



# St. Clare Catholic School

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Principal: Trish Ostberg  
Secretary: Phyllis McDonald  
Pastor: Msgr. Joseph Shiels

Superintendent: Nick Milanetti 905-890-1221  
Trustee: Sharon Hobin 905-820-1221

## SEPTEMBER

Excerpt  
From the St.  
Clare School  
Mission  
Statement:

*Our mission  
is to  
encourage  
lifelong  
learners and  
to nurture  
well  
informed  
and  
productive  
citizens*

### A Child's Prayer for a New Beginning

You give us this new school year. We are excited to be back with our friends and teachers.

Help us to make the best of a new beginning.

Guide us to make wise decisions and to do the best we can.

Help us to make this a happy school year. Let us share with our friends and make new friends feel welcome.

Bless our teachers with the gifts of wisdom and patience as they guide us in our journey of learning so that they will continue to encourage and support us with their generous hearts.

Together, help create a community of learners that teaches us not only skills for success, but all that we need to live our faith fully in the world today.

Amen

### Welcome Back

The staff at St. Clare School extend a very warm welcome to all of the new families and to those returning to St. Clare this year. We trust that over the summer you had the opportunity to rest, relax and enjoy peaceful times with family and friends.

This past week we have begun a new academic year full of ambition and hope. We are never sure what each day will bring to us, but we are sure that, as we journey together, God is always with us. As we begin our new year, let us be reminded that God gives us each day as a gift ...and He encourages us to untie the ribbons.

### Parish Information

Our school works very closely with the staff of St. Ignatius Loyola Church in developing the spiritual lives of our students and in making our school a model of Catholic Education. We look forward to working in partnership with Msgr. Joe Shiels and Fr. Joe Gorman once again as our school pastors

### Virtue Program

The "virtues" program continues at St. Clare School. A virtue is defined as a "habit or established capability to perform good actions according to a moral standard." In other words a virtue is a habit that shows people and God that I am a good person. Each month we will look at developing a different virtue and we will celebrate the progress we make to be a more virtuous school—a place of safety, caring and inclusivity for all. In September, we will practice the virtue of FAITH.

### Picture Day

Our picture day is on Wednesday, September 23, 2009. All JK to Grade 8 students will have their picture taken in the morning or afternoon. If your child should happen to be absent that day, a picture "re-take" session will be held on Thursday, October 30, 2009. Sibling pictures will also be taken on October 30th, if you wish.

### BBQ—Curriculum Night—Tuesday, September 22 2009

Please join us on Tuesday, September 22, 2009 from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. for our annual barbecue and curriculum evening. Forms to purchase a hot dog and drink will be sent home later this week. Students are asked to attend with their parents and introduce you to their teachers.

### School Year Calendar

Included in this newsletter is the School Year Calendar, which indicates all holidays and Professional Development Days. Please make note of a few changes. The calendar on page 2 of your student's agenda is incorrect as is the calendar on page 9 that indicates the last day of school. The attached calendar is correct and should be used as your reference for this school year

### Classroom Information

Below is our current school organization as of September 8, 2009. This organization is based on projected enrolment established through the School Board. This year, through provincial funding, the government is capping primary classes (JK-3) at 20 students per class and junior (4-6) at 25. Schools must be accountable to these guidelines. It is understood that this Ministry initiative will result in more combined grade classes, due to a reduced student-teacher ratio.

Based on our enrolments within our boundaries during the first and second weeks of September, we may need to reorganize the classes as you see

them below. Therefore, please note that your child's class is not final until after reorganization occurs. If reorganization is necessary, it will take place during the Professional Activity day scheduled for September 18, 2009. If your child's placement or teacher changes, you will be notified as soon as the information is available.

P. Ostberg	Principal
P. McDonald	Secretary
R. Summers	SK AM
T.B.A.	JK AM
R. Summers	JK/SK PM
L. Allen	Gr. 1/2
B. McDonald	Gr. 1/2
K. Wickham	Gr 2/3
F. Zanchetta	Gr 3
E. Stothers	Gr 4
B. Sefic	Gr 4/5
E. MacPherson	Gr 5/6
P. Harris	Gr 5/6
R. Benec	Gr 6/7
N. Newell	Gr 8
G. Ventura	Gr 7/8
T. Discenza	FSL
D. MacSween	SERC
E. Pospieszynski	SERT
T. Brown	ESL/PLANNING
A. St. Martin	Library/FSL
C. Anderson	ERW
M. Corman	ERW
M. Lowe	ERW
D. Lyons	Social Worker
M. Landucci	CYW
O. Munn	Speech Pathologist
S. Henry	Psychologist
K. Oppong	Custodian (Day)
B. DiMarco	Custodian (Night)

The outstanding staff members at St. Clare School look forward to working in partnership with parents and the St. Ignatius Loyola Parish Team to provide an excellent Catholic education for all of our children.

### **Student Agendas**

Agendas for students in grades one to eight are valuable tools in assisting students to organize their time, homework and assignments. It also serves as a communication tool between home and school. Important school procedures, virtues information and the Catholic Code of Conduct are found on the first 16 pages of the agenda. Please spend some time daily going through the agenda with your child.

### **Communication**

Open communication between home and school is very important. Although we will be reporting to you formally during the year, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time if you have questions or concerns. A phone call at the onset of a concern usually resolves itself before it becomes a problem. On our part, if we have any concerns about your child, we will also contact you at the earliest opportunity. Please use your child's agenda to maintain communication with the teacher.

### **Updating Student Informations**

Student information forms have already been sent home and a

good majority of them returned to the school. It is very important that this information is up to date. In the event of illness or injury of your child at school, we must have current contact names and telephone numbers. In all cases, we **must have** an emergency contact for each child.

### **School yard Supervision**

The schoolyard is supervised at every recess, during the lunch hour, fifteen minutes before school starts and at 3:30 p.m. Dismissal. Please do not send your child to school before yard supervision at 8:45 a.m. For afternoon Kindergarten students and those who go home for lunch, please do not send your child to school before 12:45 p.m.

### **Lunch Hour Routines**

If you plan to drop off your child's lunch, please assist in efficient distribution by reminding your child to come to the office at lunch time. Please label the lunch bag with the child's name and teacher/grade. There is a spot just outside the office where you can drop the lunch. **When lunches are delivered late, it reduces the amount of time that students have to eat.**

A reminder that students who regularly stay for lunch are NOT permitted to leave school property unless they have a signed and dated note from parents each time they leave school grounds. We encourage consistency. Students either go home for lunch or stay in school for lunch.

Thank you for supporting this important safety routine.

### **Volunteers Welcome**

Parent volunteers are most welcome at St. Clare School. If you are interested in volunteering at the school, please contact Mrs. Brown at (905) 820-2227. All volunteers must have a criminal reference check completed before working in the school. Parents who wish to volunteer for school trips also need a Criminal Reference Check.

In compliance with the recent Ministry directives regarding these Criminal Reference Checks, volunteers are required to provide an original copy of their Criminal reference check dated within 90 days of the activity date. Forms can be picked up from the office, there is no fee

### **Anaphylactic Shock—Classroom Snacks/Lunch**

It is important for all parents to be aware that there are several students in our school who have severe allergies to peanuts and nuts. This is a medical condition that can result in death within minutes of exposure. Although this may or may not affect your child's class directly, please send foods in your child's lunch that are free from nuts/nut products.

Further to this, as part of "Sabrina's Law, we no longer allow treats for sharing with other students. On special occasions (Halloween, Christmas) teachers will advise students what foods they can bring for their own consumption. To acknowledge your child's birthday, if you would like to send something, items such as pencils or "dollar store treasures" that are not edible it would be appropriate. Thank you for your consideration and co-operation in making our classrooms safer for all students.

### **Storage/Administration of Medication**

Parents are responsible for ensuring that all medication and forms are updated annually. If your child requires medication please have all pertinent forms completed and returned with the medication to the office as soon as possible. A reminder that children are not allowed to keep any medication in their desk, backpack or

classroom (with the exception of an epi-pen if allergies are severe). All dispensing of medication requires medical permission and must be stored in the office.

### **P.A. Day**

Friday, September 18, 2009 will be the first P.A. day of the year. There will be no classes for children. The day has been set aside for the staff to develop in Faith and Curriculum and reorganize classes if necessary. Depending on enrolment at St. Clare School changes will be implemented on this day as approved by the Board Planning Department and the Superintendent of Schools. **There will be no school for students on this day.**

### **School Council Elections**

It is our pleasure to invite all parents to consider being a member of our Catholic School Council. Please note that our Catholic School Council will be comprised of parents, school faculty members (teaching and non-teaching) and an appointed parish community representative. The aim of the Catholic School Council is to support activities and students through involvement and fundraising.

The first Catholic School Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday October 1, 2009. All parents are welcome to attend.

### **School Safety—Reminder**

Parents are welcomed to the school throughout the year, however, for the safety of all children, parents and visitors must use only the front door for entry and must sign in at the office and receive a visitor's sticker each and every time you visit the building. Visitors are not entitled to go to the classrooms as this is a disruption to student programming. If you wish to speak with the teacher please make an appointment or telephone the office. Since the hallways are busy during pickup times, siblings and parents are asked to arrange with your child, a meeting place outside the school. Messages and/or deliveries (keys, lunches, etc.) are handled through the office. Please remember, to most students in the school, you are a stranger!

### **Student Absences**

Student safe arrival at school is paramount. If your child is absent please call the school attendance line at (905) 820-2227—Press 2. This procedure helps to ensure the safe arrival of all students. If your child is late for school, they must check into the office before proceeding to class. Children must be signed out at the office by an adult and signed back in when they are returning.

### **Valuables**

Students are requested not to bring valuables, items of importance or money to school. The school does not accept responsibility for the above. All personal items should be marked with the child's name. The use of cell phones and electronic devices is not allowed on school property. If you insist on your child having a cell phone it must be turned off and placed in their backpack during the school day. If you need to contact your child during the day please phone the school office.

### **Early Release Days 2009-2010**

As per the OECTA Elementary Collective Agreement, the Board is required to schedule one (1) early release day in each term for the purpose of curriculum development and implementation which will begin at each school's natural lunch break. All early release days will involve professional development in the area of curriculum development and implemen-

tion. Early Release day for this term will be on Wednesday, October 1, 2008.

### **Fire Drills/Lockdown Procedures**

In accordance with Ministry regulations, three fire drills will be conducted in the fall and three in the spring per school year. While we hope that a real fire situation never arises, this practice helps prepare students in the event of a real fire. In addition, our school Board has established lockdown procedures should a high risk incident involving weapons occur in the school or on school property, that could endanger the lives and safety of students and staff. We will practice the Emergency Lockdown Procedure with students two times during the school year and review it periodically. Parents will be notified prior to the lockdown drills.

### **Kiss and Ride Reminders**

- 1) Drop and pick up students at the front of the Kiss and Ride lane.
- 2) Please stay in your vehicle at all times. There will always be a Kiss and Ride Volunteer on duty.
- 3) Cars should be parked in clearly marked parking spaces.
- 4) Enter and leave the Kiss and Ride area at a reduced speed
- 5) Keep the flow of traffic moving
- 6) When picking up your child at 3:30 p.m. DO NOT drive in front of the bus when it is loading.
- 7) Students must exit their vehicle on the sidewalk side, not where cars are driving by in the "Drive Thru" lane.
- 8) Volunteers play a vital role in the safety of children arriving and leaving the school each day at the Kiss and Ride. Please follow the directions of the volunteer on duty.

Following these rules will ensure the safety of all our students. We are in need of Kiss & Ride volunteers to ensure our children's safety.

### **Fall Fundraiser**

Once again our students will be participating in our Halloween Spook-a-Thon fundraiser.

The purpose of this event is to raise funds support our student's learning, excursions, special events and club activities, sports programs, artists in the school and our academic programs. More information to follow.

### **Newsletters**

This will be the only newsletter that we send home in hard copy form this year.. All future newsletters can be viewed online by accessing the following:

### **OUR WEB SITE**

Parents are encouraged to visit our website for up to date information on activities that are happening at our school.

**[www.dpcdsb.org/CLARE](http://www.dpcdsb.org/CLARE)**

### **TRUSTEE INFORMATION**

Sharon Hobin Trustee, Ward 2 & 8, Mississauga

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