

October 2009



St. John of the Cross School
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Tel. 905-824-3058 Fax 905-824-4413
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DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

October Newsletter

Thanksgiving Prayer

On Thanksgiving Day we're thankful for
Our blessings all year through,
For family we dearly love,
For good friends, old and new.

For sun to light and warm our days,
For stars that glow at night,
For trees of green and skies of blue,
And puffy clouds of white.

We're grateful for our eyes that see
The beauty all around,
For arms to hug, and legs to walk,
And ears to hear each sound.

The list of all we're grateful for
Would fill a great big book;
Our thankful hearts find new delights
Everywhere we look!



Principal's Message:

During these beautiful October days, as we enjoy the vibrant colours, the wonderful sunshine and God's bountiful harvest, let us take the time to reflect on God's many blessings.

We are blessed to be able to offer our students an education within a faith context. Each and every day we foster our distinctiveness and Catholic identity while contributing to the well-being of the community. Currently, our students are working on behalf of the marginalized by collecting food for the St. Vincent de Paul Society and on September 25th our entire school participated in the Terry Fox Walk for Cancer.

We are blessed to witness parish, families and school celebrating together. On September 30th Father Leo presided over our first school Mass for the year and it was a truly wonderful celebration. Thank you to those parents who were able to join us and a special 'thank you' to Father Leo for coming to the school to celebrate Mass with us.

We are blessed to be a part of a school community where the school and parents work together keeping in mind your children's best interest. Thank you to all who worked so hard to make our Open House and Family BBQ such a wonderful success.

Thanksgiving is a time to spend with those we love, sharing memories and laughter and demonstrating gratitude. On behalf of the Staff of St. John of the Cross School, I would like to wish you and yours a wonderful Thanksgiving. I trust you will enjoy this beautiful season with your family and friends.

God bless you and your loved ones,

M. A. O'Mahony



October 5, 2009—World Teacher's Day

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the dedication and support of the wonderful teachers at St. John of the Cross School as they help us fulfill our mission as a Catholic education community.

Our teachers are called to a vocation which serves a diverse student population ~ each student having unique needs and talents.

We ask God to guide them as they inspire the students at St. John of the Cross School to develop spiritually, intellectually, and into contributing members of society as caring and responsible citizens.

Artists In The School

Ruth Ohi

On Tuesday, October 6th the Primary classes will have the pleasure of listening to Toronto illustrator and author Ruth Ohi. Ms. Ohi is the illustrator of over 40 children's picture books (9 of which she is also the author). She has had the great pleasure of illustrating for authors such as Joy Kogawa, Hazel Hutchins, Sharon Jennings and Sarah Ellis. Her visit promises to be both fun and interactive.

Nadja Halilbegovich

On Friday, October 23 our Grades 5 to 8 classes will be listening to author Nadja Halilbegovich. Ms. Halilbegovich was twelve years old when the war broke out in her native country Bosnia. In 1992, Nadja was wounded by a bombshell. She still has seven pieces of shrapnel in her legs. She wrote many diaries and poems about living in Bosnia during the war. She currently lives in Canada and her first North American publication entitled My Childhood Under Fire: A Sarajevo Diary has been published in February 2006 by Kids Can Press. Her book has been awarded the "2006 Best Book Award" under Social Studies by the Society of School Librarians International as well as nominated for the Norma Fleck Award and the Golden Oak Award.



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-centred 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 1-800-565-8111

Thank You to Family BBQ & Open House Volunteers!

A heartfelt 'thank you' to all of the volunteers who did such a great job organizing our Family BBQ on September 17th. 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, buying food and drinks, hauling barbeques, soliciting servers, cooks, decorators etc.

The gym looked wonderful and the food was delicious!! A very special acknowledgement and thank you to Mrs. R. Casaccia and her team of volunteers!

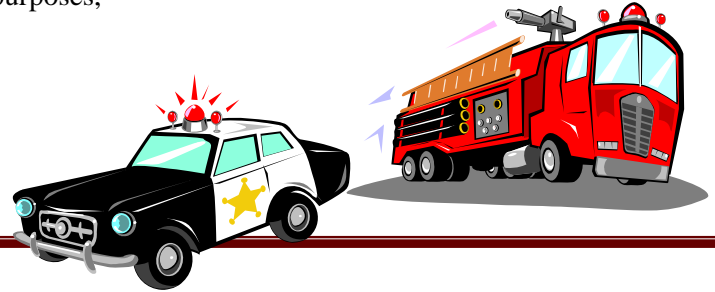
Emergency Procedures

Each and every school within Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board is required to have a fire emergency and evacuation plan. We are required under Board Policy to have three practice fire drills during the first term. The classroom teachers have and will continue to review these procedures with their students. Fire Safety week is October 5th – 9th. For more information on Fire Prevention Week and programs, please contact the Mississauga Fire & Emergency Services Public Education Unit at 905-615-4377.

We are also required to review and practice a lockdown procedure. This procedure is to prepare students in case the police direct us to have a 'lockdown'. We will be practicing this at some point during the month of November. Teachers will be assuring their children that this is strictly a practice. Please be assured that we always have the safety of our children as our first concern.

NOTE: If the school has to be evacuated for emergency purposes, our alternate site would be:

**EDENWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL
6770 EDENWOOD DRIVE
(905) 824-1020**



Thanksgiving Food Drive



St. John of the Cross School is involved in a community food drive. Food is needed by the St. Vincent de Paul Society to assist the many families who are in need. It is part of our Christian response to follow the example of Jesus by helping those in need among us.

Under the direction of Ms. Letterio & Mrs. Meany, our Grade 8 students have organized the collection of non-perishable food items. Please send in your donations with your child or please add your donations to our boxes in the front foyer. All donations are greatly appreciated and will be accepted until Friday, October 9th.

Home / School Communication

Parents and teachers are encouraged to contact each other immediately if there are problems or areas in need of clarification.

Please do not wait until interviews if you have a concern!!

We are always receptive to your calls and constructive dialogue is most welcome!



Terry Fox Walk ~ A Toonie for Terry

We held our Terry Fox Walk – Toonie for Terry, on Friday, September 25th. Teachers brought the students outside for an opening assembly at approximately 9:15. We had a short liturgy, a 'warm up' and then our students began their 'walk'. It was our hope that each student would be able to bring in a toonie ~ we were able to raise \$673.51.

Cancer has touched all of our lives in one way or another. Each student in the school was given a shoe to colour. These shoes were displayed in the hallway opposite the office. Students were also been invited to write the name of a person who they know who has been affected by cancer on the shoe they coloured. It is extremely important that we continue to support our medical experts in attempting to find a cure through research and to buy much needed equipment for our hospitals. We hope to continue Terry Fox's Dream !! A special thank you to:

- parents who volunteered to help supervise on this day
- our School Council who provided cookies and drinks
- our Organization Committee –
D. Letterio, E. Wetmore, K. Dillabough & P. Power

Pediculosis

A problem, which seems to occur in most schools, is pediculosis or head lice. Head lice are parasites and they are not connected in any way with uncleanliness. If a case is found we shall inform all parents of all children in that class.

This school year we have had a number of outbreaks and so we ask that you periodically check your own children. If you find them to be infested please ensure that they get the proper treatment.

Even if cases are not reported from the school, it is a wise precaution to check your children periodically. If your children are infested, we will be asking you to keep them out of school until after they have been treated with the correct shampoo and their heads are entirely clear of both lice and nits (eggs).

If we all cooperate in these procedures, we may not entirely escape outbreaks, but we will be able to bring them under control quickly. Information on head lice may also be obtained from your family doctor or pharmacist.

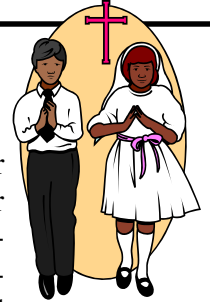
Please visit the Peel Health website for further information at <http://www.region.peel.on.ca/health/>



Sacramental Preparation

Perhaps you've been wondering.....

why busy parents need to come to all these meetings at the church to register for the sacraments if their children go to a Catholic School. Preparation for sacraments is not the job of the school. They do the ongoing, or what is called initial preparation together with the parish and most importantly – the parents. This preparation is the ongoing formation through teaching the children to know God, to pray, coming to church, and in school following the Born in the Spirit curriculum. For each sacrament, Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation and Marriage, there is a more immediate preparation which is the responsibility of the parents and the parish. Parents are the first and most important teachers of the faith and the school can not do this for you. The parish is here to encourage and support parents in the faith formation of their child.



Halloween 2009

On **Friday October 30, 2009** students at St. John of the Cross School will be involved in various age appropriate Halloween activities as well as a Halloween Dance.

It will be a 'spirit' day and all students are encouraged to dress in orange and/or black. Kindergarten students have the option of dressing in these colours or wearing a costume as long as they are appropriate to our Christian school climate ~ **for safety reasons ~ no masks or props are allowed.**

From **November 1st – November 9th** please bring in wrapped trick or treat candies to the office for donation to Canadian Food For Children – Dr. Simone. These treats will be sent to children in third world countries. Your contributions will help to brighten and bring a smile to children less fortunate.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Our Co-op Commitment

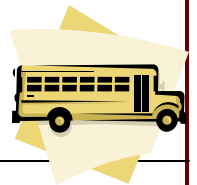
St. John of the Cross School is pleased that it will once again support the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel co-op work program.

This term, three Mount Carmel students will work at our school. Michael Lyn will assist Ms. Letterio, Matthew Wasik will be with Mrs. Dillabough & Mrs. Power and Heather Knox will be in the Grade 1/2 class with Ms. Santangelo.

Bus Driver

Appreciation Day

October 16, 2009



Special Services Staff

Special Services staff provide support to the school for a variety of services. We are pleased to have available the following personnel:

Child and Youth Worker	N. Soberal
Psychology	M. Polcz
Social Work	M. Roma
Speech Language	L. Gemmell

New Homework Policy

Following consultation with system stakeholders, a Dufferin-Peel homework policy document (Kindergarten to Grade 12) was recently adopted to foster consistency across the board in this area.

The new policy document addresses the following:

- ✦ definition of homework
- ✦ characteristics of effective homework
- ✦ types of commonly assigned homework
- ✦ timing and quantity of homework
- ✦ general and specific procedures
- ✦ reporting of homework



roles and responsibilities of administrators, teachers, students, and families.

The homework policy may be viewed in full at dpcdsb.org/homework. A summary of the key features of the document is available to families in the student agenda.

Below are some helpful *Be's* to support families in the homework process:

<i>Be positive.</i>	Communicate a positive attitude towards homework.
<i>Be consistent.</i>	Develop a homework routine that includes a set time and a regular space for completing homework, free from distractions.
<i>Be available.</i>	Encourage independent work on the part of your child, but be available for assistance. Provide guidance, not answers.
<i>Be attentive.</i>	Take a few minutes every day to chat about the school day. Listen attentively to your child as this may alert you to any academic difficulties, bullying situations or concerns about emotional well-being.
<i>Be a role model.</i>	Let your child see you reading, writing, and using math during homework time.
<i>Be a cheerleader.</i>	Praise your child for the effort displayed in completing homework.
<i>Be observant.</i>	Note any signs of frustration that your child may display while completing homework. If it appears difficult or confusing or if there are errors, encourage your child to ask the teacher for help at school the next day. Follow up with the teacher, if necessary.
<i>Be involved.</i>	Participate in school functions that offer you the opportunity to stay connected to your child's learning. Contact your child's teacher if you have concerns about your child's homework.

School Picture Day!! Smile!!

Wednesday, October 21, 2009



Family Literacy Program: talk.read.play.sing!

Free workshops for families offered by the Region of Peel
at St. John of the Cross

The Family Literacy Program is for families with children aged 0 - 6 years. Families come together for story times, snack, and activities. Come and join us! Research from the University of Toronto has shown this program makes an impact to a child's Early Literacy skills along with their family's support.

The program will be held in the library on Tuesday nights, from 6.30 - 8.00 p.m. for six weeks, starting October 20th. There will be another six weeks after March Break. 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 our website at www.peelregion.ca and click on Child Care.



Parish

St. John of the Cross Church

6890 Glen Erin Drive
Mississauga, Ontario
L5N 2E1

905-821-1331

Fax: 905-858-8486

e-mail: stjohnofx@hme.com

Website: www.saintjohnofthecross.com

Pastoral Team

Fr. Leo Huard, O. Carm.

Fr. Joseph Kalluvila, O. Carm.

Fr. Abraham Kulanjiyil 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 Directors

R. Borrelli 905-890-1221

J. Hrajnik 905-890-1221

Superintendent

D. Oude-Reimerink 905-890-1221

St. John of the Cross School

Principal

M.A. O'Mahony

Secretary



Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

Library News

October is the month we begin to bundle up and spend more time indoors. School routines have been established and activities are underway. The library is fully operational and students have been signing out books to read and enjoy.

Your child's teacher will inform the class as to when their library day will be. As well, Primary students will be handed a note on their first book exchange day with some helpful tips for parents. Please ensure that your child return their books on time to facilitate book exchange. Students in grades 4-8 will visit the library on an individual basis during a set Open Book exchange time. Again the classroom teacher will inform their students as to when they can exchange library books.

Thank you for your support during the Book Fair week and our special Family Night. Your generosity has helped to improve and update the library collection, which in turn benefits the students of our school! On behalf of the classroom teachers who benefited from your generous donations, Thank You!

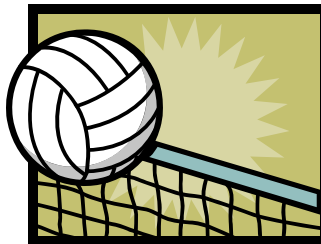
Mrs. Lichacz

Teacher Librarian



Sports News!

VOLLEYBALL



The Intermediate Boys and Girls teams have been chosen and have been busy practicing. Mrs. Barnes & Mrs. Vella are coaching the girls and the coaches of the boys team are Ms. Santangelo and Mrs. Tomazela. Our Family Tournament will take place on Tuesday, October 27 at St. Aloysius Gonzaga.

CROSS-COUNTRY

The weather has been fabulous for running. We have a large number of students from both Junior and Intermediate grades training during lunch. The Family Meet will be held at Erindale Park on October 8th, 2009. A special thank you to our coaches, Mrs. S. Colangelo and Mrs. G. Pedroso.



Representing St. John of the Cross School are Aaron A., Savanha A., Samantha B., Jessica B., Jeremy C., Alicia C., Katie C., Herry C., Chris C., Nicolly C., Olivia D., Aaron D., Hunter D., Jake D., Nicole E., Lana F., Stephanie F., Paul G., Lauren G., Keegan G., Ian H., Niamh H., Julia K., Kevin K., Laura K., Julia K., Paris L., Bryce L., Arina L., Kris L., Nicole M., Venessa M., Natalie M., Colton M., Meghan M., David M., Dylan N., Luke P., Riley P., Jeremy P., Viktoria P., Jeremy P., Jonathan P., Cassandra R., Justin R., George S., Ryan S., Kennedy S., Madisyn S., Cassandra S., Nicole S., Seth S., Kathy S., Taylor S., Matthew T., Stjepan V., & Daniel W. Good Luck!!!