



St. Edmund Elementary School

September, 2011
Volume 1, Issue 1

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A Prayer for the Beginning of a New School Year

Dear God,

As a new school year begins, fill the hearts of our students with an eagerness to learn about the world, about themselves and most of all about You.

Bless our teachers and school staff with the gifts of wisdom and patience that they may help each student to find the truth and to develop to their full potential.

May our school's parents, guardians and other caregivers be blessed with generous hearts to encourage their children to always do their best and to reflect God's love in all that they do.

Help us all to work together to continue to foster a Catholic community that reaches out to its members and to the world.

Amen

Welcome Back!

The relaxing summer holidays are behind us now as we once again gather as a community of students, parents, teachers and church and continue on the journey of valued education here at St. Edmund Elementary School.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our families and to families who are new to our community. Welcome back to Mr. Spadafina, who has returned from his leave to be teaching in the primary division.

September's virtue is Faith, reminding us that by working together, with God, all things are possible as we begin again. 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.

Please join us for our Prayer in the Peace Garden on September 8 at 10:00. Also, don't forget to mark on your calendars, our Open House and Barbecue on September 20, at 6:00 p.m.

Inside:

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School Organization

2011-2012

Below is our current school organization for opening day, September 6, 2011. This organization is based on the projected enrolment established through the School Board. Currently, there are some differences in our actual enrolment and we await direction from the school board regarding any possible reorganization of the classrooms. Please note that your child's class is not final until after reorganization occurs. If reorganization is necessary, it will take place during the Professional Activity Day scheduled for Friday, September 16, 2011. If your child's placement or classroom teacher changes, you will be notified.

Staff have carefully considered your child's placement. Any requests for changes must be received in writing to the office. No changes in classroom assignments will be considered until reorganization on September 16.

St. Edmund School Staff

Position	Teacher	Room
JK/SK AM	B. Callahan	105
JK/SK AM	M. St. Louis	106
JK/SK PM	L. Massa-de Jesus	106
Gr. 1/2	A. Rohn	102
Gr. 1	G. Spadafina	104
Gr. 2	J. Galutira	103
Gr. 2	J. Currie	101
Gr. 3	H. Borowitz	111
Gr. 3/4	P. Smith	112
Gr. 4/5	A. Nasato	110
Gr. 5/6	O. Pividor	P. 2
Gr. 6/7	T. Estacion	109
Gr. 7/8	N. Tome	107
G. 8	C. Ellsworth	108
ERW	M. Colabufalo	
ERW	L. Drost	
SERT	G. Maddison	
ESL/PT	M. Mangiardi	
SERC/Library	A. Moher	
Secretary	B. Vandevalk	
Custodian	E. Martins	
Custodian	C. DaCosta	
Custodian	E. DiFonzo	
PLASP	E. Cabral	

Curriculum Night

Please join us on Tuesday, September 20, for our annual barbecue and Open House.

Barbecue – from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Gather in Gym – 7:00 p.m.

Visit Classrooms – 7:30 p.m.

Please note:

Teachers will be sharing important information about curriculum and classroom procedures on Curriculum Night. If you wish to discuss specific information about your child you are encouraged to make an appointment for a private interview.

Faith Community

We invite all parents and guardians to our school faith celebrations throughout the year.

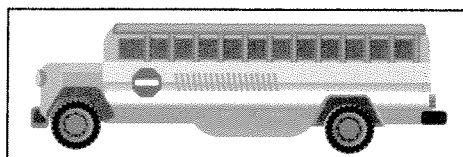
Our Opening Liturgy in the Peace Garden will take place on Thursday, September 8. If it rains, the liturgy will be held indoors. A schedule of masses and liturgies will be sent home in the future newsletters.

Empty Seat Bus Requests

We will be sharing buses with Peel Board this year. Applications for empty seats (courtesy seats) will be available in the school office beginning September 6. Courtesy seats will not be granted until October.

Please remember, students cannot start riding the bus until Student Transportation of Peel Region has assigned them to a bus and stop. You may check to see if your child is eligible for transportation on the new GeoQuery website: businfo.stopr.ca. You will need your child's OEN number (the nine digit number that appears on the report card) to access personal information.

We respectfully ask that you do not have your children ride the bus until written permission has been granted, even if your child has accessed a courtesy seat in the past. If you have questions regarding busing, please call the Board Transportation Department at 905-890-6000 or 1-800-668-1140



HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD SUCCEED?

1

Get involved in your child's school life

Ask about their day – school work, friends, their teacher. Let them tell you about the best part of their day, and about what was not so good. This will help you share their successes and uncover any problems.

2

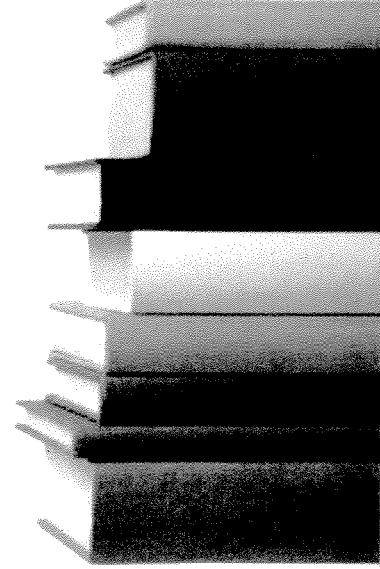
Stay connected with the school

Talk to your child's teacher. Ask questions. This can be as simple as sending a note to school with your child. Or check with the school to see if you can volunteer to help.

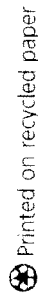
3

Make learning fun

Learning is not limited to the classroom. Simple activities can build your child's skills and confidence. Talk about prices on a trip to the grocery store to help older kids with math. Make reading fun for younger ones by pointing out the words all around you – on street signs, posters, even cereal boxes!



The Ministry of Education has many tools to help both teachers and parents. Visit www.edu.gov.on.ca and discover how you can help your child succeed in school.



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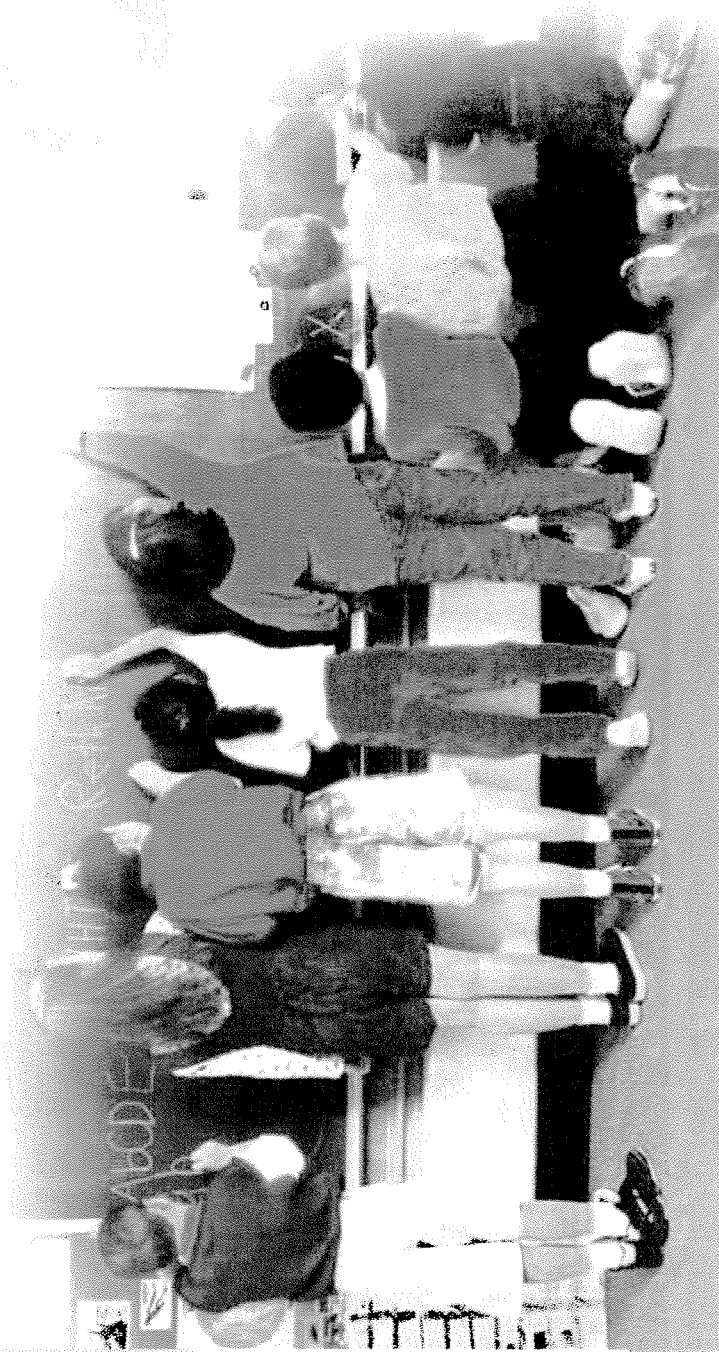
Cette publication est disponible en français.

This publication is available on the Ministry of Education's website at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca>



Ontario

AN INTRODUCTION TO COMBINED GRADES



Ontario

WHAT IS A COMBINED CLASSROOM?

Combined classes group children from two or more consecutive grades in one classroom. Schools combine classes for a variety of reasons. This includes organizing classes to meet student learning needs and combining grades to balance class size.

All classrooms include students with a range of skills and abilities. Combined classes are neither better nor worse than single-grade classes. They are simply one of the many ways schools meet students' academic and social development needs.

HOW ARE STUDENTS CHOSEN FOR COMBINED CLASSES?

Principals and staff consider a variety of factors when grouping children into classes, including:

- ✔ Learning styles
- ✔ Social skills
- ✔ Academic needs
- ✔ And many other factors

All classrooms, whether single-grade or combined, include students performing at a range of achievement levels. In every case, schools strive to create a classroom environment that will support the needs of all students.



HOW WILL A COMBINED CLASS AFFECT MY CHILD?

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Several studies have found that students in combined classes do just as well as students in single-grade classes. In fact, some students actually do better in language and reading.

IMPROVED SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Canadian studies show that children in combined classes have **more opportunities for emotional and social growth**. The rich social environment helps students:

- ✔ Learn how to work on their own and as part of a team
- ✔ Build leadership abilities as they work together and help each other
- ✔ Develop decision-making skills, and become more self-motivated and responsible
- ✔ Learn in an environment that reflects the real world. The diverse ideas and opinions of classmates help expand students' perspectives.

WILL MY CHILD GET ENOUGH INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION?

Every day, in both single-grade classes and combined grades, teachers work with large groups, small groups, and individual students. But students in combined classrooms also benefit from a broader support structure.

Younger children can ask students from the higher grade for help. Older students learn by explaining problems to their younger peers. In fact, peer tutoring can help higher achieving and older students reinforce their knowledge and positive social behaviours.

HOW CAN THE TEACHER TEACH MORE THAN ONE GRADE AT A TIME?

Teachers use many different strategies to teach students in combined grades. They may:

- ✔ Introduce a common topic then give each grade a different task or problem.
- ✔ Break students into groups to study different problems and report back to the class. These groups can be flexible, including students with varied interests and skills.
- ✔ Bring students together for activities like health, physical education, and the arts.

The Ministry of Education has developed strategies that help teachers reach a range of learners. For example, teams from every school in Ontario have been trained in differentiating instruction. This is a strategy that looks at the individual learning needs and progress of each student. The teacher can then identify the range of needs in the classroom and plan a program that meets the needs of all the students.

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. Forms will be coming home this week.

School Council Election

Your Catholic School Council works tirelessly on behalf of all the students at St. Edmund School. We thank all of our outgoing members for all their work. Nomination forms for this year's school council will be sent home with this newsletter. Nominations will close on September 21 at 4:00 p.m. Our first School Council meeting will be held on September 28, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Professional Activity Day

Friday, September 16, 2011 is a professional activity day. Students do not attend school on this day. Teachers will be involved in professional /faith development and reorganization of classes if necessary.

Photographing Students

Please be aware that we require written permission from parents to photograph or film students at school. You will receive a media consent form this week with the Student Verification forms.

Dates to Remember

September 8	Peace Garden Opening Liturgy
September 16	P. A. Day – no classes
September 20	Open House and Barbecue
September 23	Terry Fox Walk/Run
September 28	School Council Meeting 7 pm
September 30	Terry Fox Rain Date
October 4	School Picture Day
October 6	School Council Meeting
October 11	Thanksgiving Day

School Hours

St. Edmund Elementary School hours remain as before:

Grades 1-8	8:45 – 11:45 11:45 – 12:45 Lunch Hour 1:45 – 3:15
JK/SK	8:45 – 11:15 12:45 – 3:15

Please make every effort to send your children to school on time. Please call the school if your child will be late or absent. Students must report to the office if they are late. Our attendance line is available twenty four hours a day, 905-277-8962, press 1. Please continue to call each day that your child is absent.

Lunch Hour Supervisors

We still require additional Lunch Hour supervisors. If you are interested in this position, please call the school. You may also access the board website, www.dpcdsb.org for this employment opportunity.

Kiss'N'Ride

If you are able to help us with Kiss'N'Ride in the morning please call the school.

Student Agendas

Every student in Grades 1 to 8 will receive an agenda. Every family should read the first 16 pages as these pages contain important information. Page 1 should be signed by a parent and the student.

There is a charge of \$6.00 per agenda. We would ask for payment by September 10.



2011 – 2012 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR
Elementary Schools

First day of classes: Elementary and Secondary Schools **Tuesday, September 6, 2011**
School Year ends: Elementary and Secondary Schools **Friday, June 29, 2012**

Number of School Days for the 2011-2012 school year 194
 Number of Instructional Days in Elementary Schools 188
 Number of Professional Activity Days in Elementary Schools 6

➤ **School Holidays for the 2011-2012 School Year**

Every Saturday and Sunday
 Labour Day Monday, September 5, 2011
 Thanksgiving Day Monday, October 10, 2011
 Christmas Break (inclusive) Monday, December 26, 2011 to Friday, January 6, 2012
 Family Day Monday, February 20, 2012
 Mid-Winter Break (inclusive) Monday, March 12, 2012 to Friday, March 16, 2012
 Good Friday Friday, April 6, 2012
 Easter Monday Monday, April 9, 2012
 Victoria Day Monday, May 21, 2012

➤ **Elementary Schools – Professional Activity Days**

1. Friday, September 16, 2011 *Principal’s Day: Re-organization/Faith Development/Prov. Priorities*
2. Friday, November 18, 2011 *Provincial Priorities and Faith Development*
3. Monday, January 16, 2012 *Term 1 Assessment and Evaluation of Pupil Progress*
4. Friday, February 3, 2012 *Reporting to Parents on Evaluation and Pupil Progress*
5. Friday, May 11, 2012 *Provincial Priorities and Faith Development*
6. Monday, June 11, 2012 *Term 2 Assessment and Evaluation of Pupil Progress*

*** St. Sofia Only**

1. Friday, November 18, 2011 *Provincial Priorities and Faith Development*
2. Monday, January 16, 2012 *Term 1 Assessment and Evaluation of Pupil Progress*
3. Friday, February 3, 2012 *Reporting to Parents on Evaluation and Pupil Progress*
4. Friday, April 13, 2012 *Principals Day: Curriculum and Faith*
5. Friday, May 11, 2012 *Provincial Priorities and Faith Development*
6. Monday, June 11, 2012 *Term 2 Assessment and Evaluation of Pupil Progress*