

Taoi lieau naay quan troing, xin nhoo ngoooi chuyean doch.
Ta informacja jest wazna. Prosze zapoznaj sie z nia.

Esta informacion es importante. Por favor traducirla al espanol.



THE MESSENGER

THE VOICE OF ST. ALFRED CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The Saint Alfred Catholic School Community respects the uniqueness of all persons and enhances their potential. We are committed to promoting a love of learning and to creating an environment which fosters the lifelong development and spiritual growth of each person.

NEWSLETTER # 2
OCTOBER 2007

EVERY CHILD, A PROMISE

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School Council Chair:
A. Vercillo

EMPATHY

Gracious and merciful God of all creation,
You made us to live together in communities.
We are nothing without relationships.

You have given us the virtue of empathy to ensure
that we are able to identify with
and feel other people's concerns.

We come to You now asking for the grace and strength
to follow Your plan and to form a safe, caring,
inclusive community here at St. Alfred School.

May Your gift of empathy lead us to
know and feel
Your presence among us.

We ask this in the name of Jesus,
Your Son, who lived to show us Your way.

Amen

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IN THIS NEWSLETTER:
Reorganization
Early Release Day – Oct. 17
School Council
Upcoming Events



Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Each month at St. Alfred school we will be focusing a virtue. For the month of October we will focus on the virtue of **empathy**.

Empathy enables us to form relationships with one another and live together in a safe, caring and inclusive community. It is through empathy that God gives us the ability to identify with and feel other people's concerns. An empathetic person:

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

Let us pray this month, that God grant us the strength and grace to be people of empathy.

FAITH ACTIVITIES

THANKSGIVING LITURGY

We will celebrate a Thanksgiving Mass in the school gym on **Thursday, October 11, 2007 at 9:45 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.** We will also be offering out prayers in memory of John Pham, as October 11th marks the 6 month anniversary of his death. Parents and Guardians are invited and encouraged to attend.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive is currently in full swing until October 10th. All food collected will be donated to Food Path of Mississauga on behalf of the St. Alfred School Community. Thank you for your generosity and for thinking of those less fortunate.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

A reminder to parents and students in grade eight, of the parent meeting and registration for Confirmation on **Thursday, October 11, 2007, 7:00 p.m.** at Sts. Martha and Mary's Church.

HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

ALLERGEN AWARENESS

Each year, attention is drawn to the fact that in our school we have students who suffer from food allergies. The most common of the food allergies is the 'peanut allergy'. For students who have severe allergies, this can be a life-threatening situation. It is extremely important that we do our very best to educate students, staff and parents to the dangers associated with food allergies.

Due to stringent anaphylaxis policies based on Sabrina's Law, students, staff members and parents are asked not to bring any foods containing nuts to school. While we cannot guarantee that food containing certain allergens is never brought to school, we do request your co-operation by refraining from sending potentially dangerous food to school.

School board policy now prohibits any food or beverages from being present and/or consumed outside in the school yard or on a bus. Students will be permitted to eat their lunch and snacks in the classroom at their own desks and are encouraged not to share food items.

We strive to keep all students safe. Thank you for your co-operation and serious attention to making St. Alfred School an "allergen-safe" environment.

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MEDICATION

School staff cannot dispense medication of any kind without authorization from parents/guardians and the child's physician. The school has Board forms, which **must** be completed annually before any medication can be administered by any school staff. Please let the office know if this applies to your child.



PARKING

Parents are reminded that the parking lot on the south side of the school is closed to cars every morning between 8:30 and 8:45 a.m. and after school between 3:15 and 3:30 p.m. If you choose to park in this area, the expectation is that you **do not move your vehicle** until all students/pedestrians and busses have cleared. Please remember that we must ensure safety for all our students.



PEDICULOSIS

A problem, which seems to occur in most schools, is Pediculosis or 'head lice'. Head lice are parasites that have been common among human beings for centuries. They are not connected in any way with dirt, and/or neglect. Anyone can become infested with them. Unfortunately, in recent years they have become quite common in North America. As a preventative response we request your co-operation in dealing with this nuisance. Please remind your child not to share hairbrushes, combs and hats. If you discover that your child has 'inherited' lice, please notify the school and do not send them to school until the appropriate course of treatment has been completed and the hair is entirely clear of both lice and nits (eggs).

PARENTS IN THE SCHOOL YARD

Parents and caregivers are being asked to refrain from entering the schoolyard when dropping off their children. This includes the Kindergarten area. The intention of this request is not to suggest that parents and caregivers are not welcome at the school, rather, this request is to protect all parents and students. Any correction of inappropriate behaviour should come from a teacher, not from a parent. If a parent observes inappropriate behaviour, please discuss your concern with the teacher who is on supervision duty or with the administration staff.

Also, when the only adults in the yard are staff, unauthorized visitors can be immediately responded to. Therefore, in the interest of safety and security we ask that parents and caregivers say goodbye outside the school fence and do not enter the yard. Thank you for your co-operation.

STUDENT INFORMATION

It is important that we have up-to-date records of your address, phone numbers, and emergency contacts in the event that the school must contact you regarding your child. Please inform the office or your child's teacher if any information changes throughout the year.

SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS

Supervision begins at 8:30 a.m. Please do not bring/send your children to school earlier than this time. Given safety concerns, it is not a good idea to leave your children

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outside unattended as student supervision in the yard begins at 8:30 and not before.
 Please make other arrangements for the care of your children prior to 8:30 a.m.

SCHOOL EVENTS AND NEWS

REORGANIZATION

Last spring the Ministry of Education mandated that all classes in the primary division (JK – grade 3) be capped at a 20:1 ratio. At St. Alfred we put a plan into place based on the projected enrollment for September. The enrollment for September increased causing a major reorganization to many of our classes. Parents of students who were directly affected were informed last Thursday and reorganization of classes took effect as follows on Monday, October 1st:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Room Numb</u>
JK a.m./ p.m.	E. Broszczakowski	100
JK/SK a.m.	G. DeSouza	101
SK a.m./ p.m.	L. DeMelo	102
1	L. Thomas	104
1	J. de Leon	108
1/2	E. Formosa	105
2	L. Perruzza	107
2/3	A. Feather	106
3	J. Belaisis	402
3	S. Sergnese	406
3/4	T. Geronimo	403
4	M. Pendergast	404
4/5	J. Mandarin	207
5	M. Butler	202
5/6	H. English	201
6	J. Emick	208
7	M. Falcioni	204
7	A. Patola	205
8	V. D'Agostino	203
8	J. Jaksa	206
SERT	N. Nevins/R. Romano	103
SERC	A. Cavaliere	407
ESL	A. Steciw	100B
ESL	M. Klaming	102B
FSL	A. Assalone	401
FSL	L. Kinash (0.2)	401
FSL/P.T.	B. Bain	401
Librarian	R. Romano	Library
P.T.	N. Nevins	100B
P.T.	R. Di Carlo (0.3)	
Early Lit.	E. Heidecher	
ERW	M. Martiniko	
ERW	D. Hammond	
ERW	A. Hughes	
ERW	A. Obidzinska	
ERW	M. Romaniuk	
CYW	E. Blakey (0.5)	
Head Secretary	T. Letterio	Office
Custodian	R. Vargas	
Vice Principal	M. Fernando (0.5)	
Principal	J. Tollis	

WELCOME

We welcome Mrs. G. DeSouza to St. Alfred school. Mrs. DeSouza comes to us from St. Francis Assisi School in Mississauga, where she also taught Kindergarten.

Also, new to our school is Mrs. R. DiCarlo. Mrs. Di Carlo will be with us every Monday morning and all day Wednesday providing planning time

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for Mrs. DeSouza and teaching Science to the grade 4 students of Miss Geronimo and Miss Mandarin's classes.

CURRICULUM NIGHT

Now that reorganization has taken place we invite



parents and guardians to meet their children's teachers, discuss basic expectations for the year and ask any questions about curriculum on **Tuesday, October 9, 2007** from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

CCAT – GRADE 4 TESTING

The Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test will be administered to all grade 4 students in October. In order to qualify for additional testing and the enrichment program, students must score at the 95th percentile or above on two of the three areas, and at the 90th percentile in the remaining area. If parents do not want their child to participate in this test, please contact the classroom teacher.

DUFFERIN-PEEL INFO-page

An on line resource for information about awards, scholarships, fundraising opportunities, educational resources, professional development opportunities, parent/guardian resources and community events is available at www.dpccsb.org

EARLY RELEASE DAY

Wednesday, October 17th is an Early Release Day. Students will be dismissed at 11:45 a.m. (the regular lunch break). Those students normally bussed will be provided with transportation at 11:45 a.m. Afternoon JK and SK classes will be cancelled and there will be no classes for students in the afternoon.

The remaining Early Release days for this school year are:

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

HALLOWE'EN

It is that time of year when our children will want to visit their neighbours for trick or treats. In school we will remind students about the safety rules so that they can both enjoy the evening and stay safe as well. Students are asked to follow the individual teacher's instructions with respect to costumes. If you child will be wearing a costume to school, please ensure that it is appropriate for a Catholic School environment.

In addition, we will also be stressing the fact that the most important aspect of our activities at this time of year is the celebration of two important feast days. On November 1st, we are reminded to honour all the Saints of our church and encouraged to pray that we might emulate their example in our daily lives. On November 2nd, we are reminded to remember all those who have gone before us in faith, by celebrating the Feast of All Souls. We are encouraged that while those who have died are out of sight, they are not out of mind or beyond our prayers.



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CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL 2007 -2008

Congratulations to our new Council for the upcoming school year:

A. Vercillo	•Chairperson
M. Skrinjar	•Co- Chairperson
G. Balawejder	•Treasurer
L. Johnston	•Secretary
G. Balawejder	•Parish Rep
S. Barna	•Member
G. Bozzo	•Member
Rocio Valenzula-Smolon	•Member
S. Vidovic	•Member
Ed Formosa	•Teacher Rep
Rosemary Romano	•Teacher Rep
Teresa Letterio	•Non-Teaching Rep
Julie Tollis	•Principal

At our School Council meeting, the following meeting dates were selected for the school year:

- Thursday, November 15, 2007
- Thursday, December 13, 2007
- Thursday, February 7, 2008
- Thursday, March 27, 2008
- Thursday, April 24, 2008
- Thursday, May 29, 2008
- June meeting TBA



All meetings will begin at 7 p.m. and will be in the school library. Parents/guardians are welcomed to attend.

REMINDERS

ANIMALS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

It is important for the safety of all our students that no dogs be brought into the schoolyard before, during and after school hours. Even the gentlest dogs can get over excited with so many distractions and children. Please keep your pet safe at home for their safety and that of the students.

KISS AND RIDE PROGRAM

We need volunteers to help with the Kiss and Ride program from 8:25 to 8:45 a.m. daily. If you can help on one or two days per week, please call the office (905) 625-0584.

RECESS SNACKS AND LUNCHES

Parents are asked to provide students with healthy and litterless snacks and lunches. Fruits and vegetables are healthy alternatives.

SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS

Yard duty supervision by teachers occurs every day. Supervision is in place in the mornings from 8:30 to 8:45 a.m., during all recesses, at lunch hour, and after school from 3:15 to 3:30 p.m. Parents are reminded that students should not be dropped off at the school before 8:30 a.m. in the mornings. **The school cannot assume responsibility for the safety of the children before 8:30 a.m.** Equally, after school each day, students should be picked up promptly at 3:15 p.m.

SPORTS

The Intermediate Girls and Boys Volleyball teams have begun their season of league play. We would like to thank each team member and their coaches for a great start to the season thus far.

Coaches: Mrs. Emick, Miss Feather, Mr. Hughes and Mr. Patola

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INSPIRATION FOR ALL

GIFT OF HAIR

We are very proud of two of our students Daniela A and Lorena D. who have gifted 10 inches of their beautiful long hair to the Cancer society for children who face cancer treatments. We are very proud of these two generous and brave young ladies!

TERRY FOX RUN/WALK

Once again this year we had a very successful Terry Fox Run/Walk on Thursday, September 27, 2007. The cheer competition was a lot of fun for both staff and students. Thank you to Mrs. Butler, Mrs. English Mrs. Emick, and Miss Nevins for organizing another successful event. We will report to the amount raised in our November newsletter.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, October 9

- Curriculum Night 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 10

- Ontario Provincial Election

Thursday, October 11

- Thanksgiving Mass - 9:45 a.m. / 1:00 p.m.
- Confirmation Registration at Sts. Martha and Mary's Church @ 7 p.m.

Wednesday, October 17

- Early Release @ 11:45 a.m.

Thursday, October 18

- Pizza Day
- CCSAC Meeting for School Council Chairs

Thursday, November 1

- Pizza Day

Friday, November 2

- Class Photos and Picture re-takes

Wednesday, November 7

- P.A. Day – No School for students

Friday, November 9

- Remembrance Day Celebrations 10:00 a.m./1:00 p.m.

Monday, November 19

- P. A Day – Report Card preparation day – No school