



St. Mark School

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March 2009

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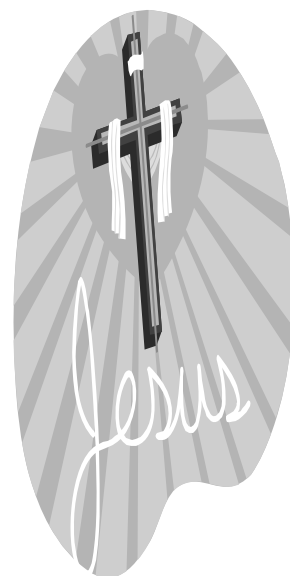
School Website:

www.dpcdsb.org/schools/MARKE

Sharers of Life!

What if Lent,
instead of a gray time, a cold time,
were a time of warmth,
a time to prepare for spring?
What if we saw Lent as a
positive time,
instead of a gloomy, serious time?
Lent could be a time to see all
the little ways
that life reveals itself everywhere!
Sometimes these ways are hidden,
but they are always there,
waiting for us to discover them
and bring them into the light.

And what if Lent,
were a time of increasing joy,
rather than a time of uneasiness?
Sharers of life,
that's what we are!
We become, more and more,
sharers of life!



Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

Time is passing quickly as we enter the month of March. As the saying goes, March has definitely "come in like a lion" and we hope it goes out like a lamb. We have entered the Lenten season, a very sacred time in our Catholic faith. It is a time for reflection and sacrifice. We are called, at this important time, to focus on others and how we can be of service. This season is a reminder that as Catholics



A Tradition
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in Catholic
Education

40
Years

1969-2009

we should do unto others as we would have them do unto us. Please join us for our Lenten mass on March 10th at 10:30 am in the gym. Classes will also be involved in special prayers and activities during Holy Week to enhance their understanding of the Holy Season of Lent.

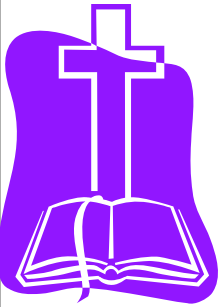
March Break is just around the corner! I hope you will take time to enjoy the break and become rejuvenated and ready for the last term. Whether you are travelling or staying local, please be safe and have fun! Our monthly assemblies will take place on March 27th at 9:00 am and 10:30 am. I hope that parents will join us to celebrate all the good things that go on at St. Mark School.

Thank you to all the parents who volunteer in the school to make us a better school, A particular thank you to the School Council who work very hard in partnership with staff to educate our children.

A special congratulations to the St. Mark Chorus under the direction of Ms. Legere and Ms. Ramelli, who have been selected to sing in Disney World in Florida in April. Way to go!

*Remember to ,” Make Your Own Sunshine”.
God Bless,*

Mrs. Connie Gale



Congratulations!

to our Grade 2 students who made the sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Ignatius Loyola Parish, on Wednesday, March 4th.

Kindergarten Registration

- Proof of age
 - Original Catholic Baptismal Certificate of the Roman Catholic or Byzantine Rite, for both the parent and child
 - Updated immunization records
 - Proof of Canadian citizenship or of Landed Immigrant status
 - Proof of address (utility bill, bank or credit card statement)
- Junior Kindergarten—Children must be 4 by Dec 31, 2009
- Senior Kindergarten—Children must be 5 by Dec 31, 2009



Lent

The word “Lent” comes from Lenten, a very old word that means springtime. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, and lasts for forty days. During these 40 days of Lent, we are trying to become more aware of the presence of God in our daily lives. Lent is a journey we make together, in solidarity with each other. We look at ourselves to see how our relationship with Jesus can become stronger and more meaningful.

Children’s Tips for Lent

1. Make an extra effort to be nice to someone you don’t get along with
2. Promise to attend Mass every week and bring a friend
3. Make a list of people you know who are in need, and pray for them daily
4. Read the Bible every day
5. Collect food and clothing for the St. Vincent de Paul Society
6. Promise to use please, thank you and you are welcome at least 5 times a day
7. Do a chore or something nice for your parents without being asked
8. Don’t fight with your siblings.

Stations of The Cross

“They have pierced my hands and my feet, they have injured all my bones.” The Lenten Season concludes at St. Mark with a mediation of the 14 Stations of the Cross. Teachers, students, parents are invited to spend some time on Holy Thursday as Mr. Freeman and Ms. D’Ettore’s classes re-enact “The Way To The Cross”. There will be meditations at 9:00 am and 12:45 pm.

Assemblies

The next Assembly will be held on Friday, March 27th. Ms. Seyarto’s class will be hosting the Primary Assembly at 9:00 am and Mr. Kennedy’s class will be hosting the Junior and Intermediate Assembly at 10:30 am.

P.A.L.S. Continues at St. Mark

Continuing in March, a group of students from grades 6 to 8 will become P.A.L.S. (Playground Activity Leaders in Schools). These students will be trained to lead fun, safe and structured playground activities for students in Grades 1 to 5, during the lunch recess. P.A.L.S. is designed to promote physical activity, reduce bullying behaviour and provide leadership opportunities for our students. P.A.L.S. is in 150 schools across Peel Region and promoted by Peel Health. It will be supervised by Mr. Lapp, CYW and Mrs. Eschli and Mrs. Godfrey our ERW’s.



Reporting Days

Interviews will be held on Thursday evening, March 26th. We look forward to speaking with you about your child's progress. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher at any time.

Virtues

St. Mark school continues to celebrate Virtues with a special spotlight on a different virtue each month. This month we celebrate the virtue of **kindness**. God wants us to give generously to others around us.

A Kind person...

- Gives their time to help others
- Stands by their friends in time of need
- Shares with their friends
- Is polite and cares about other people's feelings.

Student Council News

TOONIES FOR AUTISM

Our kickoff will begin on Monday, March 30th and conclude on Friday, April 3rd with a goal to raise \$800. With a \$2 donation, you can join us in a week of fun activities. They are as follows:

Mon. March 30th—Rally in the gym for all grades—Student Council will kick it off with a video and facts at 9:00 am

Tue. March 31st—Pajama/Stuffed Toy Day—Wear your favourite and most comfortable pj's and bring in your favourite stuffed toy.

Wed. Apr 1st—Freezies will be given to all students. Wacky Hair/Hat Day—Come in with the silliest hairdo or funniest hat.

Thur. Apr. 2nd—WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY—Wear Purple and Orange Day—Parents are welcome to join us on a walk-a-thon outdoors (weather permitting) or in the gym at 10:30 am

Fri. Apr. 3rd—Popcorn will be given to every student. Twin day—Dress up the same as someone else.

Please join us at St. Mark to learn more about autism and visit our display in the front foyer.

**MARCH 30 is an Early Release DAY
SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED FOR STUDENTS in the
PM.**

**MARCH 16 – 20 IS MARCH BREAK.
SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED
SCHOOL WILL RESUME ON MONDAY, MARCH**

Wet Clothing and Water in the Yard

With the melting of snow and rain, our school yard becomes very soggy and muddy. Especially for our younger students they tend to get wet socks and clothing. We will be contacting you to bring dry clothing, but this is often inconvenient for parents. You might consider leaving a change of clothes in your child's backpack.

Public Speaking Thrives at St. Mark!

Congratulations to the students and teachers at St. Mark that participated in our annual Speech Contest. You have conquered one of people's greatest fears : Public Speaking!

Winners:

Primary:	Poetry: Matthew C. Written: Matthew E.
Junior:	Alysha L. and Shannon E.
Intermediate:	Rinelle W.

The winners of the written speeches went on to compete at the Royal Legion #139, Streetsville. All winners truly and respectfully represented St. Mark. Matthew E. placed first in the Primary Section, Shannon E. placed first in the Junior Section and Rinelle W. placed first in the Intermediate Section.

These three winners went on to the regional competition at the Cooksville Branch. Rinelle W. had an Honourable Mention, placing third. Matthew and Shannon won their divisions. Matthew and Shannon will be proceeding to the next level of competition in Stoney Creek at the end of the month. Good Luck!! We thank our two judges, Lori-Ann Jakel and Elaine Bonin, professional public speakers and toast-masters, who gave up their time to judge our school

Intermediate Boys' and Girls' Basketball

Beginning in January, the St. Mark Intermediate Boys Basketball team began its season with practices every Tuesday, Wednesday,

day and Thursday after school. The season culminated as the boys lost in the semi-final of the Mississauga South tournament. In the tournament the boys played some of their best games of the year, losing one game at the buzzer. During the season the boys went a perfect 4-0, leaving the team with final record of 5-2. All year the team demonstrated great sportsmanship and ability. Congratulations to the team and coaches: Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Scicluna. The Intermediate Girls Basketball team had a successful season with 2 wins and 2 losses. Even with the injury of one team member, the girls showed their determination and strength, constantly improving their game and working together. The coaches, Ms. Moore and Ms. Sapping would like to thank the families for their support and to thank the girls for their positive participation in all aspects of the season. Gr. 7 girls...see you next year - taller and better!!!

Kiss N Ride

Staff supervisors recognize that mornings are busy and hectic. However, your patience and cooperation in respecting and following the rules will help make our Kiss and Ride run smoothly and as safely as possible. We try our best to move traffic and pedestrians through as quickly and safely as possible. Try to leave home a few minutes earlier if you cannot afford to be delayed by traffic in the school area. Do not leave your vehicle unattended and no idling.

System Survey indicates that Catholic education is strong in Dufferin-Peel schools

Forty years have elapsed since the amalgamation of eight local Catholic school boards into a single school district that would provide Catholic education to children and families in the Region of Peel and Dufferin County. Over these four decades, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board has grown from twenty-seven Catholic elementary schools, in 1969, to one of the province's largest school districts serving approximately 88,000 students in 122 elementary and 23 secondary schools located throughout Mississauga, Brampton, Caledon and Orangeville. With the board's 40th anniversary approaching, the Director of Education and Board of Trustees initiated a system review process intended to allow for consultation with the wider Catholic community in Peel and Dufferin on matters related to the board's strengths, challenges, and recommended areas of focus over the next three to five years.

Consisting primarily of surveys and small group meetings, the outcome of this consultative process was intended to provide trustees and senior management in Dufferin-Peel with a better understanding of the interests, concerns and accolades identified by local parents, Catholic school council members, pastors, senior students and recent graduates, unions, and associations. Equipped with the findings from this system review process, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board can set out in an informed manner on the journey of shaping and building its future.

The results are in and we were gratified to see that there is an overwhelming consensus that our Catholic schools are viewed as distinctly Catholic, safe, healthy, clean and educationally sound

places to learn, grow in faith and prepare for post secondary education or the workplace.

Among the findings:

Catholicity is a strength of this school board and that the Catholic faith is clearly demonstrated in local school communities.

Dufferin-Peel schools are viewed as a distinct alternative to local public schools.

Satisfaction with the overall quality of Catholic education in Dufferin-Peel schools is very high.

Continued funding, vitality and relevance of Catholic education in Ontario is seen as a concern.

Strong support for the provision and funding of quality core programs on a board-wide basis, rather than support for the funding of specialty programs at the expense of local school programming.

Support for the board to continue to manage its resources responsibly, with transparency and accountability of financial reporting.

Calls for increased funding for programs such as special education and/or English Language Learner needs.

High levels of satisfaction with the safety and cleanliness of schools.

Dufferin-Peel Catholic schools enhance the character development of students.

Satisfaction with the level of extra curricular activities, program variety and transportation.

For more information on the Strategic System Review, please contact the school office or call the Communications & Community Relations Department at (905) 890-0708, ext. 24278.

Please note the results of the Strategic System Review was shared at our March 5th School Council meeting.

Dates to Remember

March 10-School Lenten Mass 10:30 a.m.

March 16 – 20 – March Break

March 24 - Reports go home

March 26 – Interview Evening, JK-8, 7-9 pm

March 26- Director's Cut Gr 5/6 Colaco

March 27- Assembly Kennedy/Seyarto

March 24—May 5 Int. Div. Build an Opera Workshops

March 30 –Early Release Day – 11:30 dismissal

Sawmill Valley PS & Peel Regional Police Presentation

Internet Luring/Cyberbullying @ 7:00 pm

April 2—Gr 4 Parent Awareness Child Abuse

Prevention, CEC 7—8:30 p.m.

April 9- D'Ettore/Freeman Stations of the Cross 9:00 am 12:45 pm

April 10 – Good Friday

April 13 – Easter Monday

April 21- Confirmation Rehearsal @ 6:30 pm Loyola Church

April 24- Assembly Malison/Scicluna, Pizza Day

April 26 – First Eucharist – 2:00 p.m. Loyola Church

April 27 – Confirmation – 7:00 p.m. Loyola Church

April 29- Jr/Int. Div. Talent Show @ 9:00 am

April 30 Jr/Int. Div. Talent Show 7 pm

Gr 4 Medieval Times

May 11 – PA Day

June 23—Grade 8 Graduation—Le Dome 5:00 p.m.

