

Mary Fix Catholic School Newsletter

Learning and Living
Through God

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www.dpcdsb.org/MAFIX

March 2011

This month we will celebrate the virtue of kindness....



Dear God,

You have done such a marvelous job of creating us and the world around us. You have placed this creation, including all the people we meet, in our care.

We come to you now asking for the grace and strength to keep a sense of kindness.

We hope that by recognizing and honouring this fruit of the Holy Spirit, we can contribute to making our school a safer, more caring, more inclusive community.

May kindness, the fruit of your Spirit, help us to feel the courage to act on behalf of people around us who are in need.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, our brother, who lived to show us Your way.

Amen

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

Principal's Message

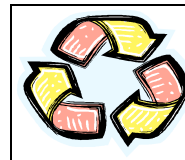
The Liturgical Season of Lent begins on March 9th. Lent is always a time to reflect on our lives and look at the needs of not only our own community, but the Global community. We try to observe three principles throughout Lent – personal prayer, fasting and alms giving. Our reaching out to others, our sharing with the less fortunate, our prayers and good works are the best examples of God's love that we can share with each other. You are appreciated. Thank you and God Bless you throughout the Lenten season.

A. Milanetti

Sacraments Update

First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday, May 14th, at St. Catherine of Siena Church at 1 p.m..

Grade 8 **Confirmation** will take place on Tuesday, June 7th, 7:00 p.m. at St. Catherine of Siena Church.



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.

Dates to Remember:

- March 8 Mardi Gras Pancake Tues.
- March 9 Ash Wednesday
- March 14-18 March Break**
- March 21 Grade 1-Safety Village
- March 28 Gr. 2—First Reconciliation
- March 29 **Facebook** Presentation
- March 30 Lenten Confessions
- April 17 Holy Week Begins
- April 22 Good Friday**
- April 25 Easter Monday**
- May 2-6 Catholic Education Week
- May 4 School Mass
- May 5 Joe Sax Festival
- May 10-12 Book Fair
- May 11 & 12—Seussical!**
- May 14 First Communion, 1 p.m.
- May 19 'Welcome to Kindergarten'
- May 26 Gr 3—Pioneer Village
- May 30 EQAO Begins
- June 13 P.A. Day**
- June 28 Graduation
- June 30 Last Day of School**

**Ash Wednesday**

Our Ash Wednesday celebration will take place on Wednesday March 9th at 10:30 in the gym. This celebration is always a beautiful testimony of our faith and all are welcome.



- Attendance must be punctual
- Transportation is your responsibility. The Board will not provide either transportation or additional supervision for students admitted under this consideration.
- Consideration is given to the size of the classroom and behaviour or special needs concerns.
- Students admitted under this procedure do not automatically become eligible for the Secondary School serving the Mary Fix community. A separate request must be submitted to the Secondary School Principal.

JK Registration

Junior Kindergarten Registration was held during the week of February 7th, 2011. While we did receive a number of registrations we want to assure parents that we are continuing to register age-appropriate students and will do so until the end of the school year. However, we would appreciate receiving registrations as soon as possible as it assists us in planning for September.

Eligible Junior Kindergarten children must be born in 2007 and must be 4 years of age by December 31, 2011.

The parent/guardian should bring the following documents when registering his/her child:

- proof of age;
- original Catholic Baptismal Certificate of the Roman, Greek or Ukrainian Rite for both the parent and the child;
- up to date immunization records;
- proof of Canadian citizenship or of Landed Immigrant status;
- Proof of address in the Mary Fix School boundary area



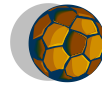
Please note that we cannot guarantee morning or afternoon classes. We will note preferences at the time of registration and will do our best to accommodate your request. Flex Boundary requests must be in writing.

Flexible Boundary Procedures

A reminder to Parents/Guardians of students that are at Mary Fix School under "Flexible Boundary", that the procedure is reviewed annually and permission is granted under the following conditions:

EQAO

Our Grade Three and Grade Six students will be participating in the Provincial EQAO Assessments During the weeks of May 30 – June 10, 2011. We ask that parents do not book vacations or appointments during this period to ensure your child is in school during this test taking time. Further information to follow.

Bench Soccer

Intramural Bench Soccer for students in Grades 2 and 3 is underway. 5 teams of students participate on Tuesdays and Wednesday's during lunch hour. Thank you to Mrs. Burgess and Ms. Venditti for coaching.

Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board Summer Programs

Information is now available for programs being offered this summer.

Elementary Summer School, for Grades 7 & 8, and Summer Literacy Camp, for Grades SK to 6, will be offered again this year.

For more information and registration forms regarding these summer programs, contact the school or visit the website at:

<http://www.dpccsb.org/CEC/CNE/>

Student Placement Sept. 2011

Our staff is beginning to prepare tentative class lists for the 2011/2012 school year. Every effort is made to assess the individual needs of each student and place them accordingly

If you would like to participate in the placement of your child, we ask that you put your concerns and/or request in writing. Please state the environment/setting which will enable him/her to develop to his/her fullest potential. The names of specific teachers should not be mentioned. Any request which states a specific teacher will not be entertained as we cannot guarantee staffing assignments. Please remember that all staffing is tentative and that changes can take place between the time of placement and September. Every effort will be made to meet your child's needs.

Please submit requests in writing to the office by Friday, March 25th, 2011.

Student Information

Please remember to update the office with any new information regarding your child. The office needs to be advised of any changes to telephone numbers, emergency contacts or address so that we have all the correct information for your child in case of an emergency.

Are you Moving?

If you are planning a move, or have already moved, please let us know. You are required to complete new assessment forms even if you move within our school boundaries. If you are moving to a new school we will give you a Transfer Form to take with you to the new school. If you are moving but would like your child to remain at Mary Fix, please submit your request in writing. We will be preparing classes for September 2011

and this information will be helpful in determining class sizes. In the past, we have had to reorganize our classes in September due to unexpected transfers.





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 publicly-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.

Celebrating Virtues

In March our focus will be on the virtue of kindness. We have all been given the fruit of the Spirit called kindness. Kindness can only be seen through actions.

A kind person...

- Says nice things about others so they feel good about themselves
- Sticks up for people who are picked on or need help
- Refuses to join others who are insulting, intimidating, mean or hurtful
- Watches and looks for ways to help those in need.

Let us pray for the virtue of kindness so that everyone we meet will feel like we are looking out for their good.

You are invited by our Grade 1's & 2's to our Virtue Assembly on Friday, March 11th at 1:00 p.m.

Lost & Found

Our Lost & Found box is overflowing with winter items. Please drop in and check it out. Unclaimed items will be donated to St. Vincent de Paul.



Homework Tips

Know What's Going on at School

Your child may not always talk to you about everything that is happening at school. For this reason, it is important to take a few minutes every day to chat with your child about the school day, about what he or she has learned, about friends, about homework, and about any upcoming tests or assignments. Listen attentively to your child as this may alert you to any academic difficulties, bullying situations or concerns about general emotional well-being.

Be a Cheerleader

Encouragement helps build confidence. Take a moment at the end of a homework session to discuss the work that was just done and to review it for completion and understanding. Praise your child for his or her effort and find something positive to comment upon in the work. If it appears that the homework was difficult or confusing, or if there are errors, encourage your child to ask the teacher for help at school the next day. Follow up with the teacher, if necessary.

Be Involved. Be Informed.

Homework plays an important role in strengthening the bond between the school and family. Be involved in your child's learning and stay informed by attending Open House activities and Parent-Teacher conferences, for example. Use these opportunities to learn more about the expectations around your child's homework and to discuss and concerns that you may have.

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.

We are looking for volunteers to help with this new initiative.

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. Meetings will be held at 12:20 on Tuesdays.

Catholic School Council

- **Tuesday March 8th, 2011 – MARDI GRAS STYLE "Pancake Tuesday Dinner"**

5:45 to 7:30 p.m.

Please return forms to the office by Friday, March 4th.

- **March 29th, 2011– 7 p.m.**
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 throughout 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

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.



OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOL HERITAGE (CONT'D)



12. Why did Catholic parents and students have to pay tuition to attend a Catholic high school after grade ten?

In 1871 the Ontario government passed an *Act to Improve the Common Schools and Grammar Schools of Ontario*. This *Act* abolished common and grammar schools and created public schools for grades one to ten and high schools for grades nine to thirteen. The highest official with the Department of Education, *Egerton Ryerson*, commented that the 1871 *Act* did not affect separate schools. The separate school boards operating secondary school classes carried on, receiving funding from grants and taxes. However, early in the twentieth century the government passed legislation which forbade a separate school board from offering education beyond grade ten if its boundaries fell partially or fully within the boundaries of a high school district. Thus, all but one separate school board (in Dublin) lost their ability to receive tax or government grant financing beyond grade ten. Furthermore, if a separate school board chose to continue operating grades nine and ten, it received only elementary school grants for them.

13. How did Catholic high schools survive?

Catholic parents and students paid tuition after grade ten. Parental groups raised money from draws, lotteries and school events. Parish priests contributed money from their Sunday collections. Many separate school

boards, including Dufferin-Peel, opened intermediate-division (i.e. grades seven-to-ten) schools. With the vital assistance of the religious teaching Orders (which taught in and administered grades eleven to thirteen for little or nothing), the diocese continued to operate private Catholic high schools and opened new ones. In fact, Philip Pocock, the Archbishop of Toronto, decided in 1971 to open one new Catholic high in the archdiocese every year until the government approved tax and grant funding for grades eleven to thirteen.

14. How was the Catholic high school issue resolved?

In 1984, Premier William Davis, edified by the commitment to Catholic high schools of the Catholic community and convinced of the injustice of truncated separate schools, announced that the government would be completing the separate school system to the end of high school. The Supreme Court of Canada unanimously responded to a court challenge against the ensuing legislation by asserting that separate schools before Confederation were operating secondary school education with funding from taxes and government grants and, therefore, section 93(1) of the Canadian Constitution guaranteed the right of separate school boards to administer from junior kindergarten to the end of high school. After almost sixty years of financial sacrifice by the Catholic community, Catholic high schools once more became an equal partner in Ontario's publicly funded school system.

NHL Alumni Hockey Game Fundraiser

Catholic Family Service of Peel Dufferin is hosting a major fundraising event on **Saturday, March 5 at 7 p.m.**

The NHL Alumni Hockey Team will be playing at the Brampton Powerade Centre located at 7575 Kennedy Rd. They will be playing a team of CFS All Stars to raise money for the counseling work that CFSPD does each and every day across all of Peel Region. Much of their work focuses on domestic violence as this is a fundraiser to help the women and children who are dealing with this problem.

This is a family event, with lots of fun and prizes to be had. Tickets are only \$10.00 each and parking is free!

Mississauga Majors

Cut this square out of the newsletter and submit it to the office for your chance to win tickets to the St. Mikes Majors' March Break Game on **Friday, March 18th @ 7:30 p.m.** at the Hershey Centre. This will be your last opportunity for tickets this season so submit your child's name and cheer on the St. Mike's Majors as they take on the Brampton Battalion.

Make sure both your name and your child's name is written on the submission. Congratulations to last

