



**NEWSLETTER  
SEPTEMBER  
2011**

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M. Hayhow

**Secretary**  
I. Carabetta

**Superintendent  
Mississauga North**  
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**Trustee**  
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**Pastor**  
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Chair**  
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# St. Joseph Elementary School

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

## ***A Reflection Two Sculptors***

*I dreamt I stood in a studio and watched two sculptors there.  
The clay they used was a young child's mind and  
they fashioned it with care.*

*One was a teacher—the tools used were, faith, books, music and art.  
The other a parent, working with a guiding hand and a gentle heart.  
Day after day the teacher toiled with touch that was skilled and sure.*

*While the parent laboured by the teacher's side,  
guiding and encouraging too.*

*And when at last their task was done they were proud of  
what they wrought.*

*For the things they had moulded into the child could  
neither be sold or bought.*

*And each agreed they would have failed if either had worked alone.*

*For behind the parent, stood the school and  
behind the teacher the home.*

## ***A Prayer for the Beginning of the New School Year***

*May we explore together the territory of knowledge;*

*May we learn together the mysteries of truth;*

*May we share together the joy of friendship;*

*May we release in each other the spark of creativity;*

*May we inspire others to follow Your call;*

*May we always remember that you,*

*the author of all knowledge, all goodness,*

*all truth and all beauty, delight to share all experience with us.*

*Amen*

## ***Our daily prayer for September ...***

*Let us now pray...for the grace and strength to be people of faith,  
People who can truly believe that god's plan for us includes  
the right to be safe at school.*



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I am very fortunate to be returning to St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School as principal. I taught here between 1995 and 1998 and I enjoyed the partnership with you, the parent community, with the St. Joseph Parish and with the staff as we co-operatively strove to build academic excellence. I believe that together we will continue to build on the solid foundation established by Mrs. Maria Buczek. I look forward to meeting your children and you during the course of the next few weeks.

On behalf of the staff, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all the new families in our school community and to welcome all those returning to St. Joseph Catholic School. A special greeting is also extended to our Junior Kindergarten children who are starting school for the first time.

We are fortunate to welcome our returning staff members. They have worked diligently over the summer months setting up their classrooms and programming for the new school year. Please join me in welcoming new staff members Mrs. Bevc, Miss Ferrao, Mrs. Marchioni, Mrs. Samaniego and Mrs. Snopek. They are experienced and enthusiastic educators who bring many skills and talents to St. Joseph. I extend a special thank you to Mrs. Carabetta our administrative assistant who has skillfully ensured our smooth start and has been very supportive of the school community.

Our custodial staff, Mr. Serrano and Mr. Kippen have been diligently preparing the school for your children. My heartfelt appreciation is extended to them and each of the staff who have prepared the school for another year of academic challenges.

As we anticipate the successes of the year ahead, we are reminded that each success will be the result of the mutual support and respect we as parents and educators show one another. It is very important that the positive relationships of the past continue throughout the upcoming year. As our students mature, we are reminded that their beliefs, ideals and sense of responsibility, friendship and family are constantly challenged. The common language and support we share as role models in their lives will influence their values.

Our school community is strengthened through our partnerships, none being more important than our parish team and our School Council. Our students respond respectfully and eagerly to each faith and school initiative; this can only be attributed to the values modeled by their parents. The staff of St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School is committed to working with its partners to continue to support each child in their quest for knowledge, happiness and spiritual development. Together we are the sculptors.

I wish you all a successful 2011-2012 school year.

God Bless. *M. Hayhow*

## St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School Staff

Listed below, for your information, is the staff list for the 2011-2012 school year. Please remember that student and teacher class placements remain tentative until September 16th. At present, St. Joseph has 329 registered students.

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>TEACHER</u>	<u>ROOM NUMBER</u>
JK AM	A. Szymczak	2
SK AMM.	D'Emilio	1
JK/ SK PM	L. Dunn	1
1	E. DeSouza	11
1	O. Araujo	12
2	C. Dinis	16
2/3	D.Snopek	15
3	J. Suljak	17
4	L. Awoyomi	5
4/5	R. Falcone	4
5/6	A. Sajda	7
6	A. Loprieato	3
7	P. Guerrizio	9
7/8	M. Gaskin	8
8	C. Pelaccia	6
SERC	J. Leko	10
Phys Ed	E. Bernais	13
SERT	K. Ferrao	Sem C
FSL	E. DaSilva	French Gr.4-8
FSL	M. Samaniego	French Gr. 6
Library	A. Szymczak	Library
ERW	E. Armstrong	
ERW	B. Marchioni	
ERW	C. Bevc	
Secretary	I. Carabetta	
Custodians	C. Serran, D. Kippan,	
Principal	M. Hayhow	

**Please note** that new enrolments or withdrawals may require reorganization and a change in classroom assignments. Direction is provided by the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. If reorganization is necessary, it will take place on Friday September 16<sup>th</sup>, the P. A. Day and prior to that date you will be notified by Ms Hayhow if your child is affected. The new classes will begin during the week of September 21st.

## SCHOOL HOURS

8:45	Entry Bell
10:50-11:05	Morning Recess
11:15	JK/SK Morning Class Dismissal
11:45-12:05	Grades 1-8 eat lunch
12:05-12:45	Grades 1-8 Lunch Recess
12:45	JK/SK pm Classes Begin
2:10-2:25	Afternoon Recess
3:15	Dismissal



## ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

All students have the responsibility to attend school regularly and punctually. In the event your child will be absent or late, please telephone the school before 8:45 to inform us. The answering machine is available at all hours.



## TRANSPORTATION

The 2011-2012 school year's bus schedule is posted on the front windows of the school. Please see the attached insert providing a variety of important Transportation Department news for parents.

## PARISH NEWS

St. Joseph Catholic Church  
Tel. 905-826-2766



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

We are fortunate that St. Joseph Church is located within walking distance of our school. Throughout the school year the parish team will visit our school and students will be able to celebrate mass and receive the sacraments at the church or in the school gym. We invite parents and guardians to join us for these occasions. Please visit our website link for information about our parish.

### Schedule for School Masses:

Opening Mass	October 4, 2011, 10:00 a.m.
Advent Mass	December 8, 2011 7:00 p.m.
Lenten Mass	March 2, 2012 10:00 a.m.
Year End Mass	June 18, 2012 10:00 a.m.
Graduation Mass:	June 27, 2012 TBD

### Sacramental Preparation 2011-2012

#### **Parent Information Meetings at St. Joseph Church**

*Initial* preparation is done by the schools through the religion program. *Immediate* preparation is the responsibility of the parents and the parish. **Please register for the sacraments at St. Joseph Church.**

**First Communion: April 29, 2012 at 3:30 p.m.**

**Confirmation: April 17, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.**

### A MESSAGE FROM ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

Please see the invitation from the Catholic Women's League in the attachments.

## VIRTUE FORMATION

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. We practice all of the virtues and each month, we will focus on one of them... Faith, Empathy, Conscience, Hope, Self-control, Respect, Kindness, Love Acceptance, Fairness. Please refer to your child's agenda for the monthly reflection on each virtue.

### **Our Virtue for September.... Faith**

To begin the new school year, we will focus our attention on the first of our virtues – **faith**. Faith is the 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
- Accepts the God-given worth of themselves and others



## SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

### School Council Elections

We invite all parents to consider becoming a member of the School Council. Please note that our School Council will be comprised of parents, school staff, a student representative, as well as community and parish representatives.

School Council nomination notices are available at the school office as of Thursday, September 8, 2011. A brief nominee biography is to be submitted by September 22<sup>nd</sup>. In the event an election is necessary, it will take place during the evening of our Curriculum Night on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Results will be published in our October newsletter.

The First Council Meeting has not been scheduled. Please check our website for the date.

### ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

St. Joseph's School Open House will be held on Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. The evening will begin with dinner hosted by Gino's Pizza and our School Council. The evening will begin at 5:00 and then you are invited to meet your child's teacher from 6:00-7:00 p.m. This is an informal "getting to know you" event. The order forms for the pizza will be sent home next week.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR TRUSTEE

“As your Trustee, it gives me much pleasure to welcome back all students, staff and parents to another year at St. Joseph Elementary School. A special welcome to those who are new to our school community, may it be all that you expect from a Catholic school. The Dufferin-Peel Catholic School Board is a vibrant part of this community and of our parishes, and the preferred choice for parents and supporters of Catholic education in our region.

We continue to be a Board that our community can be proud of, as our successes mount and our leadership in provincial initiatives continues to be well-recognized and emulated. Each of us contributes to the betterment of our system and, consequently, to the improvement and quality of experience for our students”.

Peter Ferreira, Trustee

## PEANUT AND NUT ALLERGIES

We have a number of students with a severe allergy to peanuts and tree nuts. Please remember to carefully monitor the food that your son/daughter brings to school. Please take the time to read the ingredients on packaged food.

School can be a very frightening environment for a child with a severe allergy to peanuts or nut products. In an effort to further promote a safe and secure environment for all of our children we ask your support in supporting a school-wide nut free, peanut free school. We must take into consideration that these children are not isolated to any particular grade level and, like all students, utilize the computer lab, washrooms, library and physical education equipment. We ask that you place careful consideration to school lunches and snacks and refrain from sending in items that are made of, or contain, nuts or peanuts. We will send letters home with the students whose classroom members have specific allergies. Please check with your child, and in their backpack, for letters regarding the type of allergy and products to be avoided. We offer our heartfelt thanks for your support.

## Sabrina’s Law



Sabrina’s Law is an Act to protect anaphylactic pupils in publicly funded schools in Ontario. Named “Sabrina’s Law” in honour of an Ontario student who died following an anaphylactic reaction in 2003, the law became effective on January 1, 2006. This law requires that every school board establish and maintain an anaphylaxis policy. It also requires that principals develop individual plans for pupils at risk of anaphylaxis.

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## STUDENT AGENDAS

Thank you to our School Council who has covered the cost for Premier School agendas for students in classes from JK to grade 8.

Student agendas assist in teaching students organizational skills for life, including study/work habits. Please review the student agenda with your child and follow-up on a daily basis. In particular, please refer to the beginning pages, which provide pertinent information and guidelines for you and your child. We appreciate your support.



## VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers play an important role in the life of the school community. They help to enhance the learning opportunities available to students and they do make a difference in the academic life of a student. They assist students with reading, writing, academic drills and reinforcement, educational games and in other activities that help to improve a specific needs area. Volunteers also assist with providing students with a safe arrival and departure. We need volunteers to supervise the **Kiss and Ride**. If you are interested in sharing your time and talents with our students, please contact the main office. If you would like to volunteer in the school during the 2011-2012 school year, please ensure you have a criminal reference check completed. Forms are available in the school office. In accordance with the Board policy, **all new volunteers having direct and regular contact with students** are required to provide a Criminal Reference Check. Returning volunteers will only need to sign a Criminal Offense Declaration Form.

## KISS AND RIDE

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

**Lane 1:** closest to the curb is the **Bus Lane**.

**Lane 2:** the middle lane that parents/guardians use to **drop off** their child. Drivers are asked to stop by the volunteer at the North end of the beside the parent volunteer by the stop cone. Students should exit from the passenger side only and proceed directly to the school playground. The volunteer will open the door.

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

**Parents** if you need to park your vehicle, please use the Municipal Lot across the street.

## LUNCH ROOM SUPERVISOR

Anyone interested in becoming a Student Lunch Monitor/Lunch Hour Supervisor is asked to contact the school as soon as possible. We are always in need of Supervisors. This is a paid position. Please be reminded that a completed criminal reference check is mandatory.

## EDEN FOOD BANK

As always, we happily accept any food donations in support of the Eden Food Bank. Non-perishable items will be collected at different times throughout the year, but especially from **September 30<sup>th</sup> until October 6<sup>th</sup>**, to provide a Thanksgiving meal to those in need.



## ECO-SCHOOL

Last year was our first year being certified as an Eco-School. We participated in many activities that helped us realize how important our Earth is and how we need to come together and make a difference for our future.

We will continue to be an Eco-School this year. Last year, the activities included Wasteless Wednesdays, Free-Water Thursdays, Flickerless Fridays, Earth Hour, Earth Day, and more! We look forward to what the Eco-Team members have planned for St. Joseph students this year.

## MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

School staff cannot dispense medication of any kind without the proper authorization and a properly labeled container, (i.e. prescriptions bottle or original over-the-counter container). Medication brought to school in baggies, film canisters, etc. pose a risk to other students and will be secured in the office and returned to the parent. Staff cannot modify or adjust any medication under any circumstances. Additionally, staff cannot medicate a child. Therefore the child must be able to take the medicine as prescribed on their own with staff supervision.

Please drop by the office for **an authorization form** before your child brings medication to school.

## FAMILY/EMERGENCY INFORMATION

In the event that your child becomes ill at school or is injured in an accident, it is imperative that we are able to contact you or a person designated by you as an alternate. Our information on file must be accurate and current. A student data form will be sent home for you to look over. Please update your information and return this form to the school as soon as possible, even if no changes are required.

## STUDENT SIGN OUT

In the interest of student safety, all visitors must report to the office. Parents or guardians must report to the office when picking up their child during school hours and sign their child out. All students must be signed in by an adult parent or guardian and signed in when they return. All bus students will remain at school for lunch, unless a parent or their designate picks them up and follows the above procedure. All other students who normally stay for lunch may not leave the school during the lunch hour unless a parent or their designate picks them up and follows the above procedure.

## LUNCH DROP OFF

If you drop a lunch off at school for your child, please ensure that it is labeled with your child's name and room number. Lunches may be left on the lunch table in the front hall. In order to avoid classroom interruptions, students will not be called from class before 11:40 am. 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 pick up their lunch. We can not be responsible if a lunch goes missing. We are encouraging nutritious lunches.

## CUSTODY OF CHILDREN

On rare occasions, we are faced with difficult situations in which non-custodial parents arrive at school asking to visit their child or to take their child home after school. We are best able to serve and protect students when we are made aware of legal custody arrangements, visitation rights and other special instructions. If legal custody matters affect your family, please ensure that our office and classroom teachers are aware of any custodial arrangements that may affect your child during school hours.

## VISITORS

For the safety of all children, visitors may only enter through the front doors and must sign in at the office in order to obtain a visitor's badge. Please remember, to your child you are a parent, to the other children, you are a stranger.

## SCHOOL MESSAGES

Mrs. Carabetta will be pleased to relay messages to staff. The doors of St. Joseph Catholic School are open to parents who wish to visit or confer with staff, however, an appointment is necessary. Thank you for your support in keeping classroom interruptions to a minimum.

## STUDENT ABSENTEEISM/ATTENDANCE VERIFICATION PROGRAM

Please inform the school if your child will be late or will not be attending school for the day. If you do not contact the school by 9:00 am, we will attempt to contact you. Your co-operation in contacting the school, at 905 826-4422 before 8:45 am is appreciated. **Students are reminded that being on time is an important life skill. It is often difficult to “catch up” when the first part of the class has been missed.**



## EMERGENCY PROTOCOL

Emergency response procedures in the event of a fire, bomb threat, serious accident/injury or an intruder have been established and are revised on an ongoing basis. All students and staff will participate in practicing emergency procedures. In the event that it is necessary to evacuate the school, our site for relocation is The Vic Johnson Centre.

## RECESS BREAKS

Recess breaks serve a purpose in the daily life of a school. Students are expected to go outside for fresh air and exercise. If your child is sick, he or she should be at home recuperating and not spreading their flu or cold virus throughout the classroom. Remember, there is no indoor supervision at recess.



## INDOOR SHOES

All students are required to have indoor shoes at school. Outdoor shoes are not allowed into the classroom, in order to keep the children's work environment clean. In the event of sudden evacuation, students will not have time to put their outdoor shoes on to leave the school, as this impedes the timely and efficient evacuation protocol.



## SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Please pay particular attention to the final pages of this newsletter... the school year calendar has been attached. Dates for upcoming PA Days and our holiday schedule are noted.

## SCHOOL 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. 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. Look for your form in your child's backpack

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

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

## VALUABLE PROPERTY AT SCHOOL

The school cannot assume responsibility for private property. Children are discouraged from bringing valuable items to school. If you wish for your child to have a cell phone while at school, please provide the office with a signed permission note. However, students are reminded that cell phones must remain powered off while on school property and be stored in their backpacks out of sight. If your child rides their bike to school, please remind them to lock it up.



## SCHOOL BOOKS

Should you find any school textbooks or library books at your home, please send them back to the school.

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

Sept. 6	First day of School
Sept. 15	Gr. 6 Silvercreek
Sept. 15	Gr. 7/8 Immunizations
Sept. 16	PA Day
<b>Sept. 22</b>	<b>Picture Day</b>
<b>Sept. 22</b>	<b>Open House 5:00 p.m.</b>
Sept. 28	Terry Fox Walk
Sept. 30–Oct. 6	Thanksgiving Food Drive
Oct. 4	School Mass 10:00 a.m.

