



# St. Joseph Elementary School

We C.A.R.E.: Catholic Community, Acceptance, Respect, Excellence

**NEWSLETTER**  
**SEPTEMBER**  
**2007**

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M. Buczek

**Secretary**  
I. Carabetta

**Superintendent**  
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## *A New School Year*

*Good and Gracious God, as a new school year begins,  
Fill the hearts of our students with an eagerness to learn  
About the world you have created,  
about themselves and most of all,  
about YOU.*

*Bless our teachers with the gifts of wisdom and patience  
That they may help students find the truth.  
Give our parents generous heart  
to support and encourage their children.*

*Help us all to work together to form a  
community of learning that teaches  
not only skills for success but also  
all that we need to live our faith fully in the world.*

*On behalf of the staff of St. Joseph, I would like to welcome  
everyone back to the 2007-2008 school year.  
Thank you to the staff for all their work in preparation  
for the new year.*

*A special thanks to Mrs. Carabetta for a smooth start. Thank you  
to Mr. Serrano, Mr. Kippen and Mrs. Sliwa for maintaining a clean  
and safe environment.*

## **CATHOLICITY**

We look forward to working with you and the pastoral team at St. Joseph Church in the development of the spiritual growth of our students.

We are fortunate to have St. Joseph Church in close proximity to our school. Throughout the school year, the parish team will be visiting our school and students will be making visits to the Church to celebrate school masses and receive the Sacraments.

### **2007/2008 Parent Information Meetings**

All meetings and Sacramental Receptions will take place at St. Joseph Church. Dates will be announced in the October newsletter.

### **ANNUAL BBQ & OPEN HOUSE**

St. Joseph School's Open House will be held on Thursday, September 20th. The evening will begin with a BBQ, hosted by M&M's and our Catholic School Advisory Council from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Order forms will be sent home next week. If you have not received one, please contact the school.

You are invited to come and meet your child's teacher and visit his/her classroom from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. All teachers will be in their classrooms and are looking forward to meeting the families of their 2007/2008 students.

This evening is intended as an informal "getting-to-know-you" opportunity. Parents will be given their copy of "Curriculum at a Glance for Parents". This document contains an overview of the curriculum expectations that children will be exposed to in the Primary, Junior and Intermediate Divisions.

### **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2007 PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAY**

There will be no school for students.  
Staff will be participating in school reorganization.

## **Home-School Communication**

### **STAFF CHANGES**

In June and over the summer, we bid farewell to Ms Mateljan, Ms Orszulak, Ms Mus, Mr. Kenny, Mme Fabbri, Mrs. Gormley and Ms Tabaka. We thank them for their contributions to St. Joseph.

Welcome to the following staff:

Mrs. Battista, Mrs. Briggs, Ms Mensah and Mr. Della Rossa. We are very happy they have joined the staff of St. Joseph School.

### **VIRTUES**

In a school community, virtue formation contributes to a healthy positive learning environment by fostering a climate in which all members feel safe, confident and hope-filled about themselves, their relationships and their future.

Each month we will look at developing one of these virtues:

Faith, Empathy, Conscience, Hope, Self-control,  
Respect, Kindness, Love, Acceptance, Fairness.

In each class students who best exemplify the virtue of the month will be highlighted as "Students of the Month".

### **ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY**

All students are expected to attend school regularly and punctually. In the event that your child will be late or absent, please telephone the school before 8:45 a.m. to inform us of the absence. The school's voice mail is available at any time for convenience to notify us of absences.

All students who arrive after 8:45 a.m. or 12:45 p.m. must obtain a late slip from the office. This measure is to ensure the safety of your child.

### **SCHOOL HOURS:**

8:45 - School Entry

10:50 - Recess  
11:15 - Kindergarten Dismissal  
11:45 - 12:45 Lunch  
12:45 Afternoon Start  
2:10 - Recess  
3:15 - Dismissal

lunch period. Supervision is provided by staff and a lunch supervisor.

Our school practice is that pupils who regularly remain for lunch are not allowed to leave school property to have lunch at nearby restaurants unless accompanied by the parent. Please help us care for your children and do not send notes to give permission for local food outlets.

If a lunch is delivered for your child, there will be a table set up in our front lobby for students to pick up their lunch. Please ensure that the lunch is clearly labeled with the student's and teacher's name.

### **PICK-UP AND DROP OFF POLICY**

To ensure school security for students and teachers, the Board policy requires that **all visitors (including parents) must report to the office**. Parents or designated individuals are required to sign children in at the office when bringing them to school late and must also sign them out at the office when withdrawing them from school before regular dismissal time.

In our continuing concern for the safety of our students, we would like to minimize the amount of traffic in all hallways at arrival and dismissal times. **Please wait for your children outside their designated exit**. Teachers will continue to meet and escort students to and from these doors at all times. These procedures help to ensure the safety of the students. Thank you for your co-operation.

### **MEDICATIONS**

Please be advised that there is a Board policy on the storage and administration of medication. If your child requires daily administration of medication, please contact the Office as soon as possible.

### **PEANUT AND NUT ALLERGIES**

In our school, we have a number of students with a severe allergy to peanuts and peanut products. For those students, small amounts of this allergen may cause an allergic reaction of life threatening proportions.

Due to the severe nature of this allergic reaction, we would ask for your cooperation in monitoring

## **ENROLMENT**

**Please remember that our class lists are tentative for the first month of school. Changes may occur due to growth and/or transfers. Should reorganization be necessary, please be assured that the needs of each student will be taken into consideration. Reorganization will take place on the first PA Day on September 28. SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

Any parent interested in becoming a member of the School Council for the 2007-2008 school year are required to complete an application. Forms are available in the office until 4:00 p.m. each day. All nomination forms are due to the office by Thursday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>.

## **INFORMATION UPDATE & STUDENT VERIFICATION SHEETS**

Please keep us informed of **any** changes to home, work or emergency contact phone numbers. In the unfortunate event that your child is ill or injured, we must be able to contact a parent and/or babysitter immediately. It is important to keep this information current.

A student data form has been sent home with every student. Please fill in any missing information (i.e. student health card number), update phone numbers/correct any errors and sign where indicated. Please return this form to your child's teacher as soon as possible. This information is confidential and is used solely for school purposes.

## **LUNCH STUDENTS**

Please be reminded that the lunch hour is 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. If possible, students are encouraged to go home for lunch as a break in the school day is a healthy practice. Where children stay for lunch they will eat with their classmates and remain on school property throughout the

the food that your son or daughter brings to school. Please take the time to read the ingredients on the package. In particular, please avoid bringing snacks or lunches that contain peanuts as well as products that may have traces of nuts.

As well, advise your children to wash their hands often, especially after eating any peanut products, because these allergens can be transmitted from hands to toys, books and other objects. As well, inform them to brush their teeth or rinse their mouth after eating peanut products because even the smell may cause a reaction.

We appreciate that this may cause difficulties for some but we feel that this is outweighed by the potential harm that could be caused to an allergic child.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding in this matter.

## PEDICULOSIS

Each school year it is common for outbreaks of pediculosis to occur among school children. The head louse is a harmless pest – a source of annoyance rather than disease. However, the incidence of pediculosis is increasing, and while researchers suggest that the problem occur in cycles – every few years, the reason for the increase is unknown.

The school seeks parents' conscientious cooperation in routine inspection and where head lice are detected to assure that adequate treatment is administered. The family doctor or pharmacist can recommend appropriate shampoo treatment. Parents are asked to inform the school so that we can minimize the infestation.

In instances where pediculosis is diagnosed at school, parents will be called and requested to keep the child home until appropriate medication has been administered.

## TRANSPORTATION

The Dufferin-Peel C.D.S.B. Board provides bus transportation for students according to these guidelines:

Kindergarten 1.0 km  
Grades 1 - 4 1.6 km

Grades 5 & 6 2.0 km

Grades 7 & 8 3.2 km

The bus routes and times are posted on the windows at the front of the school. Some delays may occur during the first few weeks in September. Students should be at their stop at least 5 minutes before the designated times. Parents are responsible for ensuring that their child gets to and from the bus stop safely.

A reminder to please pay special attention to school buses with activated lights and extended stop arm. These signs mean **STOP** and children's lives are at stake. Please be aware of the law and protect our children.

Students who are on the bus list are expected to take the bus to and from school on a daily basis. Please contact the office if you are picking up a child who normally takes the bus home. This will avoid unnecessary delay to the bus' departure from our school.

## KISS 'N RIDE

To ease the congestion and provide a safe environment for all of our students, parents/guardians who drive their child to school are asked to use our **Kiss & Ride Program**.

**Lane 1**, closest to the school building is the **Bus Lane**.

**Lane 2**, the middle lane is the lane that parents/guardians use to **Drop Off** their child. Drivers are asked to stop beside the parent volunteer at the north end of the parking lot by the stop cone. Students should exit from the passenger side of the vehicle only. The vehicle door will be opened from the outside by a parent volunteer. Students should proceed directly to the school playground.

**Lane 3**, closest to the street is a **Drive Through** lane to be used only by teachers and visitors parking their vehicles.

If you wish to park and walk your child to the playground entrance, please park your car in the Municipal Lot across the street.

Thank you to all the parents who volunteer their time for the Kiss & Ride program. Your assistance is appreciated.

## DOGS IN THE SCHOOL YARD

Please refrain from bringing your dogs onto school property. Some children are very frightened of dogs and even the best behaved dogs may react unexpectedly when confronted by large numbers of children.

## SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Our school photographer will provide services for St. Joseph School this year. **Picture Day will be Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup>.**

## FAMILY READING FUNDRAISER

Once again we will be participating in the QSP Magazine fundraiser. Just a reminder that order forms will be sent home the beginning of October to renew your subscriptions through the school. If you have a subscription rate lower than the QSP rate, this will be honoured.

## TERRY FOX WALK/RUN

We will be holding our second annual Terry Fox Walk/Run on Friday, October 5th. All students from grades 1 to 8 will be participating in a half hour walk/run in order to support cancer research. Please support our students in this worthwhile cause!

## PIZZA & SUB DAYS FOR TERM 1

Information will go home later in September. We will begin the lunches in October.

## HOW PARENTS CAN HELP STUDENTS

- Talk with student about their studies, their homework and their school activities
- Listen when they talk
- Read together and set family reading times
- Limit TV/computer time. Watch TV with them and discuss what is viewed
- Encourage any type of writing (shopping lists, thank you notes, recipes, journals, short stories, letters...)
- Visit the library regularly. Help your child select books

- Check homework assignments and agendas
- Ask them to explain how he/she solves daily life problems
- Show them how to use what they are learning at school in everyday situations
- Request and attend student-teacher-parent conferences. Find out how they are achieving and how they can improve
- Encourage them to do their best and to set personal goals
- Recognize successes and show positive support

## 2007-2008 STAFF LIST

A. Szymczak	JK
R. Falcone	SK
E. DeSouza	Gr. 1
A. Giljanovic	Gr. 1/2
J. Dove-Barrow	Gr. 1/2
A. Lopreiato	Gr. 2/3
L. Murrell	Gr. 3
B. Kocijowsky	Gr. 3/4
L. Awoyomi	Gr. 4
D. Gibbs	Gr. 5
O. Araujo	Gr. 5
J. Battista	Gr. 6
S. Elworthy	Gr. 6
C. Pelaccia	Gr. 7
E. Bernais	Gr. 7/8
M. Gaskin	Gr. 8
E. Sandford	ESL
D. Coulson	SERT
D. Della Rossa	SERT/SERC
M. Briggs	ERW
J. Forsyth	Tch/Librarian
L. DaSilva	FSL
A. Mensah	FSL
C. Serrano	Head
Custodian	
D. Kippen	Custodian
K. Sliwa	Custodian
I. Carabetta	Head
Secretary	
M. Buczek	Principal

## Upcoming Dates



Sept. 7- Virtues Assembly @ 11:05 a.m.  
Sept. 12 - Fundraiser Assembly  
Sept. 20 - BBQ/Open House  
Sept. 26 - Gr. 7 Hepatitis Clinic  
Sept. 27 - Catholic School Council Nominations due to the office by 4:00 p.m.  
Sept. 28- PA Day- No School for Students  
Oct. 2- Catholic School Council Elections (if necessary)  
Oct. 5- Terry Fox Walk/Run  
Oct. 8- Thanksgiving Day- No school  
Oct. 12 - Picture Day  
Oct. 15 - Book Fair Week  
Oct. 17- Early Release Day- 11:45 a.m. dismissal, no afternoon Kindergarten classes

## ATTACHMENTS

1. School Calendar 2007-2008
2. Student Accident Insurance
3. Catholic Code of Conduct
4. Child in Need of Protection

### BOARD'S WEB SITE

The Board's Catholic Code of Conduct and School Council Policy are online at <http://www.dpcdsb.org/pr>

## 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 so there are two options for enrolment:

- 1) Complete the traditional form and mail it in or

2) Photocopy the form and fax it to Reliable Life at 1-905-522-7211 or 1-800-463-KIDS (5437).

Parents alone have the right to insure their children.

## **SCHOOL POLICY ON THE USE OF PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES by Students on School Property**

To promote respect for the dignity of all members of our school community and to enhance student achievement and safety, the use of a PED is strictly prohibited in the school (including portables) or during school related activities (such as retreats, field trips, sports events, etc.)

Failure to comply with this policy may result in the confiscation of the PED and/or disciplinary action as outlined in the Catholic Code of Conduct 2001.

The school and the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board assume no responsibility for the loss, recovery repair or replacement for and PED brought onto school property.

It is the policy of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board that PEDs are to be kept out-of-sight, turned off and not used within school premises or during school sanctioned events. To prevent the loss or damage of PEDs, the school encourages students to leave their PEDs at home or in their lockers.