



# 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 # 8  
MAY 2009

*EVERY CHILD, A PROMISE*

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A. Vercillo

## ACCEPTANCE

Dear God,  
You have done such a marvelous job of creating us  
and the world around us.  
You have placed this creation, including all the people we meet,  
in our care.

We come to you now asking for the grace and  
strength to be accepting of others.  
We admit that we can never fully know your plan  
for the people around us.

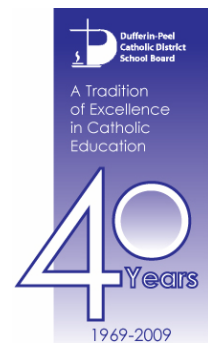
Grant us the strength to admit that our role is to invite others to  
participate in your saving plan and then to accept the choices that they  
make in their own lives.

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

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### IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

- Catholic Education Week in Review
- Grade 3 and 6 EQAO dates
- P.A. Day – Monday, May 11
- Placement request letters for September 2009



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

Esta informacion es importante. Por favor traducirla al espanol.

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The month of May reminds us of two pronounced symbols: the symbol of new life and the symbol of our sorrowing but gentle mother, Mary. May is the month we honour Mary. Throughout this month, we focus our celebrations on our spiritual mother, Mary, by praying the rosary. We also honour and celebrate all Mothers and are grateful for the many blessings they bestow upon their children each and every day.

Our school activities will also focus on new life during May. Students and staff are filled with energy, hope and enthusiasm as we have entered the third term, a new month, and a new season.

Sincerely,

J. Tollis  
Principal

### FAITH ACTIVITIES

#### CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

We celebrate Catholic Education Week from May 3 to May 9. During this week the Catholic community celebrates the unique and distinctive contribution that Catholic schools make to our students, our community and our Province. Catholic Education Week is a welcome opportunity to celebrate the mission of our Catholic schools as they strive to integrate the Gospel values of Jesus Christ in every aspect of the school's life and curriculum. This year's theme is "**Catholic Education: Good News for All**".

On Wednesday, May 6 we invite all parents to St. Alfred School gym between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to see the wonderful works of Art that the students have been working on since the beginning of this school year. On Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> we invite the new families who have registered their children for Junior Kindergarten in September 2009 to join us as we introduce the "Welcome to Kindergarten" program. This session is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. in the library.

The students will be celebrating Catholic Education Week with various spirit days that have been planned by the Student Council. Each student is asked to make a small contribution of change to ShareLife throughout the week as a token to participate.

#### CONFIRMATION

Grade Eight Confirmation will be held on Saturday, May 30, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at Sts. Martha and Mary Church. The confirmandi have been preparing themselves for this very important sacrament by attending preparatory classes at the church and working on activities at the school.

#### GRADE 2 FIRST COMMUNION

Our grade two students will receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on Sunday, May 24, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. at Sts. Martha and Mary Church.



### SAFE SCHOOL

#### ANAPHYLACTIC REACTIONS

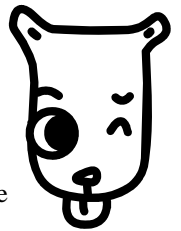
Bill 3, also known as Sabrina's Law, has been in effect for several years, requiring all School Boards to develop plans for students who have an anaphylactic allergy.

Several students at St. Alfred school have severe allergies to peanuts, nuts and many peanut/nut by products. These allergies can be life threatening. Due to the high risk of these products, we thank you in advance for not sending any peanut/nut products to school in your child's lunch and/or snack. We need to continue to work together to be an "allergen aware" school. No food that may contain these peanut/nut products should be sent to school.

School Board policy states that all food must be eaten indoors. Therefore, snacks are not permitted outside at recess.

#### DOGS IN THE SCHOOL YARD

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.

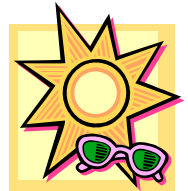


#### LUNCHTIME ROUTINES

Recently several students have requested permission to use the telephones at lunchtime to call parents to leave school property. If your child is leaving the school for lunch, they **must provide a note signed by their parent or guardian. We will no longer be allowing students to use the phones for this reason.** Your co-operation is appreciated.

#### SUMMER SUN

With the arrival of warmer weather we are aware of the concerns regarding the sun's **ultraviolet rays**. There are a number of scheduled outdoor activities and field trips during the months of May and June. We encourage you to dress your children for the events and weather, for example, hats, T-shirts with sleeves etc. You may also wish to apply sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or greater. We cannot accept the responsibility for applying sunscreen at school.



#### 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 12:05 p.m. during the lunch hour. Student arrival at school must be planned accordingly.

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## SCHOOL EVENTS AND NEWS

### CONGRATULATIONS

Several Grade 8 students involved in KWN (Kids Witness News) went to the Panasonic Theatre where both videos submitted were nominated for several awards including the Public Service Announcement Award, Best Editing and Best Video.. We are very proud of all our students and their video submissions. Congratulations to both groups of student who won a total of six awards including Best Video!!! The Best Video award has enabled one of the groups to be involved in a world wide competition to take place on May 15. Best of luck!

Special thanks to Mr. D'Agostino and Miss N. Nevins who have spearheaded this project at St. Alfred School for over 10 years. Their leadership and commitment to KWN has made a difference to the technological abilities of our intermediate students. Thank you Mr. D'Agostino and Miss Nevins for all that you do!

### CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our next School Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 12, beginning at 7:00 p.m. All parents/guardians are welcome to attend.



### CLASS PLACEMENTS /MOVING

Please inform the office if you know that you will be moving and your children will not be returning to St. Alfred School for September 2009.

Due to the "tentative" nature of our enrolment for September 2009, teacher assignments and grade placements cannot be finalized until late August. At the beginning of June the staff will be working on drafting tentative class lists for the next school year. This is a complex process, which takes into consideration not only the needs of the individual child, but frames those needs in the context of the larger student group. In each class, we strive for a balance of learning styles, a balance of gender, a balance of learning needs, and a cross-section of abilities.

**Any parental requests as to the teaching style preferred for their children are to be submitted to Mrs. Tollis in writing by May 8, 2009.**

Any requests received after the above date may not be accommodated. Also, please note that no requests will be considered in September.

### EQAO DATES

For parents and guardians of students in grade three and six, please avoid making any appointments for your child/ren during the EQAO testing period of Tuesday, May 26 to Thursday, May 28 for grade 6 and Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup> to Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> for grade 3 students. Thank you for your co-operation.

### FLEXIBLE BOUNDARY POLICY

Some students attend our school under the "Flexible Boundary Policy". This offers convenience for many parents as they access daycare in the area. Parents who have requested flexible boundary admittance for their children must be aware that the policy will be considered annually on a student-by-student basis, taking into

consideration the class size of the students who are enrolling. Although we offer as much support as possible to all our students, please understand that availability of the flexible boundary policy should not negatively impact on the school resources. Please remit all requests for flexible boundary in writing to Mrs. Tollis by May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

### SUMMER SCHOOL

Summer Literacy Camp for students in SK to grade six will be held at St. Alfred School from July 6 to 31, 2009. Parents have a choice of a 2 or 4 week program. Please speak to your child's teacher if you are interested.

Remedial literacy and numeracy is available for Grade 7 and 8 students starting on July 6 to 24. Students must be recommended by the principal and their classroom teacher. Please speak to your child's teacher if interested.

### WARM WEATHER DRESS CODE

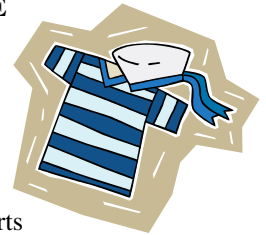
We would like our students to be neat, clean and comfortable for learning. Students are expected to dress in a manner and attire suitable for the occasion, and appropriate to the school environment.

Boys must wear full-length T-shirts with a sleeve. No muscle shirts or cutoff T-shirts are allowed for regular classes or gym wear.

Girls are not to wear anything strapless or have bare midriffs. Tank tops and crop tops are not acceptable.

We will be allowing boys and girls to wear shorts provided they are modest. No short - shorts or cut-off jeans will be allowed.

If students do not adhere to these guidelines, parents may be called and requested to provide suitable attire. We trust you will assist us in maintaining a sense of dignity with respect to the clothes that are worn to school.



**NO SCHOOL ON VICTORIA DAY (MAY 18)**