

Mary Fix Catholic School Newsletter

Learning and Living
Through God

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October 2011

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

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Superintendent:

C. Saytar (905)890-1221

School Council Chair:



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 22nd. 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 28th, 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 15th, and they have settled nicely into the routine of school. This month, students are preparing to pursue Catholic leadership roles through their involvement as Youth Faith Ambassadors. Our intermediate volleyball teams began their season with a double header for the boys' and girls' teams on September 29th at Mary Fix.

Edge Imaging was at our school for the student photographs on Friday, September 23rd and will return for retakes (as necessary) on October 21st. Our school cross country team has been busy training to prepare for the family meet on October 14th.


On October 5th, we will celebrate World Teacher's Day. 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



Dates to Remember:

- Oct 3 7 p.m.—Confirmation Mtg @ Church
- Oct 4 7 p.m.—First Communion Mtg. @ Church
- Oct 5 World Teacher Day
- Oct 5 Power of One Anti-Bullying Assembly
- Oct 6 Provincial Election
- Oct 7 Gr 3—Crawford Lake
- Oct 10 Thanksgiving Monday
- Oct 13 Catholic Leadership Rally
- Oct 14 Family Cross Country Meet
- Oct 14 Haiti Empathy Assembly
- Oct 21 Retake Day
- Oct 25 Gr 1-8 Progress Reports Home
- Nov 2 Immunization Clinic #1 
- Nov 11 Remembrance Day
- Nov 18 P.A. Day

- Dec 23 Last Day of School before Christmas Break
- Jan 9 First Day Back in the New Year
- Mar 12-16 March Break
- Jun 29 Last Day of School

**Catholic School Council**

A meeting was held on Thursday, September 29th, 2011 in order to establish the council members for 2011-2012 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 Reps: P. Borg, M. Castro, R. DeRenzis, R. Didiano, F. Navarra-Zita, G. Renda, E. Speziale, D. Vuksevic, M. Wawrow

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: **Oct 11, Nov. 15, Dec. 13, Feb. 7, Apr. 10, May 15.**

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!

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 World's Famous 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 DS 3D.

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.

Food Days are Back!! Again, we will be offering Pizza Friday's. 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.

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

Karolina Ruffolo

Mary Fix Council Chair

St. Catherine of Siena Parish

We celebrated Opening Mass on September 21st in our school gym. Thank you to our Junior Division for preparing the meaningful liturgy. We are reminded of Father's words for all to be people of faith and to keep Jesus close to our hearts throughout this school year.

Sacrament of Confirmation

May 22nd, 2012 at 7 p.m.

Sacraments of Reconciliation & First Communion:**Sacrament of First Reconciliation**

Monday, March 5th, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

Sacrament of First Communion

Saturday, May 12, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.

Please see the flyer in this newsletter for a workshop for parents and teachers entitled, Teaching Peace to our Children.

**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 visitor protocol. Students have been taught to immediately report any unfamiliar adult in the building 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.

Dogs on School Property

For the safety of our students, parents, guardians and staff **please do not bring dogs on school property** when you are picking up or dropping off students. Several students have severe allergies and animals may be unpredictable when confronted by a group of children. Thank you for help in keep the school environment safe for all.

**All Star Reading**

Mrs. Nucci is 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 available from 9-10 a.m. to participate in this program, please inform the School.



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. 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. 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. Nucci's grade 1 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 9 themes.

This year, baby Abby, 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.

Reference Checks

In compliance with Ministry directives, parents/guardians/grandparents, who wish to volunteer for class activities, field trips, etc. must provide a copy of an up-to-date Criminal Reference check. An application and authorization letter can be picked up in the school office.

Mats 4 Haiti

We are still collecting milk bags as part of the 'Canadian Mats 4 Haiti' initiative. Milk bags are woven into sleeping mats for people in Haiti who continue to live in desperate conditions.

Collect the OUTSIDE coloured milk bags. Ensure that they are clean and dry. Flatten them and send them to school in a bag or box.

The school will then ensure that (monthly) the bags are delivered or sent to St. Rita School.

Keeping Healthy

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

- Dress children for the weather
- Have an extra pair of socks
- Send a pair of **labeled** indoor shoes
- 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.

International Languages

Elementary International classes are available to students in Grades JK to 8 at specific elementary schools within Dufferin Peel on Saturday mornings. 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. **Please, do not contact the Mary Fix Office for International Language Information.**