



Medication

School staff cannot administer medication, including aspirins and Tylenol without a "Request and Consent for Administration of Medication" form, completed and signed by a doctor. A properly labeled container is required, including the instructions and conditions that are to be followed for the administration of the medication.

Parents of children with life threatening medical concerns/allergies are asked to notify Mrs. Dziedzic in the school office and fully complete an Emergency Medication Protocol form each September and return it to the school as soon as possible. All medication is stored in the office area. The only exception to this requirement has to do with any child who, because of life threatening allergies, must carry medication.

We recognize that some parents wish to mark their child's birthday by sending a cake to the class. Because of peanut, milk, egg and other allergies we regret that we will not be able to accept food as a way of celebrating. If you wish to give something to the class such as; pencils, or stickers or a book for the classroom library will be accepted. We remind you that your child's birthday will be celebrated with an announcement over the P.A. We hope you will help us implement this policy.

Cross Country Club



Mrs. Malison and Mrs. Paquin have been working with the students, training for the Cross Country meet. Grades 5 to 8 students are practicing on trails and in the yard to prepare for the terrain of cross country. The Family of School meet is on Wednesday, October 21 at Erindale Park. The Board meet is on Wednesday, October 28 at Heart Lake in Brampton.

Halloween at School

Students are permitted to wear costumes to school. We ask students NOT to wear masks. Also, please remember that guns, swords or any other items associated with violence are not permitted.



PLASP Before and After School Care

This program runs for school age children up to 12 years of age, at this school. Before and After School Program to 6:00 p.m. Healthy snacks served each day.

Want to know more? See the PLASP staff at this school; Call PLASP at 905-890-1711; visit our website at www.plasp.com

Council Corner

The following parents were acclaimed to represent the St. Mark community for the 2009-2010 school year.

Chair: Amelia Wong Vice Chair: Nancy Rosen
 Treasurer : Cheryl Diab Secretary: Grace Piatek
 Parish Rep': Verena Mayhew
 Teacher Rep: Blanca Seyarto
 Fundraising Chair: Jane Cotnam
 Parent Rep's: Marta Bruchkowsky, Patricia DeMelo, Gabriella Fernando, Theresa Ferrari, Violet Loncar, Heather Moore, John Mrozek

We would like to thank the previous year's Council for all their work on behalf of the school. We look forward to continuing a strong tradition of community support with our new council. Our next School Council meeting is on Monday, November 2 at 6:30 pm.

Council is looking for volunteers for the following programs:
 > **Safe Arrivals:** 2 parents at 8:30 am for about 45 minutes to check attendance, one day a week.
 > **Kiss and Ride:** 2 parents outside to help keep traffic moving safely at the Kiss and Ride areas at 8:15—8:30 and 2:50—3:15.

Fundraising With A Difference!

Our Fall Fundraiser starts on Thursday, Oct. 8! Your child will be bringing home a box of "Nature's Treasures" chocolate bars. They are all natural Belgian chocolate, with cocoa sourced from the rainforests of Costa Rica, produced in a peanut and nut free environment. It will come home in an environmentally friendly reusable bag.

Lots of prizes to be won, daily draws for those who sell full boxes, as well as a draw open to those families who sell two or more boxes. Our prizes include a personal DVD player, Webkinz, Gift Certificates, Digital Camera and our Grand Prize Draw for families with more than two boxes sold, a weekend at Great Wolf Lodge in Niagara Falls!

This is one fundraiser that will benefit our school and our environment! The Parent Council and school appreciates your continued support.

Sign up TODAY!



Parents and guardians of Dufferin-Peel Catholic students can stay up-to-date with the latest board news and information by joining the Dufferin-Peel eCommunity. Members will receive the latest news and information by email, including news releases, school activities and events, board meeting highlights, school and bus cancellations, plus useful tips for parents and students. Sign up online at www.dpcdsb.org.



OCTOBER

2009

St. Mark School
 3675 Sawmill Valley
 Mississauga, ON L5L 2Z5
 P: 905-820-9477
 F: 905-820-1229
 W: www.dpcdsb.org/schools/MARKE
Attendance: 9-820-9477 Press #1

Principal: C. GALE
Secretary: M. Dziedzic

Superintendent:
 C. Saytar 905-890-1221

School Trustee (Ward 8)
 Sharon Hobin 905-301-1210
sharon.hobin@dpcdsb.org

Pastor(s): Msgr. J. Shiels and
 Fr. Joe Gorman 905-820-1444

Dates to Remember

- Oct. 7 CCAT - Gr. 4
- Oct. 8 Gr. 7 Hep B & Gr. 8 HPV
 Pizza Day
 Fundraising Kick-off 1 p.m.
- Oct. 9 CCAT - Gr. 4
- Oct. 12 Thanksgiving
- Oct. 13 Confirmation Retreat
- Oct. 16 Gr. 3 - Crawford Lake
 7/8 Gifted - UofWaterloo
- Oct. 19 5/6 gifted - Erin Mills Lodge
- Oct. 20 First Communion
 Parent Meeting - 7 p.m.
- Oct. 21 Family Cross Country
 Meet @ Erindale Park
 Confirmation Parent Meeting
- Oct. 23 Pizza Day
- Oct. 27 Picture Retake day
- Oct. 28 Board Cross Country
 Meet @ Heart Lake
- Oct. 30 Assembly:
 Seyarto, Moore and Paquin
- Nov. 2 Parent Council Meeting
- Nov. 6 Gr. 7/8 Crack Pot Studios
- Nov. 13 Gr. 3 Pioneer Village Trip
- Nov. 16 PA Day
- Nov. 20 Pizza Day
- Nov. 30 Gr. 5/6 Gifted Erin Mills Lodge
- Dec. 1 Gr. 1-8 Reports Sent Home
- Dec. 2 Jr- Pantomime "Robin Hood"
- Dec. 3 Pizza Day Interview Evening
- Dec. 4 P.A. Day - Interview
- Dec. 7 Advent Mass @ 10:30 am
- Dec. 9/10 See/Hear Screening
- Dec. 18 Pizza Day
- Dec. 21 Christmas Break Begins

A Prayer in praise of our children

Lord, you have made these children as varied as the flowers of a garden. You have blessed each one uniquely and each fragile, growing child is infinitely precious in your sight. You have trusted us to nurture them and blessed us with the joy of seeing them grow. May we always walk in your light and provide them with the love and care you give to us.

Amen

Principal's Message

The new school year is off and running. It is with sadness that we must say good bye and thank you to Mr. Wayne Brunton, our vice principal. He has been reassigned due to student enrollment. Our enrollment is lower than what the Planning Department had projected. Thank you to all families that attended our BBQ /Meet the Teacher evening. A special thank you to Sharon Hobin, our trustee, and to all the staff that attended the BBQ/Meet the Teacher evening.

This newsletter is the first of the monthly newsletters that will give us an opportunity to communicate what is happening at St. Mark School. Together our staff, parish, parents, and students make St. Mark a very special school. We have high standards and expectations, one that adheres to Catholic philosophy. We promote a collegial learning environment. Should you have a question or a concern about your child, please do not hesitate to share it with us. Early and ongoing information can help to clarify and often alleviate concerns quickly. Begin by contacting the classroom teacher, who is usually the one most able to deal effectively with your child's learning and behavior. A time should be scheduled for you to speak to the teacher either by telephone or meeting. Should you require further assistance please contact the office.

Please notice our monthly virtues and consider a discussion with your child about the virtue. This month's virtue is empathy

On behalf of the St. Mark staff, I extend best wishes for a blessed and Happy Thanksgiving. Monday, Enjoy our holiday, Oct. 12th.

God Bless,
 Connie Gale

School Hours:

Our school hours remain the same as in previous years.

8:30 am	Start Time
11:30 am-12:30 pm	Lunch
3:00 pm	End Time

Staff are on duty for 15 minutes before the start of the school day and throughout the entire noon hour. You may safely leave your child in the school yard upon arrival in the morning or upon returning to the school after lunch.

School Newsletter



Virtues Initiative

Catholic school education provides us with the opportunity to integrate virtue formation into all areas of our school life within the context of our faith. Under the direction of the Board, we will be introducing a new virtues program this year. Each month the entire school will focus on a different virtue. Below you will find a list of the virtues focus on each month.

September	Faith	February	Respect
October	Empathy	March	Kindness
November	Conscience	April	Love
December	Hope	May	Acceptance
January	Self Control	June	Fairness

St. Mark Assemblies

The first Assembly of the year took place on Sept. 25 at 9:00 a.m. for JK-3, hosted by Mrs. Kuta and Ms. Ramelli's classes, and at 10:30 for grades 4-8, hosted by Ms. Sapping's class. Please join us for our monthly assemblies on the last Friday of the month.

Toonies for Terry



The Terry Fox National School Run Day was one of the largest events in Canadian history: 9,000 schools with over 3 million students took part. The feedback from schools and participants was consistently "It was amazing to know that on the same day, millions of other students and educators were

running / walking for cancer research". In response to the overwhelming success of the event and numerous requests made by educators and volunteers, The Terry Fox National School Run Day became an annual event. This year's Terry Fox National School Run Day was Friday, September 25, 2009. and once again Mr. Kennedy organized St. Mark staff and students to participate.

Staff and students were asked to bring in a "Toonie for Terry". All proceeds went to the Terry Fox Foundation in support of cancer research.

Visitors to School

Please remember that to other children you are a stranger. When entering the school, please report to the office. Any individuals wandering the school without appropriate identification will be asked to go to the office. Please help us to monitor a safe and welcoming environment for your children. When you come to the school, please report to the office, sign in, and take a tag. Prior to leaving, sign out and return your visitor's tag. As well, parents are asked to bid your children farewell from beyond the play ground. Only students and staff are to be in the schoolyard.

Again, this is to ensure the safety of your children and your attention to this is most appreciated.

Please be reminded that dogs are not permitted in the schoolyard area at any time. The excitement of the children or the bell ringing can frighten dogs.

Going out for Lunch

Please inform your child's teacher of regular lunch arrangements for your child. Also, for safety reasons please be advised that a note to the classroom teacher must occur each time there is a change in the routine.. This is especially important for a child who has permission to leave school property during the noon hour who normally stays for lunch. **Students are allowed to go out for lunch only if a note is provided. ***Standing Notes*** indicating that a child can leave school property anytime he/she chooses are NOT acceptable.** As a school staff, it is important for us to know each time a child leaves our care at noon hour that permission has been given and that parents know the exact whereabouts of their child(ren).

In addition, any students leaving or returning to the school due to appointments must be signed out and in at the office by a parent/guardian. Your co-operation and support of this important supervision/safety initiative is appreciated. Thank you in advance.

Student Verification Sheet

Student Verification Sheet for each child has been sent home. All sheets (even those which have correct information) should be returned to the appropriate classroom teacher. If you have not returned yours, please do so, as this will help us to update our records.

Safe Arrival Program

Are you getting the answering machine?

We are requesting your assistance. This system, which allows parents to call in student absenteeism 24 hours a day, supports our Safe Arrival Program. If both lines into the school are busy, your call is automatically routed to the school answering system. The office staff picks up the phone messages on a regular basis and will relay messages to staff members. We thank all parents/guardians who continue to call the school when their children are absent. Your support ensures that our Safe Arrival Program works efficiently to ensure the safety of our students. When we do not receive your call, we are concerned about your child. We then call home, your workplace or an emergency contact number. Please let us know if you telephone numbers change.

Please help us to save valuable time and ensure the safety of your child by calling in all absences.

Our Attendance Verification Phone number is (905)820-9477

School Newsletter



Students who are late for school are required to report to the office to obtain an Admit Slip prior to going to class. Student who are habitually late may be required to make up the time through detentions or after school.

Kiss and Ride Safety

St. Mark School is proud of its Kiss and Ride Program. In order for it to continue to run smoothly and safely for all our students, everyone needs to follow the same procedure.

1. To drop students off at school please drive into the west entrance and along the center lane until you round the corner and drop off at the person on duty.
2. In order to ensure the safety of your children, please do not let your children out of the car until you are at the front of the lane. **Children should exit on the sidewalk side!**
3. Never drive in the bus lane.
4. Never leave your car unattended in the school driveway. It is against the law and you may be ticketed by police who regularly patrol the area.
5. If you need to walk your child to the yard or you need to stop into the office, please park in the parking lot. We appreciate your cooperation in following these procedures. Your children's safety is our main concern.
6. **Crossing Guards: Please adhere to the crossing guards directions. This includes drivers.**

Confirmation Registration 2009-2010

Wed., Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. - Parent Meeting @ Parish
Tues., Oct. 13 - Student Retreat
Wed., May 5 at 7 p.m. - Confirmation @ Parish



First Communion & Reconciliation Registration for 2009-2010

Tues., Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. - Parent Meeting @ Parish

St. Mark Chess Club "Chess Nuts"

St. Mark Chess Club has started a new year. The club meets every Tuesday for the casual chess and every Thursday for the ongoing team tryout games during the lunch hour recess. We look forward to the best year ever. In the next issue of the school newsletter check to see the team tryout game results and other chess news. En Passant: 18 year old Magnus Carlson of Norway, nicknamed the Mozart of Chess is 4th ranked in the world and is coached by former and world champion Gary Kasparov. Talk in the chess world is that that young man may soon achieve No 1. ranking.

Advice from the Speech and Language Pathologists

"Students/children tend to listen to their music at high volumes. If you can hear music coming from a student's player, the volume is too loud and the student is risking having hearing loss!!!"

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) consumer awareness program called "Listen to Your Buds" about safe listening practices to prevent noise induced hearing loss. It is important information for all of us to know, both professionally and personally.

There is a great visual/auditory scale under the "Parents" section that clearly indicates the number of decibels (i.e. loudness) of a variety of environmental sounds as related to the range of the iPod/MP3 player.

Check it out! Website: www.listentoyourbuds.org

The Listen to Your Buds website features fun, free downloadable items featuring the Buds. The site includes resources for parents and teachers like bookmarks and posters, as well as animated e-cards and the Turn Down the Volume game.

The Listen to Your Buds campaign's mission is to promote safe listening practices to prevent noise-induced hearing loss.

Fire Drills and Lockdown Drills

As a precautionary measure, we will practice fire drills and lockdown procedures throughout the year.

During fire drills, students are asked to move safely and swiftly to the nearest exit and to report to their designated area outside of the building. If an exit is blocked, students are reminded to use their alternate exit.

In a lockdown, students are alerted over the P.A. that we are "initiating lockdown". Students are directed to move away from all windows and doors and to lie on the floor, if possible under desks. Classroom doors and windows are secured. Students remain this way until the alert is cancelled.

Discussing these procedures with your child will help reassure the importance of these safety procedures.

In the unforeseen event that we should have an emergency in our school, we will evacuate to Sawmill Valley Public School. Safety regulations require us to have this contingency plan in place. In such an event, your child will remain with school staff until we contact you.