

September 2009

# St. John of the Cross School Celebrating 25 years of Catholic Education

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DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## September Newsletter

### ***Two Sculptors***

*I dreamt I stood in a studio and watched two sculptors there.  
The clay they used was a young child's mind and they fashioned it with care.  
One was a teacher—the tools used were, faith, books, music and art.  
The other a parent, working with a guiding hand and a gentle heart.  
Day after day the teacher toiled with touch that was skilled and sure.  
While the parent laboured by the teacher's side, guiding and encouraging too.  
And when at last their task was done they were proud of what they wrought.  
For the things they had moulded into the child could neither be sold or bought.  
And each agreed they would have failed if either had worked alone.  
For behind the parent, stood the school and behind the teacher the home.*

*Amen.*

### ***Principal's Message:***

On behalf of the entire staff I would like to welcome you and your children to the 2009-2010 school year at St. John of the Cross School. A special welcome is extended to all new students and families who have joined our school community, including our Junior Kindergarten children. I am confident that you will find the staff, students, parents and parish community inviting and helpful. Please join me in welcoming our new staff members, Mr. Boyszko Gr. 5/6 teacher and Mrs. Lambert Gr. JK/SK teacher.

The talents, knowledge, dedication, commitment, teamwork and caring ways of the St. John of the Cross staff is second to none! That is why I can assure you that there will be dynamic, innovative and effective instruction in the classroom. In addition, there will continue to be a variety of extra-curricular and co-curricular activities that will provide opportunities to broaden the educational experience of the students.

The continued co-operation among the home, school and parish empowers us to help our students achieve spiritually, academically, emotionally and socially. I sincerely invite you to continue to work in partnership with the school to ensure that the best interests of our children always remain first and foremost. It is our goal to build on community through the relationships that we develop and strengthen with home, school and our parish. It is exciting to be able to learn together and grow together in the spirit of our faith.

On behalf of the staff, I wish all a successful and fulfilling school year. With great enthusiasm, I look forward to meeting you and working with you and your children. My door is always open so please feel free to visit.

God Bless,

*M. A. O'Mahony*

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## Student 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. "

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## Sabrina's Law (Please refer to enclosed letter re Food Restrictions)

On May 16, 2005, the Ontario Legislature unanimously passed a bill to protect anaphylactic students. This bill became effective January 1, 2006. The Act, referred to as Sabrina's law, is named after Sabrina Shannon, a Pembroke student who died in 2003 from an anaphylactic reaction after eating french fries contaminated with a dairy product at her high school cafeteria.

Anaphylaxis is a severe reaction most often triggered by certain types of foods, such as peanuts, tree nuts, seafood and egg and milk products. Insect stings, medicine, latex and exercise may also trigger an anaphylactic reaction. Anaphylactic shock involves a severe overreaction of the body's immune system to a triggering agent (the allergen). The reaction can be characterized by swelling, difficulty breathing, abdominal cramps, vomiting, diarrhea, circulatory collapse, loss of consciousness and sometimes death.

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## Allergen Awareness School

In addition to our Board Policy, the passing of Sabrina's Law serves as a reminder of the seriousness of anaphylactic reactions. It compels a continued call for action, and ongoing monitoring of existing practices to support the safety, health and welfare of all of the students at St. John of the Cross School. As there are a number of students in our school who have a severe life threatening allergy to nuts, dairy & egg products. We continue to encourage our families to refrain from sending to school any food, etc., that contains nut products, e.g. peanut butter sandwiches, snacks with nuts, etc. While we cannot guarantee a 'nut free' or 'allergen free' environment, you can help to reduce the risk to our students by not sending in peanuts and/or products containing nuts. We also have a number of students with a severe life threatening allergy to dairy & egg products. **As in the past**, a written communication is sent home to parents of children notifying them of the nature of a life threatening allergy when it is specific to their child's classroom. **We are asking ALL parents to please NOT send in food for birthdays or special occasions.** Your continued cooperation in support of our efforts to create a safe and healthy learning environment for all, is appreciated.

*Please refer to enclosed letter re Food Restrictions!*

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## Storage and Administration of Medication

Parents are responsible for ensuring that all medication and forms are updated annually for any student who requires medication to be administered at school. If your child requires medication, please have the necessary forms completed and return them, along with any medication, to the office as soon as possible. Forms are available at the school office.

### Hepatitis B Inoculations

Peel Health will continue to offer free immunization against Hepatitis B for students in Grade 7 and HPV for girls in Grade 8. Students are given as a series of three injections over a period of six months. If you have any questions please call the Peel Health Department at (905) 799-7700. The following date for dose #1 has been assigned to St. John of the Cross School:

**Dose #1 Tuesday, September 15, 2009**

Health Departments, by law, must keep a current record of your child's immunizations. It is the responsibility of the parents to keep their child's records up-to-date.

### Security at St. John of the Cross

In support of the 'health and safety of all students, visitors to the school are expected to report to the office upon arrival to sign in and obtain a **visitor's badge**. Anyone not wearing an identification badge will be asked to return to the office to sign in and pick one up. This procedure will help students and staff in recognizing our many visitors at St. John of the Cross School. Please remember, to your child or your child's friends you may not be considered a stranger, however, to all others you are. Your cooperation in helping to keep our school safe is appreciated.

If you are picking up your child at school at a time other than regular dismissal, we ask that you report to the office to sign them out.

Arrangements will be made for your child to be sent to the office. If you intend to send someone else to pick up your child(ren), please write a note to the classroom teacher or inform the office.

# School Yard Supervision

The school yard is supervised **beginning at 8:45a.m.** Students should plan their arrival time to coincide with this supervision and should not arrive before this time. Appropriate supervision is provided during all recess and lunch breaks. Unless involved in a staff supervised after-school activity, for reasons of safety, students should go directly home after dismissal.

## Library News

**Welcome back to another great school year.** I look forward to seeing the students in the library for book exchange once again. There are some wonderful new books available for staff and students to sign out and enjoy.

Once again we will be having the Scholastic Book Fair. The Book Fair will run from Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup> in the **mornings only**. The Book Fair will be held in the library. Each child will visit the Book Fair with his or her class to preview and purchase from the wide selection of books offered. The classroom teacher will inform the students of their day and time. The Book Fair accepts cheques, Visa, Master Card and of course, cash. Each child in the school will be entered by their classroom teacher for a chance to win \$25 worth of books for the child and \$25 for the classroom. There will also be a daily draw for students and teachers.

Our special Book Fair Family Night is scheduled for the night of the school BBQ, Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 – 7:00 pm. It is the highlight of our Book Fair and it's a perfect time to explore the wonderful books available for purchase. The added benefit of purchasing from the Book Fair is that a portion of the sales goes to the library. This allows us to improve and update the library collection which, in turn, benefits the students of our school.

This year you can help build your child's classroom library by donating books through the Classroom Wish List program. You may donate teacher-selected books to your child's classroom in your child's name. Be sure to look for the classroom Wish List display the night of the BBQ. I look forward to seeing you there!

*Mrs. Lichacz, Teacher Librarian*



## Textbook Policy

Textbooks are the property of the school and are loaned out to students with the expectation that they will be returned at the end of the school year in good condition.

The teachers keep a record of each textbook that students are given. Please help to keep our costs down by encouraging your child to take proper care of them. There will be a replacement cost if the textbook is lost or not returned at the end of the school year.

## Open House & BBQ

St. John of the Cross Family Open House and BBQ Fundraiser will be held on Thursday, **September 17, 2009, 4:30 – 7:00** in the evening. Order forms will be sent home later this week. Mrs. Lichacz will also be holding her annual Book Fair in the library. Teachers will join families for the BBQ from 4:30 to 5:30 in the gym. Classrooms will be open from 5:30 to 7:00 pm.

## Early Release Days

On Early Release Days **students will be dismissed at 12 noon. Afternoon Kindergarten classes will be cancelled.**

There are two Early Release Dates for this school year. They are:

**September 30, 2009**

**January 14, 2010**

## School Driveway/Kiss'N Ride

The Kiss 'n Ride program continues to be in effect at St. John of the Cross School. Thanks to those parents who have helped out in the past your dedication and support are greatly appreciated. We are currently collecting names of parents who can be Kiss'N Ride volunteers for this school year. If you are able to help out one day per week, please contact the school and leave your name with Mrs. Thompson.

***In the interest of safety, please do not enter the school parking lot during entrance and exit times. In order to ensure student safety, the parking lot will be closed in the morning between 8:45 - 9:00 am and 3:15 – 3:40 pm in the afternoon.***

Please use the Kiss 'n Ride lane to drop off your child in the morning. After school parents are asked to park on Aquitaine Avenue or Tenth Line.

## School Agendas

As you know organizational skills are imperative in the success of a child in school.

To assist in this process, school agendas have been handed out to the children in Grades 1-8. Your child is responsible to record their homework, important dates, teacher notices and so on in their agendas. The agenda is also an excellent communication tool between the teacher and the parent.

We are asking that you, as a parent, check your child's agenda on a daily basis and initial it. *A very special thank you to all parents who have supported our fundraising campaigns so that funds could be approved through the School Council for the purchasing of agendas for each student in Grades 1 – 8.*

## Parish

### St. John of the Cross Church

6890 Glen Erin Drive  
Mississauga, Ontario  
L5N 2E1

tel: 905-821-1331

fax: 905-858-8486

e-mail: [stjohnofx@hme.com](mailto:stjohnofx@hme.com)

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

### Pastoral Team

Fr. Leo Huard, O. Carm.

Fr. Joseph Kalluvila, O. Carm.

Fr. Abraham Kulanjijil O.Carm.

Kate Watkiss, Pastoral Associate

### Mass Times

#### Weekends

Sat. 5:00 p.m.,

Sun. 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.,

12:00 & 5:00 p.m.

#### Weekdays

Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 9:00 a.m.,

Wed. 7:15 p.m.

## Dufferin-Peel CDSB

### Personnel

#### Trustee

E. O'Toole 905-812-5163

#### Director of Education

J. Kostoff 905-890-1221

#### Associate Director

John Hrajnik 905-890-1221

#### Associate Director

R. Borrelli 905-890-1221

#### Superintendent

D. Oude-Reimerink 905-890-1221

### St. John of the Cross School

#### Principal



## St. John of the Cross Staff

Listed below, for your information, is the staff list for the 2009-2010 school year. Please remember that student and teacher class placements remain tentative until September 18th.

At present, St. John of the Cross has 289 registered students.

### STAFF AS OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2009

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>TEACHER</u>	<u>ROOM NUMBER</u>
JK /SK AM	D. Lambert	102
JK/ SK PM	D. Lambert	102
1/2	L. Santangelo	115
1/2	K. Dillabough/P. Power	112
2/3	C. Woltran/N. Lichacz	116
3/4	E. Wetmore	114
4/5	M. Hogan	110
5/6	R. Boryszko	106
6	G. Pedroso	105
7	M. Perruzza-Rubba	109
8	D. Meany	104
8	D. Letterio	103
SERT	A. Perrella	Guidance
Pr.Jr. L.D.	T. McAlear	108
SERC/ESL	P. Blimkie	107
FSL	E. Thompson	French
FSL	S. Colangelo	French
Library	N. Lichacz	Library
ERW	T. Barnes	Education Resource Worker
ERW	P. Vella	Education Resource Worker
Secretary	R. Thompson	
Custodians	A. DelVecchio, E. Huertas, E. Buenafe	
Principal	M. A. O'Mahony	

**Please note that classroom assignments may be temporary for the first two weeks of school as new enrolments or withdrawals may require reorganization. If reorganization is necessary, it will take place on September 18<sup>th</sup>, the P. A. Day.**

## MediAlert's No Child Without Program is at Our School

*The No Child Without program offers a free MediAlert membership to students who attend our school and are between the ages of 4 up to their 14th birthday. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medication on a regular basis then you should consider a MediAlert membership through this program. MediAlert identification can alert school staff, friends, coaches and others about your child's medical condition should an emergency occur. For further information come to the office for a brochure. To register your child you will need a No Child Without brochure from the office.*

## Parent Volunteers

Parent volunteers are very important to us at St. John of the Cross School. There are a variety of ways to be involved; helping in the school, working on School Council and/or assisting at special events or committees.

If you have the time, please consider spending some time with us - just review and complete the Volunteer Form included in this newsletter. Your consideration is greatly appreciated! Please remember that a Criminal Reference Check is required for anyone working directly with children. Forms are available in the office!!

## Sacramental Preparation

The school assists the parish by teaching the relevant catechetical material to support sacramental preparation, however, sacraments are parish, not school events. *Initial* preparation is done by the schools through the religion program and *immediate* preparation is the responsibility of the parents and the parish.

**ONLY THOSE CHILDREN REGISTERED BY THEIR PARENTS WILL RECEIVE THE SACRAMENTS. REGISTRATION FOR SACRAMENTS TAKES PLACE AT MEETINGS AT THE CHURCH.**

**Please set aside these dates: FOR ALL BAPTIZED CHILDREN**

### **CONFIRMATION – GRADE 8 and above**

Sunday, October 4	Parent & Candidate <b>Information</b> Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, October 6	Parent & Candidate <b>Information</b> Meeting	7:30 p.m.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT PARENTS AND CANDIDATES MUST ATTEND AN INFORMATION MEETING WHERE REGISTRATION FORMS AND DATES WILL BE HANDED OUT.**

### **FIRST COMMUNION & FIRST RECONCILIATION – GRADE 2 and above**

**These meetings will be about 1 1/2 hours in length. Children do not need to attend.**

Sunday, September 13	<b>First Communion</b> Initial Meeting	2:30 p.m.
Tuesday, September 15	<b>First Communion</b> Initial Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Sunday, September 27	<b>First Reconciliation</b> Meeting	2:30 p.m.
Tuesday, September 29	<b>First Reconciliation</b> Meeting	7:30 p.m.

**CHILDREN ARE EXPECTED TO PREPARE FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION) BEFORE FIRST COMMUNION.**

**FOR CHILDREN NOT BAPTIZED: GRADE 2 AND ABOVE: Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Communion, Confirmation  
Call Kate at the Parish office by October 1st, 2009. (905-821-1331 Ext. 226)**

## Safe, Caring, Inclusive, Healthy Schools!

Your child's agenda contains the new, revised Catholic Code of Conduct, as well as the Board policy statement with regards to Bullying Prevention and Progressive Discipline. The revised policies and procedures with regards to suspensions and expulsions can also be found in the Agenda. **Please review the Code of Conduct with your child and indicate that you have done so by signing the front page of the agenda, under the school Mission Statement! An Elementary Summary of the Dufferin-Peel K to 12 Homework Policy and Procedures can also be found in the agenda or at <http://www.dpdsb.org/homework>.**

Thank you for your continued support!

## Newsletters

Newsletters will be sent home the first week of each month. They will also be posted on the school website:

**[www.dpdsb.org/JCROS](http://www.dpdsb.org/JCROS)**

## TERRY FOX WALK

We will be holding our Terry Fox Walk on Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. All students will be participating in order to support cancer research. Your child will be bringing home more information later in September. Please support our students in this worthwhile cause!

## SAFE ARRIVAL! STUDENT ABSENCES

As in the past, we ask that you call the school on the days that your child will be absent. This is a safety precaution that can save precious moments should there ever be an emergency situation. We thank you for your continued support in following this procedure.

Upon reaching the school answering service please leave the following information:

- ⇒ Date of absence
- ⇒ Student's full name
- ⇒ Grade level and teacher
- ⇒ Reason for absence
- ⇒ Date of return

**Please continue to call each day that your child is absent. When your child returns to school, please provide the teacher with a note regarding the specific reason for the absence.**

## THE LUNCH TABLE

Once again, a table has been placed in the foyer for lunches. Please ensure that your child's name is on the lunch container. We are encouraging nutritious lunches. Classes are not to be interrupted for students to pick up lunches. Please let students know in the morning if they should expect to have a lunch dropped off. They should be responsible to come down and pick up their lunch. We can not be responsible if a lunch goes missing. We stress that

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAY ~

**September 18, 2009 No classes for students!**

## OPENING SCHOOL MASS—

Please join us for our opening Mass. It will be held in the school gym on:

**September 30, 2009 @ 9:30 am**

## ENTRY AND EXIT

Teachers will be reviewing with their students which doors to enter and exit. Students are asked to use the assigned doors for their entry and exit. We ask that parents meet their children outside the school at the appropriate door. **Only students taking the bus will be exiting the front doors at the end of the day.**

## Letter from our Trustee Esther O'Toole

**Welcome to Our New Superintendent**

**Denise Oude-Reimerink**

**and**

**Farewell to Michael Prospero**

**Michael Prospero who has been the Superintendent for the Mississauga North Family of Schools for the past six years has announced his retirement. Mr. Prospero has been a key leader in this Family and has played an integral role in the growth, successes and challenges of this large Family of Schools. We wish Michael the Lord's blessings as he moves on to this next phase in his life and thank him for all of his contributions to our schools in Mississauga North.**

**We are very pleased to welcome Mrs. Denise Oude-Reimerink as the new Superintendent of the Mississauga North Family of Schools. Mrs. Oude-Reimerink has been a Principal at both the school and Board Department levels. She has played important roles on many of our Boardwide Committees including our Strategic Review Committee, Management of Information for Student Achievement, and the Boardwide Speaking Contest just to name a few. She will bring her many talents to the Mississauga North Family of Schools and we look forward to working with Mrs. Oude-Reimerink as your Trustees.**

**We wish you all a great start to the school year. We hope to meet you at School Council Meetings or as we visit the schools this year. May the good Lord bless you and your family as we move into another great year for Mississauga North and for Dufferin-Peel.**

## CELL PHONES/ELECTRONICS/ VALUABLES (students and parents)

**It is the policy of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board that PED's (Personal Electronic Devices) are to be kept out-of-sight, turned off and not used within school premises or during school sanctioned events (retreats, field trips, sports events, etc.).** To prevent the loss or damage of PED's, the school encourages students to leave their PED's at home or in their lockers.

We also request that students not bring valuables such as cameras, money or items of importance to school. The school does not accept responsibility for the above. Please mark all personal items with your child's name.

## School Council

You are invited to attend the final meeting of the present School Council on Wednesday, September 16, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

Nomination forms for the 2009-2010 School Council are included with this newsletter or you may pick them up at the office. Nominations are due by Friday, September 18<sup>TH</sup>. If necessary, elections of the new school council will take place on Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Ballots will be available in the office. It is very important that we all work together to make our school a better place to grow and learn. PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL COUNCIL!!!