

December 2008

PRINCIPAL:
S. Steer

VICE PRINCIPAL:
C. Klein

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
fax 905-624-6823
mario.pascucci@dpcdsb.org



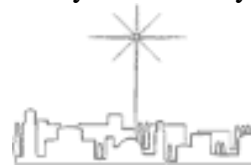
STS. MARTHA & MARY

Catholic School

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

A Christmas Prayer

O God, Whose mighty Son was born in Bethlehem
those days long ago,
lead us to that same poor place,
where Mary laid her tiny Child.



And as we look on in wonder and praise,
make us welcome Him in all new life,
see Him in the poor,
and care for His handiwork, the earth, the sky and the sea.

O God, bless us again in Your great love.
We pray for this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

*For Advent prayers and liturgies please visit:
www.catholicsdoors.com*

Inside

Celebrating Advent
Parent / Student / Teacher
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RECONCILIATION

Many of our grade 3 – 8 students will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the upcoming season of Advent. We are most appreciative to Father Edwin who will share an hour every day to instill this wonderful sacrament upon our children.

CONFIRMATION

As part of Confirmation preparations, all grade eight confirmandi were required to present themselves as candidates for the sacrament during the weekend of November 29th, 2008. This provided a wonderful opportunity for the parish to support our candidates as they begin their preparations to enter further into their role as responsible Catholics.

FOOD DRIVE & MITTEN TREE

This year, as in the past, the staff of Sts. Martha and Mary have organized a food drive and will place a mitten tree in the front foyer. The food drive will be accepting canned goods starting November 28th until December 15th. Our mitten tree will be ready to accept brand new mittens, scarves and hats as of December 1st until December 12th. The items collected from the food drive and mitten tree will be donated to the Salvation Army and the Dixie Bloor Neighbourhood Centre. Charity is the primary response to our call as Catholics and provides us an opportunity for service to others. Once again, we call on all the students at Sts. Martha and Mary School to help support these events and make them a success. Thank you for your donations.



SCHOOL ADVENT MASS

The student population of Sts. Martha and Mary School will celebrate an Advent Mass at Sts. Martha and Mary Church, on Wednesday, December 17th, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. (weather permitting). The offering of the mass provides teachers, students and parents an opportunity to celebrate the Eucharist together as a school and parish community. Parent volunteers are welcome to assist with supervision or to simply join us at the church.

CELEBRATING ADVENT

The season of Advent begins with the fourth Sunday before Christmas. “Advent” is a Latin word meaning “the coming”. During the season of Advent, Christians across the world prepare for the celebration of the coming of the Lord into the world through the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ. Advent is a time to celebrate light in the midst of darkness, as symbolized best by the Advent Wreath.



At Sts. Martha and Mary we emphasize the implications of the birth of our Saviour through our Christian actions. We ensure that Advent is a time where we emphasize charity and social justice. It is a time to prepare the way, to make God real each and every day through prayer, charity and social justice. The following activities provide a small window into how the staff and students at Sts. Martha and Mary are the arms, legs, and hands of God.

YOUTH FAITH AMBASSADORS

This is a new initiative to encourage Catholic elementary school students in grades seven and eight to live out our baptismal call to become Fully Alive in the Lord Jesus Christ through care for themselves and others. The role of the Youth Ambassador is to become active an Christian through the knowledge of God’s word, deepening their own faith development and bettering their communities through service. Several students from these grades were selected to represent their classes and attended a commissioning mass and celebration at St. Dominic Church on Monday, November 24, 2008, under the leadership of Ms. Duncan. The students will share their experience as ambassadors and will discuss and create opportunities for becoming active witnesses in our school and community. Our Youth Faith Ambassadors are:

- | | | | | |
|----------|----------|-------------|--------------|----------|
| Anne C. | Diego C. | Viktoras M. | Nadia O. | Kaila P. |
| Julia P. | Kate R. | Sonja S. | Christian S. | |

A MONTH OF VIRTUES

In December we celebrate the virtue of hope. We believe that God comes to us as a small fragile baby who shows us that even the smallest and poorest can make a profound difference in the world.

God has given us this Advent season year after year in order to focus our minds and our hearts on the good all around us. During this time of hope, we are reminded that God chose to send his Son to us because we are worth it. God knows how great we can be when we all come together.

When we look at the world through the eyes of God we know that the message of hope in Jesus' second coming will be and is fulfilled, because Jesus' love lives in us everyday.



People of Hope...

- **Keep up a positive attitude**
- **Can bounce back from tough situations**
- **Set and stick to their goals**
- **See the good in others even when they make mistakes**
- **Work to include others**
- **Let others know that *they* are good people**

PRIMARY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The students of the primary division wish to invite their parents to a special presentation of "The First Christmas" on Tuesday, December 9th, 2008, at 7:00 pm in the school gymnasium. Doors open at 6:45 pm



This evening of song promises to be a highlight of the Christmas season.

CHRISTMAS GIFT TREE

Once again the Sts. Martha and Mary School Council will be celebrating the season of giving through our Christmas gift tree. Beginning December 1st, 2008 the Christmas tree in the front foyer will be decorated with tags that indicate the age and gender of a child in need.



When you are visiting the school please consider making Christmas a little brighter for the children in our community by taking a gift tag from the tree. Recommended gifts are clothing items that will fit children from infant – 9 years of age, or gift certificates to local stores. Gifts should be left unwrapped or placed in a gift bag.

Our goal is to have the foyer full of gifts by December 12th, 2008. The gifts will be used to help various families in the community through the Dixie Bloor Centre. Thank you in anticipation of your generosity.

Mark Your Calendars

Council Meetings for 2009: January 19, February 17, April 20 and May 19 (volunteer appreciation)



FUNDRAISING

With October behind us we celebrate the success of our first fundraiser. Thank you to Mrs. Cochrane for chairing this event and thank you to her team of volunteers who ran this fundraiser with such great organization and ease. At our November School Council meeting discussions on the allocation of the money raised through fundraising were considered. We happily inform you that the funds raised during the current school year will be allocated to the following school initiatives:

ONGOING INITIATIVES

Instrumental Music Program
Sound Field Amplification System repairs and replacements
Community Needs (support for students in need of financial support of field trips)
Mad Science Presentations Kindergarten to grade 6
Parish Donation
Student Agendas
Grade Eight Graduation rings and dance
First Communion Pins
Play Day, hot dog lunch
Recess games
Chair Slippers (sound reduction)

NEW FOR 2008/2009

TV/DVD players, one for each floor of the school
A New Electronic Scoreboard for the gymnasium

ACTIVE STUDENTS

JUNIOR VOLLEYBALL

The junior volleyball teams have already completed their first round of competition. All players have shown great dedication and sportsmanship. Our junior girl's team was successful in winning all three of their exhibition games and will continue on to the family tournament on December 3rd. We also would like to extend our sincerest thanks to the coaches who are supporting this extra-curricular activity: Mr. Patola, Ms. Feather, Mr. Cornwall Mrs. Maxymiw and Ms. Prajza.

Adrian F.	Callan N.
Tyler P.	Alex C.
Daniel D.	Katherine T.
Nicholas S.	Tate P.
Jacob B.	Julia M.
Daniel F.	Paula B.
Shaun R.	Rebecca T.
Cole A.	Bianca F.
Carl S.	Emily A.
Jacob M.	Alex T.
Bruno A.	Yuliana C.
Adrian B.	Claudia B.



INTERMEDIATE BASKETBALL

Intermediate basketball is off to an early start with the selection of our girl's team. Practices have already begun in anticipation of the January / February league play. Team members include:

Jessica W.	Kate R.	Kiana D.
Marilyn S.	Chelsea C.	Anne C.
Alexia M.	Melissa M.	Kaila P.

Our intermediate boy's team will begin try-outs and practice within the month of December.

Many thanks to our parent volunteer, Mr. Poprawski and our coaches, Ms. Prajza, Mrs. Ford and Ms. DeSimone.

BOOK FAIR



Our Scholastic Book Fair, organized by Ms. Duncan, our teacher librarian, and her team of parent volunteers was a great success. Total sales were \$8, 150.00 Our share of the total sales will allow us to purchase many new books and resources for the library. Thank you for your tremendous support.

STUDENT/PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

First term report cards will be sent home on Tuesday, December 2nd, 2008. Along with the report card, you will receive a confirmation time for your report card conference. This conference will include the student, the teacher and the parents/guardians. Conference request forms were sent out on November 19, 2008. During this first conference, the teachers would like to see and speak with all parents and students in order to discuss the first term and also to make plans and set goals for the second term. Conferences for first term reports are on December 4th from 3:30 – 9pm and during the day of December 5th.



EXTENDED FRENCH PARENT MEETING

Parents of grade four students who wish to enroll their child in grade five Extended French for September 2009, are invited to attend an information meeting at St. Thomas More School on Tuesday, January 27, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. Applications will be accepted until 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4th, 2009.

SAFE & HEALTHY SCHOOLS

PEACE PALS

Many of our grade five and six students have volunteered to act as Peace Pals to our younger students. Peace Pals are leaders within the school. They foster safe, fun, co-operative and active play during school recesses. Our Region of Peel Health nurse, Mrs. Bull has worked closely with our teacher representative, Mrs. Yawney, to provide training to these young individuals.

Alexa C.	Melanie C. A.	Jasmine D.	Alyssa H.
Meagan P.	Cassandra R.	Victoria S.	Amanda S.
Madison F.	Deborah A. A.	Yuliana C.	Matthew D.
Montana F.	Sarah G.	Monique G.	Monika I.
Megan L.	Julia M.		

Thank you Peace Pals for being such virtuous role models!

INDOOR FOOTWEAR REQUESTED

Please ensure that students keep a pair of running shoes or other appropriate footwear at school so that their feet remain dry and clean at all times. As well, because so many areas of our schoolyard can be quite muddy at certain times of the year, this would really help in keeping mud and dirt out of the classroom.

AFTER HOURS SCHOOL ACCESS

Although we appreciate the dedication of our students to return to school to acquire forgotten materials, we beg your assistance in making this a rare rather than regular occurrence. Access to the school at any time is highly monitored and after school hours is no exception. Our custodial staff are directed not to allow students and parents to enter classrooms for the purpose of picking up forgotten books or homework. This is to ensure the safekeeping of student, teacher and school property. In rare circumstances, where an important item is needed, please seek the assistance of the classroom teacher, the principal or vice-principal for classroom admittance.

ANTI-BULLYING

CURRICULUM INITIATIVES

Virtuous play has always been a part of our Catholic curriculum. It is primarily taught through Religion and Family Life, but is also woven within all subject areas. This year we have begun to utilize the Lion's Quest resource to place significant focus on being able to recognize the bullying (the problem), identify that bullying does exist in our school, and identify what students can do to prevent bullying (the solution).

We are particularly proud of the leadership our intermediate students and their teachers have taken in presenting the Lion's Quest program to our kindergarten students. Through role play and discussion, they share anti-bullying strategies and promote tolerance and kindness.

Two repetitive messages have been:

1. Tell someone! You can do something about it. It's cool to care.
2. Lend a hand. Take a stand. Stop bullying now!

DATES TO REMEMBER

- December 2:** Report Cards go home
Brick by Brick Culminating Presentation
- December 4:** 11:30 – 2:00 pm Grade 5 at the Living Arts Centre
Gr. 1-8 Report Card Conferences
JK/SK Parent Conferences (no formal reports)
- December 5:** P.A. Day Gr. JK -8 Conferences
- December 9:** 7 pm Primary Christmas Pageant
- December 17:** 10 am Sts. Martha and Mary School Advent Mass
- December 25:** Merry Christmas Everyone!
- December 20 – Jan. 4:** Christmas Break
- January 5:** Welcome Back
- January 12:** Early Release Day
- January 14:** Mad Science presentation, JK/SK
- January 15:** Last day Mr. Wanuch, co-op student
2:40 pm New Year's liturgy
- January 16:** Mad Science presentation, Grade 6
- January 19:** School Council 7 pm
- January 22:** 7 pm Intermediate trip Information Night,
Muskoka Woods
- January 27:** 7 pm Extended French Meeting for grade 4 students
- January 28:** P.A. Day
- February 16:** Family Day (no classes)
- February 17:** School Council 7 pm
- February 27:** P.A. Day
- February 23:** 7 – 9pm Junior Kindergarten Registration
- February 26:** 7 – 9 pm *Snow Date* J.K. Registration
- February 25, 26, 27:** 9 – 3:30 Junior Kindergarten Registration
- March 16 – 20:** March Break

TRANSPORTATION CANCELLATIONS / SCHOOL CLOSURES



A decision to cancel school transportation and/or close schools, due to inclement weather, is usually made by 6:30 AM. Only the Director of Education has the authority to cancel transportation and/or close schools. Please listen for DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD cancellations or closures. Announcements are made on the following radio stations:

CKFM – 99.9 FM	CFNY – 102.1 FM
CHIN – 100.7 FM, 1540 AM	CFRB – 1010 AM
CHUM – 1050 AM	DC103FM
CJCL – 590 AM	CHAY – 93 FM
CFTR - 680 AM	Q107 – 107.1 FM
CHFI – 98.1 FM	CJMR – 1250 AM
JACKFM – 92.5 FM	TALK640 – 640 AM
CBC – 740 AM	CHEZ ZP7.3
CIAO – 530 AM	CJBC (Fr.) 86

WHAT ARE HEAD LICE, EXACTLY?

Head lice are small grey or reddish brown bugs (1 mm to 4mm long) depending on their age. Head lice live on the head, not on pets or on other parts of the body. They do not hop, jump or fly, but they can crawl quickly. They feed on blood and cannot survive for more than 24 to 48 hours without a meal. Nits are teardrop shaped, stuck on the hair shaft on an angle. The viable eggs are typically brownish/yellow. Empty egg cases are almost transparent, never white.

Female lice lay three to five eggs per day and live for 30 days. Lice eggs take seven to 10 days to hatch and lice take seven to 10 days to be mature enough to mate.

How do I get rid of them?

Specialty lice shampoos are effective in killing live lice. Some natural oils, such as tea tree oil, may deter lice, but the only sure-fire way to get rid of nits and lice is to physically remove them.

Arm yourself with a good lice comb (metal teeth are best). Lice and nits tend to be easier to remove from damp hair with some conditioner in it. Comb through small sections of hair at a time, using a bright light (sunlight is ideal) and magnification if available. Look around the ears, at the crown of the head and at the nape of the neck for scabs caused by scratching, nits, and lice crawling through the hair or sucking blood from the scalp.

Lice lay their eggs close to the scalp but look along the whole hair shaft. White hair debris is not a nit. Wipe the comb off on a piece of paper towel after every six to 10 passes on the same section of hair to help you see the lice and nits being removed. Keep doing this until you no longer see anything coming off the comb. Use your thumb and forefinger or a good pair of pointy tweezers to pull stubborn lice or nits along the hair shaft, then squeeze them or place them in a bowl of hot water to flush away later. Because the lice's life cycle is relatively short, you need to keep checking the hair for two weeks.

Cleaning bed linens, hairbrushes, hats and coats as well as washing bed sheets and clothes is essential. Vacuum or place items that have been in contact with head lice

(hats, hair bands, pillow cases, stuffed animals) in a dryer on high heat for 20 to 30 minutes, or, set them aside for 24 to 48 hours in a closed, sealed bag. Head lice will not survive that long without food.

For more information on head lice removal services in your area, visit the www.peelregion.ca/health, www.licesquad.com or www.nitpickers.ca.

Article taken from Health Journal

LOCKDOWN DRILL

It is the policy of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board that all schools practice a "Lockdown Procedure" twice a year. This precautionary measure helps to ensure that proper procedure will be initiated and followed should an emergency exist on school property or in the surrounding neighbourhood.

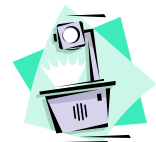
During the week of November 24, 2008 our second Lockdown Drill was initiated. Sts. Martha and Mary followed all procedures as outlined within School Board policy. In this practice a lockdown situation is alerted to staff and students by an announcement, "Initiate Lockdown Procedure". This announcement is followed by the repeated ringing of our lockdown bell sequence. This sequence is different from the bells students hear for fire drills or at entry and dismissal. Students follow the following procedures when they hear the announcement. During an actual lockdown:

- All students and staff inside the building will remain in their classrooms.
- Students or staff in the hallways or washrooms will be expected to go to the closest classroom.
- Students and staff will remain in the classroom until further instructions are given. All doors and windows are locked.
- All windows in the classroom are covered.
- Students and staff sit on the floor out of the line of the classroom door.

CAN YOU HELP OUT WITH A DONATION?



We can always use overhead projectors and portable or projection units. If your company has recently upgraded its presentation tools and is looking to donate slightly used / close to new audio visual equipment that is in excellent working condition... please let us know.



*From the Staff of Sts. Martha and Mary
Catholic School*

May your Christmas be of great joy
And may the miracle of Christmas continue to shine within your heart all year.



S. Steer
C. Klein
L. Rossi, J. Ford

C. O'Connell
T. Crayden, J. Duncan
A. Feather, L. Sim, D. Copas

C. Cornwall, M. Prajza,
A. Criminale, M. Mandarino
L. De Simone, C. Godin, L. Ciccolini

S. Tannus, A. Loncarich
A. Bellini Kavals, F. Sanfilippo
A. Morison, T. Jenkins, K. Scherer, S. Monid

M. Maxymiw, M. Osmak
M. Flattery, A. Patola, M. A. Knibbe
A. Gardiman, M. Marinuzzo, L. Yawney
K. Hammond, L. Medeiros, C. Kelemen, J. Assalone



*Have a Blessed Christmas
and
the most prosperous of New Years.*

CHRISTMAS VACATION

Christmas vacation runs from Saturday, December 20th, 2008 to Sunday, January 4th, 2009. School resumes on Monday, January 5th, 2009. **The last day of classes is Friday, December 19th, 2008.**

Blessing of the Nativity Scene

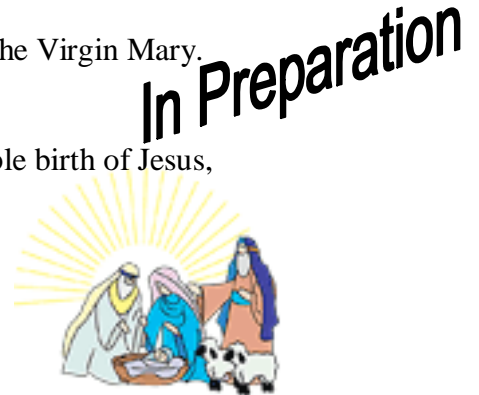
Read from the Gospel of Luke 2:1-8 from the Family Bible.

God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation
you have made known your love:

When our need for a Saviour was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.
To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love.

Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,
and raise up our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Saviour of all,
and who lives and reigns forever and ever.

AMEN.



Blessing of the Christmas Tree

Read from the Letter of Paul to Titus 3:4-7 from the Family Bible.



Lord our God,

We praise you for the light of creation: the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night.

We praise you for the light of Israel:

the Law, and the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures.

We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son:

He is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace, who fills us with the wonder of
your love.

Lord God,

Let your blessing come upon us as we light this tree.

May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.

May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN. [light the tree]

Prayer Before Christmas Dinner

Lord Jesus,

In the peace of this season our spirits are joyful:

We thank you for all you have given us. The gift of life, of family, and friends and food that strengthens
and nourishes us.

You loved us so much that you sent your Son Jesus to become part of our lives, to forgive us and save
us and show us your care for us.

By your coming may the hungry be filled with good things,
and may our table and home be blessed.

Bless us, O Lord, and these Thy gifts,
which we are about to receive from Thy bounty
through Christ our Lord, Amen.

