

*September 2008*

PRINCIPAL:  
S. Steer

SECRETARY:  
T. Crayden

SUPERINTENDENT:  
E. McGuire  
905-890-1221

STS. MARTHA AND MARY  
PARISH TEAM:  
Fr. E. D'Souza  
905-625-5670

TRUSTEE:  
M. Pascucci  
905-624-3663  
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# STS. MARTHA & MARY

Catholic School

1760 Bough Beeches Blvd., Mississauga, Ontario L4W 2B9  
905-624-9625

## Attached Forms:

Student Insurance  
Volunteer Form  
Lunch Hour Information  
Walking Excursion Form  
Parish Pastoral Plan

## ***A Prayer for the Beginning of the New School Year***

*May we explore together the territory of  
knowledge;  
May we learn together the mysteries of truth;  
May we share together the joy of friendship;  
May we release in each other the spark of  
creativity;  
May we inspire others to follow Your call;*

*May we always remember that you,  
the author of all knowledge, all goodness,  
all truth and all beauty, delight to share all  
experience with us.*

## SCHOOL HOURS

Sts. Martha and Mary school hours for the 2008-2009 school year remain as before:

### Grades 1 - 8

9:00 - 12:00  
Lunch 12:00 - 1:00  
1:00 - 3:30

### JK/SK

9:00 - 11:30  
1:00 - 3:30

## STUDENT ABSENCES

As in the past, we ask that you call the school on the days 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 on 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.**

**Attendance Line: 905-624-9625 ext 1**

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAY

Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup> is a Professional Activity Day. Students do not attend school on this day. Teachers will be involved in Adult Faith Development and reorganization of classes if necessary.

## PICTURE DAY

Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> is Picture Day for all students at Sts. Martha and Mary School. Pictures will be returned in plenty of time for Christmas.



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As this new school year begins, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all the new families in our school community and to welcome all those returning to Sts. Martha and Mary School. A special greeting is also extended to our Junior Kindergarten children who are starting school for the first time.

We are fortunate to welcome our returning staff members. Many have worked diligently over the summer months in various educational capacities such as marking EQAO, taking courses and setting up classrooms for the new school year. We are pleased to announce the return of S. Tannus who will resume her position as Junior Kindergarten teacher. Mrs. Tannus will also serve as our French as a Second Language teacher. We enthusiastically welcome back M. Marinuzzo to our kindergarten team.

We offer congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Hammond who celebrate the birth of their daughter Rachel. Mrs. Hammond will enjoy her time with Rachel until her return in March 2009. Replacing Mrs. Hammond is Ms. A. Feather. She brings with her much enthusiasm and previous experience in teaching the grade three curriculum.

Our custodial staff, Mr. Criminale and Mr. Massis, have been diligently preparing the school for your children. My heartfelt appreciation is extended to them and each of the educational and administrative staff who have truly extended themselves in preparing the school for another year of academic challenges.

As we anticipate the successes of the year ahead, I encourage you to remember that each success will be the result of the mutual support and respect we as parents and educators show one another. It is very important that the positive relationships of the past continue throughout the upcoming year. As our students mature we are reminded that their beliefs, ideals and sense of responsibility, friendship and family are constantly challenged and the common language and support we share as role models in their lives will impact greatly on their values.

Our school community is strengthened through our partnerships, none being more important than our parish team and our active School Council. Our students respond respectfully and eagerly to each faith and school initiative; this can only be attributed to the values modeled by their parents. The staff of Sts. Martha and Mary School is happily committed to working with its partners to continue to support each child in their quest for knowledge, happiness and spiritual development.

All my best for a wonderful school year God Bless.

S. Steer



## CURRICULUM NIGHT

Please join us at Sts. Martha and Mary on the evening of Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup> for a community barbeque and Curriculum Night. Classroom visits begin at 7 pm. Mark this date on your calendars and plan to attend this great kick-off to the new school year! More information will follow.

## Our Virtue for September....Faith



To begin the new school year, we'll focus our attention on the first of our virtues – **faith**.

Faith is the great virtue of believing in God and trusting that God is with us.

A *faithful* person believes that we are created, guided by and destined to be reunited with God.

A *faithful* person believes that God's plan for us includes the right to be safe, especially at school.

### A *Faithful* person...

- Prays regularly and reverently
- Learns from Scripture stories
- Honours people's God-given names
- Assumes that there is good in everyone
- Accepts the God-given worth of themselves and others

*Gracious and merciful God of all creation,*

*You have loved us since before we were born.*

*From our mothers' wombs to our eternal place in heaven*

*You have given us the gifts to live and grow in safety.*

*We come to You now asking for the grace and strength*

*to follow Your plan and to form a safe, caring, inclusive community*

*here at Sts. Martha and Mary Catholic School.*

*May our faith in You and Your plan lead us to know and feel Your presence among us.*

*We ask this in name of Jesus, Your Son, who lived to show us Your way.  
Amen.*

## OUR STAFF AS OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2008

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Room Number</u>
JK AM	S. Tannus	102
SK	M. Flattery (AM)	101
JK/SK	M. Marinuzzo (PM)	101
1	M. Prajza	108
1	L. Yawney	107
1/2	C. O'Connell	109
2/3	L. Sim	110
3	A. Feather/ K. Hammond	106
3/4	J. Ford	103
4	A. Morison	208
4	D. Copas	210
5	L. Ciccolini	207
5	F. Sanfilippo	209
6	A. Loncarich	105
6	L. De Simone	104
7	M. Maxymiw	206
7/8	M. Mandarino	204
8	M. Osmak	203
SERC	C. Kelemen/ A. Bellini-Kavals	211
0.5 FSL	S. Tannus	212
FSL	A. Patola	212
SERT/FSL/ ESL	L. Rossi	111
Arts	L. Medeiros	213
SERT/Library	J. Duncan	Library
ERW	C. Godin	
ERW	A. Gardiman	
ERW	M.A. Knibbe	
ERW	S. Monid	
ERW	K. Scherer (PM)	
Secretary	T. Crayden	
Custodian	A. Criminale	
Psychologist	M. Wasserman	
Speech/Language Pathologist	J. Ritchie	
Social Worker	R. Peters	
Child and Youth Worker	T. Jenkins	
Principal	S. Steer	

Please note that classroom assignments may be temporary for the first two weeks of school as new enrollments may require reorganization.



**SCHOOL BUS EMPTY SEAT POLICY**

At this time, transportation is only available to kindergarten students. Those wishing to access the empty seat policy are asked pick up an application form at the school office and return it to Mrs. Steer. Depending on availability, seats will be allocated by October. **Please note that all children who were previously granted permission to ride the bus under this policy must find alternative transportation until the seating situation on the buses has been assessed and new letters are issued.**



**CROSSING GUARD**

Please encourage your children to use the crossing guards at:

- ☺ Fieldgate and Bough Beeches
- ☺ Bough Beeches at Sts. Martha and Mary School
- ☺ Fieldgate and Rathburn

**HEPATITIS B INNOCULATIONS**

Peel Health will continue to offer free immunization against Hepatitis B for students in grade 7 and for grade 8 students that have missed the grade 7 vaccination. It is given as a series of two injections over a period of six months. Also available is the non-compulsory immunization of Gardasil for grade 8 female students. This is a series of three injections given throughout the year. If you have any questions please call the Peel Health Department at (905)799-7700.

Dose #1 will be administered on: Wednesday, September 17, 2008

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

**VIRTUES INITIATIVE**

A Catholic Faith Community is rooted in a set of common beliefs which are inspired by the life, mission and teaching of Jesus. As a Catholic Community we are called to learn, to grow and to become more like Jesus in the way we see and treat others. Our Catholic faith plays an important role in helping us shape schools that are safe, caring and inclusive.

Catholic School education provides us the opportunity to integrate virtue formation into all areas of our school life within the context of our faith. Sts. Martha and Mary School will again focus our attention on the *Catholic Virtues*. This program is designed to help us nurture virtue and character development in the lives of our students. Each month, the entire school will focus on a different virtue. Classroom activities, school wide activities and assemblies will all focus on the nurturing of a specific virtue. We would appreciate your support in discussing these virtues with your child and encouraging behaviours that demonstrate these virtues. Here is a list of the virtues we will be nurturing this school year.

- |                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| <b>September</b> | <b>Faith</b>        |
| <b>October</b>   | <b>Empathy</b>      |
| <b>November</b>  | <b>Conscience</b>   |
| <b>December</b>  | <b>Hope</b>         |
| <b>January</b>   | <b>Self Control</b> |
| <b>February</b>  | <b>Respect</b>      |
| <b>March</b>     | <b>Kindness</b>     |
| <b>April</b>     | <b>Love</b>         |
| <b>May</b>       | <b>Acceptance</b>   |
| <b>June</b>      | <b>Fairness</b>     |



**POLICY ON CELL PHONES AND MP3 PLAYERS**

Although cell phones and MP3 players have become the accessory of necessity for many of us, they do not enter into our world without a problematic flip side.

In some cases, unregulated use of Personal Electronic Devices (PEDs) has facilitated illegal activities in the school environment or during school-sanctioned activities. It has become an unfortunate reality that the promotion of academic excellence and the preservation of academic integrity can be compromised by the unregulated use of PEDs during the instructional day, at assessment times and on formal exam days.

In this regard, it has recently become Board and school policy that all PEDs must be kept out of sight, turned off and not used within school premises (including portables) or during school-sanctioned activities such as retreats, field trips, sports events, etc. To prevent the loss or damage of PEDs, we encourage students to leave their PEDs at home or in their lockers.

## **SECURITY AT STS. MARTHA AND MARY**

During regular school entry and dismissal we kindly ask that you remain outside your child's regular entry or exit door or at a predetermined meeting place and not enter the school building. Although it may be tempting and convenient to pop in and ask a quick question or assist your child, it is not always a time when the teacher or child can proceed with his/her duties or carry on an uninterrupted conversation. At the beginning and end of the day, it is especially important that we minimize distractions so that teachers and students can direct their attention to their studies, organization and safety.

A reminder that all visitors **INCLUDING PARENTS** must come to the office, sign in and pick up an identification badge. No one is allowed within the school without proper supervision and identification. This procedure will help students and staff in recognizing our many visitors at Sts. Martha and Mary School. If you are picking up your child at a time other than regular school dismissal, we ask that you report to the office. Arrangements will be made for your child to meet you at the office. If you intend to send someone else to pick up your children, please inform the classroom teacher.

We thank you for your cooperation in supporting a safe environment at Sts. Martha and Mary.

## **CRIMINAL REFERENCE CHECKS**

Anyone working in our school as a new employee or volunteer must have a Criminal Reference Check completed by the Peel Police. **CRC are free of charge for volunteers.** Forms are available at the school office.

## **VALUABLES**

Students are requested not to bring valuables or items of importance to school. Heartache often follows when these items disappear. The school does not accept responsibility for the above, although every effort will be made to help students find missing items. Personal items should be marked with your child's name. When visiting the school please take a moment to check the Lost and Found box that is located on the first floor of the school. Missing coats, boots and lunchbags often turn up in this receptacle.



Over the past year concern has arisen around the exchanging and selling of trading cards. As you are well aware, many of these cards are of considerable value and many of our children are not of a maturity level that allows them to understand their worth. With this in mind, it is school policy that these cards should not be brought to school.

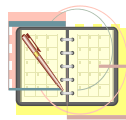
In an effort to assist in keeping our students happy and busy at recess our Catholic School Council has provided each classroom with recess bins that provide students with outdoor toys, and sports equipment, thus making it unnecessary for students to bring items from home.

## **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 any custodial arrangements that may affect your child during school hours.

## **SCHOOL AGENDAS**

Through the combination of school funding and the fundraising efforts of the Parent Council, the students in grades 1-8 are provided an agenda that is used to develop their organizational skills as well as facilitate communication regarding homework, deadlines and special events. Starting on page 2 of the agenda is a guide to the rules and responsibilities from the principal and from the school board, "The Catholic Code of Conduct". Please take some time to look over the agenda with your child. It is particularly important to emphasize that the agenda is to be used daily to assist your child in organizing his/her time and to keep parents informed on what is happening in class and in the school. It is a great vehicle to jot down a short note to the teacher and the teacher can respond in the same way.



## **SABRINA'S LAW**

Sabrina's Law is an Act to protect anaphylactic pupils in publicly funded schools in Ontario. Named "Sabrina's Law" in honour of an Ontario student who died following an anaphylactic reaction in 2003, the law became effective on January 1, 2006. This law requires that every school board establish and maintain an anaphylaxis policy. It also requires that principals develop individual plans for pupils at risk of anaphylaxis.

Copyright © 2005 Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology

## **PEANUT / NUT FREE SCHOOL**

School can be a very frightening environment for a child with a severe allergy to peanuts or nut products. In an effort to further promote a safe and secure environment for all of our children we ask your support in implementing a school-wide nut free, peanut free school. Approximately 2% of our school population suffers from this life-threatening allergy. At first glance this may appear a small percentage. However, we must take into consideration that these children are not isolated to any particular grade level and, like all students, utilize the computer lab, washrooms, library and physical education equipment. We ask that you place careful consideration to school lunches and snacks and refrain from sending in items that are made of, or contain, nuts or peanuts. We offer our heartfelt thanks for your support. Students who bring nut or peanut products to school will eat these items in a safe area outside of their classroom. They may return to the class when they have finished eating and have washed their hands.

## **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.



## **STUDENT 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.

Two options are offered for enrolment:

1) Complete the traditional form and mail it in or 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.

## **SECURE ENTRY SYSTEM**

A monitored entry system is active at the front door to our school. Similar to an apartment building entry, parents and visitors may enter the school only once accepted for entry at the front office. As a consequence our school doors will remain locked at all times.

We ask for your patience and understanding if there is a wait at the doors. Often our school secretary is away from her desk for photocopying etc... Thank you for your patience as we adjust to this system.



PLASP operates Before, Lunch and After School Programs for children up to 12 years of age, at Sts. Martha and Mary.

### **Registration now taking place.**

Want to know more? See the PLASP staff at this school, or call the PLASP head office 905-890-1711, or visit our website at [www.plasp.com](http://www.plasp.com)

## PARENT'S CORNER

### SCHOOL COUNCIL

You are invited to the first meeting of the Sts. Martha and Mary Catholic School Council, to be held on Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008 at 7:00 pm (following elections) in the school library. It is very important to get as many parents involved as possible so that we can work together to make our school a better place to grow and learn.

### SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

On Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 a letter was forwarded which outlined the election process. On September 19<sup>th</sup> all nomination forms must be received at the Sts. Martha and Mary office prior to 4 pm. Elections will be held on Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008 at 7:00 pm. unless council is acclaimed due to the number of nomination forms being less than those required for a full council as indicated by our constitution.

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

**Tuesday, September 9, 2008:** Parent meeting for Reconciliation and Holy Communion, 7:00 p.m.

**Thursday, September 11, 2008:** Opening Mass 1:15 pm

**Thursday, September 11, 2008:** 1<sup>st</sup> Forest Glen Scout Group registration night at the Burnhamthorpe Community Centre at 7 p.m. Ages 5-14. For further information call Patricia Monahan, 905-625-1463

**Friday, September 12, 2008:** Professional Activity Day -**No classes for students**

**Wednesday, September 17, 2008:** Hepatitis B- Dose #1 for grade 7 students, Dose #1 Gardasil, grade 8 girls

**Thursday, September 18, 2008:** Barbeque and Curriculum Night 6:00 pm – 8 pm

**Tuesday, September 23, 2008:** School Council Elections / Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, September 24:** Picture Day

**Friday, September 26, 2008:** Terry Fox Run 1:15 pm

**Tuesday, September 30, 2008:** Parent meeting for Confirmation, 7:00 p.m. at Sts. Martha and Mary Church

**Thursday, October 9, 2008:** Thanksgiving Liturgy and PEP RALLY to kick off this year's major fundraiser

**Tuesday, October 13, 2008:** Thanksgiving Day

### SACRAMENTAL PREPARATIONS

During the course of the year, our school has the privilege of assisting our parish priest in preparing students for three sacraments:

Reconciliation and Holy Communion	Grade 2
Confirmation	Grade 8



Although the school plays a major role in sacramental preparation, parents, as the primary instructors of faith, are key in preparing their children to receive these sacraments. Preparatory meetings have been organized for parents. These meetings will provide you with an opportunity to be an integral part of your child's spiritual growth in these sacraments.

**THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS AND EVENTS WILL TAKE PLACE AT STS. MARTHA AND MARY CHURCH, 1870 BURNHAMTHORPE ROAD EAST, MISSISSAUGA, 905-625-5670:**

### SACRAMENTS OF RECONCILIATION AND HOLY COMMUNION

**Tuesday, September 9, 2008:** Parent meeting for Reconciliation and Holy Communion, 7:00 p.m. at Sts. Martha and Mary Church;

**Tuesday, March 31, 2009:** Sacrament of Reconciliation, 7:00 p.m. at Sts. Martha and Mary Church;

**Sunday, May 3, 2009:** Sacrament of First Holy Communion, 2:00 p.m. at Sts. Martha and Mary Church.

### SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

**Tuesday, September 30, 2008:** Parent meeting for Confirmation, 7:00 p.m. at Sts. Martha and Mary Church;

**Saturday, May 23, 2009:** Sacrament of Confirmation at 6:30 p.m. at Sts. Martha and Mary Church



# Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

40 Matheson Boulevard West, Mississauga, ON, L5R 1C5, Tel: (905) 890-1221

## 2008-2009 School Year Calendar

First day of classes elementary and secondary schools .....	Tuesday, September 2, 2008
Last day of classes Semester 1 Secondary (Semester Schools ONLY) .....	Thursday, January 29, 2009
First day of classes Semester 2 Secondary (Semester Schools ONLY) .....	Friday, January 30, 2009
School Year ends elementary and secondary schools.....	Friday, June 26, 2009
Number of school days for the 2008-2009 school year .....	194
Number of instructional days in elementary schools .....	188
Number of instructional days in secondary .....	188
Number of professional activity days in elementary schools .....	6
Number of professional activity days in secondary schools .....	6

### School Holidays for the 2008-09 School Year

Every Saturday and Sunday

Labour Day .....	Monday, September 1, 2008
Thanksgiving Day .....	Monday, October 13, 2008
Christmas Break .....	Monday December 22, 2008 to Friday, January 2, 2009 (inclusive)
Family Day .....	Monday, February 16, 2009
Mid-Winter Break .....	Monday March 16, 2009 to Friday March 20, 2009 (inclusive)
Good Friday .....	Friday, April 10, 2009
Easter Monday .....	Monday, April 13, 2009
Victoria Day .....	Monday, May 18, 2009

### Elementary Schools - Professional Activity Days

1. Friday, September 12, 2008	Principal's Day: Faith Development and Reorganization
2. Friday, November 14, 2008	Assessment & Evaluation of Pupil Progress
3. Friday, December 5, 2008	Reporting to Parents on Evaluation of Pupil Progress
4. Wednesday, January 28, 2009	Provincial Education Priorities as per Regulation 304
5. Friday, February 27, 2009	Assessment & Evaluation of Pupil Progress
6. Monday, May 11, 2009	Provincial Education Priorities as per Regulation 304

### Mississauga East Elementary Schools – Early Release Day

Tuesday, September 30, 2008      No afternoon classes