



**Cardinal Ambrozic Catholic
District Secondary School**
10 Castle Oaks Crossing
Brampton, On. L6P 3A2
905-913-2989

Principal:
Mr. T. Lariviere

Vice-Principal:
Mr. C. Vincent

Secretary:
Mrs. R. D'Agostino

Chaplain:
Mr. A. Minardi

Lead Hand:
Mr. N. Mazzatelli

Trustee:
Ms. J. Anderson

Superintendent
Brampton North
East :
Mr. A. Tucciarone

Pastor St. Patrick's
Parish:
Rev. V. Papais

Cardinal Ambrozic Catholic Secondary School

River Hawks Soaring to Success

Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2010

River Hawks Soaring to Success!

Welcome River Hawks!

I would like to welcome all our students and parents back from the beautiful summer vacation, and a special welcome to all the new River Hawk students, parents and community. As we leap into the second year of our new Cardinal Ambrozic Catholic Secondary School community we welcome 370 new students, 27 new fantastic teachers and Mr. Vincent our first Vice-Principal. The school has already been buzzing for the last couple of weeks with the 4 day grade nine "Get Ready" transitions program, Newcomer Orientation Week (NOW), grade 9 orientation day, and the River Hawk Football team pre-season camp. There are a number of new Ministry of Education initiatives beginning this September including the implementation of the new School Food & Beverage policy: PPM150, the new "Growing Success" document on assessment, evaluation and reporting, the DPCDSB's 3 year Strategic Plan and the DPCDSB Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct document. At the school we have installed SMART-boards in every core subject classroom, outfitted the communication technology classroom and studio, initiated the expansion of our teacher

website, installed bleachers on our River Hawk stadium for 240 students and a small press box, re-surfaced our gym floor, and installed our new computer lab, our interior information screen. The River Hawk Hedge Fund continues to be a fall season priority and part of our Green school program, so if you wish to donate a "burning bush" to the school's hedge fund please just drop it off in the main office. Once again, we have Pina Foods as our cafeteria caterer offering students the opportunity to purchase their lunches in the cafeteria. Pina Foods is compliant with the new ministry food policy. We are all looking forward to Teresa's lunch menu again this year.

Cardinal Ambrozic Catholic Secondary School will continue to develop an exemplary reputation in the Brampton community with our River Hawks Soaring to Success focus. This focus includes a culturally proficient faith based learning community approach to education. We strive to educate the whole child while raising the academic achievement bar. It begins with the commitment from our excellent Catholic teachers and support staff who provide all students the opportunities to build positive relation-

ships and to tell their story. Staff provides the extra-time and support required to improve student achievement. The school will continue to strive towards it's three year Catholic School Learning Plan focused on improving literacy and numeracy skills in our students. Once again we look to our community leadership trustee Ms. Joyce Anderson, Mr. Tucciarone our Superintendent of Brampton North East of Schools, Father Papais and the St. Patrick's Parish, our dynamic School Council, and you the River Hawk community to compliment our school staff. If you haven't noticed we are a learning community that is all action!

We are excited that you have entrusted Cardinal Ambrozic Catholic Secondary School with your child's education. We do encourage parents to work collaboratively with the school to improve your child's high school experience. We may do things a little differently but that's because being average is not an option at Cardinal Ambrozic!

God Bless,

Mr. Lariviere

Principal



Planning for Success Starts With Your Agenda

Cardinal Ambrozic's Student Success Program is here to help you when you need help meeting success. You can find out more information about this program by going to our school's website. We have included tips below on how to use your awesome student agenda to help you plan and be organized. If you need help with this or have any questions, come by Room 101 before or after school or during your lunch.

How and When to Use the Student Agenda:

BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS

Write down what day (days 1 through 8) it is in your agenda.
Write down anything that you need to remember to do during the day.

THROUGHOUT THE DAY

Write down assignments and due dates.
Write down homework and due dates.
Write down test dates.
Write down reminders (e.g. get trip form signed)

AT THE END OF THE DAY (at your locker)

Review your agenda and plan what you need to do that night.
Be sure to bring home your notebook, textbooks, calculator, etc. that you will need to complete any homework.

WHEN YOU GET HOME

Complete your homework, projects, assignments to the best of your ability.
If something is unclear, write a question down for your teacher and ask it the next day.
When you finish your homework, assignments, studying etc, use your favourite highlighter to check it off your list.

ASSIGNMENTS AND TESTS

To avoid frustration, whenever big projects or tests are assigned, plan ahead.
You can complete the project and study for a test in chunks instead of cramming the night before.

Join us for Brampton Day 2010 Celebrating our History, Heritage and Heart.

Saturday, September 25, 8 am to 2 pm
Downtown Brampton
FREE BBQ and FAMILY FUN
Kids' Carnival Zone
Community Showcase
Entertainment
Learn about City services
Brampton Farmers' Market



New! Exciting band featuring actors from Degraasi
1 pm: Lorna Bissell Fountain, Garden Square

Europe Trip 2011

As part of the school's mission to encourage our students to be citizen's of the world, a group of students will be travelling to France, Monaco and Italy from March 10th to March 19, 2011. This fantastic educational opportunity is open to all our grade 10 students. There are a limited amount of spots still available. If you are interested in participating, please pick up an information package from Ms. Pallotta or Mr. K. Prospero in the Moderns & Social Sciences Office.
To students who have already signed up for the trip, please remember that your second deposit is due Wednesday, September 15th. If you require further information please contact Ms. Pallotta.

Open House for Parents & Guardians

Tuesday September 21, 2010

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Cafeteria

7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Meet your child's teachers

(Please note this change in the student agenda from September 16, 2010)

Ambrozic Pyramid of Interventions

At Ambrozic, student success is dependent on a full school team effort and response when a student is experiencing difficulty learning. The Ambrozic Pyramid of Interventions is a structural pyramid of proactive strategies and responses to ensure students have the opportunity to experience success. If you require further information please contact the Guidance department or Administration.

Check our Website for all the latest information
<http://w3.dpcdsb.org/ambro>



Please visit our school website to keep updated on all the exciting things that occur on a daily basis here at the school. Students and parents can also check out the teacher website for upcoming and missed work. To cut costly newsletters most information and future newsletters will be posted on the website. If you do not have access to a computer please contact the main office and request a hard copy of future newsletters .

River Hawks Soaring to Success!

Welcome to our new staff...

Mr. Vincent
Ms. Arias
Mr. Burchill
Ms. Crescenzi
Ms. De Marco
Ms. Dornford
Mr. Dovigo
Mr. Freda
Mr. Hinds
Mr. Iannotta
Mr. Karolidis
Ms. Laxton
Mr. Leskun
Ms. Munroe
Mr. Maury
Mr. O'Toole
Ms. Paluzzi
Ms. Petrone
Ms. Pinto
Ms. Pulla
Mr. Ruzyllo
Mr. Selvam
Ms. Tardella
Ms. Venier
Mr. Venier
Ms. Valentinis
Welcome back...
Mrs. D'Agostino
Mrs. Dos Santos
Mrs. Ranieri
Ms. Vilen
Ms. Andreopoulos
Mr. Attanasio
Mrs. Bevilacqua
Mr. Bevilacqua
Ms. Buta
Mr. Chung
Mr. Costello
Mr. D'Andrea
Mr. D'Ippolito
Ms. De Faveri
Mr. Frasson
Ms. Grando
Ms. Holeran
Ms. Jones
Mr. Linden
Ms. Manning
Mr. Mastragostino
Ms. Pacheco
Mr. B. Prospero
Mr. K. Prospero
Ms. Ramalho
Mr. Reynolds
Father N. Roberts
Ms. Singh
Mrs. Stevenson
Ms. Tanega
Mr. Taylor
Ms. Varnam
Ms. Weseloh
Ms. Zoffranieri

Religious Accommodations Requests 2010

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board is committed to providing quality Catholic education. The Board recognizes that the school system gives pre-eminence to the tenets of the Catholic faith, congruent with the protection afforded in the Ontario *Human Rights Code*, the *Constitution Act, 1982* and confirmed in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

The Board acknowledges that any form of social or cultural discrimination is incompatible with Catholic moral principles and is in violation of the Ontario Human Rights Code. The Board and its staff are committed to the elimination of discrimination as outlined in Ontario's Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy and the Ontario Ministry of Education Policy/Program Memorandum No. 119, in a manner which is consistent with the exercise of the Board's denominational rights under section 93 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, and as recognized at section 19 of the Ontario *Human Rights Code*.

The Board is committed to the values of freedom of religion and freedom from discriminatory or harassing behaviours based on religion and will take all reasonable steps to provide religious accommodations within the legal rights afforded to the Catholic school system. Students requesting religious accommodations must present written notice from their parents/guardians specifying their accommodation needs relating to religious observances, including holy days on which they will be absent from school. This notice should be made in advance (preferably at the beginning of each school year) to ensure that scheduling of major evaluations, such as tests, assignments or examinations, takes the religious observances into consideration.

If further information is required regarding Religious Accommodation, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

River Hawk House System

Students at Cardinal Ambrozic are randomly assigned to Houses. They participate in various spirit activities throughout the year in their House group. Students are awarded points on a regular basis for their participation in clubs and teams and for random acts of kindness. The house with the most points is rewarded at the end of each month with a celebration of success and individual spirit awards are given. At the end of the school year a House Gala celebrates student success and a house cup is awarded.

The house names were selected by our student prefects and are as follows:

Courage
Justice
Loyalty
Perseverance
Faith
Hope
Empathy



Keeping Our Home Clean!

At Cardinal Ambrozic we take pride in the cleanliness of the school both inside and outside. The school custodial team led by Mr. Mazzitelli, Mrs. Sestito, Mr. Cangemi, Mr. Stoyanov and Mr. Zachaczewski work very hard to maintain a clean and welcoming environment. It is an expectation that our community take that same pride in the cleanliness of the school. The school will be implementing a Green School's Program during the year which will focus on recycling, paper use reduction, and technology.



MOST REVEREND THOMAS COLLINS
ARCHBISHOP OF TORONTO

1155 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario M4T 1W2
Tel: (416) 934-0606 • Fax: (416) 934-3452

September 2010

To Parents of Students in our Publicly Funded Catholic Schools:

I hope that the summer break has provided an opportunity for you to enjoy some rest, relaxation and quality family time. As the new academic year is upon us, I want to take a moment to share some brief thoughts for reflection.

I wish to thank you for saying “YES” to Catholic education, a cherished gift in our province that has a rich tradition of nearly 170 years. One third of Ontario’s students attend publicly funded Catholic schools. In our Archdiocese, classrooms in more than 500 schools bring together a diverse family of 270,000 students, inspired by our faith, and following the example of Christ in work and play. Your engagement in the life of your school and parish plays a critical role in strengthening the entire community. For all that you do, be assured of my gratitude.

I would also like to ask for your assistance in continuing to strengthen the close relationship of parish, home and school that is so significant in the faith formation of our young people. We cannot underestimate the profound impact each one of us can play in the process. I continue to be inspired by the people I meet - parents sharing with their children faith traditions passed down over generations, schools mobilizing to assist the vulnerable, students excelling in academics and extra curricular activities - in short, a family working together, inspired by our Gospel call to serve one another.

I also wish to draw your attention to our upcoming municipal elections, to be held on Monday, October 25, 2010. As we elect local councillors and school board trustees, I strongly encourage you to become engaged in this important democratic process. We know that municipal elections have a traditionally low voter turnout, and yet those elected to office will directly impact our day to day activities with important decisions on everything from public transit to garbage collection, recreation centres to our school boards.

It is particularly important that Catholics be registered as supporters of our publicly funded Catholic schools so that they can vote for our Catholic School Trustees. This role is immensely important for the good of Catholic education, and I urge you to assess the candidates very carefully. On October 25th, I encourage you to vote for a candidate who will worthily and effectively fulfil the vitally important mission of stewardship in Catholic education that is entrusted to each Catholic School Trustee.

May Our Lord abundantly bless you and your family.

+ Thomas Collins

Thomas Collins
Archbishop of Toronto

Check out the new **Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board System Direction 2010-2013** at
<http://www.dpcdsb.org/NR/rdonlyres/FBD77489-7093-4165-B54C->

Helpful Hints for Students:

- If you require information about your schedule, feel free to ask your guidance counselor.
- Hang around positive students who share the same interest as you.
- Set goals for yourself and reflect on them every once in a while.
- If you feel you are being harassed or bullied speak to a teacher or another adult in the school.
- Do not leave valuables in the Physical Education Change Rooms. Use the mini-lockers provided and lock it up.
- Do not bring I-pods etc. to school.
- If you bring a cell phone to school, keep it in your locker. Outdoors use only.
- Try to improve yourself each day.
- Get involved in the school. Join an activity, club, team, committee or other extra-curricular



Numeracy

The Math Department is pleased to welcome new and returning students for a new and exciting school year. At Ambrozic excellence is the mark, striving to improve our students' well-being is the goal. The Math Department is already hard at work developing new strategies oriented at fostering student growth. One such strategy is the creation of a work recovery period, geared to assist students who have fallen behind in their studies. This program is designed to help stress the importance of regularly completing their daily schoolwork, which in turn helps to communicate their needs to the teacher. Our main goal at the beginning of the school year is to assess every student and ensure they are enrolled in the appropriate program (Academic/Applied/Locally Developed) for their needs. We will be performing the following steps:

- Reviewing elementary school recommendations
- Performing diagnostic assessments
- Performing unit assessments
- Academic Resource consultation
- School/Family conference

This process helps to ensure proper student programming and support to facilitate student success. Parents are encouraged to visit the course website to stay informed on homework, assignment due dates, resource material and useful links.

River Hawk Athletics

Welcome back River Hawks, and a special welcome to all of the new River Hawks. After soaring to a very successful inaugural athletics season, the coaches of Cardinal Ambrozic are looking forward to continuing that success again this year. But we can't do it without you. Fall sports seasons are starting the first week of school with try-outs for football, boys' volleyball, girls' basketball, tennis and cross country. Listen to announcement for details. Go River Hawks!!!



Catholic School Council Elections

Elections for Cardinal Ambrozic Catholic Secondary School, Catholic School Council, will be **TBA**, **please check website for most recent information. We will send a letter home with dates.**

Literacy Preparation

This is an important year for Cardinal Ambrozic since it is the first time Ambrozic students will write the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). The school's Literacy Committee is already busy with plans in order to prepare both grade 9 and 10 students. Throughout the school year students will receive support in their classes to prepare them for the Literacy Test every secondary student must successfully complete before graduation. On March 31st 2010 all grade ten students will be writing the Literacy Test and all grade 9 students will write a Simulation Test on the same day. Every staff member at Cardinal Ambrozic is committed to helping students find success and this commitment is evident in the activities, teaching strategies and reading and writing techniques that are implemented in every classroom. At home, parents are encouraged to keep their son or daughter reading everyday to help students sharpen their literacy skills.

Student Council Elections

The Cardinal Ambrozic Catholic Secondary School Student Government Elections are on Thursday September 16, 2010. Nomination forms can be picked up outside the Student Government/Yearbook Office across from the Main Office. Completed forms are to be submitted to Ms. Pallotta in room 214 no later than the end of the school day on Friday September 10. There are many positions available to Grade 9 and Grade 10 students, so pick up a form if interested.

Bus Information:

School Hours
8:45 a.m. to 2: 45 p.m.

The Board has a new Transportation System that takes effect this year.

Please be advised that the following website, <http://businfo.stopr.ca> , is now available.

Parents and students will be able to login to access the specific details of **only their child's** transportation arrangements following these instructions:

- ⇒ Click "student login"
- ⇒ Enter your child's OEN number, street address number, school, and grade (Note: OEN number appears on student report card)
- ⇒ Click "login"

The bus run and route number, bus stop, location and morning pick-up and afternoon drop-off times specific to only your child can be obtained through this process.

If you do not have access to the WEB, all the above noted information is available at your school or STOPR.

Guidance Department

The Guidance Department will strive to create a learning environment that provides all students the opportunity to make positive choices, succeed in their faith, and achieve their hopes and aspirations in a safe and inclusive environment while discovering where their story fits in our Catholic tradition. It is our goal through student development, interpersonal development and career development to enable our students to become successful Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board graduates. Guidance is divided by Alpha according to a students' surname as follows:

Mr. Taylor x 27302
A-F
Q-Z

Ms. Pacheco x 27303
G-P

Students who wish to meet with their Guidance counsellor can do so by completing a request form in the Guidance office. Parents who have questions regarding their child's course selections or wish to discuss other Guidance related issues may phone the counsellors' extension.

Who Do You Call?

Principal:	Mr. Lariviere
Vice-Principal:	Mr. Vincent
Chaplain:	Mr. Minardi
Secretary:	Mrs. D'Agostino
Attendance/Guidance:	Mrs. Dos Santos
Receptionist:	Mrs. Rainieri
Guidance Counselor:	Mr. Taylor
SST teacher:	Ms. Zoffranieri
Special Education:	Mr. D'Ippolito
PIP:	Mr. Costello
CYW:	Ms. Jones
Social Work:	Ms. Masciulli
ESL:	Ms. Singh
Family Settlement	Ms. Al-Hindawi
Athletics:	Mr. B. Prospero

Uniform

Ambrozic is a Dufferin-Peel school that requires students to be in **R.J. McCarthy uniforms only**. The uniform policy is non-negotiable. Due to the positive response last year by students and parents we have modified our initial policy to include the wearing of the school golf shirt up to Thanksgiving weekend. After Thanksgiving weekend all students are to be in full Blazer uniform until Victoria Day,. Please review the policy in the student agenda or school website. River Hawks as was the case last year, we are implementing an exciting "day care" for baseball hats. Baseball hats and other inappropriate headgear

being worn by students during school hours will be confiscated from the student and placed in the main office "hat day care" with the student's name on it for one full week. The hat will be returned to the student at the end of one full week. Just a reminder that all shoes must be solid black in colour with no white or other coloured stripes or markings. Bandanas and any other attire that could be seen as destructive to our school community will be confiscated. We thank parents in advance for your support of the uniform policy.

Growing Success Document

The new Ministry "Growing Success" document focuses on **Assessment and Evaluation** for your child. The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board Assessment and Evaluation Policy which is rooted in the "Growing Success" document can be found in your child's **Student Agenda**. Please pay special attention to the assessment and evaluation section as it pertains to attendance during culminating tasks and final exams.

Homework Club

Students who need extra-time and support to complete daily homework, students who just need a quiet place to do their homework, or students whose parents just don't have the time or skills to assist them with their homework can take advantage of the River Hawk Homework Club . The club runs Mondays to Thursday from 2:50-4:00 p.m.

Attendance

FROM THE ATTENDANCE OFFICE:

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am Marlene dos Santos, Attendance and Guidance Secretary at Cardinal Ambrozic C.S.S.

I would like to clarify the procedures that need to be followed if your child is absent for the full day; is arriving to school late or is leaving school early.

IF YOUR CHILD WILL BE ABSENT ALL DAY:

In the event of any absence, **the parent/guardian** is required to:

- notify the Attendance Office by phone before 9:00 a.m. on the day of the absence (905-913-2989, ext. 27310);**
- provide the full name of the student (please spell the last name and first name of the student speaking slowly and clearly); the reason for the absence (illness, dental appointment, doctor appointment, etc.); and identify yourself (mom, dad, etc.) and provide us with a telephone number where you can be reached if further information is required.

When the student returns to school after a full-day absence, the student is required to:

- report to the Attendance Office and receive an Admit to Class Slip which must be shown to each one of his/her teachers.

Students without an Admit to Class Slip will not be admitted to class and will be re-directed to the Attendance Office.

IF YOU BRING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL LATE:

A student who arrives at school late must report to the Attendance Office and sign in before they proceed to class. **Parent contact (verbal or written) must be made before the student may receive an Admit to Class Slip from the secretary.** If a student goes directly to class without signing in at the Attendance Office, they will be sent to the Attendance Office to sign in and receive an Admit to Class Slip from the Attendance Secretary.

IF A STUDENT IS LATE TO CLASS

Students will be admitted to class by the teacher and marked “late” until the attendance form has been sent to the office. Students arriving after the attendance sheets have been sent must sign in at the Attendance Office.

IF YOUR CHILD NEEDS TO LEAVE SCHOOL EARLY:

A student who must leave school during the day must submit a dated and signed note from the parent/guardian to the Attendance Secretary. **Parent contact (verbal or written) must be made before a student may receive a release slip from the secretary.** If a student leaves school without signing out, the absence will be considered as a truant class.

IF YOUR CHILD BECOMES ILL DURING THE DAY:

A student who becomes ill during the day, must report to the Main Office or Attendance office before leaving the premises. We will contact a parent to advise them of the illness and obtain permission for the student to be released from school. Due to the fact that our school is located in a new subdivision and there are no sidewalks, we recommend that students be picked up. It is therefore important that you have a person you can contact in an emergency if you cannot pick your child up yourself.

NOTES: If you provide a note, please be sure it contains the following information:

- Name of student (please print)**
- Reason for lateness;**
- Date; and**
- Signature of parent/guardian and contact number.**

****IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT EVERY ABSENCE, LATE ARRIVAL OR EARLY RELEASE BE VERIFIED BY A PARENT BY PHONE OR IN WRITING. STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ADMITTED TO CLASS OR RELEASED FROM CLASS UNTIL A PHONE CALL OR NOTE FROM A PARENT OR GUARDIAN IS RECEIVED.**

Your child has now entered high school, and attendance procedures have changed from what was expected in elementary school. Please take some time to review these procedures with your child so that you are all familiar with them. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will be happy to clarify them for you. I do thank you for your anticipated co-operation and wish you and your child(ren) a fabulous year.

Sabrina's Law: Medical Danger—Anaphylaxis

We have a number of Ambrozic students who have life threatening allergies to food products including peanuts and all types of nuts. If peanut butter or even the smallest amount of peanut oil or any type of nut enters the body by touching or eating, severe life threatening symptoms occur and without immediate medical treatment the student could die. Our concern is for foods where peanuts or nuts might be a “hidden” ingredient, and where cross contamination may occur. For example computer keys, or a ball previously handled another student who had peanut/nut oil on their hands. The school cafeteria, vending machines and the food our hospitality class uses is nut free and adheres to Sabrina's Law. We do realize this request may require added effort for you when packing your child's lunch and snacks; however, we wish to express sincere appreciation for your support and understanding regarding this life-threatening condition. **Students requiring administration of injection medication—epi-pen who have not already contacted the main office for the appropriate emergency forms are encouraged to do so as soon as possible.**