

Canadian Martyrs Catholic School

1185 Mississauga Valley Blvd., Mississauga Ontario L5A 3R7

Telephone: 905-275-0094 Fax: 905-275-8187

Principal: C. Blanchard
Vice Principal: J. Rienzo
Secretaries: M. Lo-Giudice
S. Gomes
Superintendent: L. McGuire 905-890-1221
Trustee: A. Abbruscato 905-890-1221
Anna.Aabbruscato@dpcdsb.org
905-602-5308

Parish: Sts. Peter and Paul
4070 Central Pkwy. E.
Mississauga, ON
905-273-6630
Pastor: Father Paranas
Father Mnyagatwa

DECEMBER 2008 Newsletter No. 4



ADVENT

*The circle of this wreath will remind us
of the coming of Christ,
whose love for us has no end.
The light of these candles will remind us
of the coming of Christ,
who is the light of the world.
The green colour of these branches will
remind us of the coming of Christ,
who brings us eternal life.*

*My friends, let us bless the Lord.
By day and by night,
and through every season,
you watch over us, Lord.
We praise you for this Advent wreath.
It is the evergreen crown of your people,
and it shines with the promise of victory.
By the light of this wreath
we shall wait in patience for your Son
our Lord Jesus Christ.
He will comfort our fears
and bring hope to our waiting world.
All glory be yours, now and forever.
Amen*



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, do I give unto you; Let not your heart be troubled; nor let it be afraid." John 14:27

The Advent season is such an amazing time of year. The miracle of Jesus' birth and the wonders of his life seem so apparent in the celebrations around this time in the liturgical calendar.

The birth of Christ signaled to the world a hope....a hope for peace and kindness among all peoples. His birth also signaled to all humans the need to build community, to support one another in the dignity of creation and that we are a hopeful people. Our virtue focus this month - hope - is such a special virtue because of the miracle of Jesus' birth. That God would give us his son to show us the way shows us how much God does trust us to do the right thing and be who we are born to be.

As we walk together through this time of 'waiting', let's reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Trying to avoid the hype and excitement of the very commercial society we live in can help us catch a glimpse of what really is important during Advent and in life. Hope.

Special thanks are extended to the following contributors to our school community:

Our parish team Father Sol and Father William;
Our Catholic School Council Chair Mrs. Ribeiro ;
Our Trustee Mrs. Abbruscato;
Our Superintendent of Schools E. McGuire;
Our Lunch Hour Supervisor Mrs. Lahay;
Our Special Services Team Mrs. Clarke, Mrs. Cunliffe, Mr. Komorowsky and Mr. Scarpino;
Our ERWs who support our special needs students Ms. Eaton, Mrs. Bartolotta, Mrs. Nowak and Mrs. Valtas;
Our bus drivers and our crossing guards.
Our Kiss and Ride volunteers Mr. D'Sousa and Mrs. Falduti.

We look forward to continued success as we move forward together in the New Year. On behalf of all the staff at Canadian Martyrs Catholic School, we send our best wishes to you and your family for a truly Blessed Christmas.

FAITH ACTIVITIES

**Sts. Peter & Paul Parish
Christmas and New Year Mass Schedule**

December 24, 2008

12:10 PM-Regular Mass

4:30 PM-Children Mass

6:30 PM-Youth Mass
9:00PM-Italian Mass
12 Midnight-Parish Mass

December 25, 2008

7:45AM-English Mass
9:00 AM-Italian Mass
10:30AM-English Mass
12:00 NOON-English Mass

December 31, 2008

2:10 PM-Regular Mass
8:00 PM-English/Italian Mass

January 1, 2009

7:45 AM-English Mass
9:00 AM-Italian Mass
10:30 AM-English Mass
12:00 NOON-English Mass

VIRTUE FOR DECEMBER: HOPE

This month we will celebrate the virtue of Hope.

We believe that God comes to us as a real human who can show us the way of life. We understand that both the world and its people are from God and so are essentially good. Furthermore, God has given us this Advent season year after year in order to focus our minds and our hearts on the good around us. Year after year we are reminded that God chose to send his Son to us because we are worth it. God knows how great we can be when we all come together.

When we look at the world through the eyes of God we see it becoming more and more like the reign of God that Jesus describes.

People of hope...

- **Keep up a positive attitude**
- **Can bounce back from tough situations**
- **Set and stick to their goals**
- **See the good in others even when they make mistakes**
- **Work to include others**
- **Let others know that they are good people**

ADVENT

Advent began on Sunday, **November 30, 2008**. It is a period of simple living and extra prayer. It is a time to prepare for a new coming of Jesus, our Saviour. Advent means 'coming' a time when we remember Jesus' first coming, and prepare our hearts for a new coming. Jesus is a loving and peaceful Saviour. He calls his followers to make the whole world loving and peaceful.

During Advent, we prepare our homes and our lives for Jesus, the King of Glory and the Prince of Peace. Advent is also a time to reevaluate our priorities, to 'wake up' and to walk with God.

Advent is not only a time for meditation and prayer, but also a time for active service towards those who are poor in body and poor in spirit. It is a time to set aside differences and unite in peace and love.

Advent beckons us to go beyond our own misgivings and to reach out to those less fortunate.

- Like the shepherds, let us show we love Jesus by our efforts to be with Him.
- Like the Wise Men, let us not keep our wealth to ourselves but rather share it among those who have little.
- Like the little drummer boy; let us shout to the world, "Gloria in Excelsis Deo."

REMEMBRANCE DAY

On November 11th at 10:50 a.m. our whole school community paused to reflect on the sacrifices of our fellow Canadians during a beautiful, respectful liturgy. Thank you to all who were involved in making it very special and meaningful as we remembered those who have sacrificed so much for our freedom. Thank you to Ms. DelMonte, Mrs. Perozzo and Mrs. Manimendre and their students for organizing such a wonderful liturgy.

ADVENT MASS

You are invited to attend our school's Advent Mass to take place on Thursday, December 11, 2008 at 6 p.m. at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church. Please join us to celebrate our faith, pray as a community and have an opportunity to wish each other a blessed and joyful Christmas.

LIVING OUR FAITH AWARDS

Jordan H., Elena T., Megan M., Shanice J., Caitlin T., Asa'd E., Lucelia S., Christian M., Mia G., Aaron S., Megan S., Vasco V., Owen T., Collen T., Nicole V., Osaru O., David K., Spencer C., Mikel M., Alyanna N., Lurean G., Elisa B., Julia Z., Franchesqa F., Rita J., Karolina S., Christiana S., Isabelle N., Rafal C., Jacob T., Jessica B., Larysa H., Dominika M., Erika R., Jade A., Mario C., Christian H., Justin S., Savannah C., Alison S., Felicity J., Santiago S., Sachin F., Michael M., Adrian A., Grace C., Conchita D., Nikki T., Janice N., Givens O., Kristen C., Paulina F., Allan R., Michael P., Olivia F., DuVontaye G., Isabelle L., Gavin P., Adriana R., Kaylin S., Nicole G., Samuel C., Malcolm L., Nathan G., Shawn F., Gabriela H., Jayden A., Sergiy H., Thomas C., Benjamin L., Justin S., Andrea B., Manuela G., Kayla T., Natalia E., Nicole N., and George N.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

During Advent the staff and students will be taking time to get ready and prepare for Christmas with a number of events and opportunities to help us prepare for the celebration of the coming of the Lord.

- **Mitten Tree** - Parents are invited to encourage their child(ren) to bring in new hats, mittens, scarves or socks to decorate the tree in our front hall. All items will be donated to a charity to share the joy of the season with others in need.
- **Advent Mass** - December 11 at 6 p.m. at Sts. Peter and Paul Church
- Our students will participate in a variety of **Advent** celebrations in class during the weeks of Advent.
- **Food Drive** -Think of the tasty turkey, the creamy mashed potatoes with gravy, delicious stuffing and grandma's warm yummy apple pie fresh out of the oven. If you're able to have

this delicious meal, why shouldn't others? For many years Canadian Martyrs has held an annual Christmas Food Drive. You can provide a hearty meal by donating non-perishable foods like, Kraft dinner, canned goods (tuna, soup, beans), baby food, peanut butter and cereal. Donations can be dropped off in the food drive boxes located in the front foyer.

- **Help Keep Clean**-During the next few weeks we will be collecting personal hygiene products such as body soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, shampoo and hair conditioner. These products will be picked up by Sts. Peter and Paul Parish and distributed to the homeless. Please help us gather these items for those in need by sending them to school with your child. Labeled boxes for this collection are in the front foyer
- **POP those TABS!**-Many of us are able to run, jump, walk and ride, though there are many other people in our community that aren't able to. The only way they can get around is by using a wheelchair. Wheelchairs cost a lot of money and sometimes people who need them can't get them. That's why we are starting to collect pop tabs this year. Once we have gathered a "water cooler" full, they will be sent to the company where they will be melted for their aluminum content and be used to make wheel chair parts. To collect these tabs, each class will receive a large container. So next time you open a pop/juice can, save the tabs..and send them to school. Thank-you for helping us make someone's life a little easier to get around.
- **Prayers, poems and stories**, relating to the Christmas season will be shared on the school's P.A. system throughout the season of Advent.



YOUTH FAITH AMBASSADORS

The Youth Faith Ambassadors from each of the elementary schools in Mississauga East Family were commissioned in their role as Youth Faith Ambassadors by His Excellency, Archbishop Thomas Collins, in a very special Eucharistic Celebration on November 24th.

His Excellency shared an inspirational message of discipleship and the true meaning of living our faith with these students. Each YFA received a blessed prayer card of St. Paul as we celebrate the year of the saint. Representatives from four secondary schools spoke about the good work that they do in the name of our Lord. Their leadership was motivational and inspirational for the elementary students in attendance.

The grade 8 YFA that attended (Nicole G., Jasmin I., Sunshine M., Julianna M., Andrea V., Conchita D., Savina E., and Mrs. Valtas - ERW) will share their experience in a special commissioning service with YFA's in grade 7 on December 4th.

CURRICULUM NEWS

PARENT/ TEACHER/ STUDENT CONFERENCES

Conference request forms were sent home on November 21. On Tuesday, December 2nd, report cards for the first term will be sent home for all students from grade 1 to grade 8. The evening of Thursday, December 4th and during the day on Friday,

December 5th are set aside to conduct conferences. Conference confirmation time will be enclosed with the report card.

Conferences for our JK and SK students will also be conducted at that time but formal report cards are not prepared for these students.

All parent/guardians are asked to please complete page three of the report card to outline your comments/goals that will aid your child's programme. Please return the completed page three to the teacher at interview time or during the week after interviews.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Check out our school web site. Access the site through the School Board's website at <http://www.dpcdsb.org/cec>.

INSTRUCTIONAL TIME

When students are at school, the Ministry of Education expects certain amounts of instructional time per subject in order for students to meet curricular expectations. To that end, please be aware that students are not available to meet with parents or receive or make calls during instructional time. In unusual circumstances, you may leave a message with the secretary who will ensure your child receives your message. Messages would be communicated to the student at recess or lunch times so as not to interrupt classroom instructional time. It is advisable for safety - and instructional - reasons to make any arrangements with your child(ren) the evening before. Thank you for your cooperation.

2007-2008 E.Q.A.O. RESULTS

School, Board and Provincial Achievement Results: 2007-2008

School results on the EQAO Grades 3 & 6 reading assessments indicate that the school-wide emphasis on reading has produced a marked improvement in our students' reading and mathematical skills. Our Grades 3 and 6 results in reading and mathematics have exceeded the results from the previous year. Our writing results show some improvement from the previous year but suggest that there is room for improvement. Our students continue to make improvements in all areas of the literacy (reading and writing) program. Renewed focus on the area of mathematics will continue.

Percent of students, enrolled in the grade (Method 1), who scored at and above the provincial standard (Levels 3 & 4):

	Reading (All Students) Levels 3,4	Writing (All Students) Levels 3,4	Mathematics (All Students) Levels 3,4
Grade 3 (07-08)			
School	69%	76%	67%
Board	65%	71%	68%
Province	61%	66%	68%

Grade 6 (07-08)			
School	72%	80%	59%
Board	70%	72%	62%
Province	66%	67%	61%

SCHOOL EVENTS AND NEWS

MOVE-A-THON

Our Catholic School Council organized a fundraising Move-a-thon on October 24. All classes participated to raise funds to support Council initiatives to enhance the program and environment of our school. Many thanks to Council, and to staff, for their continued support. Congratulations to the winners of prizes at the Moveathon: Damian S., Nathan F., Sareena P., Michell M., Kyle H., Ashleigh S., Alanis P., Noah L., Natalie P., Juliana L., Payton S., Sydelle S.

Congratulations as well to the classes in each division who raised the most money: Mrs. Ciampa, Ms. Giovinnazzo, Mrs. Perozzo and Mrs. Cardoz. These classes will receive a free pizza lunch!

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our generous Catholic School Council has approved and allocated the following funds for school projects: \$4200 for Scientists in Classroom (1 per class); Grad \$500; Trips \$2 per student; Presentations - Primary \$800 and Jr INT \$1000; Agenda \$2 per student; Pavement games \$300. They also plan on subsidizing our year book, Sacramental preparation, peace garden stepping stone project (Spring 09) and Literacy camp. Please say thank you whenever you can.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION BOARD

There is a bulletin board in the school hallway near the main office for posting of information of interest to Canadian Martyrs School Community members. Please take note of this information when you are visiting the school. If you have information you'd like to display on this bulletin board, please provide a copy to the office for approval.

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER CONTEST

Congratulations to Katrina C. for winning the submission for reading the November newsletter. Look for the entry form at the end of this newsletter. The deadline for December submissions to the office is December 10.

JUNIOR & SENIOR KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR 2009-10

Registration for the 2009-10 school year will be held at all Dufferin-Peel Catholic elementary schools on the following dates:
 Monday, February 23, 2009 - 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.*
 *Snow Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2009 - 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
 Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, February 25, 26 & 27, 2009
 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Junior Kindergarten - Children must be 4 years old by Dec. 31, 2009

Senior Kindergarten - Children must be 5 years old by Dec. 31, 2009

Parents/Guardians should bring the following documents when registering their child:

- proof of age
- original Catholic Baptismal Certificate of the Roman, Greek or Ukrainian Rite, for parent (one) and child (if the child has not been baptized, a letter of counselling with the parish priest, to complete the process will be accepted)
- updated immunization records
- proof of Canadian citizenship or of Landed Immigrant status
- proof of address (utility bill, bank or credit card statement)
- for schools in Caledon and Dufferin County: emergency rural address numbers for identifying your property

For more information, contact your local Catholic school or call the Admissions Department at 905-890-0708 ext. 24500.

REMINDERS

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAY

There is no school for students on Friday, December 5, 2008. Teachers will be involved in reporting to parents on pupil progress.

EXTENDED FRENCH INFORMATION MEETING

Parents of grade 4 students interested in the Extended French program are invited to attend an information meeting. The meetings are on Jan 27 at 7 p.m. at St. Thomas More, 3270 Tomken Rd, Mississauga 905-279-6472 and Jan 29 at 7 p.m. at San Lorenzo Ruiz, 100 Barondale Dr, Mississauga 905-501-0400.

FRENCH IMMERSION PILOT PROGRAM

French immersion is a Canadian educational program designed to give students whose first language is not French the opportunity to learn in the French language. The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board is pleased to offer a pilot French Immersion program starting in Grade 1 at two sites in September 2008. Students registered in this program will spend 90% of their day learning in the French language. All subjects and activities in the French Immersion classroom, except for English language arts, will be delivered in French. Information Meetings for the 2009-2010 French Immersion Program January 26 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Margaret of Scotland School, 2266 Council Ring Road, Mississauga.

PARKING CONTROL

Parking Control has been coming by often to remind individuals they must not park their car then leave the vehicle when in the Kiss and Ride or on the street. They also want us to know the fine is now \$60. Parking Control operates independently of the School Board.

MEDICATIONS

A reminder that we will not administer any form of medications without a doctor's written directions and consent per Board policy. If your child requires medications that cannot be administered before or after school, contact the office to receive a Medication Storage Form for your doctor to complete. Medications include all prescription drugs and all over the counter medications such as Tylenol, cold syrups etc. Please do not send your child to school with any type of medications without prior permission due to safety reasons.

WINTER WEATHER

The days are starting to get colder and winter will soon arrive. We ask that students dress appropriately; i.e. coats, hats, mitts, boots etc. When students are dressed warmly, they are better prepared to participate in outdoor activities during recess.

In the colder weather we receive requests to allow children to remain indoors when students have a cold, flu, etc. Please note that we cannot comply, as we neither have the facilities or the staff to supervise the students.

On extremely cold days when the wind chill factor lowers temperature considerably, we will limit the amount of time that students spend outdoors. Dufferin-Peel C.D.S.B. Policy uses a Wind Chill factor of -25 C as the determining temperature. With the exception of these occasions, we expect that all children will go outdoors for recess and lunch break.

See attached information regarding **Bus Cancellations/School Closings due to Bad Weather 2008-2009.**

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

The last day of school for students will be December 19, 2008. Students return to school on January 5, 2009.

DON'T BE LATE!

We are concerned about students who are consistently late for school. All students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8, should be at school *on time*. This prevents interruption of classes and loss of information to the students. Please encourage and assist your children to recognize that punctuality is a responsibility that all students should be developing. Staff have been directed not to admit any student to the classroom who is late unless they have received a late slip from the office.

SAFETY AT SCHOOL

Please review the following procedures to help us provide a safe learning environment for your children.

- all parents/visitors are required to sign in at the main office and receive a visitor's sticker;
- if students are leaving school early, parents/guardians are asked to pick up their children at the office and sign them out;
- if students are returning from appointments during the day, parents/guardians are asked to sign students back in;
- when meeting students at dismissal times, parents/ guardians are asked to wait outside the school entrances and not in the hallways of the school;

- parents are asked not to be in the schoolyard during all recess times (Please remember that to most of the children in the yard, including the teachers on duty, you are a stranger.);
 - vehicles are not to be parked in the parking lot where they obstruct the flow of traffic in and out;
 - the school day begins at 8:30 a.m. Staff will be on duty beginning at 8:15 a.m. Please do not drop off your children or send them to school before these times, as supervision will not be available. This also applies to inclement weather days.
- Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

KISS AND RIDE

Please be very careful when dropping off students or picking them up at dismissal time. Parents must never leave their cars and the idea of a kiss and ride is to drop off or pick up and move on. Parking control may come at some point and tickets will be issued.

It is also very important that everyone exercise patience at these busy times...remember there are many students around at those times. If you would like to volunteer to monitor the kiss and ride, especially at the end of the day, please let the office know. We would welcome your help. Many thanks to Mrs. Faldutti and Mr. D'Sousa who consistently help us out in the morning with the kiss and ride.

A reminder to thank our dedicated volunteers when you have the opportunity.

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

Bus Safety rules have been reviewed with all our students who regularly travel by bus and a pamphlet provided to parents with these reminders. Our Catholic Code of Conduct also applies to the school bus. When there is an issue on the bus, students must report the issue to the bus driver. The bus driver will issue a warning and/or a follow up "pink slip" to the school. Upon receiving a pink slip the student would be asked to discuss the problem with the principal. If a second pink slip is received then a letter to parents and further consequences may be initiated. A third pink slip would result in the removal of bus privileges for a period of time. Please remind your child(ren) of the importance of maintaining a safe environment on the bus.



I have read the December 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 December 10th deadline.