

St. Albert of Jerusalem School



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Board web site: www.dpcdsb.org

School website: www.dpcdsb.org/alber



October 2006 Newsletter

Students do not attend school

G. Boudreau, Principal

L. Scardicchio, Vice Principal

B. Jones, .5 Vice Principal

E. Ainsworth, Secretary

F. McCulloch, Secretary

M. Prospero, Superintendent
(905) 890-1221

E. O'Toole, Trustee,
(905) 812-5163

St. John of the Cross Church,
6890 Glen Erin Drive,
(905) 821-1331

Pastoral Team

Fr. Leo Huard

Fr. Abraham Kulanjiyil

Kate Watkiss, Pastoral Associate

Julie Flynn, Pastoral Associate

Masses

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m.,
12:30 p.m., 5:00 p.m.

Monday, 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, 7:15 p.m.

Thursday, 9:00 a.m.

Friday – 9:00 a.m.

Next Early Release day:

Wednesday, October 25, 2006

Students finish school at 11:30 a.m.

Next P.A. Day:

Friday, November 24, 2006

All parents and children are

A Prayer for Thought
(Reflecting on the development of a child)

When we plant a rose seed into the ground,
We notice that it is small;
But we do not criticize it as "rootless and stemless".

We treat it as a seed,
Giving it the water and nourishment required of a seed

When it first shoots up out of the earth,
We don't condemn it as immature and underdeveloped;
Nor do we criticize the buds for not being open when they appear.

We stand in wonder at the process taking place;
And give the plant the care it needs at each stage of its development.

The rose is a rose,
From the time it is a seed to the time it dies.
Within it, at all times,
It contains its whole potential.

It seems to be constantly in the process of change;
Yet at each state,
At each moment,
It is perfectly all right as it is.

Farewell

It is with both sadness and best wishes that we inform you that Mrs. Eve Ainsworth, Head Secretary at St. Albert of Jerusalem, is leaving the school in the middle of October. She is moving to another area of the province. Mrs. Ainsworth has been at St. Albert of Jerusalem since it opened and has been a large part of this school as it has grown, moved and moved back again. The students, staff and community will greatly miss her and her leadership. On behalf of all of the community, we wish Mrs. Ainsworth all of the best.

School Mass

St. Albert of Jerusalem School Feast Day was celebrated at the opening school mass on September 20th in the morning and afternoon in the large school gym. A special thank you to Father Abraham for his ongoing spiritual leadership. The staff Liturgical Committee, Mrs. Pandullo's grade 5 students and the choir are to be commended for such a beautiful celebration of the Eucharist. Our next school mass will be our **Advent Mass** to be held on **Wednesday December 6 at 7:15 p.m. at St John of the Cross Church**. A social, organized by School Council, will follow in the church hall.

welcome. More information will follow. Please join us on

Wednesday, October 11th at 9:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. for our Thanksgiving Liturgy.

Family Pizza / Curriculum Night

A special thank you to the School Council (and their families) for the work done in organizing the Pizza Dinner for the two sittings. It was wonderful seeing all of the families enjoying time with friends and neighbours. There was a real feel of excitement as the students were leading parents and guardians around the renovated building and into their classrooms.

A special thank you to Trustee Ester O'Toole for coming out to meet with the parents and staff and helping out with the distribution of food and drink. We are very grateful for her ongoing support to the St Albert of Jerusalem School Community.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

For many years St. Albert of Jerusalem School has assisted The Society of St. Vincent de Paul's food drive for our less fortunate neighbours. Once again this year we will be collecting non-perishable foods. Students can bring canned and packaged foods, i.e. macaroni and cheese, soup, stew, tuna, hamburger helper. Our goal this year is to surpass the amount of food we collected last year. Without your help this will not be possible.

This year's food drive will **begin on Wednesday October 4 and will end on Friday October 13**. We ask that all families send the food to school during this time with your son/daughter.

The St. Albert of Jerusalem **STUDENT COUNCIL** has taken on the responsibility of organizing this food drive under the leadership of Mrs. Bradford, Ms. Havens, Mlle Macalanda and Mrs. Esposito.

This is an excellent opportunity for us all to help support others within our community. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

Thanksgiving - Monday October 9

There will be no school on this day. St. Albert of Jerusalem School staff

wish you and your family a safe and bountiful holiday weekend.

School Council Meeting

The first School Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 3rd, at 7:00 pm**. All community members are welcome to attend.

Medication Reminder

If your child needs to take medication at school, we must adhere to the following protocol:

1. Parent to complete an "authorization for storage and administration of prescribed medication" form, available at the school office. Medications cannot be distributed by school staff without the proper board documentation. The school cannot modify or alter the prescription in any way.
2. Send the medication in the proper prescription or OTC container. No baggies, envelopes or tin foil please.
3. For OTC medication, advise when and what dosage your child requires.

Parents are responsible for ensuring that all medication and forms are updated annually. Please be aware that school staff cannot administer medication. The student must be able to take the medication on his/her own, and we will supervise the process. If the student is unable to take the medication alone, you or your designate should come to the school to assist them.

Attention all Cookie Monsters

We will once again be selling Terra Cotta cookies, while quantities last. Cookies are individually wrapped and are PEANUT and NUT FREE. Nutrition Guidelines and Ingredient Listing is available upon request. Each cookie costs \$1.25. Students will be able to order with their classroom teacher:

October 23 - Pumpkin shaped cookies

December 11- Christmas tree shaped cookies

February 5- Heart shaped cookies

If you have any questions or

concerns, please contact Mrs. Miniaci.

Early Release Day

The early release days for the school year have been set as follows:

Wednesday, October 25, 2006

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Thursday, April 19, 2007

These half days have been set aside for professional development activities designed to improve classroom instruction and to facilitate curriculum implementation. The students will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. by school bus and will not be staying at school for lunch.

Hepatitis B Immunization

The Ontario Ministry of Health will be offering vaccinations against Hepatitis B for Grade 7 students. Hepatitis B is a highly infectious virus that is spread through blood and body fluids eventually infecting the liver. The vaccine is very safe and is administered by a nurse. The dates for the clinics at school are:

Dose #1 - Monday, October 2nd

Dose #2 - To Be Determined

Catch-up for Gr. 8's who missed a dose last year – To Be Determined

Visitors to the school.

Just a reminder that at no time are parents allowed to enter the school or onto the playground during school hours without coming to the office first and signing in. The rear doors are for staff only. This ensures the safety of all students and staff. Circumventing the procedures undermines the security of all. Please remember: "You may be a parent to your child but to others you are a stranger." You will be asked to register at the office if you do not have a visitor's tag. In addition, parents are reminded that they are to remain within the front foyer/ office area when dropping off or picking up students. Do not walk your child to his or her room. Your cooperation and understanding is appreciated.

Emergency Procedures

The school has an emergency response program in place to deal

with fire/ bomb threats and lockdown. Practice drills are held several times a year. **In the event of an emergency evacuation such that we must relocate, our designated evacuation location is St. Therese of the Child Jesus School at 6930 Forest Park Drive.**

Pediculosis

Although it may seem early in the school year, 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, also known as pediculosis. Head lice have become common throughout North America in recent years. These parasites have been among humans for centuries. They are in no way connected with poor hygiene or dirt. Anyone can become infested. In order to control these pests the following procedures are in place. Your full cooperation and understanding is requested.

If cases are found in the classroom, we shall inform the parents. We would ask that you check your children's hair and if you find them to be infested please notify the school and we will advise as to treatment. If a child is infested he/ she will be kept out of school until they have been treated with the correct shampoo and their hair is entirely clear of both lice and nits (eggs). Information on head lice may also be obtained from your family doctor, pharmacist or health unit.

Custody of Children

On occasion, we are faced with difficult situations in which non-custodial parents arrive at school asking to visit with their child or take their child out of school. We are best able to serve and protect the child when we are made aware of legal custody arrangements, visitations rights and special instructions. If your family is affected by legal custody matters, please ensure that our office and classroom teachers are aware of custodial agreements between parents that may affect your child during school hours. We require custodial parents to provide legal documentation for our files.

Transportation

Just a reminder that all students should be riding the bus to which they are assigned. In the event of an emergency we need to know where your child is so that we can give you accurate information if needed. If you have a concern about busing please contact our Vice Principal, Mrs. Scardicchio. Some Safety Rules to share with your child:

- Be at the bus stop at least 10 – 15 minutes ahead of the scheduled time in the morning. Parents, at the end of the day, we advise you to be at the bus stop early to ensure that you can meet your child(ren) as they exit the bus.
- Stay away from the road, and be ready to board the bus by waiting in an orderly line.
- Board the bus in single file using the handrail. Go directly to a seat and stay seated, facing the front, until let off the bus. Never get up from your seat while the bus is moving.
- Keep all belongings inside the bus. Never put any part of your body outside the bus.
- Keep the aisles clear of objects.
- Sit quietly at all times. Speak only in quiet tones. No eating on the bus. No throwing items inside the bus or out of the window.
- Keep the windows closed unless you have the bus drivers permission.
- Follow all directions from the bus driver, especially when getting on and off the bus. Listen to the bus helpers they are there to help keep you safe.

As well, parents of junior and senior kindergarten students need to be aware that in the interest of safety, bus drivers are not allowed to let these students off the bus unless a designated guardian is there to meet them, otherwise, your child will be returned to the school and will need to be picked up there. We encourage you to impress upon your child that, if no one is at the stop to meet them,

they should indicate this to the driver immediately and the driver will return the child to the school. It is a parental responsibility to ensure proper arrangements for the child to arrive home safely.

Paperless Snacks/ Lunches

Students are encouraged to be environmentally friendly by reducing the amount of paper and plastic waste from lunches and snacks. Students are reminded that food wrappers should be disposed of before going out on to the yard and that no food or drinks are allowed outside. Food on the playground attracts wasps, which pose a danger to the students.

Indoor / Outdoor Shoes

The students should have a pair of indoor shoes to wear at school, in class and for gym. Outdoor shoes/ boots will be kept for outdoor use only and out of the classrooms in order to reduce the amount of dirt and mud brought indoors. This will assist Mr. Silva and staff in keeping the school clean.

Jostens Photo Day Thurs., October 26

Jostens will be provided with class lists containing personal information (students' ID #, names, grades and homeroom). These lists will be returned when the photography sessions are completed. If you do not wish your child's personal information to be shared with Jostens and you do not wish your child to participate in the actual taking of the photographs, please notify the school immediately.

Lunch Moms

We are pleased to have Lunch Moms return to St. Albert of Jerusalem School. They will continue to make lunch available on Tuesdays and Thursdays. You should have received a brochure and menu with the pertinent information. Please follow the direction in the brochure if you are interested in this voluntary program. The school has been assured that all food products are prepared from and in a nut free environment however, this cannot be guaranteed. Please call Lunch Moms directly for further information in

this regard.

Pizza Days

This year we will again be having monthly Pizza Days. A notice was sent home in September with information about how to order.

Please note, that due to a conflict with the Lunch Moms program on Tuesdays and Thursdays, the first three (3) dates have been changed to Wednesdays instead of Tuesdays. The new dates are below:

Wednesday, October 18th
Wednesday, November 15th
Wednesday, December 13th

Accidents Happen.....

Students occasionally have accidents during the day. They get wet at recess, spill food at lunch or little ones don't make it to the washroom on time. Please consider sending extra clothes to school, especially pants and socks, and perhaps a t-shirt.

Halloween Dress Up

The students in Grades 1 - 3 may dress up in costumes for Halloween at school on **Tuesday, October 31st**. However, children are not to wear masks, bring any type of weapon or wear a costume which has a violent theme. We ask that they not bring makeup to school since they will not be dismissed from class to apply it and there is no one available to assist in its application. Students in Grades 4 - 8 are encouraged to wear black and orange on that day.

St Albert of Jerusalem School

Official Website

Did you know that the school has an official website which is online at:

<http://www.dpedsb.org>

-- just follow the links for authorized, and accurate information pertaining to St Albert of Jerusalem School. We are currently in the process of updating the website.

Suspected Child Abuse

The law requires that "members of the public," including professionals

who work with children, have an obligation to report promptly to the Children's Aid Society if they suspect that a child is or may be in need of protection. Teachers/principals and indeed all adults face substantial fines if they do not comply. It is the role of the Children's Aid Society, to whom we report, to investigate such a report. If your child is bruised or marked from an accident you may wish to let the teacher know the circumstances. Should a report be made to the Children's Aid Society, you should understand that we are complying with the law and have the best interest of your child in mind.

Anaphylaxis - life threatening

Allergies and School

As most of you are aware we have many children who have life threatening allergies which pose a significant safety concern for these students and their families. In fact, some of you may have already received notice regarding dietary restrictions in your child's room. The school is unable to guarantee a nut free environment. Parents of children with life threatening allergies understand this and recognize that the first line of defense for children with allergies is self-advocacy and awareness. However, the school strongly encourages and promotes school wide allergy awareness as a health and safety concern through community concern and cooperation. We ask your cooperation by refraining from sending your child to school with nut products or food stuffs which may contain nut products. In the event that your child does come to school with these products and you have received notice of nut restrictions for your child's room they will have the opportunity to eat in a designated area which will limit the exposure of these allergens to the general school facility. Your cooperation and assistance is appreciated.

Co-Curricular Activities

Extra curricular activities have always been an integral component of the program at St Albert of Jerusalem School. We are very pleased to have so many staff

members who give voluntarily of their time, expertise and energy to these activities, which add in such a positive way to the enthusiasm and spirit of our school. This year we are pleased to be able to continue a full range of events. For those students who will be participating in after school competitions parents / guardians are asked to pick up your child at the school hosting the activity. Please be advised that students will be transported by taxi to and from games. It is the child's responsibility to listen to the announcements and note when an activity is open for tryouts and to come out and sign up. Individual invitations / notices are not sent home. For the most part, the sport teams are competitive in nature and purpose and not all participants will make the team. However, all are encouraged to tryout. Some of the events that we invite your child to try out for are:

Chess Club
Computer Club
Cross Country
Flag Football
Heads Up - Junior + Intermediate
Intermediate Boy's Basketball
Intermediate Boy's Volleyball
Intermediate Girl's Basketball
Intermediate Girl's Volleyball
Junior Boy's Basketball
Junior Boy's Volleyball
Junior Girl's Basketball
Junior Girl's Volleyball
School Choir
Public Speaking Junior / Intermediate
Student Council
Yearbook Committee
Science Olympics Jr. & Intermediate
Soccer - Co-Ed
Soccer Indoor – Spring Primary
Softball
Track and Field
PALs – Playground leaders
Battle of the Books