

# Canadian Martyrs Catholic School

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905-273-6630

Pastor: Father Paranas  
Father Mnyagatwa

## SEPTEMBER 2008

Newsletter No. 1



**To Welcome You**

*In order to welcome you, to prepare our earth, to believe in you,  
great Lord,  
Nothing extraordinary need be done.*

*I need only a heart that is pure and free of deception;  
I need only have an attitude that is kind and free of malice;  
I need only put on my lips a smile and words of joy;  
I need only open my hands in order to give and share;  
I need only be attentive and faithful to your Word;  
I need only love, without keeping track of my kindness.*

*I need only listen to your call, Lord, and change my life.  
You may come, Lord: the earth and its peoples are  
changing the colours of life for you.*

*Gospel Prayers by C. Singer*



### Principal's Message

Welcome to the 2008-2009 school year at Canadian Martyrs. We are looking forward to another exciting year working with your children. A warm welcome to all the new families joining our Catholic community.

The beginning of a new school year can be very stressful for students as they wonder about the demands the program and new environments will bring. Please reassure your children that this is very natural and that teachers – and the Principal too- also become stressed for similar reasons. Somehow, we all adapt and continue to build the warm, supportive, worshiping and nurturing community we are fortunate to be part of at Martyrs.

As we embrace this new beginning, let's all join together as a learning community and work together for the benefit of all children during this school year.

## FAITH

### PARISH NEWS

#### STS. PETER AND PAUL PARISH MASS TIMES

Monday to Friday  
12:10 p.m. English  
Tuesday  
7:30 p.m. Italian  
Wednesday and first Friday  
7:30 p.m. Devotions to Mother of Perpetual Help  
Saturday  
5 p.m. English  
Sunday  
7:45 a.m. English  
9:00 a.m. Italian  
10:30 p.m. English  
Noon English

### VIRTUE FOR SEPTEMBER: FAITH

Faith is the great virtue of believing in God and trusting that God is with us.

A **faithful** person believes that we are created, guided by and destined to be reunited with God. A **faithful** person believes that God's plan for us includes the right to be safe, especially at school.

A **faithful** person ...

- Prays regularly and reverently
- Learns from Scripture stories
- Honours people's God given names
- Assumes that there is good in everyone
- Accepts the God given worth of themselves and others.

### SACRAMENTS

On September 11, 2008 at 7pm there will be an information and orientation meeting for those making the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) and First Eucharist (Communion) at the church.

Also on September 11, 2008 at 7 pm there will be an information and orientation meeting for those receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, also at the church.

Registration for all sacraments will be held at the church from 9-5pm on September 13<sup>th</sup> at the church. Your attendance for sacrament meetings is important.

### Message from Bishop Boissonneau:

The role of Parents in Catholic Schools at this time in the history of Catholic Schools is crucial.

If there is ANY challenge to Catholic Schools then it is this part of Ontario that would have to respond. The GTA and Golden Horseshoe have the majority of Catholics. Our parents are the ones that have to be convinced and sold on Catholic Education, continuing to see and say the value of Catholic Schools.

If there is no conviction of the value of Catholic Schools and we lose them, do you think that children will attend the sacraments? Through CCCSC, we need to continue to promote the value of Catholic Education at every opportunity.

Ask the question. Discuss the answers. Why do you send your children to Catholic School? Remind, Maintain and Encourage. Each family should know why!!

## **SCHOOL EVENTS AND NEWS**

### **STAFF**

The following is a **tentative** list of our staff for the 2008-2009 school year. A finalized list will be shared after the Sept 12 re-organization day.

1.0	Vice Principal Mrs. Rienzo
JK	Ms. Engman
SK	Mrs. Manimendrea
JK/SK a.m.	Ms Declercq
Gr 1	Mrs. DeLauro, Ms. Liptay and Mrs. Linardic
Gr 1/2	Mrs. Ciampa
Gr 2	Ms. Sohmer and Mrs. Tunney
Gr 2/3	Mrs. Orsini
Gr 3	Mrs. Vallesi
Gr 3 / 4	Ms. Rapa
Gr 4	Ms. DelMonte
Gr 4/5	Mrs. Perozzo
Gr 5	Ms. Boem and Ms. Giovinnazzo
Gr 6	Mrs. Pelletier
Gr 5/6	Mrs. Rygelis
Gr 7	Mr. Sestito
Gr 7 / 8	Ms. Oslach
Gr 8	Mrs. Cardoz and Ms Smith

Our Special Education Staff:  
Mrs. Veselinovic, Mrs. Simone, Mrs. Iannetti and Mr. Nagel

Our ESL Teacher:  
Ms. Hilton .

Our FSL Staff:  
Mr. Mahoney and Mrs. Ennis.

Our Planning time teachers:  
Mrs. Mandolia and Mrs. Solovka

Our Educational Resource Workers who support our special needs children:  
Mrs. Bartolotta, Mrs. Nowak, Mrs. Valtas, Ms. Eaton(.5).

Our Child and Youth Worker (2 days per week):  
M. R. Komorowsky

Our Custodial Staff:  
Mr. Capunitan and Mr. Hombrebueno

### **SPECIAL SERVICES PERSONNEL**

This year we welcome the following Support Staff to our school:

Beth Cunliffe	Speech and Language
Frank Scarpino	Psychological Associate
Dorothy Clark	Social Worker

### **LUNCH HOUR SUPERVISOR**

Our lunch hour supervisor is Mrs. Lahay.

## **REORGANIZATION**

As you have been made aware in previous newsletters, all classroom and teacher placements are **tentative** pending changes in staffing and enrollment by the Ministry of Education. By the PD Day on September 12 we will have finalized all placements and will notify you if changes impact upon your child.

We are very much aware of how any changes might affect your child and will make all possible attempts to limit disruptions. Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL TIMES**

8:30 - a.m.	– Entry and school day starts
8:30 –11 a.m.	– Kindergarten AM
10:35 – 10:50 a.m.	– Recess Grades 1-8
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	– Lunch Break
12:30-3:00 p.m.	– Kindergarten PM
2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	– Recess Grades 1-8
3:00 p.m.	– Dismissal

## **OPEN HOUSE, BOOK FAIR AND BBQ**

We will have an Open House and BBQ on the evening of September 22. More information regarding this event will be sent home shortly. Our Book Fair will take place in the Library from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. during our Open House.

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAY**

Friday, September 12, 2007 has been designated as a Professional Activity Day for Re-organization. There will be no classes for students that day.



Other Professional Activity Days for the year: November 14, December 5, 2008 and January 28, February 27 and May 11, 2009.

## **EARLY RELEASE DAY**

The Term 1 Early Release Day has been scheduled for September 30. Please ensure you mark these dates on your family calendar!

## **CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL**

Information regarding our Catholic School Council will be distributed shortly to all families. Please think about becoming involved and sharing your time in making our school even better. As always, parents of students in the school are invited to council meetings. Our first meeting will be held on October 1 at 6:30 p.m. in the school library. The dates of future meetings will be included in the monthly school newsletters.

## **TERRY FOX RUN**

Canadian Martyrs Catholic School will participate in the Terry Fox Run. Further information for this event will be available soon.



## **PIZZA DAYS**

Our Catholic School Council hope to once again organize pizza days for our students. Students will be reminded when these pizza days will begin. If you would like to volunteer to help out on Friday with the pizza days please let the office or a member of our Catholic School Council know.

## BIRTHDAYS

During announcements, we will continue the tradition of celebrating the birthdays of our students. Birthday students will receive a gift from the school – a What Would Jesus Do bracelet – to wear.

## MSEP PROGRAMS

Multicultural Settlement and Education Partnership (Support for Newcomer Families and Students) New to Canada? Support services are available to assist newcomer families integrate successfully into their school and community. The Settlement worker based at Canadian Martyr 1 day per week provides students and their parents with information to help them get settled in Canada faster. Settlement workers can provide one-stop information and referral on variety of issues, such as; employment, housing, transportation, immigration, Employment Insurance, family issues, and much more. The MSEP settlement worker also helps to build bridges of cultural understanding between newcomer families and schools. Services are offered in over 20 languages.

*MSEP settlement worker, Julie Lee 905-302-1612*

## REMINDERS

### SCHOOL YARD SUPERVISION

The schoolyard is supervised beginning at 8:15 a.m. Students should plan their arrival time to coincide with this supervision and should not arrive before this time.

For reasons of safety, please direct your children to go directly home or to a caregiver after school dismissal at 3:15 p.m. Any changes to arrangements need to be made the evening before.



It is very difficult for the office staff to make arrangements for your children at the last minute of the day. Please avoid calling the office at the end of the day with these late changes to plans.

## VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers play an important part in the life of any school community. At the school level, they help to enhance the learning opportunities available to students. They can make a difference in the academic life of a student. They assist students with reading, writing, academic drills and reinforcement, education games and in other activities that help to improve specific areas of need. Please contact the school if you are interested in volunteering.

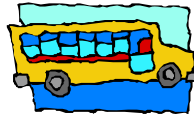
Anyone working in our school as an employee or volunteer must have a criminal reference check completed **by Peel Police**.

## TRANSPORTATION

As you know, busing is based on distance from the school to the home of the child. The busing information is posted in the school's front foyer window and is available at the office if you do not already have it.

We ask your cooperation in not advising your child to take the bus if she or he is not eligible. As in past years, we will provide busing for all eligible students and then see if there are empty seats on the bus and distribute these to other students. The decision on the distribution of the empty seats will be made in late October and can be rescinded during the year if new students enroll who are eligible for the seat.

If the Transportation Department notifies the school there are seats available, the school will review Empty Seat applications. Parents will then be notified if their child has been granted an empty seat on the bus. Please be advised these seats would be granted to our youngest students first and seats may not be available this year.



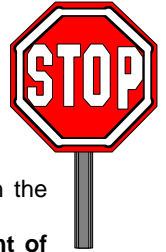
All parents are asked to review bus safety rules with their children and to arrange the pickup and drop off procedures for each child. Students who do not abide by the bus rules will not be permitted to ride the bus.

Parents would be notified in writing of this change.

## TRAFFIC SAFETY

Please follow the following procedures when driving into the school parking lot:

1. The **entry, exit, cross walk and bus zone**, on school property, **must never be blocked by cars**. Ample space must be left for busses to enter and exit the school property.
2. Park in the parking spots at the school or on the street.
3. **Do not park in any of the lanes in the front of the school** and please do not leave your car unattended.



## PICTURE TAKING

From time to time we take pictures of school events to include in our school yearbook. If you do not want your child's picture in the yearbook please ensure you let your child's teacher know.

Picture taking is not permitted by the public or media without signed parental consent.

Please be aware that no picture of students are posted by the school on the internet or the school website.

## ATTENDANCE CHECK

Please call the school at (905) 275-0094 by 8:00 a.m. to report absences. Your early calls would be most appreciated. We will have an answering machine to assist you when the office is closed.

Many thanks to the parents who call in when their children are going to be away. We will call your home if you forget to call us.



When children are well enough to return to school, it is expected that they play outdoors at recess. Supervision is not provided in the classrooms during recess or at lunch time.

Please pay special attention to punctuality for your children as well. It is very important and required by law that students attend school daily, be on time and come prepared. We find that regular attendance and punctuality are directly related to school performance.

## FIRE EVACUATION POLICY

We have a detailed fire/emergency evacuation policy. We will be practicing several times over the course of the school year. A **REMINDER: Students must wear shoes in the school building at all times.** If the fire alarm goes off, students will not be permitted to stop to put on shoes, coats, hats etc. Their safety is our first priority. Please ensure that your child has an indoor pair of shoes at school.

## STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

"As required by the Education Act and the Ministry of Education, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board annually provides parents with information about cost-effective student accident insurance coverage via student courier. Although enrolment is voluntary, the board encourages parents to take advantage of the inexpensive insurance coverage, especially if their child/children participate in sports, excursions/field trips, or, if parents do not have dental insurance coverage.

Enrolment is required in writing -- there are two options for enrolment:

- 1) Complete the traditional form and mail it in
- 2) Photocopy the form and fax it to Reliable Life at 1-905-522-7211 or 1-800-463-KIDS (5437).

Parents alone have the right to insure their children. "

## PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES (PEDS)

A reminder to our students and visitors that personal electronic devices such as cell phones, ipods etc are not to be used on school board property. Students who carry cell phones for safety reasons must have these turned off and stored away out of sight.

Any infractions of this rule will include confiscation and return at the end of the day. Repeat offenses will necessitate parents coming to the office to get the confiscated cell phone or ipod etc.

## Parents are also reminded to turn off cell phones when on school property.

## VALUABLES

Students are requested not to bring valuables, items of importance or money to school. This includes CDs, game boys, expensive sports equipment etc. The school cannot assume responsibility for valuables brought to school.

## VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

All visitors, including parents and former students, must come to the front door, buzz and check in at the main office. Visitors sign in and receive a visitors pass before proceeding to any other area of the school. All doors to the building are locked at all times.



If you bring a lunch or book to school, we request that you leave it on the lunch table near the front office with your child's name on it.

All students must be signed out at the office by a parent/guardian when leaving the building and signed in at the office when they return. If it is a regular dismissal, please wait outside the appropriate exit doors of the building to avoid disruption of classroom routines.

We welcome you to meet with the teacher whenever you have concerns or questions. Please call for an appointment in advance as staff is very busy during the day with classes, duties, calls to parents, extracurricular activities and meetings. They are seldom able to meet with you on a drop-in basis.

Cooperation in following these routines helps ensure our student's safety.

## MEDICATION

If your child has an illness for which regular medication is needed or for which medication is needed, your doctor must complete, *Authorization for Storage and Administration of Prescribed Medication* forms. Forms must be filed in the office so that we are aware of procedures for your child and in order to dispense medications as outlined on the forms by your doctor.



If your child has a serious allergy and you have or have not listed this but have not sent in an epipen we ask that you fill out the forms and do so immediately. In addition, we are strongly recommending that any student who has an epipen should carry this on his/her person in a visible protective carrying case. Information on these is available at your doctor's office or at the school.

Please be advised that we will not permit any student to attend any off site activity without the required medications and *Authorization for Storage and Administration of Prescribed Medication* forms being completed and filed in the office. This is the parent's responsibility to ensure prior to any school excursion.

## NUT/PEANUT ALLERGY ALERT!!

We are asking for your co-operation in keeping our school safe for all our students. Several students in our school suffer from a severe food allergy to all nuts, peanuts and all nut products.

Should these children come into contact with the food or residue left when someone else has been in contact with the food, they could go into anaphylactic shock – a potentially life-threatening situation. We are asking that you do not send your child with any food for lunch or snack that contains nuts or nut products. If your child were to bring this food to eat, the residue from his/her hands would be transmitted to every item he/she touched after eating. Should the allergic child then touch the same item, a life-threatening situation could result. We want all our children to be safe and healthy, and these measures will help to ensure this. In addition, edible birthday treats will not be shared with students at school. Please do not send cakes, cookies etc. for distribution.



If your child has been diagnosed with this allergy and you have not notified the school, please do so immediately. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this guideline, please do not hesitate to contact the office. Thank you for your support and understanding.

## MILK/DAIRY VENDING PRICES

- Natrel White & Chocolate milk (gables)-250 ml- \$1.00

- Natrel White & Cholcalate milk (gables)-500 ml-\$1.50
- Flavoured Milk Products (plastic bottles)-350ml-\$1.50
  - Flavours: Chocolate, Chocalate (no sugar sweetened with Splenda), Vanilla, Regular 2%
- Milkshakes (plastic bottles)-200ml-\$1.25 & 350 ml-\$1.75
  - Flavours: Cholcalte, Double Chocolate, Oh Henry, Cookies & Creams
- Yogurt-Source-150 grams-\$1.25
- Yogurt Drinks (Yoplait)-200ml-\$1.50
- Yogurt-Yoplait Tubes-\$0.75
- Cheese Strings-\$0.75
- Cracker Barrel Cheese-\$0.75

**PEDICULOSIS**

Although it may seem early in the school year, we would like to bring to your attention a problem which occurs from time to time in each school. This problem is infestation by head lice (Pediculosis). Unfortunately, in recent years, head lice have become increasingly common throughout North America. They are parasites, which have been common among human beings for centuries. They are not connected in any way to dirt or neglect.

Anyone can be infested. In order to control these pests, we shall follow these procedures and request your full co-operation. If cases are found in the classroom, we shall inform parents. We would request that you check your own children and if you find them to be infested, we would ask that you inform the school, and you contact the Peel Public Health Department for treatment information. If your children do become infested by head lice, we will ask you to keep them out of the school until after they have been treated with the correct shampoo and their hair is entirely clear of both lice and nits (eggs). If we all co-operate in these procedures, we may not entirely escape outbreaks, but we will be able to bring them under control quickly. For additional information, guidance and any questions please contact Peel Public Health Department at (905) 791-7800.

**HEAD INJURY POLICY**

When a student receives a blow to the head, it is Board Policy that we contact one of the child's parents to inform them. We will make every attempt to notify you even when it is a very minor injury. Please try not to be too alarmed should you receive a call.



**NEWSLETTERS**

Communication is very important when dealing with children. Newsletters are often the best way to keep you informed. They will normally be sent home at the beginning of the first full week of each month during the course of the school year.



**STUDENT VERIFICATION FORMS**

Student verification forms are being sent home with every student. It is important that the office have up to date and

correct information on file for each student. Please check the form, make any corrections and return it to school the next day. Lunch time instructions should also be completed on the back of the verification form.

**NEWSLETTER READING ENTRIES**

Once you have read the newsletter, complete the following entry to a draw. Your child will receive free pizza on pizza day if their name is drawn. One name per entry.

I have read the March Newsletter and would like my child's name entered to win a prize.

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian

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Please cut out and submit entries to the office by the September 12 deadline.