



# St. Clare Catholic School

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## NOVEMBER

Excerpt  
From the St.  
Clare School  
Mission  
Statement:

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

### Remembrance Day

The 11th Day of the 11th Month (November) is the day when Canadians take time to remember the men and women who fought and died in wars.

#### The Poppy

Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae of the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps, who in May 1915, when after watching the death of a close friend in Belgium, wrote the following poem:

#### In Flanders Field

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the  
sky*

*The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.  
We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset  
glow,*

*Loved and were loved, and now we  
lie*

*In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.*

*If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep,  
though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.*

### Virtue for November—Conscience

This month we celebrate the virtue of conscience.

God has given us the ability to know the right and decent way to act and then to act that way. We trust the common Spirit we share inspires us and guides us to make good decisions if we allow our conscience to be well-formed.

Please review this month's Virtue as outlined in each student's agenda.

### Thanksgiving Food Drive

Thank you to the St. Clare community for the generous donations to our recent food drive. Our donations were sent to the Eden Food Bank, as requested by the Director of Education.

### School Choir

The St. Clare School Choir is practicing for another event-filled year. With a new crop of students, as well as some veteran members, we now number close to 50!

Along with the seasonal liturgies and Christmas concert, we hope to entertain several community Seniors groups with performances closer to the holiday season. More information will follow on these events.

### Custody of Children

On rare occasions, we are faced with difficult situations in which non-custodial parents arrive at school asking to visit their child or to take their child home after school. We are best able to serve and protect students when we are made aware of legal custody arrangements, visitation rights and other special instructions. If legal custody matters affect your family, please ensure that our office and classroom teachers are aware of custodial arrangements between parents that may affect your child during school hours. Please ensure that a copy of the Court Order is on file at the school office.

### **Hand Sanitizers**

As you are aware the Board through the Plant Operations Department is replacing/installing hand soap dispensers throughout the schools. Further to the provision of a container of Microsan foaming sanitizer and poster for the reception areas, sanitizer provision will be expanded to all classrooms without sinks. Until an improved product is available the following guidelines must be followed with products allowed in into the school for personal use:

- Products used shall be between 60-90% alcohol content (the alcohol content is flammable)
- Do not use or store near open flames
- Over use may cause skin irritation due to the drying affect on the skin
- Only unscented products shall be used in schools/facilities

Use of sanitizers by students shall be supervised (It is vital to reinforce to your children that hand sanitizers are not to replace proper hand washing with soap and water.

Peel Health has excellent flu resources at:  
[www.peelregion.ca/health/pandemic/index.htm](http://www.peelregion.ca/health/pandemic/index.htm)

### **Picture Retake Day**

Will take place on Thursday, November 12, 2009 in the A.M. The afternoon SK/JK class picture will be taken in the afternoon at 1:00 p.m.

### **Pediculosis and the School**

From time to time, there may be cases of pediculosis or head lice in the school. This should not be a cause for alarm. They are a nuisance, but they are not hazardous to your child's health, as they do not carry disease. One of the most important steps to both their prevention and treatment is knowledge.

Head lice are tiny wingless insects with flattened bodies. They are about 1/8 of an inch long and can take on the colour of the hair to which they are attached. As a result, they are difficult to see. More easily seen are the eggs or nits. Nits are oval shaped, silvery, yellowish white, and often mistaken for dandruff. They lie very close to the scalp especially behind the ears and the nape of the neck and are firmly attached to the hair shaft.

Head lice spread either directly, head to head, or indirectly when they are dislodged in clothing, combs, hat, scarves, bed linens, towels, earphones, etc. Because head lice are wingless, they cannot fly or jump. Children are especially susceptible to pediculosis because they "head" together. It is important to know that getting lice has nothing to do with dirt or standards of hygiene.

The treatment for pediculosis is simple. Specially medicated shampoo or crème rinse is available from your pharmacists. Carefully follow the manufacturer's directions and remove all nits from the hair.

If the presence of head lice is detected in the school, those children with pediculosis will be sent home for immediate treatment. The parents of close friends and siblings of these children will be notified and requested to examine their child's head. Past experience has indicated that mass screening of all students in a classroom and/or school is not effective in controlling the spread of lice.

Peel Health is available to provide advice to parents, school staff and students about treatment and prevention. They can be reached by calling the nurse at Health Line Peel: (905) 791-7900 ext. 2401.

### **Lockdown/Fire Drills**

For your information we have recently completed one of the three mandatory fire drills and the one lockdown procedure that is required by the Board to be completed each term. Please invite your child to tell you about our expectations during a fire drill and lockdown. On November 19 we will be having our lockdown drill.

### **Cross county**

This year's Cross country team competed at the Family Tournament October 21 at Erindale Park. Twenty-six students .

from grades 4-8 participated. Despite the soggy day we competed in the best of spirit and had twelve runners advance to the boardwide championship held October 28 at Heart Lake. We had another fine performance and managed to capture a banner and medals with our second place Grades 4/5 boys team. Congratulations to the team and a big thank you to the parents who were able to help as well as a special thank you to our coach, Mr. Harris and also to Mr. Discenza who accompanied the team to the Board finals.

### **Volleyball**

Congratulations to both boys and girls intermediate volleyball teams. Both teams improved steadily throughout the season and exhibited excellent skills.

At the Catholic Cup in Oakville the teams really stepped up their play at times.

The coaches are truly proud of how much both teams improved. Thank you to the School Council for their continued support. GO COUGARS GO!!

### **Cold Weather**

With the cold weather upon us, heavier coats, hats, gloves, scarves and all other winter paraphernalia are definitely becoming the order of the day. As you do at home, we will also do our best to remind students to dress properly when they go outside for recess.

### **Peel Regional Police Feeder School Program**

Once again St. Clare School will be participating in the Peel Regional Police Feeder School Program. This program has assigned two 'neighborhood' police unit officers. The officers will be visiting the school weekly and participate in activities or simply walk around with the children during recess time. The purpose of the program is to make the students realize that police officers are our 'friends' and to assist us with any issues that we feel require police intervention and/or discussion. We look forward to working with the Constables and welcome them to the St. Clare community.

### **CONSTABLE CANNON**

Constable Cannon of the Peel Regional Police Youth Education Program will be at St. Clare over the next while to present to all the students from Kindergarten to Grade 8. Presentations will vary depending on grade levels and will reflect such topics as Community Helpers, Streetproofing, Internet safety and cyber bullying. We look forward to continuing to work together to keep our students safe.

### **Canadian Children's Book Centre**

For the ninth year in a row, in honour of TD Canadian Children's Book Week (November 15-22), the Canadian Children's Book Centre is delighted to give each Gr 1 students in Dufferin-Peel a Canadian Children's book, thanks to the generous sponsorship of TD Bank Financial Group. This year's book is titled "Too Many Books" by Giles Tibo.

### **Parent Council Meeting**

Thursday, November 19, 2008 will be our next Parent Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.

### **Textbooks**

School textbooks are school property and are loaned to the students annually. The expectation is that textbooks will be returned at the end of the school year. Students are responsible for these textbooks and will be asked to pay if these books go missing or have been vandalized.

### **Daily Physical Activity**

The Ministry of Education has mandated that every school in Ontario conduct 20 minutes of daily physical activity. Each teacher has been asked to establish a time on their schedule that is convenient in their curriculum. Staff will also be participating in the activities therefore you may find that casual attire is frequently worn. Also the staff has donated to ShareLife to participate in "Dress Down Fridays".

### **Interviews with the Teachers**

If you wish to speak with one of our staff members, please contact the office to arrange an appointment. At the beginning or end of the day teachers are very busy with students and speaking with parents, even for a minute or two, is very disruptive. Teachers are more than happy to get back to you to arrange a meeting or to speak with you over the phone.

### **P.A. Days—Please Mark Your calendars**

Monday, November 16, 2009—Report Card Preparation Day and December 3 (after school) & 4,(all day) 2009—Parent/Teacher Interviews.

### **Holy Name of Mary Secondary School**

Holy Name of Mary invites Grade 8 girls and their parent/guardian(s) to attend an Information and Registration Evening on Thursday, November 19, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at 115 Glenvale Blvd. Brampton, Ontario (905) 458-5541 Ext. 6410 . Holy Name of Mary is a faith-based Catholic learning community that stresses a Christ-centred curriculum with a 45 year tradition of academic excellence, sports distinction, community involvement and school spirit.

### **Student Lunches**

We have had numerous students attending school without a lunch. A proper nutritious lunch is essential to enhance your child's performance for the afternoon. You will be contacted if your child does not have a lunch and will be asked to rectify the situation immediately. Thank you for your co-operation.

### **Lunch (Delivered)**

We have many parents who drop off lunches for their child(ren) at school. Classes are not to be interrupted for students to pick up lunches. Please advise your child/ren in the morning to expect a lunch to be dropped off. You may drop off the lunch on the designated table in front of the office. Please ensure that your child's name is on the lunch. Students will be allowed to come down and pick up their lunch at 12:00 noon and eat from 12 noon until 12:20 p.m. After 12:20 p.m. your child will be outside for recess.

### **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 7:00-9:00 p.m.  
Wednesday to Friday, February 24—26, 2010  
9:00—11:00 a.m. and 1:00—3:00 p.m.

Please encourage parents in your neighborhood to join our St. Clare Community.

### **Volunteer ...Help make the Difference**

If you have special talents or skills, please make sure we know about them! You may be able to make a contribution in a special way. If you are able to devote a few hours of your time, please contact Mrs. Brown at (905) 820-2227. We are in need of volunteers for Kiss 'n Ride - it is only 15 minutes before or after school. Even if you only have time to give, we welcome your help .

### **Criminal Reference Check (CRC)**

These are required if you wish to volunteer your services in the school, transport students and assist on trips. Copies of the CRC forms are available in the office. Please note—this reference check is free of charge for school volunteers..

### **Parents/Adults in the School Yard**

It is difficult for the staff supervising the school yard to distinguish between parents and strangers. We are asking for your co-operation in dropping the students off during the supervised time of 8:45 a.m. and letting them be with their friends. The fewer adults in the school yard, the easier it is to identify a stranger in the yard. Once students are in the school, parents are encouraged to leave school property as soon as possible so that the students are not distracted from classroom activities. During the day there should be no parents in the school yard at all.. Parents may wait along the Kindergarten fenced area at the front of the school before school and at the end of the day. If your child is late, please bring her/him to the office. There should not be any parents in the halls or classroom without prior knowledge of the office during school hours. Parent volunteers will sign in and receive a visitor's badge. The visitor's badge does not

give permission to the parent to visit their child/ren's classroom. This is all a matter of safety. Thank you for your co-operation.

### **St. Clare Chess Club**

The St. Clare Chess Club will start after Christmas. If you have a son or daughter interested in joining, please watch for further information. Last year our team placed in the Board finals.

### **Missed Work Due to Absences**

When children are absent from school they miss important lessons and work that extends from these teachings. If a child is absent due to illness we kindly request that children get the needed rest they require so they can come back to school healthy. The teachers will not be sending daily work home for your son/daughter to "catch up". They will spend time assisting students on their return to school.

### **Forgotten Items**

Please be advised students will no longer be allowed to return to their classrooms after the end of the day for forgotten items (ie. Homework, shoes, etc). Teachers are not always in their classrooms after the end of the day and the classrooms may be locked. Custodians are not available to open classrooms.

### **Phone Calls During School Time**

Daily, the office gets requests from students wanting to make phone calls home to ask parents to bring forgotten items such as running shoes, agendas or textbooks/homework. We are reinforcing with students that it is their responsibility to bring all necessary items to school and to arrange in advance their out of school activities. Students will not be given permission to use the phone to make such calls unless it is an emergency.. Also, please make after school arrangements with your children prior to school. We make every attempt to minimize interruptions to classes. If arrangements have been made that vary from the student's normal routine, please make a note of the change in their agenda.

### **Student Council**

St. Clare School is pleased to announce that the 2009-2010 Student council elections have taken place and we have our newly appointed executives. Our new Student Council is as follows:

Prime Minister - Lynda Z.

Deputy Prime Minister - Alexandra R, Jessie H.

Secretary/Treasurer - Molly B.

Class Room Representatives: Chelsea H., Cailie M., Stephanie F., Primo N., Nikita K., Matthew A.

Please check our website on a regular basis for upcoming Student Council information



**Big Brothers Big Sisters  
of Peel**

## **The Power of An Hour! Be an In-School Mentor!**

Make a difference in the life of a child in as little as one hour a week by volunteering to be an In-School Mentor. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Peel in partnership with the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board matches elementary girls and boys with a caring adult mentor. Matches meet for one hour each week from September – June during school hours and on school property to share in fun activities such as playing board games, baking or playing sports. The result – increased self esteem, better grades and improved relationships with family and peers.

Children are in need of mentors in our schools and we need your help. You can make a significant difference by volunteering or encouraging your friends and family to mentor a child in a school in their neighborhood.

The In-School Mentoring Program is currently offered in 25 DPCDSB schools across Peel. Call 905-457-7288 or visit

[www.bbbspeel.com](http://www.bbbspeel.com) for more information.

### **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)**





