



St. Benedict Catholic School
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 Website: www.dpcdsb.org/BENED



October 2011

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

Co-Chairs:
 S. McNally and D. Chodowiec

519-941-2424



QUOTE

“ Make each day your
 masterpiece! ”
 John Wooden

PRAYER FOR THE SEASON OF THANKSGIVING!

Loving God, We Thank You



Loving God, we thank You:
 for peace within our land,
 for plenty from Your bounteous hand,
 for means to give to those in need,
 for grace to help in thought and deed,
 for faith to walk, our hands in Yours,
 for truth to know Your law divine,
 for strength to work with voice and pen,
 for love to serve our fellow humans,
 for light the goal ahead to see,
 for life to use alone for You,
 loving God, we thank You.

During this season of harvest, let us pray for those in need of food, for those who see that others are fed, and for those who are made holy in the sharing of food.



Monday, October 10 is Thanksgiving Day and there is no school on this date. Hope all can enjoy the day with your families!



Thanksgiving is a time in which our culture takes time to be thankful for all that we have. What blessings should we thank God for? How does our community prepare for this special time and keep the spirit of Thanksgiving alive throughout the year?

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

As we begin the second month of our 2011 - 2012 school year, I would like to thank all of the staff, students, and parents for their genuine efforts towards the positive start of this school year. Challenging, but very useful, student achievement data was attained with the arrival of our EQAO results from last Spring. These results highlight areas of curriculum where additional focus is required and also indicate much hard work and dedication on behalf of our students, staff and parents. (see below for details)

As in all new beginnings, we have goals, dreams and hopes for the coming months. My hope and wish for all of our students is that they do their very best during their days, weeks and months here at St. Benedict Catholic School. I also hope and pray that our wonderful school staff and school council will continue to strive to make our school a safe and nurturing Catholic community for your children and families. We ask God for his help and guidance throughout the coming school year.

In the very near future, students will receive their Fall progress reports. Please use this report to discuss with your child realistic goals and next steps to ensure that the upcoming year is a positive and enriching experience for them. Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. Keeping informed about your child's education is extremely important.

M. Cockburn



Principal

SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

It was great to see so many children and their parents participate in our recent school Open House. The initial connection you make with your child's teacher at the beginning of the school year establishes a line of communication which is important throughout the whole year. I am sure that all of the students were proud and excited to be able to take their parents on a tour of their classroom and school.

EQAO RESULTS

The Grade 3 and 6, primary and junior division, EQAO assessments measure how well students have met the expectations in *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1 - 8*. The assessments test what students know and how well they apply their knowledge and skills in reading, writing and mathematics in everyday situations by requiring students to read and respond to passages, to write and to solve mathematical problems.

EQAO assessments combine performance-based activities, requiring written responses, with multiple-choice questions. The results are reported in terms of achievement from Levels 1 to 4, with level 3 as the standard, which represents a high level of achievement.

The results for St. Benedict Catholic School, stated as the % of students meeting the Provincial standard (Achieving Levels 3, 4) are as follows for the 2010-2011 assessment.

	Grade 3	Grade 6
Reading	67%	63%
Writing	63%	60%
Math	67%	50%

School results on the EQAO Grades 3 & 6 assessments indicate a decline in achievement in our students' reading, writing and mathematical skills at the grade 3 and 6 levels in comparison to the previous year's results. Our grade 3 results in reading, writing and math indicate a need for improvement and further focus. (Reading, writing and math scores are respectively 1, 13 and 2 percentage points below board results.) The grade 6 results also show a similar need for increased student achievement. (Reading, writing and math scores are respectively 14, 18 and 12 percentage points below board results.) Significant growth (8 and 13 percentage points) is indicated respectively in reading and writing with our grade 6 students, when compared to their primary assessment results when they were in grade 3. We are currently analyzing these EQAO results to ensure appropriate and focused instructional follow-up.

Staff and students will continue to focus on reading, writing and mathematical strategies and skills. Our primary, junior and intermediate literacy rooms are established, we have made significant investments in enhanced student literacy resources and many primary staff will be participating in numeracy (mathematics) focused school Board and Ministry of Education sponsored staff development initiatives. Data analysis from PM Benchmarks and CASI continue to inform instruction for divisional literacy goals.

For further details on our results, Catholic School Learning Plan 2010—2013 or student achievement on the provincial assessments please visit the board web site <http://www.dpcdsb.org>. It is important to emphasize that these results should not be used to compare or rank schools, they are intended for the purpose of improving teaching and learning for all students.

HALLOWEEN SAFETY

Please remind your children of safety guidelines for Halloween:

- Do not wear a facemask, so your child will be able to see clearly.
- Wear light coloured clothing, so drivers can see them.
- Carry a flashlight, so your child will be able to see on dark streets.
- Go out with an adult or an older brother or sister if under the age of 10.
- Stay away from cars, and friendly strangers in cars.
- Watch for cars, and look both ways when crossing the street.
- Wear costumes above the shoes so they will not trip.
- Do not eat treats until they are home, and parents have checked the candy.
- Start trick or treating early and be home by 8:30

PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILDREN HAVE A PAIR OF INDOOR SHOES AT SCHOOL. THIS HELPS KEEP OUR SCHOOL SAFE AND CLEAN. THANK YOU!

VIRTUES EDUCATION EMPATHY

During the month of October we will focus on the virtue of empathy. God has given us the ability to form connections with each other—to live together. Empathy helps us to connect and live together in a safe, caring and inclusive community.

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 person's point of view
- Knows that different people may feel differently about the same thing.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ANNUAL FUND RAISER



Our St. Benedict Catholic School Council is undertaking a number of fundraising activities this year to help our school meet the extra curricular needs of the students. The major fundraiser this year will be a Halloween Dance - a - thon. This dance-a-thon will take place on Monday, October 31 with all of our students participating. Through participation in this initiative, students will have the opportunity to win many amazing prizes. **Students have been reminded that they are not to go "door to door" or approach any strangers in their efforts to obtain pledges.**

FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE SENT HOME WITH STUDENTS!

ALLERGY ALERT

As part of our ongoing efforts to provide a safe and healthy environment for all of our students, parents are reminded to **please not bring or send any food items to school with your children for distribution to other students.** The most common examples of this situation are students bringing food for class events or parties or for birthday events. Please keep these activities for "at home" occasions.

TERRY FOX RUN



On Friday, September 30th, St. Benedict students from JK through to Grade 8 participated in the 31st Annual Terry Fox Run. As in previous years, students were asked to bring in a loonie or a small donation so that Terry's Marathon of Hope can continue. Together we raised a total of \$574.50. All monies collected will go directly to the Terry Fox Foundation which funds cancer research. Thank you to everyone for participating and for your generous contributions! Sincere thanks are also extended to Ms. Weir and Ms. Armstrong for coordinating this wonderful event.

QSP MAGAZINE FUNDRAISER

Our magazine fundraiser is well underway. A reminder that all paper orders need to be returned to the school by Tuesday, October 11th. Orders can also be placed via the internet at qsp.ca Our school number is 8432. Thank you in advance for your continued support and "Keep on Reading"!!

COMMUNITY PARENT SUPPORTS

The Dufferin Coalition for Kids (DUCK) sponsors many parenting workshops and programs in Dufferin County. A poster advertising the available programs has been posted in the main foyer of our school. Please consider taking advantage of these excellent opportunities.

PICTURE RE-TAKE DAY—THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Thursday, November 3 is our scheduled Fall school picture re-take day. Please keep this date in mind if your child will require this service.

SCHOOL COUNCIL 2011—2012

Council Members for 2011 / 2012

Co-Chairs—S. McNally and D. Chodowiec

Treasurer – P. Moniz

Secretary – C. Halkett and W. Brooker

Communications Coordinator – T. Hinsperger

Parish Representative – D. Vani

Parent Representatives – B. Albanese, H. Kostuch
and M. Testani

Sincere thanks are extended to these parents for giving of their time and talents for the betterment of our school community.

**All parents are welcome to
attend Council meetings!!**



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.

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." Please refer to related school board letter that is attached to this newsletter for further details.



SCHOOL MASS

We will be celebrating mass on Wednesday, October 12 at 11:00 a.m. We thank Fr. Sean in advance for his presence and spiritual guidance here at St. Benedict Catholic School. Parents are always welcome to attend our school masses!

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Thank you very much to all of the students, families and staff members who contributed to our recent Thanksgiving Food collection. The amount of food donated was amazing and will be donated of behalf of our school community to the Orangeville food bank. These donations are very much appreciated by needy members of our community. Sincere thanks are extended to Ms. Longstreet and Ms. Armstrong for coordinated this initiative.



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.
- Read stories that have repetitive parts and encourage your child to join in.
- Point to the words as you read them. (with younger children) This will help your child make the connection between the spoken words and the words on the page.
- 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.
- Encourage relatives and friends to give your child books or other reading materials as gifts.
- Always remember to have fun. The more you enjoy yourself, the more your child will enjoy the experience.
- Include reading for enjoyment as part of your regular routine.

FALL PROGRESS REPORT CARD

Fall progress reports will be sent home on **Tuesday, October 25**. Parent teacher interviews will be scheduled on the evening of **Thursday, October 27**, if requested either by the teacher or the parent(s) / guardian(s). This progress report encourages early and ongoing communication between parent and teacher. It tells parents how well their child is developing the learning skills and work habits we know are essential for success.

