



# THE MESSENGER

*THE VOICE OF ST. ALFRED CATHOLIC SCHOOL*

The Saint Alfred Catholic School Community respects the uniqueness of all persons and enhances their potential. We are committed to promoting a love of learning and to creating an environment which fosters the lifelong development and spiritual growth of each person.

NEWSLETTER # 2  
OCTOBER 2008

## *EVERY CHILD, A PROMISE*

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### October's Virtue - EMPATHY

Gracious and merciful God of all creation,  
You made us to live together in communities.  
We are nothing without relationships.

You have given us the virtue of empathy to ensure  
that we are able to identify with  
and feel other people's concerns.

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 St. Alfred School.

May Your gift of empathy lead us to  
know and feel  
Your presence among us.

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

Amen

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#### IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

- Safe School Initiatives
- School Council
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- Calendar of Events



Taoi lieau naay quan troing, xin nhoo ngoooi chueyan doch.  
Ta informacja jest wazna. Proszę zapoznaj się z nią.

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



October, with its vibrant colours, is one of the most beautiful months of the year in Ontario. We thank God at this time for His many blessings: people, personal relationships, health, happiness, peace, love and family just to mention a few.

Put into perspective, even the most challenging and difficult times in our personal lives cannot and should not diminish those aspects of our lives for which we acknowledge our appreciation and thanks. At St. Alfred Catholic School it is most appropriate that we give thanks for the many gifts we experience each day in this wonderful school community.

As we enter the season of fall, we look forward to whatever challenges that may await us, confident that we can accomplish many wonderful things!

A special thank you to all who attended our Open House evening on September 25, 2008. Attendance on this evening was spectacular and sent an important message of commitment, interest and support to both the teachers and the students. Positive partnerships between home and school are the most critical factors contributing to the success of any individual student.

Thank you to the School Council Executive and the parents who participated in the first School Council general meeting on Wednesday, October 1, 2008. It was wonderful to see so many participants.

September was a very successful month. We had a positive beginning for the school year with 490 students and over 40 staff members. A special thanks is extended to all of the staff that have demonstrated a great deal of care and commitment to the instruction of the students.

On behalf of the school, may you and your family have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

## FAITH ACTIVITIES

### THANKSGIVING LITURGY

A Thanksgiving Mass was celebrated in the school gym on **Wednesday, October 8, 2008 at 9:45 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.** Thank you to the parents and guardians who were in attendance.

### THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive is currently in full swing until October 9<sup>th</sup>. All food collected will be donated to Food Path of Mississauga on behalf of the St. Alfred School Community. Thank you for your generosity and for thinking of those less fortunate.

### SACRAMENTS OF COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION

A reminder to parents and students who have not registered for the above sacraments, that they must meet with Father D'Souza and make the appropriate arrangements with the Church.

Esta informacion es importante. Por favor traducirla al espanol.

## SAFE SCHOOL INITIATIVES

### ALLERGEN AWARENESS

Each year, attention is drawn to the fact that in our school we have students who suffer from food allergies. The most common of the food allergies is the 'peanut allergy'. For students who have severe allergies, this can be a life-threatening situation. It is extremely important that we do our very best to educate students, staff and parents to the dangers associated with food allergies.

Due to stringent anaphylaxis policies based on Sabrina's Law, students, staff members and parents are asked not to bring any foods containing nuts to school. While we cannot guarantee that food containing certain allergens is never brought to school, we do request your co-operation by refraining from sending potentially dangerous food to school.

School board policy now prohibits any food or beverages from being present and/or consumed outside in the school yard or on a bus. Students will be permitted to eat their lunch and snacks in the classroom at their own desks and are encouraged not to share food items.

We strive to keep all students safe. Thank you for your co-operation and serious attention to making St. Alfred School an "allergen-safe" environment.

### EMERGENCY EVACUATION

Teachers and students regularly practice emergency evacuation procedures. These include safe exit from the building in the event of fire, precautions in the event of bomb threat and safety actions to be taken in event of an intruder alert. In the unforeseen event that we must evacuate the school for emergency purposes, our students will evacuate to St. Sofia School.

### MEDICATION

School staff cannot dispense medication of any kind without authorization from parents/guardians and the child's physician. The school has Board forms, which **must** be completed annually before any medication can be kept at the school and administered by any school staff. Please let the office know if this applies to your child.



### PARKING

Parents are reminded that the parking lot on the south side of the school is closed to cars every morning between 8:30 and 8:45 a.m. and after school between 3:15 and 3:30 p.m. If you choose to park in this area, the expectation is that you **do not move your vehicle** until all students/pedestrians and busses have cleared. Please remember that we must ensure safety for all our students.



**Taoi lieau naay quan troing, xin nhoo ngoooi chueyan doch.**

**Ta informacja jest wazna. Prosze zapoznaj sie z nia.**

### **PEDICULOSIS**

A problem, which seems to occur in most schools, is Pediculosis or 'head lice'. Head lice are parasites that have been common among human beings for centuries. They are not connected in any way with dirt, and/or neglect. Anyone can become infested with them. Unfortunately, in recent years they have become quite common in North America. As a preventative response we request your co-operation in dealing with this nuisance. Please remind your child not to share hairbrushes, combs and hats. If you discover that your child has 'inherited' lice, please notify the school and do not send them to school until the appropriate course of treatment has been completed and the hair is entirely clear of both lice and nits (eggs).

### **PARENTS IN THE SCHOOL YARD**

Parents and caregivers are being asked to refrain from entering the schoolyard when dropping off their children. This includes the Kindergarten area. The intention of this request is not to suggest that parents and caregivers are not welcome at the school, rather, this request is to protect all parents and students. Any correction of inappropriate behaviour should come from a teacher, not from a parent. If a parent observes inappropriate behaviour, please discuss your concern with the teacher who is on supervision duty or with the administration staff.

Also, when the only adults in the yard are staff, unauthorized visitors can be immediately responded to. Therefore, in the interest of safety and security we ask that parents and caregivers say goodbye outside the school fence and do not enter the yard. Thank you for your co-operation.

### **STUDENT INFORMATION**

It is important that we have up-to-date records of your address, phone numbers, and emergency contacts in the event that the school must contact you regarding your child. Please inform the office or your child's teacher if any information changes throughout the year.

### **SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS**

Supervision begins at 8:30 a.m. Please do not bring/send your children to school earlier than this time. Given safety concerns, it is not a good idea to leave your children outside unattended as student supervision in the yard begins at 8:30 and not before.

Please make other arrangements for the care of your children prior to 8:30 a.m.

### **SCHOOL EVENTS AND NEWS**

#### **REORGANIZATION**

Last spring we put a plan into place based on the projected enrollment for September. The enrollment for September increased causing a reorganization to some of our classes. Parents of students who were directly affected were informed and reorganization of classes took effect as follows on Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup>.

The following is our finalized list of staff for the 2008- 2009 school year:

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<u>Grade</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>Numb</u>
JK a.m./ p.m.	E. Broszczakowski		100
SK a.m.	M. Nevins		101
SK a.m./ p.m.	L. DeMelo		102
1	L. Thomas		104
1	L. Curitti		108
2	E. Formosa		105
2	L. Perruzza		107
2/3	L. Lupallier		106
3	J. Belaisis		402
3	S. Sergnese		406
4	T. Geronimo		109
4	M. Pendergast		404
4/5	M. Butler		202
5	J. Marsala		207
6	H. English		201
6	J. Emick		208
7	V. Morgado		204
7	C. Dimeropoulos		205
8	V. D'Agostino		203
8	J. Jaksza		206
SERT	N. Nevins/R. Romano		103
SERC	A. Cavaliere		407
ESL	A. Steciw		
100B			
ESL	M. Klaming		
102B			
FSL	A. Assalone		401
FSL	L. Newland (0.2)		401
FSL/P.T.	B. Bain		401
Librarian	R. Romano		Library
P.T.	N. Nevins		100B
P.T.	L. Newland (0.3)		
P.T.	S. Bertolacci		
Early Lit.	S. Presciuitti		
ERW	M. Martiniko		
ERW	D. Hammond		
ERW	A. Obidzinska		
ERW	M. Romaniuk		
CYW	E. Blakey (0.5)		
Head Secretary	D. Suchocki		Office
Custodian	R. Vargas		
Vice Principal	C. Klein (0.5)		
Principal	J. Tollis		

### **WELCOME**

We welcome Miss C. Klein back to St. Alfred School. Many may remember Miss Klein as our SERT teacher here at St. Alfred School. We congratulate her on her new appointment as Vice Principal.

We also welcome Miss .M. Nevins to St. Alfred school. Miss Nevins comes to us from St. Mark's School in Mississauga, where she taught primary.

### **CCAT – GRADE 4 TESTING**

The Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test will be administered to all grade 4 students in October. In order to qualify for additional testing and the enrichment

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program, students must score at the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile or above on two of the three areas, and at the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile in the remaining area. If parents do not want their child to participate in this test, please contact the classroom teacher.

### DUFFERIN-PEEL INFO-page

An on line resource for information about awards, scholarships, fundraising opportunities, educational resources, professional development opportunities, parent/guardian resources and community events is available at [www.dpccsb.org](http://www.dpccsb.org)

### HALLOWE'EN

It is that time of year when our children will want to visit their neighbours for trick or treats. In school we will remind students about the safety rules so that they can both enjoy the evening and stay safe as well. Students are asked to follow the individual teacher's instructions with respect to costumes. If your child will be wearing a costume to school, please ensure that it is appropriate for a Catholic School environment.

In addition, we will also be stressing the fact that the most important aspect of our activities at this time of year is the celebration of two important feast days. On November 1st, we are reminded to honour all the Saints of our church and encouraged to pray that we might emulate their example in our daily lives. On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, we are reminded to remember all those who have gone before us in faith, by celebrating the Feast of All Souls. We are encouraged that while those who have died are out of sight, they are not out of mind or beyond our prayers.

### CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL 2008 -2009

Congratulations to our new Council for the upcoming school year:

A. Vercillo	•Chairperson
S. Barna	•Co- Chairperson
G. Balawejder	•Treasurer
L. Johnston	•Secretary
G. Balawejder	•Parish Rep
S.Vidovic	•OAPC
M. Skrinjar	•Member
R. Eze	•Member
R. Molnar	•Member
A. Steciw	•Teacher Rep
R. Romano	•Teacher Rep
C. Klein	•Non-Teaching Rep
D. Suchocki	•Non-Teaching Rep
J. Tollis	•Principal

At our School Council meeting, the following meeting dates were selected for the school year:

- Thursday, November 6, 2008
- Tuesday, December 9, 2008
- Thursday, January 29, 2009
- Tuesday, March 3, 2009
- Thursday, April 16, 2009
- Tuesday, May 12, 2009
- June meeting date and location TBD



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All meetings will begin at 7 p.m. and will be in the school library. Parents/guardians are welcomed to attend.

### REMINDERS

#### ANIMALS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

It is important for the safety of all our students that no dogs be brought into the schoolyard before, during and after school hours. Even the gentlest dogs can get over excited with so many distractions and children. Please keep your pet safe at home for their safety and that of the students.

#### KISS AND RIDE PROGRAM

We need volunteers to help with the Kiss and Ride program from 8:25 to 8:45 a.m. daily. If you can help on one or two days per week, please call the office (905) 625-0584.

#### RECESS SNACKS AND LUNCHES

Parents are asked to provide students with healthy and litterless snacks and lunches. Fruits and vegetables are healthy alternatives. Please refrain from bringing in fast food lunches. If you wish your child to have Burger King or MacDonald, then please take your child out for lunch.

#### SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS

Yard duty supervision by teachers occurs every day. Supervision is in place in the mornings from 8:30 to 8:45 a.m., during all recesses, at lunch hour, and after school from 3:15 to 3:30 p.m.

Parents are reminded that students should not be dropped off at the school before 8:30 a.m. in the mornings. **The school cannot assume responsibility for the safety of the children before 8:30 a.m.** Equally, after school each day, students should be picked up promptly at 3:15 p.m.

### SPORTS

The Intermediate Girls and Boys Volleyball teams have begun their season of league play. We would like to thank each team member and their coaches for a great start to the season thus far.

Coaches: Mrs. Emick, Ms. Pendergast, Mr. Blakey

### INSPIRATION FOR ALL

#### TERRY FOX RUN/WALK

Once again this year we had a very successful Terry Fox Run/Walk on Friday, September 26, 2008. The cheer competition was a lot of fun for both staff and students. Thank you to Mrs. Butler, Mrs. English Mrs. Emick, and Miss Nevins for organizing another successful event. We will report to the amount raised in our November newsletter.