



St. Benedict Catholic School
 345 Blind Line, Orangeville, Ontario L9W 4X1
 Phone: (519) 942-5980 Fax: (519) 942-3849
 Website: www.dpcdsb.org/BENED



September 2011

For the Lord, your God, is with you wherever you go !

Joshua 1:9

The beginning of the new school year is a good time to get out our road maps of life. We can gain wisdom by looking at the places of our hearts where we have travelled during the past year. As we look back over the journey, it is helpful to identify the places that blessed us, affirmed us, enlivened us and enriched us.

We also need to reflect on the situations that challenged us, tested us, discouraged us, so we may learn from them.

Together we ask for God's blessing on this year's journey:
 as we strive to live our lives well;
 as we journey into the unknown territory of a new year;
 as we learn to accept our weaknesses and our strengths;
 as we open our hearts to the messengers you send to us;
 as we try to live in the heart of the scriptures.
 Amen!

Principal: M. Cockburn
 Vice Principal: G. Graci
 Secretary: A. Wasyliw

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

P. McMorrow
 905-890-1221

TRUSTEE

F. DiCosola
 905-951-8898

ST. TIMOTHY CHURCH

Fr. S. Lee Lung
 519-941-2424

ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Chair: TBA
 519-942-5980



QUOTE

"There are no speed limits on the road to excellence."

David Johnson



LUNCH SUPERVISOR NEEDED A.S.A.P.

Our school is in immediate need of an additional Lunch Supervisor. The Lunch Supervisor works 1.2 hours per day and is paid \$11.45 per hour. If you are interested in applying for this position, please contact our school office at your earliest convenience. Thank you !



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

"Good things happen, when good people work together."

As we collectively begin a new school year, I wish to extend a sincere welcome to all students and their families. I am starting my first year as principal here at St. Benedict Catholic School with much excitement and anticipation. I am looking very much forward to working with all members of this wonderful school community and am very appreciative of the many expressions of welcome I have received from staff and parents.

The start of a new school year always holds much excitement as students begin their school year and begin meeting the challenges that their new grade level has to offer them. This fresh start presents us all with another chance to make a difference and a new opportunity to enrich the lives of those we work, study and play with.

I hope that you and your families had an opportunity to enjoy a relaxing and pleasurable summer. A special and warm welcome is extended to families joining our St. Benedict School community this year and trust that you will soon feel comfortable in your new surroundings.

May God bless you and your loved ones with health, happiness and above all, peace, which makes everything worthwhile. Please remember to ask for God's blessing on this year's journey! Looking forward to meeting all of you as soon as possible!

M. Cockburn
 Principal

Welcome Back

VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE

As we begin a new school year we would like to inform you that St. Benedict School is an allergen aware (Nut Free) school. There are pupils in attendance who suffer from severe and life threatening allergies to certain foods, such as peanut and nut products. Exposure to the smallest quantities can cause severe life threatening reactions. Anaphylaxis is a severe and life threatening allergic reaction. The most common allergen triggers are food, insect stings, medications, exercise and latex. **We would appreciate the cooperation of the entire school community by NOT sending any lunches or snacks that contain nuts, nut oils or derivatives (eg. peanut butter, peanuts, or peanut oil) which could potentially harm a pupil.** Please avoid sending food for birthday or special occasions. There are many alternatives such as stickers and pencils.

If you have any questions please talk to your child's teacher or the school staff.

We look forward to your co-operation in making this a safe year for all our pupils.

Please review carefully the allergy awareness letter sent out on the first day of school.



ATTENDANCE VERIFICATION PROGRAM

If your child is going to be absent from school, please call our office to report his/her absence before 8:40 am on the day of the absence. You may call at any time and leave a message on the answering service. Thank you for your assistance in this student safety initiative.

519-942-5980

PA DAYS

Friday, September 16 is a PA Day and there will be no school for students on this date. The day will be used for reorganizing classes, if necessary, and for curriculum and faith development for staff. **Friday, November 18** is also a PA day. This day will be used for Provincial curriculum priorities and staff faith development.

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

The school classroom organization and student placements have been completed as per school board projections from last spring. Final school organization and staffing decisions are based on September enrolment numbers. If enrollment numbers are significantly different from projections, classroom reorganization may be necessary. This process involves some students being reassigned to different classes and teachers. If this reorganization is necessary, more detailed communication will be forwarded to parents on or before September 19.

NEWSLETTERS

Newsletters will be sent home with the youngest or only child in the family once a month during the course of the school year. The only exception will be the month of March. Due to March Break we will send out a combined February/March Newsletter.

Newsletters are meant to serve as a means of communication between home and school. They will inform you about various school activities, programs, routines, reminders and so forth.

The newsletters will be supplemented by letters concerning special events, trips, religious celebrations, etc.

Newsletters will be sent home on the **FIRST FRIDAY** of each month. **Early this year we will begin the process of implementing an electronic data base to distribute newsletters via e-mail for those families that would prefer this method of communication.**

If you do not receive one, please ask your child(ren) where they have put it. If they have lost it, please call the school and we will send another home with your child.



SAFE STUDENT ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL

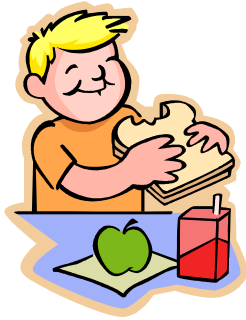
If you drive your child (ren) to and from school, please be advised of the following very important restriction in our front drive through lanes. The "Kiss and Ride" lane is intended only for dropping off or picking up students. Drivers are not permitted to stop and wait in this lane for their children to enter the school or school yard. At the end of the day, parents must ensure they are not blocking or interfering with the arrival and departure of our numerous school busses. **The right lane is reserved for school buses only.** If you need to park and wait our on site visitor parking is very limited. Parking is available on adjacent neighborhood side streets. Parking is not permitted on Blind Line. Please help us provide a safe school environment by abiding by these rules.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Special thanks to Mrs. Ferreira and Mr. Little for their hard work in making the school look great for our school community. Please encourage your children to help keep our school clean and tidy for all to enjoy! Sincere thanks are also extended to Mrs. Wasyliw for all of her assistance in our school office during this very busy time.

LUNCH DELIVERIES

When delivering your child's lunch to school, please advise your child in advance that you will be doing so and write his/her name and the teacher's name on the bag. Your child can come down at the beginning of his/her lunch hour to pick up with minimal disruption to the class. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.



WELCOME TO OUR RETURNING AND NEW STAFF

A very warm welcome is extended to the following staff members:

- **Mrs. Anderson**
- returning to teach gr. 4
- **Mrs. Atzori - Educational Resource Worker**
- **Mr. Little - evening custodian**

We wish them well and trust they will enjoy their time here at St. Benedict Catholic School.

SEPARATE SCHOOL TRUSTEE

The Separate School Board Trustee for our school is Mr. Frank Di-Cosola. If you have a concern regarding School Board Policy or how it affects you as a Separate School Supporter, you may reach him by calling the num-

ber which is listed under the Serving Our Community Section found on the front cover of the Newsletter.



SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

An active and enthusiastic School Council is essential to the success of any school. Sincere appreciation is extended to all those parents who participated in the School Council last year. Your efforts have contributed to the education and development of all of our students here at St. Benedict Catholic School.

Elections and/or the selection of executive positions for the 2011-2012 School Council will be conducted at the first council meeting of this year

on Monday, October 3 at 7:00 p.m.

Self nomination forms for parent / guardian positions will be available in the school's main office from Monday, September 19 to Friday, September 23 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Completed nomination forms must be received in the main office by Friday, September 23 at 4:00 p.m.

Please consider participating with our school council this year.

SAFE SCHOOLS IN DUFFERIN-PEEL

Initiatives and efforts will continue this year to make St. Benedict Catholic School a safe environment for all of our students. Procedures are in place to ensure that strangers do not have access to our school and a comprehensive approach to minimize bullying will be continued. This approach includes participation from public health professionals, police officers, child service agencies, students and school staff. Teachers will continue to incorporate lessons to teach students non violent approaches to solving problems. Please cooperate with and support our various safe school initiatives.



Our annual school Open House / Meet the Teacher / BBQ evening is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 21**. Parents are invited to join us for hot dogs and refreshments from 5:00—6:00 p.m. and to visit classroom from 6:00—7:00 p.m. Further details about this special evening will be sent home soon. Please be reminded that the intention of this evening is for parents to meet their child's teacher (s) and to become informed about grade level curriculum and classroom routines. This format does not allow for detailed individual discussions with teachers about how your child is progressing. Please mark this date and time on your calendars and we look forward to seeing you here at your child's school.

FAITH—OUR VIRTUE FOR SEPTEMBER

Faith is the great virtue of believing in God and trusting that God is with us. A faithful person believes that we are created, guided by and destined to be reunited with God. A faithful person believes that God's plan for us includes the right to be safe, especially at school.

A faithful person ...

- Prays regularly and reverently
- Learns from Scripture stories
- Honours people's God given names
- Assumes that there is good in everyone

TERRY FOX SCHOOL WALK / RUN DAY

The Fall of 2011 marks the 31st anniversary of the amazing and courageous charity run of Terry Fox. A Terry Fox charity event will be held here at St. Benedict Catholic school this Fall.

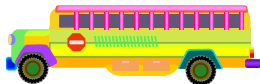
Further details will be sent home with students soon.



BUSING 2011—2012

Wellington—Dufferin Student Transportation Services continues to coordinate the busing routes for our students. There contact information is **519-824-4119** or www.stwdsts.ca.

First Student Transportation and Davison Transportation continue to operate our daily student bus services. **First Student Transportation can be contacted at 519-941-2582 and Davison Transportation at 519-928-2188.** We appreciate all of the help our bus drivers provide to ensure safe transportation for our students.



EXCURSIONS AND FIELD TRIPS

Educational trips which extend learning opportunities in curriculum areas do take place. Teachers need to follow appropriate Board procedures. A limited number of trips may be planned by teachers.

BY LAW the school must have on file permission forms which must be signed by the parents/guardians. If on the day of the excursion your child did not return his/her form, and the parents/guardians cannot come into the school to sign the permission forms, the student will remain at the school. VERBAL TELEPHONE PERMISSION IS NEVER ACCEPTABLE.

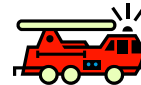
CCAT TESTING

Later in the month of September the grade 4 students will be administered the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test. The results of this test are used to identify students who may be eligible for academic challenge programming. These tests will be conducted within the regular classroom environment. Further information will be sent out with our grade 4 students soon.



EMERGENCY INFORMATION

It is important that we are able to contact you during school hours. We have on record telephone numbers for home, work and an emergency contact person. In order to keep our records up-to-date, please update the Student Verification Sheet that will be sent home soon with your child.



EMERGENCY INCIDENT POLICY

We have a detailed fire/emergency evacuation and lock-down policy. We will be practicing many times over the course of the school year. **You need to know that in case we have to evacuate the school, our evacuation site is Credit Meadows Public School.**

A REMINDER: Students must wear shoes in the school building at all times. If the fire alarm goes off, students will not be permitted to stop to put on shoes, coats, hats etc. Their safety is our first priority. **Please ensure that your child has an extra pair of shoes at school during the winter months.**

WEB SITES

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board
www.dpccdsb.org

Ontario Ministry of Education
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca>

INSTRUCTIONAL TIMES



The following is the daily instructional schedule for St. Benedict Catholic School:

8:40 a.m.	Student supervision by staff begins in the school yard. Please do not drop off or send your children to school prior to 8:40 a.m.
8:55 a.m.	Entry and school day begins
10:15 -10:30 a.m.	Morning Recess
11:25 a.m.	Morning kindergarten dismissal
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Entry and afternoon instruction
2:20 - 2:35 p.m.	Afternoon Recess
3:25 p.m.	Dismissal



STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Every effort will be made by your child's teacher to keep you informed of his/her progress and involvement in class. If you wish to speak with a teacher, a note sent with your child requesting a call is usually sufficient. If, however, you wish to contact a teacher by telephone, please telephone the office. If the teacher is not available you are asked to leave a message.

We also ask your consideration in NOT dropping into classes unannounced during school hours. **If your child is late and you are bringing him/her to school, or if you come to school to meet your child or to pick him/her up for an appointment we respectfully request that you check in at the office and SIGN your child IN or OUT. The SIGN IN BINDER is located in the office.**

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL AND SIGN-IN PROCEDURES

FOR SAFETY REASONS WE ARE REMINDING THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY THAT ALL VISITORS MUST REPORT TO THE OFFICE AND SIGN IN. THE SIGN-IN BOOK IS LOCATED IN THE OFFICE. PLEASE DO NOT GO INTO THE YARD OR TO YOUR CHILD'S CLASSROOM WITHOUT SIGNING IN FIRST AND RECEIVING APPROVAL.

REMEMBER, TO YOUR CHILD YOU ARE THE PARENT....TO THE OTHER STUDENTS YOU ARE A STRANGER. SO ONCE AGAIN...PLEASE REPORT TO THE OFFICE FIRST AND SIGN IN.

STUDENTS MUST SIGN IN OR OUT OR REPORT TO THE OFFICE WHEN:

- THEY ARE LATE ARRIVING TO SCHOOL IN THE MORNING OR AFTERNOON
- THEY HAVE A NOTE FROM PARENTS ASKING THE SCHOOL TO DISMISS THEM EARLY FOR APPOINTMENTS ETC.

NO STUDENT IS TO BE DISMISSED DIRECTLY FROM THE CLASSROOM BY TEACHERS OR PICKED UP AT THE CLASSROOM BY PARENTS/GUARDIANS ETC.. ALL MUST COME TO THE OFFICE AND SIGN IN OR OUT.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers play an important part in the life of any school community. At the school level, they help to enhance the learning opportunities available to students. They can make a difference in the academic life of a student. They assist students with reading, writing, academic drills and reinforcement and other activities that help to improve specific areas of need. **Any one working/volunteering in our school must have a criminal reference check completed by the local police service.** Please contact the school office if you are interested in volunteering.

DRESS CODE

It is not our intention to question your responsibility for determining appropriate grooming and dress for your children. At the same time, there is an expectation that all students be clean, neat and appropriately dressed.

Students should dress in a manner conducive to good behaviour and to the creation of a good educational atmosphere in the school.

We ask for your continued support for a dress code which reflects the school as a place for serious work, accompanied by standards of sensitivity, politeness and decorum.

DISTRIBUTION OF MEDICATION

Should you require that the school store epi-pens for your child please contact the office. There are forms that need to be completed by you and your doctor. **IF YOUR CHILD HAS A LIFE THREATENING ALLERGY, PLEASE CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY. WE NEED TO KNOW!**



CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES ACT

Teachers and other personnel in the employ of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board are legally required to comply with "The Child and Family Services Act." As such, every person who has reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is "in need of protection" shall immediately report the suspicion and the information upon which it is based to a Children's Aid Society". A person must report any additional disclosures, concerns or suspicions of a child in need of protection even if that person has reported previously about the family.

If any parents have any questions or would like further details regarding these matters, please contact Mr. Cockburn at your earliest convenience.

BOARD POLICY FOR PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

A reminder to our students and visitors that personal electronic devices such as cell phones, i-pods, cameras, etc. are not to be used on school board property or during school related activities, such as field trips and sporting events. Students who carry cell phones for safety reasons must have these turned off and stored away and out of sight during school hours.



BUS SAFETY

Ensuring student safety is a very important goal to all working with students. You are asked to review carefully the following rules for students while riding the school bus.

Students are required to:

- be at the bus stop at least 5 minutes before the pickup time.
- listen to the driver when getting on or off the bus, especially when a road must be crossed.
- go directly to their seat and stay seated until they are let off the bus.
- follow all instructions from the bus driver, especially where they put their belongings
- not eat or drink, fight, swear or engage in other types of poor behaviour
- not open or close windows unless the driver permits

- keep all belongings inside the bus
- keep arms, hands, heads etc. inside the bus
- not damage the bus seats (students will be held responsible)
- respect private property

Every effort must be made to maintain a high standard of discipline and safety in the operation of the school busses.

When improper conduct is reported:

On the **FIRST** occasion, the Principal/Vice-Principal will speak to the student.

On the **SECOND** occasion, a letter or phone call will be made to the parents.

On the **THIRD** occasion, the Principal/Vice-Principal will restrict / suspend bus privileges.

LITERACY TIP!

MAKE READING AND WRITING FUN

Reading aloud to your child is the best way to get him or her interested in reading. Not only is it fun for the whole family, but it will also help your child to learn what reading is about. Encourage your child to write also. Here are some things you can do to help make reading and writing fun for your child:

- Read all kinds of materials—stories, poems, informational books, magazines, newspaper articles and comics.
- Read stories aloud with drama and excitement! Use different voices for different characters in a story. Use your child's name instead of a character's name. Make puppets and use them to act out the story.
- Re-read your child's favourite stories as many times as your child wants to hear them, and choose books and authors that your child enjoys.
- Discuss the themes of a story and ask questions about the characters. Ask questions that make your child think about what might happen next or what he or she might do in the same situation.
- Discuss the main ideas in an informational piece, such as a newspaper article.
- Include reading for enjoyment as part of your regular routine.

STUDENT “ON TIME” ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL

Parents are asked to ensure that their children arrive at school before the beginning of classes in the morning and afternoon. Students arriving late lose valuable organizational time at the start of instructional periods.

STUDENT AGENDAS

Again this year students (grades 3 - 8) at St. Benedict Catholic School will be using school agendas / organizers to help develop organizational skills and encourage timely completion of assignments. **Thank you to our St. Benedict Catholic School Council for funding these student agendas.**

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

"As required by the Education Act and the Ministry of Education, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board annually provides parents with information about cost-effective student accident insurance coverage via student courier. Although enrolment is voluntary, the board encourages parents to take advantage of the inexpensive insurance coverage, especially if their child/children participate in sports, excursions/field trips, or, if parents do not have dental insurance coverage.

Enrolment is required in writing -- there are two options for enrolment:

- 1) Complete the traditional form and mail it in. Brochure was sent home with students during first week of school.
- 2) Apply on-line at www.insuremykids.com

Parents alone have the right to insure their children.

STUDENT LUNCH DAYS

Our student lunch program is changing to start the new school year. The student “Pizza” days are being replaced with a lunch service with a variety of lunch options. **Please refer to the attached “Lunch Lady” information letter for further details regarding this new program.** We hope this program will provide our students with a healthy lunch option on a number of scheduled days.



STUDENT USE OF SCHOOL MATERIALS

The school will provide your child with many of the regular school materials such as pens, pencils, workbooks and textbooks. It is important that children learn to make proper use of these materials. Your child's teacher will explain our expectations in this matter.

One of our expectations is that students will be responsible for the replacement of lost books or damaged materials including texts or library books, both of which are quite expensive.



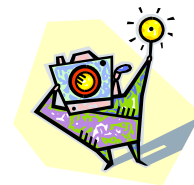
**STUDENT
DISMISSAL @ 3:25
PM**

STAYING IN FOR RECESS

Under ordinary circumstances, if a child is not well enough to go outside for recess he/she is not well enough to be in school and should be kept at home.

SCHOOL PICTURE DAY

Individual student and class pictures will be taken on **Monday, October 3**. Photo retake day is scheduled for **Thursday, November 3**. Further information will be forthcoming closer to picture day.



ATTACHMENTS

1. 2011—2012 School Year Calendar
2. Lunch Lady Service at St. Benedict Catholic School
3. St. Benedict School Bus Safety Rules

September 2011

