

November 2009

St. John of the Cross School

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Website: www.dpcdsb.org/JCROS



DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

November Newsletter

MY PROMISE:

I promise you dear soldier,
to remember what you've done,
all the sacrifices you have made,
in battles lost and won.

I promise you dear soldier,
that you will not have fought in vain,
even when the years have come and gone
and only your tombstone does remain.

I promise you dear soldier,
a poppy I will wear,
to show the world I'm proud of you
and that I will always care.

I promise you dear soldier,
to teach my children well,
so that they will always remember
and to their children the stories tell.

To you I make this promise,
an oath straight from my heart,
to never, ever forget you
and that in my life you have a part.

Lest that we forget,
the terror that is war,
and all that has been given
by those who fought before.

©Maria Sutherland

Principal's Message:

During the month of November we remember....

On November 1, All Saints Day, we remember all those saints who have lived lives of holiness, grace and love.

On November 2, All Souls Day, we remember and pray for all those who have died, especially our loved ones.

On November 11, Remembrance Day, we remember the courageous men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice so that we can enjoy the many freedoms that we enjoy today. We also thank the peacekeepers of today who help keep us safe in our daily lives.

November is a month of remembrance and also a time when we reflect and share our kindness with others. We are reminded that as Children of God, we are 'peacemakers' in our community and that we have a responsibility to strive to improve not only our own lives but the lives of those around us. It is our hope that the children of St. John of the Cross will follow Jesus' path to create an inclusive and just community which truly reflects His love for all. It is our prayer that our students will carry the 'peace of Christ' in their hearts each and every day!

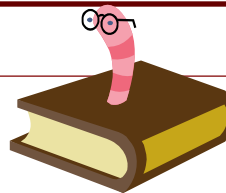
Mrs. O'Mahony

From the Library

This past month all students began book exchange. An important part of book exchange is responsibility and care of the books. Please encourage your children to take responsibility for their library books and the care of them. Perhaps find a special place in their room to keep them or return them to their knapsack when finished.

Of special note this month, the ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation recently launched the annual **Munsch at Home Contest** – a fun contest where families get to write a creative story together in hopes of winning a private home visit from Robert Munsch! Please see the attached flyer in the School Newsletter. This contest has been created to encourage literacy at home. The Munsch at Home Contest runs in celebration of Family Literacy Day, which is held annually on January 27.

Happy Reading! Mrs. Lichacz, Teacher/Librarian



National Book Week

In honour of TD Canadian Children's Book Week (November 14-21), the Canadian Children's Book Centre is delighted to give each Grade 1 student in our board a Canadian children's book, thanks to the generous sponsorship of TD Bank Financial Group. This year's book is entitled "Let's Go!" by Lizann Flatt.

A room without books is like a body without a soul. Cicero

Sports News! Go, Mustangs, Go!!!!

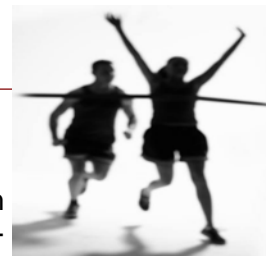
St. John of the Cross Runners in Cross Country Meet

The cross-country team had an outstanding season! **45** team members participated in the family meet at Erindale Park on October 8th and they performed amazingly well, showed wonderful spirit, and came home with a **First Place Banner!!**

The First Place Banner was won by the Grade 8 Boys Team. **10** students went on to represent our school at the Board Meet at Erindale on October 28th.


Special congratulations to our top 15 finishers at the Family Meet: Luke P ~ 1st place; Riley P ~ 1st place; Venessa M ~ 6th place; Chris C ~ 4th place; Paul G ~ 2nd place; Jonathan P ~ 9th place; Jake D ~ 10th place; Hunter D ~ 11th place; and the grade 8 boys team: Jake D; Paul G; David M; Jeremy P ~ 1st place banner!

Thank you to coaches S. Colangelo & G. Pedroso for all their time and effort.



Casual Fridays

You may observe that the staff dress in a casual manner on Fridays.

Through staff donations made on these Fridays, we are supporting the United Way of Peel or ShareLife. 

ShareLife

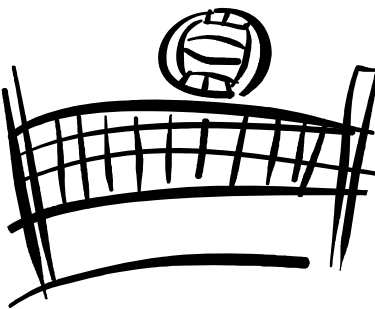
Intermediate Girls Volleyball

Congratulations to the following girls who participated on the St. John of the Cross Intermediate Girls Volleyball Team:

Shay B.; Katie C.; Danielle C.; Rachael M.; Jenna M.; Megan P.; Casey S.; Gabrielle S. & Mary S.

The girls put forth a great effort during the season and demonstrated wonderful teamwork and outstanding dedication! Go, Mustangs, Go!

Thank you to coaches T. Barnes, P. Vella for all their time and effort!



Intermediate Boys Volleyball

Congratulations to the following boys who participated on the St. John of the Cross Intermediate Boys Volleyball Team:

Jeremy C.; Domenic C.; Paul G.; Ian H.; Jesse L.; David M.; Connor P.; Riley P.; Jeremy P.; James R.; Conor R.; & Seth S.

The boys had a strong season and proceeded to the Family Tournament which was held at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Secondary School on Tuesday, October 27th. We are proud to say that the boys won a **Second Place Banner!!** Go, Mustangs, Go! **Thank you to coaches L. Santangelo and S. Tomazela for all of their time and effort.**

Toonie Tuesday

Once again this year we are holding a "Toonie Tuesday" during the month of November. The date that has been chosen is **Tuesday, November 17.**

Every month **Eden Community Food Bank** helps over 1,000 financially challenged families in our community.

We are encouraging all students to donate a Toonie on this day to help support Eden Community Food Bank.

PICTURE RETAKE DAY!

November 12th, 2009

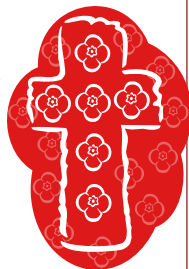
Please mark your calendars!!



Remembrance Day

On November 11th at 10:45 am the students in Grades 1 – 8 will be involved in a Remembrance Day Service. Parents are invited to join us for this special event. It is being planned and presented by Mr. Leach's Grade 7 class.

St. John of the Cross will be making a donation to the Royal Canadian Legion to show our support for the war veterans and in appreciation for the poppies made available to us.



P. D. Day Reminder

On **Monday, November 16** and **Friday, December 4** there will be no school for students.

November 16 has been designated as an elementary professional activity day for the purpose of evaluation of pupil progress and report card preparation.

December 4 has been set aside for Parent / Teacher / Student Interviews during the day.

First Term Reporting

First term report card distribution and interviews for students will occur during the week of December 1, 2009.

Reports will be sent home with students on Tuesday, December 1 and Interview Night will occur on Thursday, December 3.

More detailed information regarding interview procedures will follow.

Note: Term 2 begins on Tuesday, November 17.

EQAO Update!

EQAO results for the assessment of grade 3 and 6 students who attended schools in Ontario during May 2009 have been released. Individual student results have been sent home.

Looking ahead.....the window for EQAO assessments of all grade 3 and grade 6 students has been established for the weeks of **May 31 – June 11, 2010.**

Please keep this important time frame in mind when you are planning family trips or appointments. It is important that all Grade 3 and 6 students be in attendance for the assessments.

**Percent of students enrolled in the grade (Method 1)
who scored at or above
Provincial Standard (Levels 3 & 4):**

Grade 3 ('08-'09)	Reading	Writing	Math
School	52%	68%	68%
Board	62%	70%	70%
Province	61%	68%	70%
Grade 6 ('08-'09)	Reading	Writing	Math
School	97%	83%	66%
Board	72%	72%	65%
Province	69%	67%	63%

School, Board and Provincial Achievement Results: 2008 - 2009

School results on the EQAO Grades 3 and 6 assessments indicate that a continued focused emphasis on reading has produced an improvement over last year's results in our students' Grade 6 reading skills. Our Grade 3 reading results were lower than last year and Primary Literacy will continue to be a focus at the school level.

Both our Grade 3 and Grade 6 writing assessments indicate an improvement over last year. Our Grade 3 Math assessments indicate an improvement over last year and our Grade 6 Math results are slightly lower than last year. Overall, our Grade 6 students are performing above the board and provincial average in all three areas. This most recent EQAO information will assist us in fostering constructive conversations about improving student achievement and assisting us in the planning of educational strategies.

St. John of the Cross School Council

We would like to acknowledge all of the work our 2008 – 2009 School Council put into making St. John of the Cross such a vibrant and inclusive community. Thank you to 2008 – 2009 members: Lorraine Muise, Sandra Kitching, JoAnn Simec, Rose Casaccia, Lorraine Costello, Julia Polom, Daniela Letterio and Ruth Thompson.

During the 2008 – 2009 school year the parent community, through the School Council, has supported the school financially in a number of ways. The council annually approves 'Annual Budget Items'. Last year the items approved included: the purchase of agendas for each student in Grades 1 to 8; cake and juice for a communion celebration for Grade 2 students; the Advent Mass reception; Grade 8 Graduation Gowns and Awards; busing for all students to the Church for our Year End / Graduation Mass; Playday freezies; Artists in the School; refreshments for the students for the Toonie Dance and for the Terry Fox Walk, as well as paying for Scientists in the School presentations for Grades 4, 6 and 8. Further, council applied for a ministry grant for Ronald Morrish to speak to the parents this past September.

We are pleased to announce that the 2009 – 2010 School Council members are:

Chairperson	Lorraine Costello
Secretary	Lisa Roberts
Treasurer	Rose Casaccia
Parish Rep.	Kathy Plimmer
Members at Large	Julia Polom Steve Bator Susan Doyle Monika Farkasova JoAnn Simec
Teaching Staff Rep.	Daniela Letterio
Non-Teaching Staff Rep.	Ruth Thompson
Principal	MaryAnn O'Mahony

Poinsettia Sale

Our Grade 8 students are selling Poinsettias as a fundraiser for their Ottawa trip. If you have not been approached by one of the Grade 8s and you would like to purchase poinsettias, there are forms available in the office and online on our school website at www.dpcdsb.org/icros under 'General Information'.

Peel Regional Police School Program

We are pleased that two neighbourhood Policing Unit officers have again been assigned to liaise with St. John of the Cross School.

The officers assigned to our school are **Constable Wallbank** and **Constable Korslick**. This is the third year for this program. We are continually strengthening the partnerships established between students, staff and officers. The expectation is that the officers will be visible in the school and will be in attendance approximately once a week.

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

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

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 on 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 6 yrs, 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.

**Remember to
Change your
Clocks this
Weekend!**



DISCUSSION PAPER – “SUPPORTING LEARNING AND TEACHING IN ONTARIO'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS”

We have been advised by the Ministry that the Discussion Paper “Supporting Learning and Teaching in Ontario's Elementary Schools” and a Survey are now posted on the ministry's website.

Please find below the URL links to the Discussion Paper and Survey. There are three distinct sets of questions to capture the unique perspectives of parents, community members, educators, stakeholders, administrators and students.

The survey will be available on the ministry website until November 4, 2009 through the following links:

For parents, parent groups and community members: www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/curriculum.html

St. John of the Cross Christian Student Council 2009–2010

St. John of the Cross Christian Student Council is an organization that provides an opportunity for students to become involved in their school and community in a variety of ways. It also trains and encourages our students to be young leaders. The Christian Student Council will lead the school in the preparation of activities and events such as collection of Halloween Candy for Dr. Simone, Spirit Days and Virtue Assemblies.

This year's student council members are:

Prime Minister	David M.
Deputy Prime Minister	Jessica B.
Secretary	Lorianna D.
Minister of Finance	Katie C.
Cabinet Ministers	Amanda K. Paul G. Megan P. Spencer G. Melina S. Dylan F. Manny A.
Class Representatives	David M.; Jessica B.; Ethan H.; Olivia S.; Kavya P.; Ian J.; Venessa M.; Nicole S. & Veronica P.

Appreciation is extended to Mrs. Pedroso, Mrs. Perrella and Madame Colangelo for working with the students.

PEOPLE OF CONSCIENCE...

- FEEL RIGHT AND WRONG AND PAY ATTENTION
- LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT INSIDE
- CHOOSE TO DO WHAT JESUS WOULD DO
- KNOW THAT FOLLOWERS OF JESUS WILL HAVE TO MAKE DIFFICULT CHOICES
- KEEP PROMISES EVEN WHEN TEMPTED TO GIVE UP
- CAN SEE HOW HIS/HER ACTIONS MAY HELP OR HURT OTHERS
- ADMIT THEIR SINS AND FEEL BADLY ABOUT POOR CHOICES
- SAY SORRY AND TRY TO MAKE UP FOR HURTFUL ACTIONS

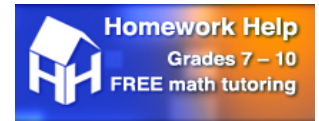
CONSCIENCE



Homework Help

Free real-time math tutoring now available

Grade 7 to 10 math students at Dufferin-Peel now have access to 20 hours a week of free, online math tutoring to help them improve and succeed in math. Check out [Homework Help](#) where certified Ontario teachers are available Sunday to Thursday, 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., for one-on-one confidential help. Dufferin-Peel is one of 15 English-language boards taking part in this pilot project funded by the Ministry of Education.



Upcoming in December ~

Angel on the Tree

On behalf of the St. Vincent DePaul Society and St. John of the Cross Church, our school will once again be participating in the Angel on the Tree Christmas Project. Details will be sent home early in December.

Student Choir

Under the guidance of Mrs. McAlear, the St. John of the Cross Choir continues to practice in preparation for our Family Advent/Feast Day Mass, as well as in anticipation of their visit to Sunrise Senior's Residence on Monday, December 7th.

Advent/Feast Day Family Mass

Our school community Advent/Feast Day Family Mass is scheduled for Thursday, December 10th at 7:00 pm at St. John of the Cross Church. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. The School Council will be facilitating a social in Nessinger Hall after the Mass.

This is truly a community event and will certainly get us all in the spirit and help all of us remember the primary 'Reason for the Season'. See you there!

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@rogers.com

website: www.saintjohnofthecross.com

Pastoral Team

Fr. Leo Huard, O. Carm.
Fr. Abraham Kulanjiyil O.Carm.
Fr. Joseph Kalluvila, O. Carm.
Deacon John Cannon
Kate Watkiss

Mass Times

Weekends

Sat. 5:00 p.m.,

Sun. 8 and 10:00 a.m., 12 & 5 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
J. 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

M.A. O'Mahony

Secretary

R. Thompson

School Council Chair

L. Costello



Sign up TODAY!

Parents and guardians of Dufferin-Peel Catholic students can stay up-to-date with the latest board news and information by joining the Dufferin-Peel eCommunity. Members will receive the latest news and information by email, including news releases, school activities and events, board meeting highlights, school and bus cancellations, plus useful tips for parents and students. Sign up online at www.dpcdsb.org.

Junior & Senior Kindergarten Registration for 2010-11

Registration for the 2010-11 school year will be held at

all Dufferin-Peel Catholic elementary schools on the following dates:

Monday, February 22, 2010 - 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.*

**Snow Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 - 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.*

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, February 24, 25 & 26, 2010

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Junior Kindergarten - Children must be 4 years old by December 31, 2010

Senior Kindergarten - Children must be 5 years old by December 31, 2010

Parents/Guardians should bring the following documents:

- proof of age of the child (birth certificate or passport)
- original Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate (for parent/guardian and child) or Baptismal Certificate of other rites in communion with the Holy See of Rome (if the child has not been baptized, a letter of counseling with the parish priest, to complete the process will be accepted)
- updated immunization records
- proof of Canadian Citizenship or Landed Immigrant status
- proof of home address (utility bill, bank or credit card statement)
- proof of English Separate School Support (may be done at the time of registration by completing an *Application For the Direction of School Support* and/or a *Separate School Lease Agreement* available at the school)

For more information, contact the school office.

Treats for Children

Please remember to send in excess **Hallowe'en** treats – **packaged candy, chocolate, lollipops, and cookies (no peanut products, please)**. The treats will be sorted, packaged and sent to third world countries. The last day for sending in treats is Friday, November 6th.



Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

Winter Dress / Colds & Flu

It is important that all students come to school ready to participate in all activities, including outdoor recess. Please ensure that your children come to school with hats, scarves, gloves, winter outerwear and boots. All students should have indoor footwear at school. This is imperative in case of an emergency evacuation since the students will not have time to put on their boots if they need to evacuate in a hurry! Please understand that if your child is well enough to attend school, they are well enough to go outside.