

Canadian Martyrs Catholic School

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905-273-6630
Pastor: Father Paranas
Father Mnyagatwa

OCTOBER 2008
Newsletter No. 2



Principal's Message

*Lord,
Bless our farmers and all who work on the land;
Strengthen them when they are discouraged,
And help us all to work together
As good stewards of this earth,
Its crops and its creatures,
For your love's sake.
Amen*

Fall has arrived and Thanksgiving is fast approaching. For those who have been fortunate enough to enjoy the beauty of the forests up north, you know this time of year is a wondrous time. The fall leaves put on an amazing multi coloured show that can really stir the imagination and the soul.

The bounty of our farmers is also readily available in country markets and orchards; the Canada geese and the many other migratory creatures start their moves to warmer climates. We look with longing at the beautiful sunny days we have had and think of the cold which is coming so soon.

It's a special time of year where we as Catholics – and all peoples - are called to give thanks. Thank you Lord for our thriving community, for our faith, for our health and well being. We are truly blessed.

As we walk together into the future, let's be mindful of the many blessings bestowed upon us. Blessed be the Lord!

Happy Thanksgiving everyone!



FAITH ACTIVITIES

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



STS. PETER AND PAUL CHURCH PASTORAL TEAM

Rev. Fr. Sol Paranas, Pastor
Rev. William Mnyagatwa, Associate Pastor
Robert Tardecilla, Sacrament Coordinator
Meloie Mortie, Secretary

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.

PARENT PASTORAL PAMPHLET

The Parent Pastoral Pamphlet was distributed to parents on the evening of Open House. The Pamphlet outlines our Faith life activities, dates for liturgies and masses as well as Sacramental dates. Please ask your child's teacher for a copy if you did not receive one.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

In the spirit of sharing and giving thanks, we are hoping that each family will contribute non-perishable foods to our 1st food drive of this school year. Donations can be brought to school any day before October 9. Many thanks to our grade 8 classes and our Youth Faith Ambassadors for coordinating this social action project. Many thanks to our community for your generosity.

THANKSGIVING LITURGY

On Friday, October 10 AT 1 P.M. we will be celebrating our Thanksgiving Liturgy in the school gym. Parents/guardians and

guests are most welcome. Please sign in at the office.

SCHOOL LITURGIES AND LIVING OUR FAITH AWARDS

We will continue to have monthly liturgies in the school gym. All members of our community are invited to attend.

After most of these liturgies we will celebrate students who have been demonstrating Jesus' values in our community. These awards are called "Living Our Faith Awards" and will celebrate students who have been noted doing something good for themselves, others and the community. This may include completing homework on time, perfect attendance or actions that reflect our values as a Christian. Names of recipients of the awards will be posted in the following newsletter. Student names will also be picked for prizes.

YOUTH FAITH AMBASSADORS

Grade 7 and 8 students have been invited to become Youth Faith Ambassadors at Canadian Martyrs Catholic School. These intermediate students will share and act upon how we can continue to address our calling to serve God and make our school community and our world a better place. Youth Ambassadors will continue to deepen their understanding of our Catholic faith rooted in tradition by sharing why the altar is adorned with various coloured cloths and when they change throughout the liturgical calendar year.

Youth Ambassadors will put our faith into action by bringing the gospel into every class as they share this rich tradition and distribute sacred space cloths that Catholic School Council provided last year. Guided and supported by our adult faith ambassadors, Youth Faith Ambassadors will share feast days of Saints and memorials through daily PA announcements, as well as a liturgical calendar displayed on the "YFA Buzz" Bulletin Board. Youth Faith Ambassadors will also encourage and promote Food Drives throughout the year beginning with Thanksgiving.

CURRICULUM NEWS

STAFF

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

JK	Miss Engman
SK	Mrs. Manimandre
JK/SK a.m.	Ms. Declercq
1	Mrs. Linardic, Ms. Liptay and Mrs. DeLauro
1/2	Mrs. Ciampa
2	Mrs. Tunney, Ms. Sohmer
3	Mrs. Orsini and Mrs. Vallesi
3/4	Ms. Rapa
4	Ms. DelMonte
4/5	Mrs. Perozzo
5	Ms. Boem and Ms. Giovinazzo
5/6	Ms. Rygelis
6	Mrs. Pelletier
7	Mr. Sestito and Ms. Oslach
8	Ms. Smith and Mrs. Cardoz

Our Special Education Staff:

Mrs. Veselinovic, Mrs. Iannetti and Mr. Nagel

Our ESL Staff: Ms. Hilton.

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

Our .5 Planning time teachers: Mrs. Solovka and Mrs. Mendolia

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

Our Child and Youth Worker (2.5 days per week): Mr. Komorowsky

Our Custodial Staff: Mr. Capunitan and Mr. Hombrebueno.

Our Office Staff: Mrs. LoGuidice Head Secretary and Mrs. Gomes Assistant Secretary.

LITERACY BLOCK

Our school continues to dedicate a two-hour literacy block for grades 1 to 3 each morning. The focus continues to be on developing literacy skills and cross-curricular literacy activities.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to be involved in their child's literacy development by reading with their child each evening and/or working on classroom activities related to literacy. Since reading and writing are important components of education and a major factor to school success, working together with the school will clearly benefit all students. Thank you to our primary teachers for their efforts in literacy.



SCHOOL EVENTS AND NEWS

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

Nominations for this year's Catholic School Council were received up to Thursday, September 25. Congratulations to the members of our Council for this year are:

K. Baird, A. Cascun, F. Coppola, M. Falduti, T. Iacovino, P. Iacovino, K. Kozlowski, S. Martins, S. Perera, MJ Ribeiro, M. Sequeira and N. Stojanov. The executive will be determined during our first meeting.

Our teaching representative is Mrs. Ennis and our non-teaching representatives are Mrs. Nowak and Mrs. Bartolotta.

Our first meeting will be held on October 1 at 6:30 p.m. in the school library. All parents/guardians are welcome and encouraged to attend School Council meetings.

SCHOOL BOOK FAIR

A School Book Fair was held during the last week of September and during Open House. We raised \$1300 which will be spent on materials for the school library. Thanks to everyone who supported the Book Fair.

BBQ/OPEN HOUSE THANK YOU

Many thanks to all the parents and guardians of children who attend Canadian Martyrs for coming to our BBQ and open house on September 18. We had an excellent turnout and we hope you enjoyed your visit.

BUS SAFETY PRACTICE

Our JK to grade 3 students will participate in a bus safety practice on October 29 at the school. The practice will cover safety rules for all students who ride the bus.

MOVEATHON

Our annual Moveathon is scheduled for October 24. More information will be coming soon.

INTERMEDIATE VOLLEYBALL

Our intermediate girl's volleyball team has been assembled and we look forward to their efforts this year. The team: Jasmin I, Kendra D, Victoria M, Sandra M, Nikki G, Jessica B, Laryssa H, Dominika M, Jacqueline G and Sara K. Many thanks to Ms. Oslach the team coach.

TERRY FOX RUN

Our Terry Fox Run was on September 26. We will let you know our final collection amount for our Toonies for Terry drive. Many thanks to the community for once again supporting such a worthy cause.

PICTURE RETAKE DAY

Smile! Our picture retake day is scheduled for October 27.



NEWSLETTER READING CONTEST WINNER

We will continue the tradition of having a draw for people who read our newsletter. Please submit the entry form from the back of this newsletter to the office by October 10 to win pizza on our next pizza day. Our September winner was Alejandra Z.

NATIONAL MILK DAY

We were very pleased to participate in the National Milk Day scheduled for Sept 24. Many thanks to the Dairy Farmers of Ontario for this celebration.

KINDERGARTEN FIRE TRUCK VISIT

Our Kindergarten students were visited by firemen on Sept 24 and were able to visit the fire truck. Thanks to Ms. DeClercq for organizing this visit.

SEE HEAR CLINICS

A clinic to screen students hearing and sight was held on Sept 22-24. This was a paid service.

WORLD TEACHERS DAY

World Teachers Day – a day to recognize and celebrate teachers for their commitment and dedication to Catholic education in Dufferin-Peel - is on October 5. Please help us recognize our amazing teachers!

CHILD AND YOUTH WORKER

We are fortunate to have Mr. Komorowsky assigned to our school for 2.5 days a week this year. Mr. Komorowsky assists with programming for students with behavioural needs and also contributes in class support for a variety of students in small groups and individually.

HEP B AND HPV VACCINE CLINIC GR 7/GR 8 GIRLS

Our grade 7 students and our grade 8 girls will participate in a Hep B and HPV clinic on Nov 3. Information will be forwarded home to these families shortly.

LOCK DOWN PRACTICES/FIRE DRILLS

As you are aware, we are required to conduct three fire drills in the fall and three in the spring. In addition, we are required to practice two lock down drills during the year.

Lock down drills include students moving away from the classroom door to a location within the classroom away from windows. Lights are turned off and doors are locked. These practices are to ensure students and staff are prepared should we need to go into lock down. Lock down would be initiated by police and Board security personnel.

REMINDERS

BIRTHDAY SNACKS

Due to the number of students with serious allergies in our school, we do not permit birthday treats such as cakes, cupcakes, do-nuts etc. into the classroom for sharing with other students. On occasions such as Halloween and Christmas teachers will explain to students which types

of treats they may bring to the classroom for their own consumption. None of these will be shared. Thank you for your cooperation in making our classrooms safer for students with serious allergies.

A REMINDER TO PARENTS

A reminder to parents that students should NOT be arriving at school prior to 8:15 a.m. Teachers are on duty in the school yard to supervise students from 8:15 until 8:30 a.m.. To ensure childrens' safety, parents are to make alternate arrangements with relatives, friends, neighbours to make certain that children arrive at school between 8:15 and 8:30 a.m. A reminder also that school dismisses at 3:00 p.m., and students need to be picked up/met at that time. Please make arrangements with someone to pick up your child if you are unable to do so by 3:00 p.m. Notify your child's teacher of any change in pick up arrangements by writing a note in their agenda. Thank you for your cooperation.

RELIABLE LIFE 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.”

CROSSING GUARDS

The Crossing guards at Mississauga Valley and Central Parkway are there to guide our students safely across the intersection. Please remind your child(ren) to follow their directions and to cross the street only at the designated cross walks. The crossing guards are only available at the following time: 8-830; 1130-1140; 1205-1230 and 3-330.

VACATIONS/FAMILY TRIPS

Parents/guardians are requested not to book any vacations or trips during the school year. Students are expected to attend school on time and each day. If a trip is unavoidable, please write a letter to the principal requesting permission to withdraw your child for the duration of the trip. The school is not responsible for work missed when children are away on vacations or trips.

BIKES/SKATEBOARDS/SHOES WITH WHEELS

A reminder that students are not to use bicycles, skateboards or shoes with wheels in them during school hours on school property. Bicycles should be locked in the bicycle rack at the front of the school.

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

We want you to feel welcome in the school. However, we need to continue maintaining a safe environment for all children. Please continue to assist us by:

- arranging an outside meeting spot when picking up your child at dismissal times;
- when visiting the school, please ring the entrance buzzer at the front doors and sign in at the office;

• dropping off lunches for children at the designated desk at the office not at the classroom. We will call students to come to the office to pick up the lunch if required. Our focus is to avoid congestion in the hallways, minimize disruptions for both teachers and students and to help your child develop some independence.

We welcome parents to all our assemblies. Please sign in at the office.

PLASP ENTRY

We are fortunate to have the Peel Lunch and After School Program (PLASP) at Martyrs. Parents who are dropping off their child or picking them up from the program are requested to ring the doorbell at the door facing the parking lot for entry after hours.

STUDENT ILLNESS AND ACCIDENTS

Students who become ill during the school day can only be provided with short term facilities until a parent is contacted. In the event of illness or an accident every effort will be made to contact a parent. Up to date information is critical if the school is to respond promptly in the event of illness or accidents. If you have moved or changed your phone number please ensure the school has a telephone number where you can be contacted.



During the year we receive requests from parents to allow their child(ren) to stay in at recess because they are sick or have not fully recovered from an illness. Children who are sick are not able to learn well and tend to be irritable. In addition, they spread their germs to others. Children who are sick need to be at home where they can recover in the proper environment.

IMMIGRATION/SOCIAL SERVICES ATTENDANCE LETTERS

The school is frequently asked to supply a letter indicating their child/ren attend Canadian Martyrs School. Please be advised that these requests must be put in writing to the principal for consideration and will take a few days to process.

HOMEWORK

Homework involves reviewing the work of the day, completing work not finished during the day, doing special assignments or projects, reviewing for tests or practicing specific skills that a student may have problems with or reinforcing skills already attained.



Homework is not specifically assigned in grades 1 and 2. However, work not completed in class or work missed during an absence may be assigned. A period of time reading or being read to at home is recommended at this level.

In grades 3 to 6 students are regularly asked to spend some time working at home doing such things as completing incomplete class work, drilling number facts, working on research projects and reading.

In grades 7 and 8 homework is regularly assigned and may include assigned reading and writing activities, work on projects or independent studies. A Board Homework Policy will be issued in November. We will inform our community when this policy is available.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL AGENDAS

All students from grades 1 to 8 have been assigned an agenda. Students have contributed \$5.00 to agendas. The balance is being covered by

Parent Council. Teachers will be training students in the use of an agenda and will be asking your support in asking for the agenda in the evening to review assigned homework and reminders. This is an excellent organizational strategy that really assisted our students last year. Thank you for your support.

CHALLENGE TESTING

All students in grade 4 and students in other grades who are nominated by parents and teachers will be assessed as to whether they qualify for enrichment of the classroom program. These CCAT tests will be completed by the end of October with results available in late November. If you feel your child would benefit from this type of enrichment programme please contact your child's teacher.

VOLUNTEERS

We have been fortunate to have a number of persons volunteer to contribute to our school community. As outlined in the September newsletter, we welcome and value our volunteers. All volunteers would meet with our principal, Mr. Blanchard or Mrs. Rienzo once a Criminal Reference Check is completed.

A Criminal Reference Check is not required by Board policy for individual events i.e. School trip or helping with pizza day, but is required before starting an assignment where the volunteer would work on a regular basis with students. Please contact the school office if you are interested in sharing your talents!



BUS SAFETY

A pamphlet outlining bus safety suggestions and reminders will be distributed to all kindergarten students. It would be helpful if you reviewed with your children the information contained there. Safety rules and expectations are regularly reviewed with students at school.



LOST & FOUND

We have a box inside the primary entrance doors for lost items. Please label your child's belongings, as this is helpful in returning items to their owners. Please note that students continue to be reminded not to bring expensive items, jewelry or electronic toys to school.

CELL PHONES

Students, staff and visitors are not permitted to use cell phones during school hours.

CATHOLIC CODE OF CONDUCT ASSEMBLIES

All students grade 1-8 have been part of assemblies to review behavioural expectations. The Catholic Code of Conduct, currently under revision, was reviewed and discussed. The Code is developed to reflect the requirements outlined in the Safe Schools Act and to recognize the Catholic School environment.

SMOKING

Smoking is prohibited on school property and in all Board buildings according to Ministry of Education Policies. Students who smoke on school property or are in possession of tobacco products will be consequenced as outlined in the Catholic Code of Conduct.



HALLOWEEN IN A CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Many of today's Halloween traditions go back to the time of the Celtic people who lived in Britain and Northern Europe more than 2,000 years ago. The Celtic's calendar was based on seasons and the farming community. October 3 was their New Year's Eve and a festival of the dead. When the Romans conquered Britain and Europe, their festival honouring the dead was celebrated at the same time.

Christian Response

During the early years of Christianity the church leaders found it best to add the new religious ideas to earlier, already established beliefs. All Saints Day was proclaimed on November 1st so that the people could continue to celebrate a familiar festival, which respected the spirits. The mass that was said on that day was called Allhallowmas, so the evening before became known as Hollows Eve, or Halloween. Eventually, the church recognized that Halloween had become a cultural rather than a religious event.

Implications for School

Halloween should be considered a cultural ritual in which children participate. In today's culture, it is rarely a celebration of the Celtic religion. Children today often dress in costumes, which reflect the heroes of the culture, for example, Batman. While some claim that Halloween's association with the ancient Celtic religion is a threat to Christianity, clearly the Church did not when establishing All Saints Day and the Day for the Commemoration of All Souls. In the same way, Father's Day is a cultural event which does not detract from our understanding of God as Father.

Canadian Martyrs Catholic recognizes the cultural event of Halloween. However, attention will be paid to the religious significance of All Saints Day, which is the honouring of the whole Church Triumphant, united to Christ, in the enjoyment of the vision of God and All Souls Day, where we pray for the souls of the faithful departed.

HALLOWEEN SAFETY

Please remind your children of safety guidelines for Halloween:

1. Not to wear a facemask so your child will be able to see clearly.
2. Wear light coloured clothing so drivers can see them.
3. Carry a flashlight so your child will be able to see on dark streets.
4. Go out with an adult or an older brother or sister if under 10 years of age.
5. Stay away from cars and friendly strangers.
6. Watch for cars and look both ways when crossing the street.
7. Wear their costumes above their shoes so they will not trip.
8. Not to eat any treats until they are home and parents have checked them.
9. Not to damage anyone else's property.
10. Start trick or treating early and be home by 8:30 p.m.

Please remind your child(ren) that replica weapons that are sometimes part of a Halloween costume are not permitted on school property.

MEDIC ALERT-PEANUT ALLERGIES

We do have students with severe life threatening peanut allergies. These allergies prevent the students from eating products made with nuts or peanut oil. Often, even contact with an item that has been touched by another individual who had contact with a peanut product sets off a reaction. We strive to keep all students safe. We encourage

all students and staff to bring snacks and lunches that are peanut free. Thank you for your cooperation.

SAFETY IN THE YARD

The safety of all children attending our school is of the utmost importance. When parents enter the yard to drop off or pick up their children, it is difficult for staff to easily distinguish between who is and who is not a legitimate caregiver. This could present a safety risk for children. When the only adults in the yard are staff, we can immediately respond to unauthorized visitors. Therefore, in the interests of safety and security we ask that once you drop off your child and the supervisor is on duty that you leave the yard.

SOME HEROS WEAR VESTS

The Canadian Automobile Association welcomes you back to school for another year. Understanding the importance of safety, we're proud to continue running the CAA School Safety Patrol program at your school. This year we are encouraging families to get to know their patrollers and our program through our "Smart as a Patroller" contest. Take the quiz and enter to win an Orlando family vacation. For all the exciting details, visit www.caasco.com/schoolsafety.

Remember, with the beginning of a new school year comes a significant increase in traffic especially around school zones. Our school safety patrollers, recognized by the electric lime green vests they wear, are there to help ensure kids are crossing the street or getting on the bus safely. Please take a moment to thank them for the great work they do everyday. As parents, you can also encourage safe behaviour by establishing safe walking habits, designating the safest walking route with your child and pointing out any possible traffic hazards. Have a safe and successful school year!

MEDIA CONSENT FORM

When media are invited or have requested to attend a specific school or board event, parents and guardians must be notified in writing. Only those individual students (under 18) who may be photographed and/or interviewed by the media, must have signed consent from their parents or guardians.

Written Notification Required

(in the form of a general letter to parents/guardians/student with the particulars of the event)

-for students who will be in "attendance" at a school or board event in which media will be in attendance

Consent Forms Required

-for students "participating" in an event* at which media will be in attendance

- for pre-selected students who will be available for interviews and/or photographs

-to publish "student's personal information" on a school or board website

-to photograph or videotape students for use in school or board promotional materials (See Student Photo Consent Form)

* For students who are members of a school sports team, consent is included on the team registration form and is valid for the entire period of team events and activities.

Consent Forms Not Required

-when it would be reasonable to expect that media would be in attendance at a school or board event (i.e. track and field meets, drama festivals, skills competitions, etc.)

-for school or board newsletters which are distributed internally*

-for school newspapers which are distributed internally*

-for school yearbooks which are distributed internally*

* However, if the above items are posted on the school or board

website, consent is required Student Photo Consent Form
 Throughout the school year, the Communications & Community Relations Department visits schools to photograph students and teachers participating in classroom and school activities. These photographs are filed in a board photo library for use in various board promotional materials (posters, brochures, newsletters, website, etc.) which will be distributed internally and externally to promote our schools and board programs and services. Parents and guardians will be provided with a Student Photo Consent Form in advance of the photo shoot. Students who do not have consent or have not returned their forms will be identified and not photographed.

INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES: ELEMENTARY PROGRAM

Elementary International classes are available to students in grades JK to 8 at specific elementary schools within Dufferin-Peel on Saturday mornings. No prior language experience is necessary. International Language programs comply with the Ministry of Education curriculum and will be of interest to students who wish to preserve their language and cultural heritage and to those who wish to study the language and heritage of another culture. Enrolment is limited at each location. On-going Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis on Saturdays throughout the year. Flyers were distributed in mid-August, with the Mississauga News and Brampton Guardian newspapers, and include more information regarding language offerings at specific IL Sites. Please proceed to the site of your choice to register, on Saturdays only between 8:30 and 9:30 a.m.

If you have any questions please contact: Adult & Continuing Education office at 905-891-9263. **DO NOT CONTACT YOUR ELEMENTARY DAY SCHOOL FOR INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE INFORMATION.**

PROGRAM DATES: Saturday September 6, 2008
 LAST DAY OF CLASSES: Saturday June 6, 2009



**Glory to Jesus Christ!
 Glory forever!**

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Rezo del Canadian Martyrs Catholic School

Amado Señor,
 Háblanos para que nosotros, miembros de la comunidad de Canadian Martyrs Catholic School
 Atestiguemos que cada uno de nosotros
 es especial de manera propia.

Haz de cada uno de nosotros
 una luz pequeña que brilla
 en la oscuridad de este mundo,
 Una flama que resplandece brillantemente,
 Extendiendo Tu paz, amor y alegría
 A través de este mundo.

Guíanos a lo largo de cada día y noche
 y
 deja que Tu luz brille dentro de nosotros.

Amen

**NEWSLETTER CONTEST SUBMISSION
 FORM**

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

Student's Name: _____

Grade: _____

Teacher: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Please cut out and submit entries to the office by the October 10th deadline.

