced literacy, supports early readers as they move into the wonderful, exciting world of literacy. Most 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 can spare a few hours each week, please contact the office.

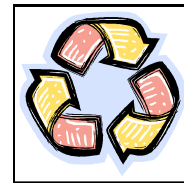


The Premier's Awards for Teaching Excellence is celebrating its fifth year recognizing outstanding educators and support staff. The awards are a great way to say thank you to the people who have made a difference in your children's lives.

You are encouraged to nominate exceptional educators and support staff—people who make a difference to students, schools, school boards/authorities and their communities. Applications are available in the office.

For electronic versions of the application form, as well as promotional material, please visit www.ontario.ca/teachingawards

Nominations are open until January 31, 2011.



Mary Fix Goes Green

Please see the enclosure in this newsletter to sign up to receive notification of our newsletter each month and other updates electronically.

Thank you to those of you who have already responded with your email address. This information will be kept strictly confidential and will only be used for direct communication from the school.

In the short term, we will continue to send home paper versions of the newsletter and calendar.

Thank you for supporting this new and important initiative



Cut this square out of the newsletter and submit it to the office for your chance to win tickets to the St. Mikes Majors' Game on Friday, January 28th at 7:30 p.m. at the Hershey Centre. Make sure your name and your child's name is written on the submission. Congratulations to last month's winners, Adriana P., Andrew Z., Andrew F. and Dario. B..



*In the next few issues of the Mary Fix Catholic School newsletter we will print excerpts from: **An Historical Understanding of Key Issues Related to Catholic Education** written by Robert Dixon and edited by our Director, John Kostoff.*

Our Catholic School Heritage

1. How long have Catholic separate schools been educating Catholic children and contributing to the public good in Ontario?

For about 170 years. In the early 1800s there were separate schools in many cities, towns and townships. In Peel, three separate schools opened before Confederation (1867): St. James in Malton in the 1830s, St. John's Agricultural College (1861) and St. Patrick's (1861), both in Wildfield.

2. Has the Ontario government always supported separate schools?

Yes, as did its predecessor, the United Legislature of Canada East (now Quebec) and Canada West (now Ontario) during its total life from 1841 to 1867. One of the first pieces of legislation it passed in 1841 was the *Common School Act*, with a separate school clause.

3. Why did the United Legislature of Canada East and Canada West keep improving separate school legislation?

It responded to Catholic parents, trustees, bishops and priests, editors of the four Catholic newspapers, members of the business and professional world, all of whom argued for legal and financial rights for separate schools.

4. Was there opposition to separate schools before Confederation?

Yes, as now, there were advocates of one school system. Protestant spokes-

persons believed in the adequacy of the common (now public) school's basic non-denominational Christianity, which constituted an important element of the common school's religion lessons and their readers. They held that beliefs specific to certain religions should be taught in the churches and homes.

5. Why did Catholics find the non-denominational religious education of the common school unsatisfactory?

Catholics wanted separate schools where all the beliefs of the Catholic Church would be taught, where the pupils would live their faith in a sacramental and community manner in proximity to the parish church and priest, and where religion would permeate the reading, literature and history curriculum. Furthermore, as modern times arrived, the multiculturalism of the public school's student body necessitated the eradication of the teaching of Christianity.