

Father Francis McSpiritt December Newsletter 2011



Acting Principal:

M. Lunn

Vice Principal:

G. Sideroff

Secretary:

K. Walsh
D. Murray

Superintendent:

A. Tucciarone
Brampton North -East
(905) 890-1221

Trustee:

S. McLauchlan
(416) 659-5635

Parish:

St. Patrick's Church
(905) 794-0486

Pastor:

Fr. V. Papais

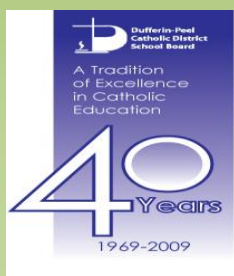
Father Francis McSpiritt

Catholic School

55 Lexington Road
Brampton, Ontario
L6P 2B1

Telephone: (905) 794-5031

Fax: (905) 794-9542



Our Virtue for December..... HOPE

This month, we will celebrate the virtue of hope. We believe that God comes to us as a real human who can show us the way of life. We understand that both the world and its people are from God and so are essentially good. Furthermore, God has given us this Advent season year after year in order to focus our minds and our hearts on the good all around us. Year after year, we are reminded that God chose to send his Son to us because we are worth it.

People of Hope...

- keep up a positive attitude
- can bounce back from tough situations
- set and stick to their goals
- see the good in others even when they make mistakes
- work to include others
- let others know that they are good people

ADVENT PRAYER

*Loving God, we seek you in both
The light and the darkness,
The silence and the sounds,
The fullness and the emptiness
Of this Advent season.*

*Fill our hearts with hope for your coming,
Love for those who are most in need,
And faith in your promises.
May this time of preparation help us
Celebrate the birth of your Son
With deep gratitude and abundant joy.*

*We ask this in the name of Jesus,
The Light of the World.*

Amen

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CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Christmas break is
December 24th to January 8th.
The last day of school will be
Friday, December 23rd
with dismissal at 3:15 pm.

The first day of school in the new year will be
Monday, January 9th, 2012.



Merry Christmas

FROM THE STAFF OF
FATHER FRANCIS MCSPIRITT
CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Primary Christmas Concert

*Here's your chance to see the primary division shine at our
annual Christmas concert.*

The students of the primary division wish to invite their parents/guardians to a special presentation of "True Love: The Story of Christmas" on Wednesday, December 21st, 2011 at 1:15 pm in the school gymnasium. Doors open at 12:45 pm.

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Christmas Food Drive – Peel Regional Police “CRAM THE CRUISER”

This year the staff and students have organized a food drive and have placed a tree in the front foyer that awaits donations. Canned and dry goods will be accepted until December 20th. The items collected from the food drive will be donated to Peel Regional Police. Charity is the primary response to our call to live as Catholics and provides us an opportunity for service to others. Once again, we call on all the students to help support these events and make them a success. Thank you for your donations.



Thank you everyone for such a wonderful response to the Thanksgiving Food Drive. The school had an overwhelming response. The Knights Table was amazed at your generosity.

Dr. Simone's Candy

We delivered many boxes of hard candy to Dr. Simone's charity. Thank you to all the students who gave up some of their Halloween treats to help stimulate the appetites of needy children around the world.



Junior Boys' Volleyball

On Wednesday, November 23rd the junior boys' volleyball team attended the family tournament at Holy Spirit school. The boys worked very hard, even winning two games. They showed developing skills and good sportsmanship. The team coaches, Ms. Anderson and Ms. Rose were very proud of the boys and hope to see them try out again next fall for the team. Also, a special thank you to the parents/guardians who provided transportation for the team and also cheered us on!!

2011 Junior Boys' Volleyball Team

Gideon T.	Daniel S.	Kobe B.
Paul K.	Davin D.	Adrian D.
Nathan M.	Glen O.	Guilano D.
Jason C.	Daniel O.	Andre H.



Junior Girls' Volleyball

Thank you to all the girls who dedicated their time to the Junior Girls volleyball Team this season. The Junior Girls represented Father Francis McSpiritt at the Holy Spirit Tournament on Wednesday, November 23rd with wonderful team and school spirit and a fantastic effort. The Junior Girls won 2 sets placing them in 3rd place at the Tournament. Way to go girls!

Thank you to all the coaches, Mrs. Ancho, Miss Emburgh and Mrs. Janeiro and to Miss Anderson who accompanied the team to the Tournament.

Congratulations to all the girls!

2011 Junior Girls' Volleyball Team

Renee H.	Caitlin M.	Kendal S.
Mary Y.	Ore O.	Jayla J.
Venus A.	Sonia O.	Marina W.

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Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences

First term report cards will be sent home on Tuesday, January 31st, 2012. Along with the report card, you will receive a confirmation time for your report card conference. This conference will include the student, the teacher and the parents/guardians. Conference request forms will be sent home on January 17th, 2012. During this first conference the teachers would like to see and speak with all parent and students in order to discuss the first term and also to make plans and set goals for the second terms. Conferences for first term reports will be held on February 2nd from 3:30 – 9:00 pm and during the day of February 3rd, 2012.

Pediculosis (Head Lice)

We would like to bring to your attention a problem which occurs from time to time in each school. The problem is infestation by head lice (Pediculosis). Unfortunately, in recent years, head lice have become increasingly common throughout North America. They are parasites which have been common among human beings for centuries. They are not connected in any way to dirt or neglect. Anyone can be infested. In order to control these pests, we shall follow these procedures and request your full cooperation. If cases are found in the classroom, we shall inform parents in that class. We would request that you check your own children and if you find them to be infested, we ask that you inform the school and contact the Peel Public Health Department for treatment information. If your child does become infested by head lice, we will ask you to keep your child out of school until after they have been treated with the correct shampoo and their hair is entirely clear of both lice and nits (eggs). Students will not be permitted to return to class until they have been checked by the office. If we all cooperate in these procedures, we may not entirely escape outbreaks, but we will be able to bring them under control more quickly. For additional information, guidance, and any questions please contact Peel Public Health Department at 905-799-7700. As well you may find the following website useful www.headlice.org.



Father Francis McSpiritt School Website –
<http://www.dpcdsb.org/MCSPI>

Thank you to Mrs. Orr and Mrs. Steward for their wonderful contributions to our school website. Mrs. Steward and Mrs. Orr have attended workshops to learn about websites and have been working diligently to make our website informative for parents/guardians/students and the community. The website is update daily. Letters, handouts, schools events and school board information can be found on the website. Please visit the school website at: <http://www.dpcdsb.org/MCSPI>

Share Life

Thank you to all our families and staff for contributing to the SHAFE LIFE campaign:
Halloween dance, crazy hair days, staff/student volleyball games



Faith Life

Please find attached our school Pastoral Plan. We continue to foster and build on the students' faith journey as Catholic children. Our connection with St. Patrick's Parish is appreciated. We thank our parish priest Father Papais for visiting the school, celebrating Masses and working with staff as children prepare for the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation. Refer to our pastoral plan for dates and celebrations.

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Mats 4 Haiti Program



Northwest Haiti Christian Mission Canada has been helping Canada recycle while providing sanitary and comfortable sleeping mats for Haitians.

The plastic bag which holds our milk bags takes approximately 15 years to breakdown in landfill sites. Volunteers around Ontario have been cutting these bags into one inch wide loops, tying them together into long 'yarn' and crocheting them into very useful sleeping mats for Haiti.

Biting insects and poisonous spiders do not like the plastic, and they do not hide in it. The mats can be hung up to air in the day time, washed in the river when dirty, and used almost endlessly. These mats are highly useful.



In the northwest province, the poorest population in all of Haiti, most homes are made of woven palm and banana leaves with thatched roofs. Some have one or more walls of cardboard. Almost all, even the expensive homes made of cement block, have dirt floors. Very few people have furniture. Normally, they weave leaves into bed mats. During tropical storms and tornadoes, these mats do not dry out. Insects find homes in them, and the people are bitten all night.

The recycled milk bag mats are a tremendous blessing. They have been given out to many poor people who would otherwise sleep on the dirt floor or the insect infested leaves.

During surgical mission trips, many patients have families who travel from far places with them to take care of them. They are poor and would have nowhere to sleep. But, with these mats, we are able to give them someplace to sleep until they go home. These mats have travelled far into the mountains of Haiti with those who have received healing for their bodies at the Mission. They are a unique testimony to many of the love of Canadian Christians for them. No one else has milk sold in bags – only Canada.

School Student Council and staff are working together with the community in order to support this board-wide initiative. Everyone was invited to attend a presentation that described how the milk bags are made into mats then shipped to Haiti so children do not have to sleep on the bare ground.

Please continue to send in milk bags for Haiti.

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Appropriate Dress – Cold Weather



The days are getting colder as the winter season arrives. We ask that students dress appropriately; i.e. coats, gloves, mitts, boots etc. If they are dressed warmly, they are better prepared to participate in outdoor activities during recess and noon hour.

Please be advised that students are kept indoors at recess during the winter ONLY when the weather conditions are extremely cold (when the wind chill equivalent temperature is minus 25 degrees Celsius or lower, as per school Board policy).

Inclement Weather

Students dropped off by parents, when transportation is cancelled, must be picked up by parents or have other arrangements in place for their return trip home. The school cannot give permission for children to be driven home by someone other than the parent/guardian without parental consent. If the school is closed, a message will be available by pressing 3 when calling the school at 905-794-5031. You may also go to the website www.stopr.ca for daily cancellations or delays.

Indoor Footwear

Please ensure that students keep a pair of running shoes or other appropriate footwear at school so that their feet remain dry and clean at all times. At certain times of the year areas of our schoolyard can be quite muddy. Having an additional pair of shoes at school assists us in keeping mud and dirt out of the classroom.



Emergency Procedures

We have a detailed fire/emergency evacuation policy. We will be practicing evacuation procedures 3 times during the fall and 3 times during the spring. In addition, we will be reviewing and practicing “Lock Down” procedures. Students are reminded that they must wear shoes in the school building at all times. If the fire alarm is activated, students are not permitted to stop to put on shoes, coats etc. Safety is the first priority.

PED Policy

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 or during school related activities. The use of Personal Electronic devices is not permitted at school as per the School Board Policy (see student agenda). It is the policy of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board that all PEDs be kept out-of-sight, turned off and not used within school premises or during school-sanctioned activities. 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 any PED brought onto school property. Students are encouraged to leave PEDs (cell phones etc.) at home. In addition, PED use by visitors is also governed by School Board Policy. PEDs should be turned off during school-sanctioned activities. Parents/guardians may not take photographs of students.

By-Law Enforcement –The front driveway is a fire route - signs are posted.

The fire route at the front of the school is enforced by the city by-law officers. There is no parking at the front of the school. The city officer has already ticketed cars when dropping off or picking up children. Please park your car on the road or in the parking lot at the side of the school.

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Kindergarten Registration Information for 2012-2013

Registration for Junior and Senior Kindergarten for the 2012-2013 school year will take place at the school on:

Monday, February 6, 2012 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Snow Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2012 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, February 8, 9, & 10, 2012

9:00 – 11:00 am

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Information Meetings for the 2012-2013 Extended French Program

Wednesday, January 18, 2012 St. Jean Brebeuf
63 Glenforest Drive, Brampton
905-791-8529

French Immersion Information Meeting for 2012-2013

Tuesday, January 10th, 2012 7:00 pm Our Lady of Providence
35 Black Oak Drive, Brampton
905-458-7080

Parent Information Session for Kindergarten Entry Planning

On Tuesday, January 17, 2012 the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board's Special Education and Support Services Department will host a Kindergarten entry planning information session. This meeting is for parents and guardians of children with special needs which affect their learning, such as vision, hearing, physical, developmental or autism, who are entering Junior, Senior or Full-Day Kindergarten in September 2012. The meeting will be held at the Catholic Education Centre from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm. For more information about this session, call 905-890-0708 ext 24011.

Kindergarten Entry Planning for Children with Special Needs – Parent Information Meeting
Tuesday, January 17, 2012 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

DPCDSB Community Programs from Adult and Continuing Education

Program flyers arrive at your doorstep the week of January 2, 2012.

You are invited to join in these exciting community programs.

- Computer ABC's Day Program
- Car Maintenance for Women
- Secondary Night School Credit
- French as a Second Language
- Adult Coop and Credit
- General Interest Programs
- International Languages
- English as a Second Language
- Citizenship and ESL Classes
- Health and Fitness
- Much Much More

Register now for lifelong learning opportunities! Call 905-891-9263 ext 0 or www.dpcdsb.org/cec/cne.

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Lates

Supervision begins at 8:30 am in the school yard. Ensure your child(ren) are at school on time. **Please use the Kiss and Ride drop-off on the west side of the school.** Students should go directly to their lines to be met by their teachers. Students should not be entering via the front door of the school. Let your child know it is important to be on time.

Volunteers

Volunteers play an important part in the life of any school community. At the school level, they help to enhance the learning opportunities available to students. They can make a difference in the academic life of a student. We always appreciate your assistance, support and the sharing of your many gifts and talents with our staff and students. Volunteer forms are available in the office. Note: A current Criminal Reference Check must be completed by Peel Regional Police. The application may be picked up at the school office.

Dates to Remember

December 21	Primary Christmas Concert
December 26 – January 6	Christmas Break
January 9	Welcome Back
January 10	7 pm French Immersion Meeting for SK at St. Joachim
January 16	PA Day – Report Card Writing
January 17	7 pm Parent Council Meeting
January 18	7 pm Extended French Meeting for Grad 4 students at St. John Brebeuf
January 31	Report Card Sent Home
February 2	Grade 1 – 8 Report Card Conferences JK/SK Parent Conferences (no formal reports)
February 3	PA Day – Grade JK – 8 Conferences
February 20	Family Day (no classes)
March 12 – March 16	March Break