

Canadian Martyrs Catholic School

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MARCH 2009
Newsletter No. 8

A LENTEN PRAYER

GOOD AND GRACIOUS GOD, you call your people back to you this Lent.

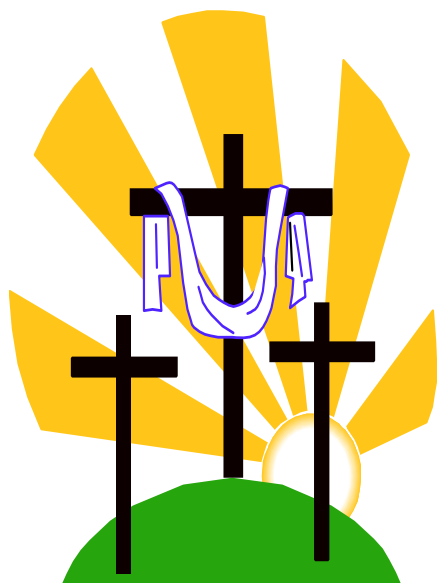
May this sacred season renew our desire to live fully the promises of our baptism and to love you with a whole heart.

Through more frequent prayer, acts of charity, and fasting, may we remember that loving you and one another is the most important thing we can do.

In confidence, we ask these things through Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord and Savior.

Amen

The word Lent comes from an old Latin word that means springtime. During spring (coming up soon!), daylight hours increase, trees begin to bud and flowers blossom. As nature literally "renews" itself, we too are asked to renew our hearts and repair our relationship with God and with each other.



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

"In Catholic Education we open up the hearts of our students to find Christ in thousands of places that society and culture will not go, but where Christ most assuredly can be found."

Build Bethlehem Everywhere: CCSTA

Christ can be found everywhere that we care to look; but finding Christ in those who are in need or are different from us can be a challenge for we mere mortals. That is the place we need to look, to include and to love as we open our hearts. So where do we look in our community? Perhaps by considering the things that make us uncomfortable we can gain a clue to where we can find Christ.

Maybe this clue can be found in the faces of the person we walk past as we hurry to a restaurant or theatre or the person we shy away from in a mall because they seem strange to us or different. Maybe the clue is in the faces of those who we see each day who are stressed, worn and drained from life's harried pace. Perhaps it's in places such as these that we can catch a glimpse of Christ. And what do we do when we catch that glimpse?

To be Catholics we need to understand that it is in these glimpses we find Jesus.....so what would we do if we saw Jesus? We would likely smile. What if he were in need? We would likely help him. So, if we truly believe Christ can be found everywhere, in the faces of the poor, the hungry, the weak or the proud, then we should automatically know what to do. Embrace the opportunity to know God in his human form and help make our world truly a place where rebirth, new beginnings and hope will live for as long as people can see Christ.

Happy Easter every one !

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



Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

MARCH: THE VIRTUE OF KINDNESS

This month we will celebrate the virtue of kindness. God has given us the gifts of friends and companions to keep us company and to help us along the way. Every person in our lives carries the Spirit of God - and so every person is our brother or sister through Jesus Christ.

As brothers and sisters who share one Holy Spirit, we are all valuable to God. We all deserve to be shown concern for our welfare and our feelings. We have all been given the fruit of the Spirit called kindness.

Kindness can only be seen through actions. It's not enough to say I will be kind or I am kind. We must show that we are kind by our words and our actions. Through prayer and concentration, we can get better at showing kindness to everyone we meet.

A kind person....

- *Says nice things about others so they feel good about themselves;*
- *Sticks up for people who are picked on or need help;*
- *Refuses to join others who are insulting, intimidating, mean or hurtful;*
- *Watches and looks for ways to help those in need.*

LENTEN FAST AND ABSTINENCE

The Church teaches that Catholics in good health are to observe the following practices during Lent unless some serious reason they are unable to do so:

Fast: Catholics from Age 18-59 are to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On a fast day, one limits oneself to one full meal and two smaller meals, with no snacking between meals.

Abstinence: Catholics of age 14 and older abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent.

SCHOOL LITURGIES

Our Ash Wednesday liturgy was held on February 25 and was a beautiful reminder of the faith development of our students. Thank you to Ms. Oslach and Ms. Rapa and their talented students who organized the liturgy.

Our Easter Mass will be on April 15 at 9 a.m. in the school gym.

CURRICULUM NEWS

EQAO ASSESSMENTS

All grade 3 and 6 students in Ontario will again be participating in the Education Quality and Accountability Office Provincial Assessments. At Canadian Martyrs, these assessments are scheduled to take place:

Gr. 3's: May 26, May 28, June 3

Gr. 6's: May 27, June 2, June 4

We ask that parents please avoid medical and dental appointments for grade 3 and grade 6 children during the assessment period. More specific communication and information will be forthcoming just prior to the start of the assessment.

GR 7 AND 8 SUMMER SCHOOL

Summer School is available to the Grade 7 and 8 students recommended by the Principal. Summer school will be held for remedial literacy and numeracy during July. Busing is provided FROM Canadian Martyrs Catholic School.

Further summer school information and applications will be sent home when available. If you believe your child could benefit from summer school please speak with your child's teacher.

REPORT CARDS TERM 2

On March 24 report cards will be sent home for all students from grade SK to 8. Requests for Parent/Teacher/Student conferences (interviews) for grade 1 to grade 8 will go home on February 23 and are due back to the office on March 4.

When these forms are returned, teachers will then set up a Conference schedule and you will be notified with the report card of your conference time. The evening of March 26 will be used to conduct these conferences. Please note that due to time limitations, some conferences will need to be scheduled on other days before school starts in the morning, during the day, shortly after dismissal or during the teacher's planning time. We are looking forward to a productive second term reporting conference.

TIPS FOR PARENTS

There are many things a parent can do at home to support their child(ren)'s learning and to develop a positive attitude toward school.

- Talk with your child about school, their friends and everyday events. Show you are interested.
- Read every day with your child and/or encourage them to read for fun. Discuss what they have read.
- Monitor your child's television, video game and internet interactions and talk with them about what they are watching or involved with.

- Supervise homework, making sure your child has a place to work, a set homework time and that their assignments are completed.
- Encourage your child to write.
- Encourage exercise and good nutrition.
- Provide learning experiences outside of school. For example, visit the library, museums, zoo, and historical sites.
- Communicate that education is important and encourage your child to do well.
- Promote good discipline - children don't know intuitively how to behave; parents must teach them.

SCHOOL EVENTS AND NEWS

SPIRIT WEEK

Encourage your child to be part of the fun during Canadian Martyrs Spirit Week March 9-13. The theme days are as follows:

Mon Mar 9	crazy hat day
Tues Mar 10	pyjama day, LOF assembly in the p.m. followed by class "chant-off" in gym
Wed Mar 11	crazy hair day
Thurs Mar 12	wear the colours of your country's flag
Fri Mar 13	wear your favourite sports jersey

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Jessica B who placed second in the Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Women's League Public Speaking Contest. Well done Jessica!

LIVING OUR FAITH AWARDS

Our February Living Our Faith Awards were held on February 19. Congratulations to the following students who received an award this month: Michael R., Jaylyn P., Nichole R., Camilo C., Victoria F., Emily B., Dylan B., Damien J., Rachel R., Taylor F., Riley D., Shaun T., Sebastian D., Alyssa F., Daniela P., Matt M., Jordan S., Anthony R., Juliana M., Jerome M., Kenneth M., Katherine R., Jessica B., Keane F., Kira M., Katie S., Michael M., Alyssa C., Joanna H., Kate K., Jessica G., Jade S., Tanya S., Mike S., Anika A., Kaitlyn D., Juan S., Andres D., Valentina G., David G., Johann M., Rynette N., Jorge S., Phillip F., Celine H., Corey L., Raquel D., Daniel M., Mason P., Tavion K., Eryk P., Rocco M., Jennel M., Dillaun L., Shangen R., Dona S., David S., Tyrese S., Xavier P., Caesar N., Thomas C., Neesha D., Melanie A., Juanita C., Kasia M., Christopher F., Tommy G., Nicole K., Joshua M., Nikki G., Paula I., Diego V.

CANADIAN MARTYRS PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

This year marks 40 years of Catholic Education in Dufferin-Peel. To commemorate this anniversary, the Board is holding various events and activities throughout the year. Students

in grades 4-8 were invited to participate in a public speaking competition to share their insights on "**The Value of Catholic Education**".

Students who volunteered to participate in this event will have an opportunity to present their speech to an audience of peers, parents, teachers and a panel of 3 judges on **Friday, March 13, 2009 at 8:45 a.m. in the gym**. All parents are welcome to attend. One junior (grade 4-6) winner and one intermediate (grade 7-8) winner will advance to the Family of Schools Competition (**March 27, 2009**). The winners of the Family competition will then advance to the Board.

SHARELIFE "SPELLING BEE"

As part of our school effort to raise funds for SHARELIFE, we are holding a "Spelling Bee". Each class will be given a number of words appropriate to their grade level. The students will have some time to practice and be ready for the "Spelling Bee" on March 11, 2009. Junior Kindergartens will be asked to write some letters of the alphabet instead of words. Sponsor sheets have already been sent home. Please encourage your children to participate in raising funds for this very worthwhile charity.

NEWSLETTER READING CONTEST

Congratulations to Tea P., who won the February newsletter reading contest. Entries for the March contest are due to the school office by March 13.

MEDICATION FOR STUDENTS

Due to safety issues and concerns, and in accordance with Board policy, **medication must not be sent to the school for students**. We ask that when possible, the medication be taken at home during lunch hour if you are at home, or a schedule is arranged for the medication to be taken at home just prior to school and/or right after school.

If a student requires medication daily or for a short period of time, Form GF 035 must be completed by the attending physician and signed by the parents requesting storage of medication in the school. A copy of this form is available at the school office for your use. Medication is to be kept in the office. We ask parents not to send medication with their children in their lunch bags. This creates a potential health and safety issue.

LOCK DOWN PRACTICE

We are required to practice lock down twice a year. Please be aware this practice will be explained to children carefully in the context of safety. We had a practice on February 12.

BOARD SYSTEM REVIEW

The full overview of the Board's system review will be shared at the Catholic School Council meeting scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on March 9, 2009.

System Survey indicates that Catholic education is strong in Dufferin-Peel schools

Forty years have elapsed since the amalgamation of eight local Catholic school boards into a single school district that would provide Catholic education to children and families in the Region of Peel and Dufferin County. Over these four decades, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board has grown from twenty-seven Catholic elementary schools, in 1969, to one of the province's largest school districts serving approximately 88,000 students in 122 elementary and 23 secondary schools located throughout Mississauga, Brampton, Caledon and Orangeville. With the board's 40th anniversary approaching, the Director of Education and Board of Trustees initiated a system review process intended to allow for consultation with the wider Catholic community in Peel and Dufferin on matters related to the board's strengths, challenges, and recommended areas of focus over the next three to five years.

Consisting primarily of surveys and small group meetings, the outcome of this consultative process was intended to provide trustees and senior management in Dufferin-Peel with a better understanding of the interests, concerns and accolades identified by local parents, Catholic school council members, pastors, senior students and recent graduates, unions, and associations. Equipped with the findings from this system review process, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board can set out in an informed manner on the journey of shaping and building its future.

The results are in and we were gratified to see that there is an overwhelming consensus that our Catholic schools are viewed as distinctly Catholic, safe, healthy, clean and educationally sound places to learn, grow in faith and prepare for post secondary education or the workplace.

Among the findings:

- ▶ Catholicity is a strength of this school board and that the Catholic faith is clearly demonstrated in local school communities.
- ▶ Dufferin-Peel schools are viewed as a distinct alternative to local public schools.
- ▶ Satisfaction with the overall quality of Catholic education in Dufferin-Peel schools is very high.

- ▶ Continued funding, vitality and relevance of Catholic education in Ontario is seen as a concern.
- ▶ Strong support for the provision and funding of quality core programs on a board-wide basis, rather than support for the funding of specialty programs at the expense of local school programming.
- ▶ Support for the board to continue to manage its resources responsibly, with transparency and accountability of financial reporting.
- ▶ Calls for increased funding for programs such as special education and/or English Language Learner needs.
- ▶ High levels of satisfaction with the safety and cleanliness of schools.
- ▶ Dufferin-Peel Catholic schools enhance the character development of students.
- ▶ Satisfaction with the level of extra curricular activities, program variety and transportation.

For more information on the Strategic System Review, please contact the school office or call the Communications & Community Relations Department at (905) 890-0708, ext. 24278.

REMINDERS

MARCH BREAK

March Break runs from March 16-20.

EASTER WEEKEND

There is no school for students on Good Friday, April 10 or Easter Monday, April 13.

COMBINED (SPLIT) CLASSES

We are in the process of developing class lists and staffing for the 2009-2010 school year. Please be aware that we will need to develop a number of combined classes - a reality in all schools in the province. Wherever possible we will make every attempt to ensure students currently in a combined class this school year at Martyrs will not be in a combined class for 2009-2010 but there is no guarantee. Until we finalize our enrolment in September all class arrangements - and teacher assignments - are tentative.

CLASS LISTS

All staff have input to the compilation of class lists. The goal of the extensive process we employ at Martyrs is to maximize the groupings of students to ensure we create the best possible educational environment for all our students.

The process involves grade teachers meeting to generate the proposed, tentative lists according to the following criteria;

1. Consider parental input outlining educational reasons for the placement of their children where possible (must be received by the Principal by the due date

of **May 8**). Please note, not wanting your child in a combined grade is not an educational reason.

2. Avoid having siblings, cousins, relatives or twins in the same class where possible.
3. Student levels are considered to ensure clear balance of level 1-2-3-4 students in each class.
4. Students with special education or special needs are considered in the groupings.
5. Students who have English as a Second Language needs are considered for the distribution.
6. Students with behavioural needs.
7. Students who facilitate the learning of others.
8. Students who inhibit the learning of others.
9. Number of male and female students.

The tentative lists are then reviewed by the Resource team for input. The Admin team has final review and input to the generated lists. All lists are confidential until the first day of school.

CLASS PLACEMENTS

Parents are invited to have input to the placement of their child for the 2009-2010 school year. Educational reasons will be considered when making up the class lists. All input must be received by the Principal by **May 8**.

PARKING ISSUES

Some parents are arriving prior to 8:15 a.m. and waiting in their parked cars with their children until the 8:30 a.m. bell. This is causing congestion in the parking lot and staff members are unable to park their vehicles. Please park on the streets where parking is permitted or arrive prior to the 8:30 a.m. bell and use the Kiss and Ride.

We are also having issues with parents parking in the front driveway after school. By doing this you are blocking emergency vehicles and buses. In addition, some parents are waiting in their cars **and calling their children to cross the busy driveway to their car**. This is very dangerous and you are asked to refrain from endangering your child in this manner.

CROSSING GUARD HOURS

Crossing guards are on duty at Central Parkway and Mississauga Valley during the following hours only: 8-8:30 a.m. ; 3-3:30 p.m. and at lunch time from 11:30 - 11:50 a.m. and 12:05 -12:30 p.m.

Please be aware that if your children are coming to school late they may be crossing busy intersections without the assistance of a crossing guard. At the end of the day school staff ensure all students have left the property before the

crossing guards finish. If students are late it is the parent's responsibility to make sure students arrive at school safe.

CHANGES TO ROUTINE

Parents are reminded once again that if there are changes to who will be picking up students to put this information in writing and submit to the office or your child's teacher the day before. This is especially important for our kindergarten students. Students will not be released to anyone other than the parent/guardian without written permission being received at the office.

A reminder as well that it is a **parental** responsibility to make arrangements that change routines well ahead of time. Secretaries will make attempts to pass on messages but are not responsible for passing on any late, same day changes to routines.

In addition, it is very important the office have telephone numbers where parents/guardians can be reached during the day. If you have changed your phone number or have a new cell number, please ensure the school is made aware.

BUS BEHAVIOUR AND ROUTINES

Please continue to reinforce with your child(ren) that behavioural expectations are the same when travelling to and from school on the bus or when on a school trip that involves bus travel. Students who cause problems on the bus will be given a pink slip. After the first pink slip there is a warning from the vice principal; second pink slip a written warning to parents; third pink slip suspension from bus privileges for a time and written notification to parents.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

To register for kindergarten, the parent/guardian should bring the following documents to Canadian Martyrs:

- proof of age - birth certificate;
- proof of address (lease or picture id with address);
- original Catholic Baptismal Certificate of the Roman, Greek, or Ukrainian Rite for both the parent and the child;
- immunization records;
- child's Ontario Health Card number(optional);
- proof of Canadian citizenship or of Landed Immigrant status.

If you know of families in our school area with Kindergarten age children, please pass on this information. Board wide registration was held on February 23 and during the day on February 25-27 but is also on going.

MOVING

We are in the process of planning staffing and organizing classes for the 2009-2010 school year. If you are planning on moving out of the Canadian Martyrs school area or simply changing address within our boundaries, please let the office know as soon as possible.



SUPERVISION IN THE MORNING - SCHOOL YARD

A reminder to parents dropping off children in the morning that supervision in the yard does not begin until 8:15 a.m. If you leave your child in the yard before 8:15 a.m. please be aware they **are not supervised**. Children are not to arrive or be dropped off before 8:15 a.m. since there is no supervision.

SUMMER LITERACY CAMP

Grades SK to 6

Wednesday July 6 to Friday July 31

2 or 4 week enrolment

Fee-for service

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

No transportation provided.

Deadline for applications: June 1

Locations Close to Martyrs: Fr. Daniel Zanon

St. Alfred

ELEMENTARY SUMMER SCHOOL

Grade 7 and 8 students -

remedial literacy and numeracy

Monday July 6 to Friday July 24

8:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Students recommended by the Principal

Busing provided at home school pick up points

Deadline for applications: June 1

Locations: Metropolitan Andrei

SUPPORT FOR NEWCOMER FAMILIES

Are you a parent new to Canada? Looking to connect better with services in the school and the community? Are you looking for support in the areas of employment or housing? Free English classes and other free programs? There is a Settlement Worker from Dixie Bloor Neighbourhood Centre at Canadian Martyrs on Mondays and Wednesdays, who can help you. For more information please contact Julia Chi at (647)248-3789.

FAMILY LITERACY WORKSHOPS

The Region of Peel's Children's Services offers a series of FREE FAMILY FUN NIGHTS for children age 0 - 6yrs, which

are held at various elementary schools and other locations across Peel.

What is Family Fun Night?

Family Fun Night is a series of 12 workshops that give parents the skills to help their child learn early reading and writing skills. Parents and children work together on activities that are fun and help children learn. It's a great family time to focus on early learning and help prepare children for school.

Who Leads these Sessions?

Numerous trained community volunteers run the Family Fun Night sessions. Volunteers are Early Childhood Educators, Teachers and other community professionals who are experienced and trained in early literacy.

What do we do at the Sessions?

In each session, volunteers give parents ideas on how to incorporate learning into every day living and regular home activities. Did you know that folding the laundry can be a math activity that helps your child learn to count, or learn "bigger" and "smaller?" Do you count how many floors the elevator moves in your building or how many green cars you see on the way to the store? Did you know that nursery rhymes can help your child learn different sounds which is a step towards reading? Each workshop has stories, songs, a snack time, and an activity for families to work on together. Parents that have attended these workshops during the last two years have reported they now read to their children more often, they have more reading materials at home and they have increased the amount of educational TV they watch with their child.

These sessions are available at Bishop Scalabrini.

For more information please visit this website:

<http://www.peelregion.ca/childcar/literacy/>

Or call 905-791-1585

INTERNET SAFETY: TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Get involved! Learn and follow what your children are doing online.
- Use a filtering software to protect your child from potentially harmful sites and programs.
- Have computers in common rooms where they can be easily supervised.
- Ensure the games your child is playing are appropriate for their age group.
- Assist your child with creating usernames and passwords that aren't easily identifiable.
- Limit the amount of time your child spends online.
- Your child should NOT be communicating in online chat rooms. A supervised and regulated MSN Messenger account is acceptable.

- Explain to your child that pictures should not be taken and/or received online.
- Encourage and enjoy family-fun websites like pbskids.org, ytv.com, tvokids.com, and disney.go.com which contain useful information and fun games.
- Inform your children about the negative effects an online profile (like a Facebook profile) can have on their life. Check out nsteens.org for a cool and informative video regarding profile penalty.

For more information regarding Internet Safety, visit these websites:

- www.kidsintheknow.ca
- www.cybertip.ca
- www.mediaawareness.ca
- www.nsteens.org
- www.peelpolice.on.ca
- www.opp.ca

Rezo del Canadian Martyrs Catholic School

Amado Señor,

Háblanos para que nosotros, miembros de la comunidad de
Canadian Martyrs Catholic School
Atestigüemos 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

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

Please cut out and submit entries to the office by the March 13 deadline.