



# 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 # 5  
JANUARY 2009

## *EVERY CHILD, A PROMISE*

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### SELF-CONTROL

Dear God,  
You have done such a marvelous job of creating us  
and the world around us.  
Sometimes life is easy...sometimes life is challenging.  
We know that You do not want us to suffer.  
We know that You do not want us to make other people suffer.

We come to You now asking for the grace and strength  
to keep a sense of self-control.  
We hope that by remaining calm in the middle of difficult situations,  
we can contribute to making our school a safer, more caring,  
and more inclusive community.

May Your virtue of self-control help us to make decisions  
that serve the good of all Your people—in our families,  
neighbourhoods and school community.  
We ask this in name of Jesus, Your Son, who lived to show us Your way.  
Amen

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#### IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

- Safe Schools
- Calendar of Events
- Extended French Information
- Kindergarten Registration
- P.A. Day – January 28, 2009



Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

**Taoi lieau naay quan troing, xin nhoo ngoooi chueyan doch.**  
**Ta informacja jest wazna. Prosze zapoznaj sie z nia.**

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As the New Year unfolds, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family and our friends.

On behalf of all of the St. Alfred School staff, I take this opportunity to welcome everyone back to the regular routines of school life. The holiday of the Christmas season allows everyone, students, parents and staff an opportunity to renew and to refresh for the major part of the second term. Custom has it that resolutions are made at the beginning each January. As a school staff, we resolve to promote excellence through living the gospel values of our faith.

To everyone in the St. Alfred community, it is our wish that this New Year be filled with peace, prosperity and love.

J. Tollis

### FAITH ACTIVITIES

#### ADVENT MASS

Our Evening Family Advent Mass was a wonderful celebration of our faith that took place on December 11, 2008. Thank you to Father D'Souza, the staff, the choir, the School Council, students and parents who were present in support of this special liturgy in preparation for Christmas.

#### ADVENT FOOD DRIVE

Thank you to all who donated so generously to our Advent food drive and our mitten and sock Christmas tree. The St. Vincent de Paul Society thank all the parents, students and staff for their continued and ongoing generosity.

#### CHRISTMAS TABLEAU

Many thanks to Mr. D'Agostino and his grade 8 students and Mrs. Bain and the choir members for organizing and presenting a fabulous Christmas Tableau presentation of the Nativity Scene.

#### RECONCILIATION – GRADE 2

A reminder to the parents of students in grade 2 and any other students who have not received this sacrament and are registered with the Church that the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be held at Sts. Martha and Mary's Church on Thursday, April 2, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

#### ROSARY CLUB

We are very proud of our Rosary Club who meets faithfully every Wednesday in Mrs. Klaming's room during the lunch time to pray the rosary. New members are always welcome to join.



#### VIRTUE FOR JANUARY : SELF CONTROL

God has given us the capacity to exercise self control when we are making decisions. Not all decisions are easy ones to make. The tough decisions are the ones that require us to exercise self control to reflect on what Jesus would do and how can we keep our community safe, caring, healthy and inclusive.

**Esta informacion es importante. Por favor traducirla al espanol.**

People of Self Control...

- Are patient
- Know how to wait for their turn
- Can calm themselves down and think before reacting
- Know how to avoid physical aggression such as hitting and kicking
- Can think things through and do what is best for all

### SAFE SCHOOL

#### COAT HOOD TOGGLES

The draw strings on children's winter coats and hoods can be a danger. They can get caught and cause choking. In the interest of safety we recommend that these draw strings be removed.



#### COLD WEATHER EXPECTATIONS



As the month of January progresses, the colder weather is upon us. Students should dress appropriately in order to spend recesses and lunchtime outdoors. Parents, please outfit your children with hats, scarves, mitts, winter outerwear and boots. Where possible please put identification on your child's belongings. Students should have a pair of indoor shoes so that classrooms are kept clean and dry.

We strive to keep all students safe. Thank you for your co-operation.

#### EMERGENCY EVACUATION

Our students and staff practice emergency procedures regularly. These procedures include the safe exit from the school building in the event of a fire, precautions and safety actions (lock down) in the event of a threat or intruder alert. In the event of an emergency where we must evacuate St. Alfred School site, our staff will take the students to St. Sofia School on Havenwood, north of Bloor St.

#### EMERGENCY SCHOOL PROCEDURES

There may be days during the upcoming winter months when inclement weather presents a potential safety hazard to our students. It is essential that parents discuss with their children the procedures that they wish them to follow to get home safely.

This discussion should include such directions as:

#### For students that do NOT take the school bus:

1. the best way to walk home;
2. with whom the child should walk;
3. where the child should go if there is no one at home;
4. how the child should seek help if wind and snow are so strong that they cannot see the way;

#### For students that DO take the bus:

It is a fact that bad weather may cause delays for student pick up at bus stops. Please ensure that your child has a safe place to go if the bus is late or does not arrive.

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

**IF SCHOOL BUSES ARE CANCELLED IN THE MORNING DUE TO SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS, THEY WILL NOT RUN IN THE AFTERNOON EVEN IF THE WEATHER CONDITION IMPROVES.**

In the event that buses are cancelled, please do not pick up other students from the bus stops and deliver them to school. If the bus does not arrive the child should return home for the day. If you bring your own children to school you are responsible for picking your children up from school by 3:15 p.m.

Ultimately, the parent decides what weather conditions are considered safe. It is always better to err on the side of caution than to take any risk.

Please be advised that we at the school do not have authority to close the school. The decision to send school buses home early and close the school is at the discretion of the Director of Education. Such announcements are broadcast on all local radio stations.

**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.



**PEEL REGIONAL POLICE**

We are pleased to welcome our Neighbourhood Policing Unit Officer, Constable Brown. Constable Brown has visited with our junior and intermediate classes in November and December. He will be visiting our school in February to conduct presentations for students from Kindergarten to Grade 5 on a Safe School environment, anti-bullying, and cyber bullying.

**PLAYGROUND SAFETY – WINTER USE ADVISORY**

It is important to note that winter conditions can make play equipment unsafe for use during the winter months. Very few types of protective ground surfacing remain resilient enough to offer any degree of protection to a falling child. If the ground cover is frozen, the play equipment is NOT safe for use. Snow can cause two problems on a play structure - firstly, it can make play surfaces very slippery; secondly, it can create suffocation hazards if the openings at the end of tube slides or similar structures become closed in by drifting snow. Ice or freezing rain can make play surfaces, hand grips and stairways very slippery, increasing the risk of injuries. Winter clothing is much different than normal clothing. Synthetic materials, such as nylon, reduce sliding resistance, particularly on plastic slides. This can increase the travel speed on this equipment to a dangerous level, and if combined with frozen ground cover, can increase the chance of injury. Winter clothing is very bulky and is more likely to have drawstrings or hooks and clips which can become entangled in

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components of the equipment. **The play structure is off limits to all students.**

**SCHOOL CLOSINGS**

During the winter months inclement weather may cause disruption of bus transportation and regular school operations. A decision to cancel school transportation and/or close schools is usually made by 6:30 a.m. and will be announced on the following radio stations:

**CKFM 99.9, CHUM 1050, Q107/AM640, CFTO, ENERGY FM93.1, TALK 640, CFRB 1010, CFTR 680, CJCL 590, CIN100.7 FM/1540 AM, CJEZ EZ ROCK, CITY PULSE, CJMR/CHWO 1250, CFNY 102.1, CHFI 98.1 and CJBC (FR) 860**

Also, please check the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board's webpage [www.dpcdsb.org](http://www.dpcdsb.org) for bus cancellations and/or school closures.

**SMOKE-FREE CAR LEGISLATION**

As of January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009, smoking in vehicles with children less than 16 years of age will be against the law. This amendment to the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act* protects children who are especially vulnerable to the health effects of second-hand smoke.

**Why is Smoke-Free Car Legislation Important?**

- Children are especially vulnerable to the harmful effects of second-hand smoke.
- Children exposed to second-hand smoke are more likely to get ear infections, bronchitis, pneumonia and other respiratory tract infections. It can also trigger or worsen asthma.
- Second-hand smoke can reach very high levels inside small spaces like vehicles.
- There is no safe level of exposure to second-hand smoke for children or adults.

**Call 905-799-7700 or visit [www.smokefree-peelregion.ca](http://www.smokefree-peelregion.ca) for more information.**

**SNOW SAFETY**

With the arrival of snow we have reminded all students that the snow stays on the ground! Students have been advised that there is to be no snowball throwing, rubbing snow in others' faces, kicking snow, breaking down snow forts, taking hats etc. Please discuss these behaviours with your child(ren).

**STUDENT INFORMATION**

It is most 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. If there have been any changes, please ensure that we have this information.



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### **YARD SUPERVISION**

To ensure your child(ren)'s safety, **do not send them to school before 8:30 a.m.** Staff supervision of students in the playground begins at 8:30 a.m. and 12:10 p.m. during the lunch hour. Student arrival at school must be planned accordingly.

### **SCHOOL EVENTS AND NEWS**

#### **CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL**

Our next School Council meeting will be held on Thursday, January 29, beginning at 7:00 p.m. All parents/guardians are welcome to attend.



#### **EXTENDED FRENCH – PARENT INFORMATION**

Parent(s)/guardian(s) of grade 4 students who wish to enroll their child in a grade 5 Extended French program for September 2009 are invited to attend an information meeting at St. Thomas More Catholic School on January 27, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. The program as well as the process for registration will be shared at the meeting. Information was included with the first term report cards for all grade 4 students.

#### **FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM**

Senior Kindergarten parents/guardians who wish to enroll their child in a Grade 1 French Immersion class for September 2009 are invited to attend an information meeting at:

**St. Margaret of Scotland School  
2266 Council Ring Road  
Monday, January 26, 2009  
7:00 p.m.**

Applications will be accepted until 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

#### **KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION**

Junior and Senior Kindergarten registration will be held on Monday, February 23, 2009 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. and on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, February 25, 26, and 27 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the school.

#### **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAY**

Please be advised that Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> is a Professional Activity Day and there will be no school for students.

### **REMINDERS**

#### **ATTENDANCE...LATE ARRIVALS**

A reminder to parents and students that it is important that students arrive to school on time. Being consistently late interrupts the learning environment in the classroom, creates delays in the office and sets a poor example for those who arrive on time.

#### **CRIMINAL REFERENCE CHECKS FOR VOLUNTEERS**

It is the policy of Dufferin-Peel that any school volunteers who will come into regular contact with students (as opposed to volunteers who participate in a one day activity with supervision) will be required to produce a Criminal Reference Check and Criminal Offence Declaration in accordance with the above. A Criminal Reference Check is to be submitted to the Principal prior

to being accepted as a volunteer in the school. Volunteers who were in place prior to September 2001 will be required to submit an annual Criminal Offence Declaration, commencing in 2003. Forms should be submitted to the Principal who will house them in a secure location with the utmost respect to the confidential nature of the material.

It is recommended that volunteers acquire a criminal Reference Check if they have not already done so. This is a free service provided by the Peel Police Department.

#### **INDOOR SHOES**

Wet floors can be dangerous, please help keep our classroom floors dry and safe by sending a pair of indoor shoes to school.

#### **LOST AND FOUND**

As children are required to wear more clothing, the lost and found box is filling with articles. Please write your child's name on the label of his/her boots, shoes and extra clothing. This will help students retrieve lost items and often prevent them from finding their way to the box.



#### **PLASP – BEFORE SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

PLASP Child Care Services operates a Before School Program at St. Alfred School. The Before School Program operates from 7:30 am and continues until school begins. A nutritious breakfast is served daily.

#### **Fee assistance is available.**

To register your child, visit the PLASP Program Director, Before School. For further information, call 905.890.1711 or visit the website at [www.plasp.com](http://www.plasp.com).