

## March 2009

Principal:	S. Taccone
Vice-Principal:	D. McKnight
Head Secretary:	A. Milidoni
Head Custodian:	C. Tome
Superintendent Mississauga East	E. McGuire 905-890-1221
Trustee	B. Iannicca 905-270-0536
Parish:	Christ the King 905-270-1133
Pastor :	Monsignor Resendes
Associate Pastor:	Father O. Fernandes
School Website:	<a href="http://www.dpcdsb.org/BSCAL">www.dpcdsb.org/BSCAL</a>
Father Michael Goetz Website	<a href="http://www.dpcdsb.org/goetz">www.dpcdsb.org/goetz</a>
Board Website:	<a href="http://www.dpcdsb.org">www.dpcdsb.org</a>

### March's Virtue: Kindness

#### A Kind Person...

- Says nice things about others so they feel good about themselves
- Sticks up for people who are picked on or need help
- Refuses to join others who are insulting, intimidating, mean or hurtful
- Watches and looks for ways to help those in need

God has given us the gifts of friends and companions to keep us company and to help us out along the way.

Every person in our lives carries the Spirit of God – and so every person is our brother or sister through Jesus Christ.

As brothers and sister who share one Holy Spirit, we are all valuable to God. We all deserve to be shown concern for our welfare and our feelings. We have all been given the fruit of the Spirit called kindness.

Kindness can only be seen through actions. It's not enough to say I will be kind or I am kind. We must show that we are kind by our words and our actions.

Through prayer and concentration, we can get better at showing kindness to everyone we meet.

### The Meaning of Lent



*When you send forth your spirit...  
You renew the face of the earth.  
Psalm 104:30*

*What does the word 'Lent' mean?  
Why have we given this name to the time  
of preparation to Easter?*

*Lent comes from an old word meaning 'Springtime.'  
During the spring time of year, daylight increases,  
trees begin to bud and flowers start to appear.  
The new life that comes to the world  
each spring is like the renewal of life that comes when we pray  
and try hard to follow Jesus.*

*Jesus, thank you for the new life you give our world  
and our spirits*

**Dear God,**  
**You have done such a marvelous job of creating us  
and the world around us.**  
**You have placed this creation,  
including all the people we meet, in our care.**

**We come to you now asking for the grace  
and strength to keep a sense of kindness.**  
**We hope that by recognizing and honouring this fruit of the  
Holy Spirit, we can contribute to making our school a safer,  
more caring, more inclusive community.**

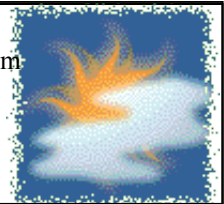
**May kindness, the fruit of your Spirit, help us to feel the  
courage to act on behalf of people around us who are in need.**

**We ask this in name of Jesus, our brother, who lived to show  
us your way.**

**Amen.**

### March Break

A reminder to parents that March break is from  
Monday March 16th to Friday March 19th  
2009 inclusive.



### Second Term Report Cards

Second term reports will be sent home **Tuesday March 24th**.  
Parent / teacher / student conferences will be held on the evening  
of Thursday March 26th. This set of interviews  
originates from a teacher or parent request.



## System Survey indicates that Catholic education is strong in Dufferin-Peel schools



Forty years have elapsed since the amalgamation of eight local Catholic school boards into a single school district that would provide Catholic education to children and families in the Region of Peel and Dufferin County. Over these four decades, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board has grown from twenty-seven Catholic elementary schools, in 1969, to one of the province's largest school districts serving approximately 88,000 students in 122 elementary and 23 secondary schools located throughout Mississauga, Brampton, Caledon and Orangeville. With the board's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary approaching, the Director of Education and Board of Trustees initiated a system review process intended to allow for consultation with the wider Catholic community in Peel and Dufferin on matters related to the board's strengths, challenges, and recommended areas of focus over the next three to five years.

Consisting primarily of surveys and small group meetings, the outcome of this consultative process was intended to provide trustees and senior management in Dufferin-Peel with a better understanding of the interests, concerns and accolades identified by local parents, Catholic school council members, pastors, senior students and recent graduates, unions, and associations. Equipped with the findings from this system review process, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board can set out in an informed manner on the journey of shaping and building its future.

The results are in and we were gratified to see that there is an overwhelming consensus that our Catholic schools are viewed as distinctly Catholic, safe, healthy, clean and educationally sound places to learn, grow in faith and prepare for post secondary education or the workplace.

Among the findings:

Catholicity is a strength of this school board and that the Catholic faith is clearly demonstrated in local school communities.

Dufferin-Peel schools are viewed as a distinct alternative to local public schools.

Satisfaction with the overall quality of Catholic education in Dufferin-Peel schools is very high.

Continued funding, vitality and relevance of Catholic education in Ontario is seen as a concern.

Strong support for the provision and funding of quality core programs on a board-wide basis, rather than support for the funding of specialty programs at the expense of local school programming.

Support for the board to continue to manage its resources responsibly, with transparency and accountability of financial reporting.

Calls for increased funding for programs such as special education and/or English Language Learner needs.

High levels of satisfaction with the safety and cleanliness of schools.

Dufferin-Peel Catholic schools enhance the character development of students.

Satisfaction with the level of extra curricular activities, program variety and transportation.

For more information on the Strategic System Review, please contact the school office or call the Communications & Community Relations Department at (905) 890-0708, ext. 24278.

## Family Fun Night – Learning Together!

Free workshops for families offered by the Region of Peel here at  
**Bishop Scalabrini Catholic Elementary School**

Family Fun Night is for families with children aged 0 – 6 years. Families come together for story times and activities. Come and join us! The program will be held in the library on Wednesday nights, from 6:30 – 8:00 pm for six weeks, starting March 25th. We welcome all families with children under 6yrs, as well as older children in your family. Please register by calling (905) 791-1585 or visit The Region of Peel's website at [www.peelregion.ca](http://www.peelregion.ca) and click on **Child Care**. Or better yet, just come and sign up that evening.

We hope to see you there – come and learn how to build a love of reading in your child with a curriculum based research supported literacy program.



**Share –Life Shrove Tuesday Luncheon**

\$300 was raised for Share life through the Share—Life Shrove Tuesday luncheon prepared by the Youth Faith Ambassadors and Mr. Gregg’s grade 8 students. Thanks to Mr. Gregg, Ms. Williams, Mrs. Brodniewicz, Ms. Racicot and Ms. Ballarin, and Mr. De Santis for their assistance, and to all who purchased the delectable pancakes. Together we can make a difference!



**Movie Night**

A sincere thank you to School Council for organizing our first movie night. Approximately 140 people joined us and watched Kung—Fu Panda. From the laughter heard throughout the evening, it was apparent a good time was had by all.



**Fund-Raiser Kick – Off**

The Bishop Scalabrini School Council is kicking off our **annual spring fundraiser** on March 11, 2009. Our goal is to **raise \$7,000** to buy literacy and school resources for our students. This year, we are offering **Lamontagne Chocolate’s Belgian Boutique**, an assortment of 25 fine quality chocolates. Individual chocolate products are \$3.00 and **all products are peanut-free**. More details to follow shortly.

**Moving?**

We are in the process of planning staffing and organizing classes for the 2009—2010 school year. If you are planning to move out of the Bishop Scalabrini, or simply changing addresses within our boundaries, please let the office know as soon as possible.



**Smoke—Free Legislation**

As of January 21st, 2009, smoking in vehicles with children under the age of 16 is against the law. This amendment to the Smoke-Free Ontario Act protects children who are especially vulnerable to the health effects of second hand smoke.

Why is SMOKE-FREE Car legislation important?

Children are especially vulnerable to the harmful effects of second hand smoke.

Children exposed to second hand smoke are more likely to get infections such as bronchitis, pneumonia and other respiratory tract infections. It can also trigger or worsen asthma.

Second hand smoke can reach very high levels inside small spaces such as family vehicles.

There is no safe level of exposure to second hand smoke for children or adults.

**Reminder for Parents**

Please do not leave messages on the answering machine regarding changes in picking up or transporting your child. We are not always able to hear these messages in a timely fashion. All changes to your child’s routines should be written in a note addressed to your child’s teacher on the day the change in routine is to occur.



**PED (Personal Electronic Devices) Policy**

A part of our efforts to promote and maintain a positive Catholic climate in our schools, the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board approved a policy regarding Personal Electronic Devices (PEDS) on school property. In this regard, all PEDs (cell-phones, ipods, mp3 players, digital cameras etc) must be kept out of sight, turned off and not used within school premises or during school sanctioned activities such as retreats, field trips, sporting events, etc. To prevent the loss or damage of PEDs, students are encouraged to leave their PEDs at home as the school is not responsible for their safekeeping nor replacement if damaged. Parental support is requested and greatly appreciated.



**Book Fair**

Thanks to your generosity our recent book fair raised approximately \$1600.00! Monies raised will go towards purchasing more books for our library.

Thanks to all who helped support this important event; especially Mrs. Sartor. As well thanks to Mrs. Galina for organizing the event.



**PSYCHOLOGY MONTH 2009 AT DUFFERIN-PEEL**  
**Dufferin-Peel Psychology Services:**  
**Making a Difference For Learning And Behaviour**

**The Importance of Play**

Research has determined that “free play”, that is, providing children with unstructured opportunities to play, is critical for building cognitive skills such as problem solving, coping with stress and becoming socially adept. The January, 2009 journal *Scientific American* included an article entitled “The Serious Need for Play”. The article stated that free, imaginative play is crucial for normal cognitive, social and emotional development. In other words, play makes us smarter, better adjusted and less stressed.

However, in the last few decades, free play has been losing ground in children’s busy timetables that are filled with lessons, sports and other organized and structured activities. Recent research has noted that children’s free play time dropped by 25% between 1981 and 1997. Researchers are theorizing that this lack of free play, with no time to foster creativity and cooperation skills, can disrupt development and increase anxiety, unhappiness and social maladjustment.

The toys that are available for children now tend to be technology-based and can erode creativity. Few toys are marketed for creative play, where children are more apt to generate their own ideas. When adults play with children, it is important to let the child take the lead. Take time to slow down and let the child’s interests and curiosity develop. Answer questions with questions. If a child asks “what is this for?” answer “what do you think it is for?” Or, ask the child to make a guess based on their prior knowledge and experiences.

Here are some ideas for free play activities – any given type of free play could fall into more than one category – but the point is that these types of free play activities develop cognitive, social and emotional skills and need to be an important part of any child’s day.

- v **Quiet Play:** picture books, bead-stringing, puzzles, doll centres, crayons
- v **Creative Play:** painting, drawing, music, dancing, play dough, sand, water, collage, make believe, dress up
- v **Active Play:** outdoors – balls, slides, swings, riding toys, climbing tress, running around; indoors – sand and water, crates, blocks, rhythm band, bean bag toss
- v **Cooperative Play:** play requiring more than one person – ball games, tag, see-saws, doll centre, house centre, block building, hide and seek, tag
- v **Dramatic Play:** role playing different life roles, occupations, activities; e.g., mother, father, firefighter, farmer, characters from a book, store clerk or cashier
- v **Manipulative Play:** puzzles, crayons, painting, cutting paper with scissors, bead stringing, play tools, building blocks, dolls, trucks

Prepared by Debra Lean, Chief Psychologist

**Sources:**

Children’s Institute, Inc., From the Playroom, Winter, 2009, [www.childrensinstitute.net](http://www.childrensinstitute.net)  
 National Network for Child Care – NNCC. (1994). Play is the business of kids. In *Better Kid Care: A video learn at home unit.* (pp. 3-18. University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Cooperative Extension.  
 Wenner, M. (2009). The serious need for play. *Scientific American*, January 28, 2009, <http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=the-serious-need-for-play>.

**March 2009**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Pizza Day	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Daylight Savings Begins	<b>9</b> March Madness Spirit week -Wacky Hair day	<b>10</b> Bubble Gum Day -Pizza Day	<b>11</b> School Fund-raiser Kick off -Hat Day	<b>12</b> -Team Jersey Day	<b>13</b> Movie / hot-dog day	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> March Break begins	<b>17</b> March Break -St. Patrick’s Day	<b>18</b> March Break	<b>19</b> March Break	<b>20</b> March Break	<b>21</b> March Break
<b>22</b> March Break ends	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Report Cards home - Pizza Day	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Reconciliation Gr. 3-8 9:30 a.m.	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Lenten Food Drive Begins	<b>31</b> Pizza Day				