



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

**St. Sofia School**  
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**Principal**  
P. Kasij

**Vice-Principal**  
J. Amodeo

**Secretaries**  
N. Vereshchak  
J. Kalynowsky

**Superintendent**  
C. Blanchard  
(905) 890-1221

**Parish Priests**  
Rt. Rev. Dr. Roman Pankiw, Dean  
Rev. Roman Trynoga, Assistant  
Rev. Bohdan Mironovich  
**St. Mary's Church**  
905-279-9387

**Mitred Archpriest**  
Roman Galadza, Pastor  
**St. Elias Church**  
905-459-8888

**Trustees:**  
**Brampton:**  
A. da Silva (416) 706-5679  
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**February**  
**2012**

*A Valentine's Reflection*

*O Lord,  
Help us in our everyday life  
To develop and repair  
our relationships in life.*

*Help us to develop strong and  
beautiful friendships with others,  
and with You.*

*Help us to find happiness  
And contentment within ourselves.*

*May we have strong, varying relationships  
That will affect others in a positive  
And inspiring manner.*

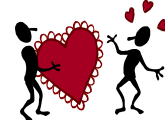
*May we find our spiritual and loving needs fulfilled.  
Through You, O God  
We will be enabled to strengthen  
All relationships we have.*

*For this we pray to You, O Lord*

February 20<sup>th</sup> is  
**FAMILY DAY**

There will be no school  
for students on this day.

**Next School Council Meeting**



**Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012**

**7:00 – Library**  
**All are welcome**

## **FAITH COMMUNITY**

### **FEAST OF JORDAN**

On Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, staff, students and many parents of St. Sofia School travelled to St. Mary's Church to participate in the Feast of the Theophany Liturgy. Many families received Holy Water which had been blessed by our priests from St. Mary's Church. Thank you to the school council who covered the transportation costs involved in bussing all of the students from JK to grade 8 to the church.



### **BLESSING OF CANDLES**



On Wednesday February 15<sup>th</sup>, a Moleben will be held for "Blessing of the Candles, Stritennia". According to the law of Moses, when Jesus was forty days old, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord. Being poor, they could not offer a lamb as a gift to God, but they offered two doves for their purification. The Catholic Church continues to observe this practice even today. Every child born into a Catholic family is taken to church to be presented to the Lord.

### **Bullying Prevention & Education**

#### **What to Do If A Child Is...**

##### **Being Bullied**

- Believe what they say, listen and try to understand their feelings
- Involve children in community activities to help them make friends
- Contact the school to talk about the problem and get support

##### **Witnessing Bullying**

- Talk to children about issues such as bullying and listen to what they think/feel
- Help children plan what they will do if they see someone being bullied
- Get involved in working to prevent violence in your school and community
- 

##### **Bullying Others**

- Let children know, by your words and actions, that bullying is not okay
- Teach children to act in ways that show they respect themselves and others
- Acknowledge what is happening and accept help if needed

**Communication is important.  
Create opportunities to talk with children.**

## **VIRTUE OF RESPECT**

In the month of February, we celebrate the virtue of RESPECT.

Students will focus on this virtue in the classroom and we remind them over the P.A. during the month of February. Respect is always promoted at St. Sofia but we bring particular attention to it this month.

Students are encouraged to have respect for themselves as well as those around them.

### **A respectful person....**

- **Treats himself/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 and pardon me”....**
- **Avoids gossip**
- 

## **SCHOOL OPERATIONS**

### **ATTENDANCE AND LATE ARRIVALS**



A reminder to parents/guardians to call in their children's absences and lates. It is the school's expectation that all students arrive to school **on time** and be prepared for class. Being consistently and continuously late interrupts the class during lessons and creates delays in the office. Please note that issues with lates and absenteeism may involve the school's Administration, Child and Youth Worker and Social Worker.

### **Junior & Senior Kindergarten Registration for the 2012-2013 school year**

Registration for the 2012-2013 school year will be held at all Dufferin-Peel Catholic elementary schools on the following dates:

#### **Monday, February 6, 2012\***

7:00-9:00 p.m.

\*Snow Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2012 - 7:00-9:00 p.m.

#### **Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, February 8, 9 & 10, 2012**

9:00-11:00 a.m.

1:00-3:00 p.m.

*Junior Kindergarten - Children must be 4 years old by Dec. 31, 2012*

*Senior Kindergarten - Children must be 5 years old by Dec. 31, 2012*



For more information, contact the school office or call the Admissions Department at 905-890-0708 ext. 24500.

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### Extended Vacations from School

Many students have the opportunity to travel with their families during the school year. While these trips, requiring an extended absence, may be educational, there will be learning, assessment, and participation missed during the trip. Please discuss any plans for extended family trips and the implications of an extended absence with the principal, Pani Kasij.

### Return Home Arrangements

If parents are making alternate arrangements for their child(ren) to return home at the end of the day, they must put it in writing, otherwise children will be directed to return home in their usual manner.

## **CURRICULUM MATTERS**

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Throughout this month students will be participating in a range of activities found in the resource “Black History in Canada” teaching guide from Classroom Connections. Our school library will have picture books on display that are relevant to Black History.

### Growing Success Document



Resources for parents to support Growing Success document can be found **online**. This document outlines the new report card and the gradual implementation of all its parts.

1. Type: <http://ontario.ca/EDU>
2. English
3. Go to search box and type in:

“Supporting your child’s learning through Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting” and press “go”

4. Scroll down and highlight #2
5. Press PDF format for the document in English.

### EQAO

Every student in Grade 3 and 6 in the province of Ontario will take this provincial assessment in reading, writing, and mathematics. It will take place between May 28<sup>th</sup> and June 08<sup>th</sup>, for all students in grade 3 and grade 6. **Kindly avoid booking dental, doctor appointments or vacations during this time.** The actual test will take three days to administer. Visit DPCDSB on the web for Board and School profiles, <http://www.dpcdsb.org/EQAO>

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### Riding the Bus



Parents are reminded that students should arrive at their bus stops about 10 minutes before the bus is expected to arrive. The buses are on a tight schedule every morning and are making every effort to maintain their schedules. As well, please be advised that parents should not enter the bus. Should there be any concerns regarding students on the bus, parents are asked to contact the office.

### **Closing due to Severe Weather**

During the winter months inclement weather may cause a disruption of bus transportation and regular school operations.

**A decision to cancel school transportation and/or to close schools is usually made by 6:00 am and will be announced on the following radio stations:**

Virgin Radio 99.9	CFTR 680	CHFI 98.1
EZ Rock 97.3	CJCL 590	93.1
CHIN 100.7	CFRB 1010	CHIN 1540
Z103.5	CJBC 860	CFNY 102.1

**And TV Stations:** CITYPULSE NEWS, CBC NEWS, GLOBAL NEWS or **check the board's website.**

### **HEALTH & SAFETY**

#### **SAFETY FIRST**

Thank-you to all the parents for their concerted effort at helping to keep our students' safety a priority when using the Kiss and Ride lane in our driveway.

To ensure the safety of students please follow these guidelines:

- Use the Kiss 'N Ride lane **only**; do not drop off you child in the Drive-Thru lane.
- Drop children only when you reach the front of the line or under the direction of the supervisor on duty. Please **wait** your turn.
- Your child **must** exit the car on the **right** hand side only.
- Your child **must** be ready to exit the car on their own; if they are unable to exit on their own please park on the street and walk your child in.

**Please note: If students require adult help to get out of the car with their belongings, please park off school property and walk to the school with the children.**

***Please do not:***

- drop your child off on the Drive Thru lane
- allow your child to exit the car on the left hand side
- pass in the driveway.

**You may not leave your car unattended, in the FIRE LANE at the front of the school at anytime of the day.**

#### **Parents & Visitors in the School**



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.*

## **AROUND THE HALLS**

### **Public Speaking Contest**



The annual St. Sofia Public Speaking Contest will take place on **Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>**. The Intermediate Students will present at 9:30a.m. and the Junior Students will present at 10:45. Both presentations will take place in the gym. Representatives from each of our intermediate and junior classes will present to their peers.

### **ALL STAR READING**

Our student coaches continue to work on a one-to-one basis with our primary students, helping them to acquire and practice effective reading strategies. Thank you to Pani Sherman for training and organizing our coaches.

### **MS READ-A-THON**

Our school is once again participating in the M.S. Read-a-thon. The kick off assembly was held on Friday, January 27, where students were introduced to Mike, a resident of Mississauga who lives with M.S. and learned many facts about Multiple Sclerosis. St. Sofia School has been a regular participant of the M.S. Read-a-thon since 1998. Please encourage your child to participate in this worthy cause. The reading period ends on February 17.

We hope that you will encourage your child to participate in the MS Read-A-Thon. Thank you to Pani Dowhal for organizing this event.

### **FAMILY DAY**



Monday February 20<sup>st</sup>, 2012 has been designated as a Provincial holiday. Enjoy the day together as a family. There is no school for students on this day.

### **UPCOMING DATES:**

**Feb. 02 – Interview Evening**  
**Feb. 03 – PA Day – No School For Students**  
**Feb. 06 – JK / SK Registrations Evening**  
**Feb. 09 – Gr. 4s Skating**  
**Feb. 14 – Red, Pink & White Day**  
**Feb. 16 – Gr. 3s Skating**  
**Feb. 17 – Virtue Assemblies - Respect**  
**Feb. 20 – Family Day – School is Closed**

**Feb. 21 – Public Speaking Contests**  
**Feb. 22 – Gr. 4s at Silvercreek (Melech)**  
**Feb. 23 – Gr. 4s at Silvercreek (Stech)**  
**Feb. 23 – Gr. 7s Skating**  
**Feb. 23 – School Council Meeting**  
**Feb. 28 – Scientist in the School – Gr. 3s**  
**Mar. 01 – Gr. 5s Skating**

