

# St. Albert of Jerusalem School

## October 2009 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:**  
S. Steer

**Vice Principals:**  
P. Golin  
D. Carpe

**Secretaries:**  
T. Ball  
A. Charette

**Superintendent:**  
D. Oude-Reimerink

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

**Parish:**  
St. John of the Cross  
6890 Glen Erin Drive  
(905) 821-1331

**Pastoral Team**  
Fr. Leo Huard  
Fr. Abraham Kulanjiyil  
Fr. Joseph Kalluvila

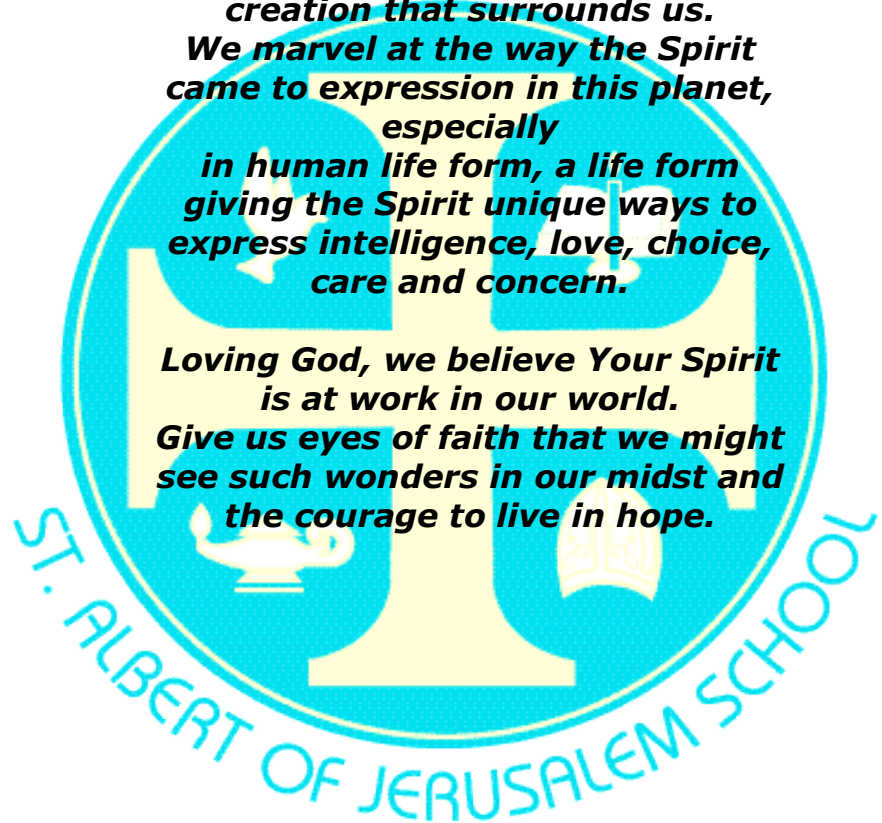
***We live graciously,  
filled with wonder, for the marvel of  
creation that surrounds us.***

***We marvel at the way the Spirit  
came to expression in this planet,  
especially***

***in human life form, a life form  
giving the Spirit unique ways to  
express intelligence, love, choice,  
care and concern.***

***Loving God, we believe Your Spirit  
is at work in our world.***

***Give us eyes of faith that we might  
see such wonders in our midst and  
the courage to live in hope.***



***“Upon our foundation, we continue to build the Spirit”***

**In the spirit of Thanksgiving, let us give thanks to...**

The students of St. Albert of Jerusalem School and the community support for our Terry Fox Walk.

All families who attended our Open House.

The many staff and students involved in preparing prayers, songs and readings for our opening school mass.

Our volunteers, staff, coaches, leaders and all other persons who give unselfishly of their time to children and are sometimes taken for granted.

Those responsible for and those who continue to support the right for our children to experience a Catholic education.

Our friends and families without whom there would be no true celebration.

The entire staff of St. Albert of Jerusalem extends our best wishes for a wonderful Thanksgiving weekend.

**October.....Virtue of Empathy**

God has given us the ability to form connections with each other- to live together. Empathy helps us to connect and live together in safe, caring, inclusive communities.

An empathetic person believes that we all share one Spirit; that we are many parts of one body because we are all created in the image and likeness of God. We know that God has given us the virtue of empathy so that we can learn to appreciate, accept and care for one another.

An empathetic person...

- Listens attentively.
- Watches people's body language.
- Notices and responds when someone is upset.
- Can name his/her feelings.
- Can see a situation from another person's point of view.
- Knows that different people may feel differently about the same thing.

*Gracious and merciful God,*

*You desire us to live together in peaceful communities.*

*We are nothing without relationships. You have given us the virtue of empathy to ensure that we are able to identify with and feel other people's concerns. We come to you now asking for the grace and strength to follow your plan and to form a caring community here at St. Albert of Jerusalem. May your gift of empathy lead us to know and feel your presence among us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son, who lived to show us your way.*

*Amen.*

**School Mass**

St. Albert of Jerusalem School Feast Day was celebrated at the opening school mass on September 17th, 2009 in the large school gym. A special thank you to Father Joe for leading us in prayer. The staff Liturgical Committee, 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 **Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009** at **St. John of the Cross Church**. More information will follow.

Please join us for our Thanksgiving Liturgy on Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Terry Fox**

This year's Terry Fox walk was a success. The weather co-operated and all students supported this very worthy cause. St. Albert staff, students, and parent volunteers were all in high spirits as they walked through the community on Friday September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009. All money raised will be donated to the Terry Fox Foundation of Canada. Special thanks to Mrs. Haven and her class for their leadership in organizing this event.



**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 neighbors. Once again this year we will be collecting non-perishable foods.

Students can bring any canned foods, Macaroni and Cheese, Soup, Stew, Tuna, Hamburger Helper, etc. 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 Friday October 2nd and will end on Friday October 9th**. We ask that all families send the food to school during this time with your son/daughter.

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



### **Thank You to Open House Volunteers**

Thank you to all of the volunteers who did such a great job organizing our Family BBQ Night during our open house. We sometimes forget all of the hard work which goes into putting together an event like this: sending out order forms, counting money, tallying information, and soliciting servers. Thank you.

### **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. This form will require a physician's signature. 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.

### **Professional Staff Opportunities**

Throughout the year, our staff will engage in many Mississauga North Family of Schools and Board-sponsored opportunities for professional growth in the form of after school and daytime in-services. Our staff remains committed to the education of your children and regularly meet as a staff, by division and by grade to learn from each other and discuss best practices. As reflective practitioners, we can always learn from our peers. Not only has our staff taken part in learning opportunities during the school year, but many also act as inservice providers. Although not an exhaustive list by any means, we have attempted to summarize some of their learning experiences for you.

#### **Acting as lead teachers in:**

- Grade level instruction and Summer Institutes
- Providing in service on integrating Literacy Strategies
- Presenters of EQAO strategies
- EQAO data analysis
- Board writing teams

#### **Refining and refreshing teaching practice through learning opportunities in:**

- Religious education
- Classroom management
- Safe-School Training
- Procedural Writing
- Co-operative Learning
- Reading Part 1
- Smart Board
- Diversity
- Differentiated Instruction
- Special Education Part 1 and Part 2
- E.S.L Part 1
- Prime math assessment
- Art/Music Instruction

### **Please Help Us Out**

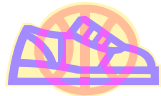
Supervision begins at 8:15 a.m. Please do not bring your children to school earlier than this time. We know that this may inconvenience many parents due to work schedules. Given today's safety concerns, it is never a good idea to leave your child unattended.

**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.

**Cross Country Team**

Thank you to our dedicated cross-country team coaches, Mrs. Dulhanty, Mrs. Picciuto, Ms. Fazzari and Mr. Bellizzi. The team members have been practicing and training long and hard for our Family of Schools event. We have seen a very commendable group of young athletes who are dedicated to their training and who are committed to attend their practices. Congratulations on your spirit and enthusiasm. Good luck!

**Recess**

All students are expected to dress appropriately for weather conditions and go outdoors for recess. Please ensure that your child has a pair of boots for the winter months. For many children, a spare pair of socks, gloves or clothing may save a parent a trip to the school. In the event of inclement weather, students will be kept indoors. In the event of wet, muddy or icy conditions, the students will remain on paved areas.

During recess, supervision is restricted to the playground areas. If your child is not well enough to participate in outdoor recess, please consider keeping him/her at home.

Personnel on yard duty are easily recognizable to students as they are wearing bright orange or yellow coloured vests.

**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. Children are reminded to listen to the announcements and note when an activity is open for tryouts and to come out and sign up.

**Halloween Dress Up**

The students in Grades 1 - 3 may dress up in costumes for Halloween at school on **Friday, October 30th, 2009**. 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.

**Some safety guidelines for Halloween:**

- Wear light coloured clothing, so you can be seen by drivers.
- Carry a flashlight, so you will be able to see on dark streets.
- Stay away from cars, and especially friendly strangers in cars.
- Watch for cars, and look both ways when crossing the street.
- Wear your costume above your shoes, so you will not trip.
- Do not eat any treats until you are home and your parents have checked them.
- Do not damage anyone else's property.
- Start trick or treating early, and be home by 8:30 p.m.

**Primary Music Presentations**

On Tuesday, October 20th, all grades 1-3 students will partake in hands-on, interactive music workshops. The workshops will incorporate the learning of science and social studies topics through music. More information, including the nominal fee, will follow shortly in your child's agenda.

## **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.

## **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.**

## **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.

## **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.

## **Visitors In the School.**

Just a reminder that are parents are not allowed to enter the school or 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

## **School Volunteers**

Please be reminded that all parent volunteers MUST have a valid, up to date, Criminal Reference Check. This means that parents and guardians cannot volunteer in the school without a CRC. Forms are available from the school.

## **Restricted Access to School:**

Other than the front door, all entrances are locked during the day.

## **Attendance:**

As mentioned in our September newsletter, our attendance phone line is our connection with the safe arrival of your child. All children that have not been reported as absent are confirmed absent by our safe entry protocol.



## **Transportation**

Just a reminder that all students should be riding the bus to which they are assigned. **Please ensure that all students have their bus tag visible; outside of their back packs.** 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. Golin. 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(ran) 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.

## **Lunch Lady**

We are pleased to have Lunch Lady at 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 directions in the brochure if you are interested in this voluntary program. Please call Lunch Lady directly for further information in this regard

## **St Albert of Jerusalem School Official Website**

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

<http://www.dpcdsb.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.

## **Pets At School**

Many parents take the opportunity to bring their pets with them to school when dropping off or picking up students. For safety reasons, if you have brought a pet with you when meeting or dropping off your child, we ask that you please wait on the sidewalk in front of the school and not on the school grounds.

## **Photo Day**

Wednesday, October 14th, 2009.  
**Don't forget your smiles!!!**



## **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 – Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009.  
Dose #2 - TBA

## **Dates to Remember:**

October 1	Gr. 8 trip parent information night
October 6:	First Day for Lunch Ladies First School Council Meeting 6:30 pm
October 7 & 8	Gr. 3 Backyard Heritage Discoveries In-class presentations
October 14:	Picture Day
October 14	Gr. 7 Parent Information night at 6:30
October 16	Gr. 5 Living Arts Centre
October 19	Gr. 8 Trip to Mount Alverno Bradford/Kelenc
October 20	Gr. 1-3 Music performer Jim Arnold
October 28	Gr. 8 Trip to Mount Alverno Gal/Mondano
November 16:	PA Day for the purpose of report card writing, No School
December 1:	First Term Report Cards go home
December 3:	Parent, student, teacher conferences
December 4:	PA Day for the purpose of parent teacher interviews, <b><u>No School</u></b>

## **Girl Greatness Starts Here**

Girl Guides of Canada-Guides du Canada (GGC) stands for what it has always stood for-fun, friendship and adventure. GGC is a safe, accepting environment with diverse and exciting programs and activities that offers girls the chance to learn, grow and discover through age-appropriate programming.

From sports, camping and science to eco-activities, fashion design and community projects, Guiding's girl-centered programming has something for everyone. Guiding is bold, fun, energetic and gives girls the tools and resources they need to achieve greatness.

Registrations for new girl members are being accepted now.

We're always looking for Guide Leaders and you can join anytime throughout the year.

**For more information call 1-800-565-811**