



**St. Sofia School**  
**Sharing, Caring and Preparing**  
**ШКОЛА СВЯТОЇ СОФІЇ**

**St. Sofia School**

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Mississauga, ON  
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**Principal**

P. Kasij

**Vice-Principal**

J. Amodeo

**Head Secretary**

N. Vereshchak

**Asst. Secretary**

J. Kalynowsky

**Superintendent**

C. Blanchard  
(905) 890-1221

**Parish Priests**

Rt.Rev.Dr. Roman Pankiw  
Rev. Roman Trynoga, Assistant  
Rev. Bohdan Mironovich  
**St. Mary Church**  
**905-279-9387**

Rt. Rev. Roman Galadza

**St. Elias Church**  
**905-459-8888**

**Trustees:**

**Brampton:**

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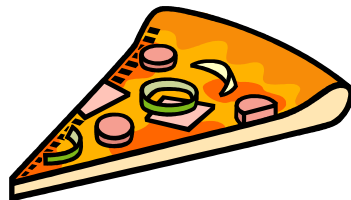
**Mississauga:**

M. Pascucci (905) 302-3096  
S. Hobin (905) 301-1210  
A. Abbruscato (905) 890-1221  
T. Thomas (416) 845-8225  
P. Ferreira (416) 805-7110  
B. Iannicca (905) 270-0536  
E. O'Toole (905) 812-5163

*Autumn Prayer*

*Lord, we come before You in Thanksgiving  
For the gifts You have given.  
The colour of the season  
Reminds us of the beauty  
You alone can create.*

*We thank You for the food You provide  
In the harvest.  
You have filled the earth with Your gifts  
You have blessed us.  
We are truly grateful.  
Amen.*



**EVERY TUESDAY  
is  
PIZZA DAY**

**EMPATHY**

*is the virtue of the  
Month for  
October*

**OCTOBER  
2011**

## **FAITH COMMUNITY**



We will be celebrating Thanksgiving with a Thanksgiving Prayer Service over the PA on Friday October 7<sup>th</sup>. Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011 is Thanksgiving Day and it is a public holiday. We wish you a wonderful weekend in which to celebrate all your blessings with family and friends. There will be no school for students that day.

### **METROPOLITAN ANDRIJ SHEPTYTSKYJ**

On Tuesday, November 01<sup>st</sup>, 2011, our school will honour and pray for Metropolitan Andrej Sheptytskyj. His great leadership and determination helped to renew the Ukrainian Catholic Church. He was a true pastor to his people. God grant him eternal rest and may his memory be eternal.

### **VIRTUES INITIATIVE**

#### **Virtue of the Month: Empathy**

A Catholic Faith Community is rooted in a set of common beliefs which are inspired by the life, mission and teaching of Jesus. As a Catholic Community we are called to learn, to grow and to become more like Jesus in the way we see and treat others. Our Catholic faith plays an important role in helping us shape schools that are safe, caring and inclusive.

Catholic School education provides us the opportunity to integrate virtue formation into all areas of our school life within the context of our faith. St. Sofia School will again focus our attention on the Catholic Virtues. This program is designed to help us nurture virtue and character development in the lives of our students. Each month, the entire school will focus on a different virtue. Classroom activities, school wide activities and assemblies will all focus on the nurturing of a specific virtue. We would appreciate your support in discussing these virtues with your child and encouraging behaviours that demonstrate these virtues. Here is a list of the virtues we will be nurturing this school year:

<b>September</b>	<b>Faith</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>Empathy</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>Conscience</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>Hope</b>
<b>January</b>	<b>Self-Control</b>
<b>February</b>	<b>Respect</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>Kindness</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>Love</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>Acceptance</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>Fairness</b>

In October our virtue is Empathy. God has given us the ability to form connections with each other – to live together. 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 believes that we all share one Spirit; that we are many parts of one body because we are all created in the image and likeness of God.

An empathetic person...

- Listens attentively
- Watches people's body language
- Notices and responds when someone is upset
- Can name her/his feelings
- Can see a situation from another's point of view
- Knows that different people may feel differently about the same thing

## SCHOOL OPERATIONS

### SCHOOL PICKUP /DROP OFF/ ENTRY



*The safety and security of our students is of utmost importance.  
We ask that you follow the routines and procedures set by the school.*

### ENTRY

Upon arriving students are to gather in the school yard at the side and rear of the building. **Please say goodbye at the front of the school and allow your child the opportunity to develop independence and a sense of play with their peers, line up, and enter the building.**

Thanks go out to all the parents who have been following the entry and dismissal procedures. It has greatly reduced congestion in the halls and school yard at these times.

Students are not to enter the school by the front doors, unless arriving late. **Students arriving late must report to the office and get an admit slip.**

### DISMISSAL

If you are picking up your child at a time other than regular school dismissal, we ask that you report to the office. Arrangements will be made for your child to be sent to the office. If you intend to send someone else to pick up your children, please inform the office. **Please note that 'early' signouts must be done before 3:30 pm, as after this time, the class is busy with end-of-day and dismissal routines.**

**Please be advised that your child needs to present a note from parent/guardian to the teacher if there are to be any changes in dismissal routine.**

Again at dismissal time, we ask that you do not go to the back of the school property but instead arrange to meet your child at the front of the school.

### VISITORS



Our desire is to extend a hospitable welcome to all of our visitors and to maintain a safe learning environment. In the interest of safety, we must have the same expectation of everyone who visits the school. **We ask that you do not go unannounced to the door of your child's classroom.** We will be happy to assist you in the office. Although it may be tempting and convenient to pop in and ask a quick question or assist your child, it is not always a time when the teacher or child can proceed with his/her duties or carry on an uninterrupted conversation. At the beginning and end of the day, it is especially important that we minimize distractions so that teachers and students can direct their attention to their studies, organization and safety.

### SCHOOL SAFETY:

**A reminder that all visitors and volunteers, INCLUDING PARENTS must come to the office, sign in and pick up a visitor sticker. Anyone not wearing a visitor sticker will be asked to return to the office to sign in and pick one up.**

*We thank you for your cooperation in supporting a safe environment at St. Sofia.*

### POLICY ON CELL PHONES AND MP3 PLAYERS OR IPODS



Although cell phones and other electronic devices have become accessories of necessity for some of us, they do not enter into our world without a problematic flip side.

In some cases, unregulated use of Personal Electronic devices (PEDs) has facilitated illegal activities in the school environment or during school-sanctioned activities. It has become an unfortunate reality that the promotion of academic excellence and preservation of academic integrity can be compromised by the unregulated use of PEDs during the instructional day, at assessment times and on formal exam days. In this regard, it has recently become Board and school policy that all PEDs must be kept out of sight, turned off and not used within school premises (including portables) or during school sanctioned activities such as retreats, field trips, sports events, etc. **To prevent the loss or damage of PEDs, we encourage students to leave their PEDs at home.**

## **SAFE SCHOOLS: DUFFERIN-PEEL- PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE AND SCHOOL SAFETY (BILL 212)**

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board's initiative to create safe, caring, inclusive and healthy school communities is rooted in our Catholic identity, in particular, our shared belief in the dignity of all persons created in God's image; Jesus' model of discipleship, as the supreme exemplar of how to live faithfully in community; the importance of cultivating a culture of respect; the Catholic values of Christian service and concern for the common good; or obligation to the weak, the marginalized, the hurt and the lost; our call to be the "face of Christ," especially to the most challenging and disengaged learner; the importance of offering students opportunities to change, to make amends, restore relationships and be welcomed back with love, forgiveness and support; a philosophy of discipline that focuses on the spirit of Jesus' law of love, rather than the letter of the law. Safe School Policies include the Interim Omnibus Policy; Bullying Prevention Policy and Progressive Discipline Policy.

### **PICTURE TAKING**



From time to time we take pictures of school events to include in our yearend slide show. If you do not want your child's picture in the slideshow please ensure you let your child's teacher know in writing. Picture taking is not permitted by the public or media without signed parental consent.

### **ATTENDANCE**



For safety reasons it is very important to notify the school if your child is going to be absent or late. Please call **(905) 625-0823** if your child is going to be absent or late. This communication is vital to ensure the safety of your child. If we do not hear from you, J. Kalynowsky, our secretary, will be calling to verify your child's absence.

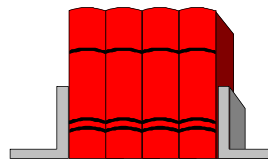
### **LOST AND FOUND**



Students at St. Sofia School wear a uniform. In order for students to identify their clothing we encourage you to label each article. As well, school and lunch bags should be labeled. In the event that your child loses a personal item you may sign in at the office and then go and check the "Lost and Found" boxes.

### **TEXTBOOK POLICY**

Textbooks are the property of the school and are loaned out to students with the expectation that they will be returned at the end of the school year in good condition. The teachers keep a record of each textbook that students are given. Please help to keep our and your costs down by encouraging your child to take proper care of them. There will be a replacement cost to the student if the textbook is damaged, lost or not returned at the end of the school year.



### **STUDENT VERIFICATION FORMS**

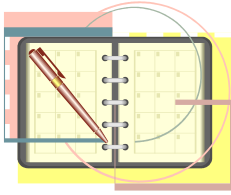
We appreciate your co-operation in keeping us up-to-date regarding pertinent information of your child, i.e. changes in address, telephone numbers. Accurate information is vital should we need to contact you in an emergency situation. Please ensure that you complete and return the Student Verification Forms (even those whose information is correct) that has been sent home with your child and be sure there is a contact number you can be reached at during the school day.

### **ALL STAR READING**



If you have just a few hours a day, a week or a month please consider volunteering for our All Star Reading Program. A child who reads daily improves their ability to succeed in all areas of the academics. The time you spend reading with our students is precious and will make a world of difference to them. If you have some time to share with us, please let Pani Sherman know. You will make a big difference.

## **SCHOOL AGENDAS**



As you know organizational skills are imperative in the success of a child in school. To assist in this process, school agendas have been ordered for the children in Grades 1-8. Your child is responsible to record their homework, upcoming projects/assignments, important dates, and teacher notices in their agenda. We are asking that you, as a parent, check your child's agenda on a daily basis and initial it. The teachers will be reviewing the importance of the agenda with their students and we ask that parents take the time to go over it with your child(ren).

## **TRANSPORTATION**



Please remember to have your child at their bus stop 10 minutes prior to your scheduled stop time. Riding the bus is a privilege. Please remind your children of the importance of following the safety rules that were outlined at the beginning of the year.

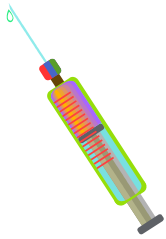
Please consult the STOPR (Student Transportation of Peel Region) website, [www.stopr.ca](http://www.stopr.ca) for any questions or concerns with regards to your child's bus transportation information. Information about Late and cancelled busses as well as contact phone numbers can be found on this website

## **HEALTH & SAFETY**

### **HEALTH AND WELLNESS**

Students who are ill, have the flu, severe coughs and/or colds should be kept home from school. Not only is it very difficult for a sick child to attend to the demands of the school day, it is also unwise to have classmates exposed to cold and flu germs. In the event that your child becomes ill or injured at school it is imperative that we contact you or a person designated by you. Please ensure that your contact person can be easily accessed throughout the day.

### **HEPATITIS "B" IMMUNIZATION**



Grade Seven students were offered Hepatitis "B" immunization by the Region of Peel Health Department. The first of two clinics was held on **Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011**. It is given as a series of two injections over a period of six months. Also available is the non-compulsory immunization of Gardasil for grade 8 female students. This is a series of three injections given throughout the year. The second session will be held on later this school year. If you have any questions or concerns, you may call the Region of Peel Immunization Line at **(905) 791-7800**.

Health departments by law must keep a current record of your child's immunizations. It is the responsibility of the parents to keep their child's records up-to-date.

### **PEDICULOSIS**

This early in the school year we would like to bring to your attention a problem that occurs from time to time each year in most schools. The problem is infestation by head lice (pediculosis). If cases are found in the school, we shall inform the parents. If your children do 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. If you have any concerns, please contact the office.

### **EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN**

Teachers and students regularly practice emergency evacuation procedures. These include: safe exit from the building in the event of a fire, precautions in the event of a bomb threat, and safety actions in the event of an intruder. In the unforeseen event that we should have an emergency which requires evacuation from our school, our alternate site is:

**St. Alfred's Catholic School**  
**3341 Havenwood Avenue**  
**(905) 625-0584**

Safety regulations and Board Policy require us to have this contingency plan in place. In such an event, your child will remain at St. Alfred's Catholic School until we contact you.

## NUT FREE SCHOOL



School can be a very frightening environment for a child with a severe allergy to peanuts or nut products. In an effort to further promote a safe and secure environment for all our children **we ask your support in sending nut free snacks and lunches**. We must take into consideration that these children are not isolated to any particular grade level and, like all students, utilize the computer lab, washrooms, library and physical education equipment. We do not allow snacks outside at recess to minimize allergen exposure. We ask that you place careful consideration to school lunches and snacks and refrain from sending in items that are made of, or contain nuts or peanuts. We offer our heartfelt thanks for your support.

## **AROUND THE HALLS**

### OPEN HOUSE / CURRICULUM NIGHT

Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup> was our school's open house / curriculum night. We began the evening with a social of coffee / water and sweets and ice cream followed by visits to the classrooms. Thank you to the School Council for their excellent work organizing the family social and the visit from the ice cream truck. It was a wonderful evening for students and their families. We also thank School Council and Student Council for the bike raffle initiative to benefit United Way/ShareLife. Congratulations to the bike winners: Michael H. and Denis K.

### TERRY FOX WALK / RUN



Our students took part in the Terry Fox Walk / Run on Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Many DP schools took part in activities on this week to bring awareness to Cancer and Cancer research. All of our students participated and enjoyed running or walking and had a great time. It was a very successful event and our school will always support Terry Fox's dream to cure cancer. Congratulations to all the organizers and the participants!

### PICTURE DAY

SMILE – SCHOOL PICTURE DAYS IS OCTOBER 6 & 7. STUDENTS ARE TO COME TO SCHOOL DRESSED IN FULL UNIFORM.



### Library news from Pani Neave

By now all students know when their library day is. Parents, please encourage our students to take care of their books and to have them ready to return on library day.

The Kindergarten students will especially need some help to learn the routines. Designate a special place where the library books are kept so that they can easily be found. In this way, books can be borrowed each week.

The Library is always looking for volunteers. If there are any parents who can contribute some time, please contact Pani Neave. Happy reading.



Every Tuesday is Pizza Day at school. Pizza order forms for the first term have already been collected. Pizza order forms for Term 2 will be sent home in early December. Please be advised that you should continue to pack a snack and drink in your child's lunch bag for that day. We are currently in need of parent volunteers to help out on Pizza Days. If you are able to help out please let the office know.

## IN THE COMMUNITY

### School Advisory Council 2011-2012

Congratulations to our new School Council for the upcoming school year:

Petro Dowhal	Chair
Danylo Pastuszak	Co-Chair
Wasył Saluchok	Treasurer
Theodor Tymczyna	Secretary
Evhen Ladna	Parish Rep.
Marsha Nakonecznyj	Parent Rep.
Iryna Kozoriz	Parent Rep.
Panna Ostapiuk	Teacher Rep.
Pani Kaminskyj	Teacher Rep.
Mr. Amodeo	Vice-Principal
Pani Kasij	Principal

We thank them for their interest and support on behalf of the school community. All parents are invited to our next Council meeting which will be held on Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 7:00 pm in the library.

Upcoming Meeting dates for 2011-2012:

Thursday, October 20, 2011*	Thursday, March 22, 2012*
Thursday, November 17, 2011*	Thursday, April 19, 2012*
Sunday, December 18, 2011	Thursday, May 17, 2012*
Thursday, January 26, 2012*	Thursday, June 14, 2012*
Thursday, February 16, 2012*	

### **Sign up TODAY!**



*Parents and guardians of Dufferin-Peel Catholic students can stay up-to-date with the latest board news and information by joining the Dufferin-Peel eCommunity. Members will receive the latest news and information by email, including news releases, school activities and events, board meeting highlights, school and bus cancellations, plus useful tips for parents and students. Sign up online at*

[www.dpcdsb.org](http://www.dpcdsb.org)



### **REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS**

Interested in volunteering at St. Sofia School for 2011-2012? During the school year, volunteers support programs and activities at the school. We appreciate and rely on parents who can devote a small portion of their time to help.

People who volunteer in school are now required to have completed **Criminal Reference Checks**, which can be picked up from our school office. Once the form is completed, your volunteer service can begin. If you are interested in participating in such a vital program, please do not hesitate to contact Pani Sherman or Pani Kaminskyj. We look forward to working with you for the betterment of all students at St. Sofia School.