



Our Lady of Peace School

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September
2011
Newsletter

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Chair

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Prayer to Begin a School Year

God, our faithful companion,
as we begin this journey of another school year,

we pray for your guidance:

To live deeply, with purpose,

To live wisely, with humility,

To live justly, with compassion,

To live lovingly, with fidelity,

To live mindfully, with awareness,

To live gratefully, with generosity,

To live fully, with enthusiasm.

and to daily renew it in our hearts.

Amen

Principal's Message:

Welcome back to all of our students and their families. My name is Cheryl Cauduro and I am honoured to be principal here at Our Lady of Peace. I look forward to our working together to inspire our students to be the best they can be. To those of you returning to Our Lady of Peace, it's nice to see you back. To those of you who are new to our school, we look forward to getting to know you. We trust that as students, staff, parents and parish we will continue to work to make Our Lady of Peace a happy, faith-filled place in which we will enjoy learning and growing together.

As we begin the school year, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our Mr. Schmidt, Mrs. Luciani, Miss Anderson, Miss Chavez, Miss Marchese, Mrs. Piekarcz-Mackisoc and Mr. Perri who join our staff and to Mr. Poropat who is returning to our staff. Welcome Mrs. Cobrin (S.W.) and our returning support staff.

We are blessed to have a devoted parish team, an involved school council, a hard working trustee, a dedicated superintendent and supportive parents. The staff of Our Lady of Peace School is committed to working with their partners to support our children in their quest for knowledge, happiness and spiritual development.

Together we can ensure that this will be a very successful school year.

Principal
C. Cauduro

SCHOOL HOURS

Our Lady of Peace School hours for the 2011-2012 school year are:

Grades 1 - 8

School Begins	9:00 a.m.
Recess (a.m.)	11:06- 11:21 a.m.
Lunch	12:01p.m. – 1:01 p.m.
Recess (p.m.)	2:24 - 2:39 p.m.
Dismissal	3:30 p.m.
<u>JK/SK</u> (a.m.)	9:00– 11:30 a.m.
(p.m.)	1:01 - 3:30 p.m.

STUDENT ABSENCES

We ask that you call the school on the days that your child will be absent. This is a safety precaution that can save precious moments should there ever be an emergency situation. Upon reaching the school answering service please leave the following information:

- Date of absence
- Student's full name
- Grade level and teacher
- Reason for absence
- Date of return

Please continue to call each day that your child is absent. When your child returns to school, please provide the teacher with a note regarding the specific reason for the absence.

ENTRY AND EXIT

Teachers will be reviewing with their students which doors to enter and exit. Students are asked to use the assigned doors for their entry and exit and to proceed to the front of the school to meet their parents. We ask that parents who do not make use of the Kiss and Ride drop off/meet their children at the sidewalk areas located at the front of the school at the start and end of the day. Parents are not to be in the yard with the children during the school day.

VALUABLES

Students are requested **not to bring** valuables such as cameras, cell phones, iPods, electronic games, large amounts of money or items of importance to school. The school does not accept responsibility for the above. All personal items and school supplies should be marked with your child's name.

STAFFING

September 2011-2012 school organization is based on projected enrolment established through the School Board. The government continues to cap primary (J.K.-3) class sizes at 20 students. It is understood that this Ministry initiative has resulted in more combined grade classes, with a reduced student-teacher ratio. Based on enrolments within our boundaries during the first two weeks of September, we may need to reorganize the classes. **Please note that your child's present classroom assignment is tentative** until new enrolments or withdrawals are completed during this time frame. If your child's placement or classroom teacher changes, you will be notified. Only those students affected by reorganization will be moved.

SCHOOL DRIVEWAY / KISS AND RIDE

In the interest of safety, please use the designated entrance of the school driveway to drop off and pick up your child during morning/evening Kiss' n Ride. Do not park in the drop-off lane, block the bus lane or double- park in the visitor parking lot. Students and parents walking to school are reminded to stay on the sidewalks and to use the crosswalk when walking to and from the parking areas to the front of the school.



TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Transportation is provided for JK/SK and Grade 1-8 students at Our Lady of Peace School who meet the Board distance eligibility for busing. At present we are reviewing all eligible student seats. Requests for a courtesy seat application are to be made in writing and sent to Mr. Krolewski by September 26th for review as per Board policy. No Courtesy seats will be made available until the Transportation Department gives us the go ahead in October.

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 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.

CATHOLIC CODE OF CONDUCT

The Catholic Code of Conduct sets standards of behaviour that promote, encourage and foster a shared commitment to gospel values in daily life, respect for the dignity of persons created in God's image, responsible participation in the civic life of the school community, peaceful conflict resolution, respect for diversity, and a commitment to exemplary conduct, conscientious work, and service to others. At Our Lady of Peace we continue to work together to provide a safe, caring, inclusive and healthy Catholic school community for all.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAY

Friday, September 16th is a Professional Activity Day. Students do not attend school on this day. Teachers will be involved in professional development.

VISITORS IN THE SCHOOL

In order to insure the safety of students and staff, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board requires **ALL** visitors (including parents, guardians, volunteers) to use the front doors located near the main office to enter the school, sign in and pick up a visitor's sticker upon entering the building. Anyone not wearing an identification sticker will be asked by staff to return to the office to sign-in and pick one up. This procedure will help students and staff in recognizing our many visitors at Our Lady of Peace School. If you are picking up your child at school at a time other than regular dismissal, we ask that you report to the office to sign them out. Arrangements will be made for your child to meet you at the office. If you intend to send someone else to pick up your children, please write a note to the classroom teacher or inform the office.

THE LUNCH TABLE

Once again, a table has been placed in the foyer for lunches. Please ensure that your child's name is on the lunch bag/container. We are encouraging nutritious lunches. Classes are not to be interrupted for students to pick up lunches. Please let students know in the morning if they should expect to have a lunch dropped off. They should be responsible to come down and pick up their lunch. We cannot be responsible if a lunch goes missing. We stress that there are students with food allergies and therefore students are not to share food. Please check with your child's teacher if you have any questions.



Y.M.C.A. CHILD CARE SERVICES

Y.M.C.A. Daycare operates before and after school programs, in this school, for children up to 12 years of age. If interested please contact Ana Costa-Ciero at (905) -455-6445.

MEDICAL ALERT – ANAPHYLACTIC SHOCK - NUT ALLERGIES

This year, as in the past, we will continue to have some students with severe life threatening food allergy to **NUTS (PEANUT) ALLERGIES**. This is a medical condition that causes a severe reaction to certain allergens and can result in death within minutes. Although this may or may not affect your child's class directly, please send lunches and snacks to school with your children that are free from peanuts or nut products. We ask that you do not send in food products for the whole class to celebrate birthdays or social occasions. A donation of a book or game to the classroom is a safe alternative to food products and will be enjoyed so much longer by the children. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher if you have any concerns or questions. We thank you for your co-operation and attention to this health watch.

STORAGE AND ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION

Parents are responsible for ensuring that all medication and forms are updated annually for any student who requires medication to be administered at school. If your child requires medication, please have the necessary forms completed and return them, along with any medication, to the office as soon as possible. Forms are available from Mrs. DelGobbo in the school office.



HEPATITIS B and HPV INOCULATIONS

Peel Health will continue to offer free immunization against Hepatitis B for students in Grade 7. It is given as a series of two injections over a period of six months. Grade 8 girls are also given the opportunity to receive the HPV inoculation. If you have any questions please call the Peel Health Department at (905) 799-7700. The following dates have been assigned to Our Lady of Peace School:

Hep B Dose #1/ HPV: October 6, 2011

Dose # 2: TBA

STUDENT 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 your child participates in sports, excursions/field trips, or if parents do not have dental insurance coverage. Enrolment in writing is required. There are two options for enrolment: 1) Complete the traditional form and mail it in or 2) Apply online to Reliable Life at www.insuremykids.com

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).

ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE /B.B.Q.

Our annual B.B.Q. and Meet the Teacher Open House will be held on Wednesday, September 21, 2011. This is an opportunity for you to:

- Meet your child's teacher(s) and learn about the 2011-2012 school year, curriculum, expectations
- Socialize with members of the community at the B.B.Q. hosted by the parents of School Council

5:30 -6:30 p.m. B.B.Q. and Social

6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Meet the Teacher

Order forms have been sent home. All food is to be ordered and pre-paid by Thursday, September 15th. Thank you to P&P Catering and our School Council.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Elections of the new School Council will take place on September 28th. You are invited to pick up application forms in the main office now and until nominations close 3:30 September 26th. The first meeting of the Our Lady of Peace Catholic School Council will be held on Wednesday, September 28th at 7:00 p.m.



TERRY FOX WALK

Again this year Our Lady of Peace will participate in the Annual School Terry Fox Walk/Run for Cancer Research. We will be hosting a "Toonie for Terry Walk" the morning of **Friday, September 23, 2011**. Parents are invited to join us for the walk and to help us support this very worthy cause.



LIBRARY NEWS AND BOOK FAIR

To start our school year, Our Lady of Peace will host the Fall Scholastic Book Fair. This family event will take place on Wednesday, September 21st at our Annual BBQ and Meet the Teacher night. Make sure you stop by the library and support this fantastic literacy fundraiser. The Book Fair will open at 6:00 p.m. Mrs. Marino would like you to know that students may begin to sign out books the week of September 19th.

PED POLICY

As part of our efforts to promote and maintain a positive Catholic climate in our schools, the Board maintains a policy regarding Personal Electronic Devices (PEDS) on school property. In this regard, all PEDS (especially cell phones) must be kept out of sight, turned off and not used within school premises/hours or during school-sanctioned activities. To prevent the loss or damage of PEDS, we ask students to leave electronic devices and games at home as the school cannot be responsible for their safe keeping. Parental support is requested and greatly appreciated.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATIONS AT ST. JEROME PARISH

All students in grades 2 and 8 have received a letter regarding the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation from St. Jerome's Parish. If you wish to celebrate these sacraments at St. Jerome's Parish you should: a) Be a registered member of the parish b) Pick up the First Communion or Confirmation Registration Form after any of the weekend masses c) Attend the Parent's Information Session held at the church. The First Holy Communion Parent Meeting is Tuesday, October 18th at 7:30 p.m. The Confirmation Parent Meeting will be Tuesday, October 25th at 7:30. These meetings are for parents only. Please bring the completed registration form and a copy of your child's baptismal certificate,



THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Our Thanksgiving Food Drive will run from September 26th to October 6th in support of St. Louise Outreach. As a school community we are asking for your support in collecting non-perishable food items. The outreach program is very grateful for your continued support and generosity.

PICTURE DAY

Individual student photos and class pictures will be taken Thursday, October 20, 2011 for all students. More information will be sent home with the students closer to the date.



DATES TO REMEMBER:

Sept. 14;	School Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Sept. 16;	P.A. Day No Classes
Sept. 19;	Book Fair Begins
Sept. 21;	Annual BBQ and Open House 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Sept. 23;	Terry Fox Walk "Toonie for Terry" 9:30 a.m.
Sept. 26;	Nominatons for School Council Due by 3:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Food Drive Begins
Sept. 27;	Toonie Tuesday Pizza Day
Sept. 28;	School Council Elections and Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Oct. 4;	Toonie Tuesday Pizza Day
Oct. 6;	Thanksgiving Food Drive Ends
Oct. 10;	Thanksgiving Monday No Classes