



Virtues Program

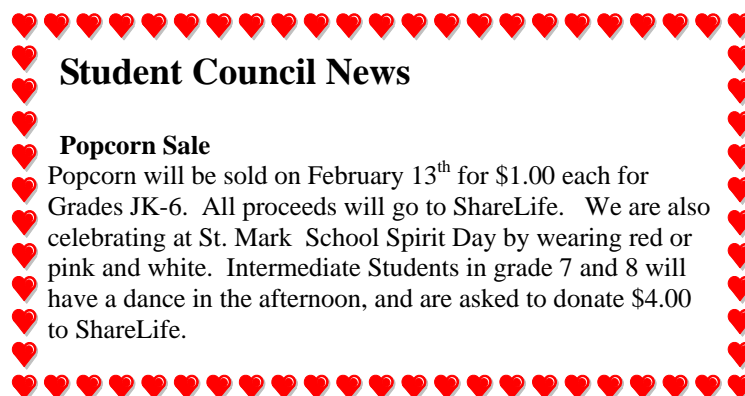
This month we will celebrate the virtue of respect.

God wants us to treat all people with the respect they deserve.

A respectful person...

- Uses a positive tone and body language
- Avoids swearing, name-calling, and put-downs
- Says "Excuse me", "Please", "Pardon me"
- Avoids gossip

We all deserve to be treated respectfully by others. However, in order to be respected we also have to respect ourselves. Everyone has a right to go to a school free of gossip, name-calling, and put-downs. We should expect to be treated with respect by everyone we meet.



Student Council News

Popcorn Sale

Popcorn will be sold on February 13th for \$1.00 each for Grades JK-6. All proceeds will go to ShareLife. We are also celebrating at St. Mark School Spirit Day by wearing red or pink and white. Intermediate Students in grade 7 and 8 will have a dance in the afternoon, and are asked to donate \$4.00 to ShareLife.

EXTENDED FRENCH APPLICATIONS

St. Christopher School will be accepting applications for our Extended French Program until March 4th at 3pm. The decision regarding the need for a lottery will be made based on the number of applications received by the deadline. Should a lottery be required, it will be held on March 23rd. This information will be posted on the school website.

<http://www.dpcdsb.org/CHRIS/>
Time to be determined

Adult and Continuing Ed.—DPCDSB Elementary Program—International Languages

Elementary International Saturday morning classes are available to students in grades JK to 8. No prior language experience is necessary. International Language programs comply with the Ministry of Education curriculum. Please contact the Adult & Continuing Education Office at 905-891-9263 for information regarding language offerings at specific IL Sites and registration information as well.

ESL Programs for Adults

A variety of ESL, Citizenship and Co-op Programs for Adults are offered in Mississauga and Brampton. Registration is on-going for many of our programs. Please see our Winter Flyer posted on the

board website at <http://www.dpcdsb.org>. or call us a 905-891-9263.

Council Corner

*Central Committee for Catholic School Councils
is proud to present an evening with*

Joe Rich

*Tuesday February 12, 2009, 7:00 p.m. keynote address
at Mississauga Convention Centre
(Derry Road and Hurontario)*

This is a Sold Out Event.

Please return any tickets you cannot use to the school.

Council Meeting

Please come out and support our School Council at our meetings. Our next meeting will be on **Monday, March 30th, at 6:30 pm in the school library**. Babysitting will be available at all meetings. Please plan to attend the meeting.

School Fundraiser

The Popcorn fundraising kick-off is on **February 10th at 9:00 am and 9:20 am** in the gym. We will be selling "Kernels Popcorn" from Fund-tastic Fundraising. Further details to follow.

Dates to Remember

- Feb 9-** Lunch Lady, Int. Boys Basketball @ 3:45 pm, Primary Indoor Soccer
- Feb 10-** Fundraising Kick-Off @ 9:00 am & 9:20 am Int. Girls Basketball @ St. Clare 3:45
- Feb. 9** 11:50 am Primary Indoor Soccer, Mon. Wed and Thurs till Feb. 26
- Feb 12-** Joe Rich @ Miss. Convention Centre 7:00 pm
- Feb 13-** Spirit Day Red, Pink White, Popcorn Sales Pizza Day, Gr 7/8 Dance
- Feb 16-** **Family Day—No School for students**
- Feb 17-** Primary Public Speaking @ 12:30 pm @ Library
- Feb 18-** Jr/Int. Public Speaking @ 8:30 am @ Gym
- Feb 20-** Assembly 9:00 am JK-3 St. Mark Choir 10:15 am Gr 4-8 Paquin/Moore
- Feb 23-** **JK/SK Registration 7:00—9:00 pm**, Lunch Lady
- Feb 24-** Gr 8 **Grad photos**
- Feb. 25-** Shrove Tues. Primary Pancake Breakfast Gr 1-3
- Feb. 25-** 10:30 am **Ash Wed Liturgy** in the gym
- Feb. 26** Pizza Day
- Feb. 27** **P.A.DAY—no school for students**
- Mar 4-** 1st Reconciliation @ 7:00 pm—Loyola Parish
- Mar 9-** Peel Safety Village Gr 1
- Mar 10-** Lenten Mass & 1st Eucharist Enrollment @ 10:30 am—Gym
- Mar 13-** Pizza Day
- Mar 16-20** **March Break No School for Students**
- Mar 24-** Reports go Home Gr 1-8
Director's Cut Gr 4/5 D'Ettore
- Mar 25-** Director's Cut Gr 6 Freeman
- Mar 26-** Director's Cut Gr 5/6 Colaco
Interviews JK-8 7:00—9:00 pm
- Mar 30-** **Early Release Students dismissed at 11:30 am
No Afternoon Classes**



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VICE-PRINCIPAL
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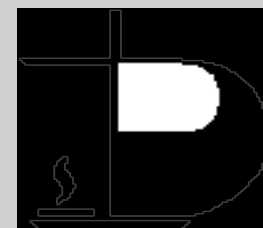
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School Website:
www.dpcdsb.org/schools/MARKE



St. Mark School

February 2009

*A valentine Prayer
I said a valentine prayer for you
And asked the Lord above
To fill your heart and bless your soul
With the precious gift of love.*

*I asked Him for sincerer love
The kind that's meant to stay
Just like the generous love
You give to those you touch each day.*

*I prayed love from family
And from every cherished friend
Then I asked the Lord to give you
His love that knows no end.*

Author Unknown

Principal's Message

February has arrived. It is a very eventful month. Most importantly we begin our Lenten season with Ash Wednesday. We honour February as Black History month. We have lots of activities planned for this month starting with the Public Speaking Contest, the Intermediate Boys and Girls' Basketball games, Primary Division Intramural Soccer, Intermediate Valentine's Day Dance and our monthly assemblies. Parents are most welcome to attend. During this wet and cold season we remind our students that they should have a change of shoes for indoor use. Students should not be in stocking feet for Health & Safety reasons. February continues to be cold, please ensure your child dresses appropriately for the weather. We continue to work in partnership with home, school, and parish to provide an outstanding Catholic Education for your child. Make your own sunshine!

*God Bless,
Connie Gale*

Kindergarten Registration

JK/SK registration for 2009 school year takes place on

February 23, 2009 from 7:00—9:00 pm
(if cancelled due to weather date is Feb. 24)

And **February 25, 26 & 27, 2009**
from 9:00 —11:00 a.m. and 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Required Documents:

- Proof of Age
- Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate (or Baptismal Certificate of other rites in Communion With the Holy See of Rome)
- Immunization Records
- Proof of Citizenship
- Proof of Address

Shrove Tuesday, February 24th

Mrs. Paquin's Grade 5/6 class will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast for the Primary Division Grades 1-3 on Shrove Tuesday.

Students are asked to donate \$5.00 to Hod's Hope to participate in the breakfast and activities provided by the Grade 5/6 class. The money will be used to purchase books for students in developing nations.

This initiative is part of the Learning Partnership Business Venture Mrs. Paquin and her business partner from BMO have organized for St. Mark.

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- **Ash Wednesday, February 25th**
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- **Please join us for a liturgy in the gym at 10:30 am organized by Mrs. Sapping and Ms. Seyarto.**
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- Praying. Fasting. Giving to the poor. These are three ways to help us love God and others more. When we pray, we can get closer to God. When we fast, we give up food or activities or privileges; fasting helps stop selfishness. When we give to the poor, we share the good things we have with those in need. The Church asks us to focus on all three activities during the season of Lent. The forty days of Lent help us to prepare for Easter, the greatest Sunday of all!
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French Café

Mr. Young hosted a French Café with the Grade 5 students on February 6th. Students brought the French language alive performing songs, magic, mime and skits. *Les filles et les garçons* took orders for café foods and served their *patrons* from the school. Thank you to Mr. Young and the Grade 5 classes from bringing a bit of French culture to St. Mark!

Curriculum Initiatives

During the P.A. Day on Jan 28 the teachers received professional development on Differentiated Instruction. Teachers further explored how to address the needs of all learners by delving deeply into the latest learning theories and then exploring hands-on, relevant activities to use in the classroom

Kindergarten teachers received professional development on implementation of program needs in the Early Years, as well as networking, resource sharing and professional activities addressing the specific needs of 4 & 5 year olds.

The next P.A Day is February 27th. It is set aside for Assessment and Evaluation of Pupil Progress. There is **no school** for students on that day.

Junior Teachers are receiving ongoing professional development on improving student achievement in the areas of understanding informational text. They are focussing on the skills of inferring, extending and demonstrating understanding

Our Educational Resource Workers and teachers have received professional development on Autism Awareness in the classroom setting and on enhanced use of computer assisted software in the classroom for all students.



St. Mark Assembly—Friday, February 20th

We hope you had an opportunity to attend our monthly school assemblies. This month, our St. Mark Choir will be hosting the Primary Assembly at 9:00 am for Gr JK-3 and Ms. Paquin and Ms. Moore's classes take responsibility for organizing the Junior/Intermediate assembly for Gr 4-8 at 10:15 am.

We hope that you will have an opportunity to join us.

Speeches

"Speech, speech!" It is that time of year again. St. Mark has entered the annual Royal Canadian Legion public speaking contest. Students from Grade 4-8 will be selected to enter a competition held at St. Mark School on **February 18th at 8:30 am Grades 4-6 and at 10: 15 am for Grades 7-8.** The winning candidates are invited to move on to the public speaking contest held at the Legion. The students from the Primary Grades 1-3 will be selected to read their speeches or poems on **February 17th at 12:30-1:30 pm** in the Library.



Peanut Allergies

We have a number of students enrolled here at St. Mark School who have allergies to peanuts and peanut by-products. Please note that while one of these children may not necessarily be in your child's class, we all use communal areas where traces of peanuts may be left. For this reason we ask for your cooperation to ensure that peanut products are not sent to the school. Please be aware that "Tim-Bits" are **NOT** peanut/nut free and thus should not be sent into the school to share. We encourage you to send treats such as stickers, pencils, erasers etc. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us to keep our children safe. **Please do not send food treats for Valentine's Day.**

Late for School



School begins at 8:30 a.m. Please ensure your child is on time for school. When a child is late, she/he misses valuable teaching time and causes a disruption to the lessons being started in the class. Developing excellent work habits and time management skills can maximize a child's learning potential! For students that are constantly late, the Principal or Vice Principal will be contacting parents at home. If it becomes a major concern the school will forward the information to the Attendance Officer at the Board.

Student Absences

Thank you for being so diligent in calling when your child is going to be absent or late. Please remember to leave a reason why your child is absent or late for the day.



Medication

If it is necessary for your child to take medicine at school on a short-term basis, eg. antibiotics, please

remember that **all medication must be stored for the day at the office. Also, we need a written note from you for your child to be able to self-administer the medication. School personnel are not permitted by Board policy to administer any medication, but we can oversee your child self-administering the medication.**

Indoor Shoes/Extra Clothing

With the arrival of colder weather, and increased precipitation, we would like to ensure all students are dry and comfortable when indoors. We ask that you ensure your child has a pair of shoes or slippers that he/she wears only when indoors at school. You may wish to have your child keep a change of clothing at school, including extra socks and mittens. Be sure such clothing is labeled and easily identified by your child.

Snowballs

Just a reminder...Please emphasize to your children that School/Board policy **DOES NOT ALLOW THROWING SNOWBALLS, KICKING SNOW, OR "SNOWING" OTHERS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY. Please remind your children of the seriousness of these activities and the possible danger, for those who are hit.**

School Bus Cancellation

Please be advised that both the Peel District School Board and the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board have been added to the **www.SchoolBusMonitor.com** website, and can be accessed for bus cancellation information effective immediately. SchoolBusMonitor.com provides up to date bus cancellation and school closure information on the web for a number of jurisdictions across Ontario. Please also see the Board website for updates: www.dpcdsb.org

Electronic Devices

A reminder to parents that school trustees have determined that personal electronic devices are not permitted by students or visitors on school property. Cell phones, camera phones, beepers and paging devices are not allowed to be used on school property by students or parents.

