

# St. Albert of Jerusalem School September 2008 Newsletter



7185 Rosehurst Drive, Mississauga ON L5N 7G6  
Phone (905)785-9298 Fax (905)785-1227  
Board web site: [www.dpcdsb.org](http://www.dpcdsb.org)  
School website: [www.dpcdsb.org/alber](http://www.dpcdsb.org/alber)

## Principal:

G. Boudreau

## Vice Principals:

B. Jones

P. Golin

## Secretaries:

T. Ball

A. Charette

## Superintendent:

M. Prospero

## Trustee:

E. O'Toole

(905)812-5163

## Parish:

St. John of the Cross

## Pastoral Team

Fr. Leo Huard

Fr. Abraham Kulanjiyil

Fr. Joseph Kalluvila

Kate Watkiss, Pastoral Associate

Julie Flynn, Pastoral Associate

## Prayer for a New School Year

You are the teacher, Jesus. Your disciples gathered around you to hear your wisdom. May we, too, gather as this new year begins, as disciples, excited to learn. For our own good and the good of others. With the summer behind us and the routine of school ahead, we are grateful. We take another step in the direction of who we are becoming. We are encouraged to understand the challenges we will face as opportunities for growth.

Throughout this school year we will be encouraged to do our best and we ask for God's blessing to open our eyes to discover, our ears to listen, our hearts to care, and our minds to thirst for knowledge.

Guide our best efforts. Encourage us. Bless the teachers who instruct, the custodial staff who care for our building. The Administration, School Board, Parish and School Council, Our parents, family and friends as we begin this new school year together.

AMEN

*"Upon our foundation, we continue to build the Spirit"*



## **Message From Bishop Boissonneau**

The role of Parents in Catholic

Schools at this time in the history of Catholic Schools is crucial.

If there is ANY challenge to Catholic Schools then it is this part of Ontario that would have to respond. The GTA and Golden Horeshoe have the majority of Catholics. Our parents are the ones that have to be convinced and sold on Catholic Education, continuing to see and say the value of Catholic Schools. Through the CCCSC, we need to continue to promote the value of Catholic Education at every opportunity. Ask the question. Discuss the answers. Why do you send your children to Catholic School? Remind, Maintain and Encourage. Each family should know why!!!

### **Staff**

There have been some changes in our teaching staff. Welcome is extended to the following teachers who are replacing teachers on leave:

Ms. Frackowiak, Mrs. Noronha, Mrs. Gogarty, Ms. Fazzari, Ms. Fenn, Ms. Peloso, Ms. Wanat, Mr. Stesky, Mrs. Monteiro, Mrs. Sheehan and Mrs. Smiley

As well, we welcome Ms. M. Finaldi in grade 7 and Ms. B. Hussul in grade 3, Mr. Kupferschmidt in grade 3 and Ms. Catalli in our FSL department to our permanent teaching staff.

New to our special service staff: Ms. Murnaghan and Mr. Mousa.

We would like to welcome back to our staff, Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Androulakis and Mrs Fletcher.

### **School**

Communication continues to be important to all of us at St. Albert of Jerusalem. Most issues that arise during the year can be resolved with direct communication to your child's classroom teacher. Please use your child's agenda as a communication tool or contact the teacher by phone. As well, administrators can be of assistance to answer questions. Staff will respond within a reasonable amount of time, either in writing or by phone.

One of our goals this year is **to decrease** the number of students who are late for school. This may mean that you will need to either send your child(ren) a few minutes earlier or drop them off closer to 8:15 a.m. so that they are ready to line up and enter the school with their class. Your cooperation with this will be greatly appreciated.

Enjoy September, in particular, as we move into the cooler weather of fall.

### **School Organization**

We have had a number of families move in and out of the St. Albert of Jerusalem community over the summer. Classes were set up based on projections done last May. The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board has set Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup> as the date for schools to reorganize, if it is needed. Direction will be provided over the next two weeks as to whether or not reorganization will need to take place at St. Albert of Jerusalem. Parents / Guardians will be notified if your child will be affected. If reorganization occurs, the new classes will begin during the week of September 15<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Mr. Boudreau if you have any questions.

### **School Hours**

8:30 Entry Bell  
10:35-10:50 Morning Recess  
11:00 JK/SK am Dismissal  
11:30-11:50 Grades 1-8 eat lunch  
11:50-12:30 Grades 1-8 Lunch Recess  
12:30 JK/SK pm Classes Begin  
1:55-2:10 Afternoon Recess  
3:00 Dismissal

### **PARISH CORNER**

#### **ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS**

6890 Glen Erin Drive  
Mississauga, Ontario  
L5N 2E1

Tel: (905) 821-1331

Fax: (905) 858-8486

email: [stjohnofx@rogers.com](mailto:stjohnofx@rogers.com)

Website: [www.saintjohnofthecross.com](http://www.saintjohnofthecross.com)

Please visit our website for the Sunday bulletin and other information about our parish.



### **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION**

Sacraments are parish, not school events. *Initial* preparation is done by the schools through the religion program. *Immediate* preparation is the responsibility of the parents and the parish. **CHILDREN DO NOT RECEIVE A SACRAMENT JUST BECAUSE THEY ARE IN A PARTICULAR GRADE AT SCHOOL. REGISTRATION FOR SACRAMENTS TAKES PLACE AT MEETINGS AT THE CHURCH.**

**First Reconciliation and First Communion-Grade 2 (and above). Parent Meetings**

**First Communion:** Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> @ 2:30  
OR Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30. Make up meeting Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30.

### **First Reconciliation:**

Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2:30 pm OR  
Tuesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm. Make up meeting  
Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30pm.

### **Confirmation-Grade 8 (and above)**

#### **Parents meeting and candidates:**

Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm OR  
Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm.

### **St. Albert of Jerusalem School Masses 2008-2009**

Opening Mass September 17<sup>th</sup>, 9:00/1:00 at the school  
Advent Mass- December 18<sup>th</sup> 7:15 Church  
Easter Mass-April 16<sup>th</sup>-9:00/1:00 at the school  
End of Year Mass-June 11<sup>th</sup>, 9:00/1:00 at the school  
Graduation Mass-June 25, 1:00 at the church

### **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 Tuesday, September 2, 2008. A brief nominee biography is to be submitted by September 12<sup>th</sup>. A list of parent nominees with biographies will be sent home on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September, in the event an election is necessary. If one is necessary, it will take place during the evening of our Curriculum Night on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September. Results will be published in our October newsletter.

The First Council Meeting will be held on September 18<sup>th</sup> 2008

This will be the last meeting with our old School Council.

### **Kiss'n Ride**

Parents/guardians who drive students to and from school are requested to use the Kiss 'n Ride lane (entering school property from the south only please, no left turns onto school property), which is accessed from the south entrance, go straight through the staff parking lot, turn at the end of the concrete island and drop your child off in the designated area. Then please follow the "one way" signs and exit at the north end of our property, turning right onto Rosehurst. **No left turn onto Rosehurst Drive during peak hours remains in place: buses excluded.**

**Parent who utilize the Kiss 'n Ride lane are not permitted to park and leave their vehicles unattended.**

The parking lot in Kiss 'n Ride is for staff members only. Please be mindful of the "no stopping" and "no parking" areas on the road and on school property, as bylaw officers often visit unannounced and ticket parking violators. As always, your continued

cooperation is much appreciated and allows us to provide the safest and best environment for the children.

### **School Messages**

Our school secretaries will be pleased to relay messages to staff. The doors of St. Albert of Jerusalem 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.

### **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.



### **Student Absenteeism**

#### **Attendance Verification Program**

Please inform the school if your child (ren) 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 905 785-9298 before 8:30 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.**

### **Curriculum Presentations and Family Night**

Our school's curriculum and family night will be held on **Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008** in the evening. Staff from Special Education and French departments will also be on hand to provide information on their respective programs. More information from the School Council and school administration, will follow shortly.

### **School Agendas for Grades 1-8**

Student agendas were pre-ordered last spring for this school year on a cost-sharing basis between school council and parents. Please complete the agenda request form that has been sent home during the first week of school. Additional agendas for new registrants have been ordered and are available for purchase through the office. First consideration is given to new students, as quantities are limited. Agendas assist in teaching students organizational skills for life, including study/work habits. Please review the student agenda with your child. In particular, please refer to the beginning pages, which provide pertinent information on our 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 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 make the necessary correction and sign the form. We ask that you return it to the school as soon as possible, even if no changes are required.

### **Volunteers**

Volunteers play an important part in the life of the school community. They help to enhance the learning opportunities available to students. They can 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 who are interested in sharing their time and talents with our students are asked to contact the main office.

In accordance with the Board policy, **all new volunteers having direct and regular contact with students and parents wishing to assist with school field trips** are required to provide a Criminal Reference Check. Returning volunteers will only need to sign a Criminal Offense Declaration Form. If interested, please review and complete the attached volunteer application form and return to the office.

### **Life Threatening Allergies**

There are numerous students in our school who have life-threatening allergies. In some instances, the slightest exposure can induce a reaction that could have serious consequences including death. The response from the community in the past has been tremendous in co-operating with the school to provide the safest learning environment for these students. Your continued good will is greatly appreciated by the school and families whose children have life threatening allergies. We are sending letters home with the students whose classroom members have these allergies. Please check with your child, and in their backpack, for letters regarding the type of allergy and products to be avoided. Thank you, in advance, for your consideration and co-operation regarding the safety of the students in our school.

### **Reorganization**

Due to growth and/or transfers out that may occur, please remember that our classes are tentative for the first month of school. Should adjustments need to be made, be assured that we take into consideration the needs of each student and keep you informed.

### **Student Sign Out**

In the interest of student safety, all visitors must report to the office, all students must sign out when leaving the building and sign in when they return; parents must report to the office when picking up their child during school hours and sign their child out; 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.

Grade 7 and 8 students are permitted to leave the grounds at lunch time if they have a signed parent permission note clearly indicating the date and where they are going. Students are not permitted to carry food or drink back onto school property when they return.



### **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 11:25 am.

### **Lost and Found**

Found clothing is stored in the bin in the lower forum. Please stop by the office for a "visitor" sticker before you check the box.

### **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 from before your child brings medication to school.

### **Recess Breaks**

Recess breaks serve a special 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.

### **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.



### **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.

### **Special Services Support**

The responsibility for student programming rests primarily with the teacher. However, when there are concerns regarding the learning needs of a student, the teacher may choose to consult the school's Special Service Team.

Should you have concerns about your child's progress, you are invited to, first speak with his or her classroom teacher. If you want to express your concerns further, please contact the administrator in charge of your child's level as listed below:

Primary Division  
(JK/ SK, Gr. 1 to 3)  
Mrs. Golin

Junior Division  
(Gr. 4, 5, 6)  
Special Education  
Mr. Jones

Intermediate Divisions  
Gr. 7 and 8  
Mr. Boudreau

### **Safety of Pupils**

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.

### **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 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-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.



### **All Star Reading**

Our primary students and teachers would like to thank our parents for their outstanding commitment to our All Star Reading

Program throughout the school year. Our primary students and teachers would like to invite additional parent volunteers to participate in our All Star Reading Program.

### **Terry Fox Walk**

#### ***A single dream. A world of hope***

St. Albert of Jerusalem school will be walking on Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008. More information to follow.

### **Dates to Remember:**

September 12<sup>th</sup>, No School PA Day  
September 15<sup>th</sup>, Chocolate Bar Fundraising Assembly  
September 17<sup>th</sup>, School Mass  
September 18<sup>th</sup>, Curriculum Night  
September 26<sup>th</sup>, Terry Fox Walk  
September 30<sup>th</sup>, Early Release Day