



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

February 2011

Principal, A. Milanetti

Secretary, M. Kivell

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

Trustee, B. Iannicca
(905)270-0536

Superintendent, C. Saytar
(905)890-1221

School Council Chair,
K. Ruffolo

Valentine's Day Prayer for Friendship *The Celebration of love on Valentine's Day shows itself in friendship.*

May I remember that a friend I am
When coming to another's place of unrest
With affection and warmth of caring.



A friend I am when listening openly, non-judgmentally
When judgment would be easy.

A friend I am when taking extra time
To lend a helping hand, though busy.

A friend I am when feeling your need
I act for you
As I would for myself.
Amen



Kindergarten Registration for 2011/2012

Registration for the 2011-12 school year is currently being held at all Dufferin-Peel Catholic Elementary schools .

JK - Children must be 4 years old by December 31, 2011

SK - Children must be 5 years old by December 31, 2011

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

- proof of age of the child (birth certificate or passport)
- original Roman Catholic Baptismal
- Certificate (for parent/guardian and child) or Baptismal Certificate of other rites in communion with the Holy See of Rome (if the child has not been baptized, a letter of counseling with the parish priest, to complete the

- process will be accepted)
- updated immunization records
- proof of Canadian Citizenship or Landed Immigrant status
- proof of home address (utility bill, bank or credit card statement)
- proof of English Separate School Support (may be done at the time of registration by completing an *Application For the Direction of School Support* and/or a *Separate School Lease Agreement* available at the school)
- Request for Flexible Boundary letter (if required)

For more information, contact the school at (905)270-3140. Registration dates and requirements are posted on the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board Website at www.dpcdsb.org as well as the Mary Fix School Website at www.dpcdsb.org/MAFIX

Dates to Remember:

- 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
- Feb. 11 Valentine's Dance-a-thon
- Feb 8 Mr. Cartwright Gr 5/6 to Silvercreek
- Feb. 14 Mrs. Patten Gr. 6/7 to Silvercreek
- Feb. 16 School Council 7 p.m.
- Feb. 21 Family Day
- Feb. 23-24 & 28 Peel Police Classes
- Feb. 25 Sub Day
- March 8 Mardi Gras Pancake Tues.
- March 9 Ash Wednesday
- March 14-18 March Break**
- April 17 Holy Week Begins**
- April 22 Good Friday**
- April 25 Easter Monday**
- May 2-6 Catholic Education Week
- May 5 Joe Sax Day
- May 14 First Communion
- May 30 EQAO Begins

**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.

Welcome Back to members from the Legion of Mary who will pray the rosary with students once a month.

March Break :

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

**Birthday Treats**

At Mary Fix school we recognize student birthdays with an announcement on the P.A. system and a birthday pencil and personalized bookmark.

We have an increasing number of life threatening allergies to nuts and nut products in our school. For this reason we ask that no food treats, such as cupcakes, doughnuts or cookies be brought into the school for your child. Stickers, pencils and other non-food items are a great alternative.

Speeches

Congratulations to all Junior and Intermediate students for participating in this year's speech competition. A special congratulations goes to Marco R., and Tara-Anne D. who will represent our school at the Family Speech Competition on February 10th at St. Francis of Assisi School.

Thank you to Mrs. Dinga and Mr. Chornous who organized the events.

**Inclement Weather Procedures**

In the event of snowstorms which prevent safe travel, please listen to the following radio stations for announcements about bus transportation and school closures, usually beginning about 6:30 a.m.

CKFM 99.9 CHUM 1050 CFNY 102.1 Q107 CFTR 680 CISS 92.5 640 AM

Updates on weather and school closures are also available on City TV, Global TV and the Weather Channel.

Announcements may take one of three forms:

- buses in Dufferin County may be cancelled, while buses in Peel are running and schools remain open for students who walk
- buses may be cancelled but the school will remain open
- school may be cancelled entirely

Buses that do not run in the morning do not run in the afternoon. If you drive your bus student to school on a day when the buses are cancelled, you are responsible for providing transportation home at the end of the day as well.

If school closures are not announced but you choose to keep your child home during extreme weather, **please call the Attendance Line.**

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**.

Remembrance Day Letters

As part of our Remembrance day activities, students made pictures, letters and Christmas cards for a battalion of soldiers in Afghanistan, a battalion closely associated with one of our Mary Fix families. A copy of the Thank You card is included in this newsletter.

**Important Immunization Message**

Peel Public Health will be reviewing immunization records of all students at our school beginning February 1, 2011. Peel Public Health must have proof that your child has been fully vaccinated (immunized) according to the Ontario immunization schedule.

If you receive a letter, please ensure that your child has received the required vaccine(s), then give the date(s) your child received these vaccine doses to Peel Public Health immediately to update your child's record.

Under *the Immunization of School Pupils Act*, the Health Department has the authority to suspend students from school if they do not meet the immunization requirements. Students whose immunization records are incomplete may be suspended from school.

Update your child's records by:

- Reporting them online at **www.ImmunizePeel.ca**
- Faxing to (905) 565-0426 - (Attention: Immunization Records)
- Calling (905)799-7700

For more information, please call Peel Public Health at (905) 799-7700 or visit **www.ImmunizePeel.ca**.

One Hundred Day Celebration

We've been in school 100 days

Through every kind of weather

And now it's time to celebrate

We'll sing this song together

100 days! "Hip-hip-hooray!"

It sure seemed like forever.

We'll celebrate 100 days

And we'll be friends forever.

Primary students will celebrate 100 Day on February 10th with lots of fun activities.



Catholic Ratepayers—Check your Tax Bill

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.

Snow and Ice: In order for our school to be as safe as possible, the rule must be that snow stays on the ground - no snow-balls, kicking snow or any other activity with snow or ice that could be harmful. Thank you for taking the time to reinforce the safety rules with your children.

Winter Dress: We'd like to remind everyone to please ensure that your child comes to school prepared for winter weather. Fresh air and exercise are important and the students go outside regularly for recess unless the weather is extremely cold. It is also **important that indoor shoes are available at all times.**



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 **Sunday, February 27th @ 2p.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, Dario B., Leandro B. and Matthew Z.

Virtue for February - Respect

God wants us to treat all people with the respect they deserve.

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

A respectful person...

- Treats him/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



In January students from JK to Grade 3 began reading books nominated for the Blue Spruce Award. The Blue Spruce Award™ is a provincial primary reading program that brings recently published Canadian children's picture books to Ontario students. For many children, this is their first introduction to the world of books; it is a very exciting time for everyone. The students will peruse 10 Canadian picture books and then vote for their favourite book. Based on student voting across the province, the best picture book is then selected and the author/illustrator is honoured with the Blue Spruce Award™.



News from Youth Faith Ambassadors

On Friday, February 11, the YFA's will be sponsoring and organizing a Dance-a-thon with all proceeds going to ShareLife. Each child will be asked to contribute \$2.00 as part of this annual fundraising initiative.



Dufferin-Peel Cyber-Safety Education Family Brochures

In response to growing concern over student safety in online environments, Dufferin-Peel is developing a multi-phased approach to enhancing awareness and safety among students, parents and educators. An initial effort in this strategy is to provide immediate information, tips and strategies to students and parents.

With this month's newsletter we are sending brochures to appropriate grade levels which provide information on topics considered key in the Internet safety sphere:

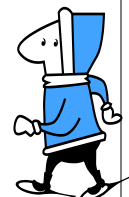
- Protecting Young Children on the Internet
- Protecting 'Tweens' on the Internet
- Protecting Kids from Cyberbullying

Professional Learning

February is a very busy month for staff who will be participating in sessions focussing on Primary Numeracy, Junior Literacy, EQAO for Grades 3 and 6, Transition Planning for Intermediate teachers, and Safe Schools. The lessons learned at these sessions will be implemented in the classroom to support our school goals.

Silvercreek Outdoor Centre

On February 9th and February 14th respectively, Mr. Cartwright's 5/6's and Mrs. Patten's 6/7's will visit Silvercreek Outdoor Education Centre where they will participate in a number of fun and educational outdoor winter activities.





A Message from Mary Fix Catholic School Council

February brings us closer to new events coming this year. Mark your calendars for our upcoming events:



Tuesday March 8th, 2011 –

MARDI GRAS STYLE “Pancake Tuesday Dinner”

The Mary Fix Parent Council will be celebrating this date with our community and is hosting a Pancake Dinner evening. Look out for an invitation coming very soon!

March 29th, 2011- Facebook 101 and Twitter Presentation

Special Guest Speaker Chris Vollum, recognized authority on Facebook and Twitter

Facebook 101 has been delivered to more than 120,000 students through-out 21 Ontario School Boards and Independent schools.

“Most students in Grades 5 and up are on Facebook. Their average friend list count is over 150. Who are they REALLY sharing with online?”

Please join us for this very interesting and informative presentation

Next Council Meeting Date: Wednesday February 16th, 2011– In the Library at 7:00 p.m.

All are welcome to attend

Catholic School Councils promote the vision, values and sacramental life and Catholic practices of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, and are faithful to its mission.



Healthy Schools, Healthy Kids!

Health is a key factor in school performance. A Healthy School can provide children with opportunities to experience positive role models, healthy food choices, physical activity and positive student-teacher bonds. School staff, students, parents and community partners can work together to improve the health of our school community.

Mary Fix Catholic School is on its way to becoming a Healthy School. A Healthy School promotes opportunities for students, staff and parents to learn positive health attitudes and behaviours. The whole school community is involved in achieving this goal. A Public Health Nurse from the Region of Peel School Health Team will support our efforts with tips, guidance and resources.

If you would like to learn more about Healthy Schools or are interested in being a Healthy School Parent Representative, please contact Mrs. Gaipo or Mrs. Milanetti.

Intramural Bench Soccer



Intramural Bench soccer will begin on February 16th for all interested students in Grades 2 and 3. Boys and girls will be divided into teams and will play Tuesday and Wednesday during lunch recess (12:20 p.m.). Children must return their signed permission forms in order to participate.

Thank you to Mrs. Burgess and Ms. Venditti for coaching the children during this fun activity.

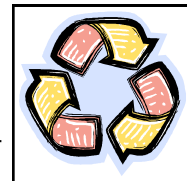
Peel Police Presentations

Peel Police presentations continue this month on February 23rd, 24th and 28th. Constable Taylor returns to deliver the Youth Education program to Grades 1-8.



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.

Black History Month

We are privileged to live in a city as diverse as the Greater Toronto Area. As Canadians, we welcome all opportunities to celebrate our differences and to learn more about each other.

Black History Month, which is celebrated during the month of February, is one such opportunity.

Red Cross Babysitting Course

The Red Cross offers a number of dates for children 11-15 to become prepared and responsive caregivers.

This fun, interactive course teaches children how to:

- care for babies, toddlers and young children
- Create a safe environment and prevent injuries
- Handle emergency situations
- Administer basic first aid

For information, please contact the Red Cross, Peel Branch at (905)890-0704, extension 267 or via email at peelfirstaid@redcross.ca





Our Catholic School Heritage

(cont'd)

6. What sacrifices did Catholics have to make to send their children to separate schools?

Because the United Legislature of Canada East and Canada West roughly had consisted of members advocating non-denominational common schools and half were in favour of them, separate school legislation, for about fifteen years, contained three obstacles to their existence:

1. Catholics could establish and support a separate school, but had to continue paying common school taxes. Thus, they paid tuition for their children in the separate school;
2. The separate school had no permanence of existence. If the local common school board hired a Catholic as one of its teachers, then the separate school ceased to exist. Separate schools kept opening and closing in the early years;
3. In the cities the separate school board required the permission of the common school board to open a new or an additional separate school. Sometimes the permission was not forthcoming.
4. The legislation required twelve Catholic heads of family resident within a city, town or township common school section. The townships' common school sections

were so small that often there were not twelve resident Catholic families.

7. Were these four obstacles removed?

Yes. The United Legislature of Canada East and Canada West in 1853, 1855 and 1863 removed all four hindrances. There was no more double taxation. It did not matter if there was a Catholic teaching in the common school. The separate school board did not need the permission of the common school board to open a new or additional separate school. The number of Catholic heads of family to establish a separate school was lowered from twelve to five. As a result, the number of separate schools grew considerably.

8. What effect did the Canadian Constitution, create in the British North America Act (1867) (now entitled either the Constitution Act or the Canada Act), have on separate schools?

When the Fathers of Confederation came from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Canada East, and Canada West to meet in Charlottetown and Quebec, they quickly concluded, in the words of one of the Fathers, Sir Charles Tupper, that "Without this guarantee for the rights of minorities being embodied in that new constitution, we should have been unable to obtain any Confederation whatever."

9. What guarantee for separate schools does the Canadian Constitution still contain?

In 1867 the Fathers of Confederation made section 93(1) part of the Constitution. It states:

Nothing in any such [provincial legislative] Law shall prejudicially affect any Right or Privilege with respect to Denominational Schools which any Class of Persons [i.e. separate school supporters] have by Law in the Province at the Union.

10. Exactly what separate school rights does section 93(1) guarantee?

Section 93(1) protects all the provisions of the last separate school legislation passed before Confederation, the *Separate School (Scott) Act* of 1863. Among others, the *Act* provided the following rights:

- to form a separate school board with five or more Catholic heads of family resident in a public school jurisdiction;
- to receive government grants equitable with those of the public school system;
- to receive equitable funding;
- to have separate school boundaries enlarged;
- to elect separate school trustees with all the powers of public school trustees.

11. Once section 93(1) was enacted, why did Ontario's separate school supporters continue to suffer financial hardship?

The *Separate School (Scott) Act* of 1863 did not anticipate the creation and/or growth of corporations and public utilities in Ontario, or the creation of public high schools. These two omissions caused over 100 years of financial hardship and inequity for separate school supporters.