

# Canadian Martyrs Catholic School

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Father Mnyagatwa

APRIL 2009  
Newsletter No. 9



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

*"God is love and whoever remains in love remains in God."*

1John4:16

Our virtue focus this month is love. That's not to say that we do not focus on love throughout the other months of the year. What it is saying is we need to bring this virtue front and center and continue to build on our understandings of what love is and what love isn't.

Love is life giving and helps us create a life full of joy, hope, creativity and blessings. Love is not one of anger, deceit or despair. As we continue to love one another we demonstrate in our purely human way that we too can live to the standards established by our Lord Jesus. As we struggle to love even those around us who cause issues or stress, we continue to let God's light shine through us.

Focusing on love through the Lenten season also helps us recognize the importance of the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made for each and every one of us. This we can respectfully reflect upon at Easter and marvel at the love He demonstrated so freely for our futures. As Catholic educators, the staff at Canadian Martyrs will continue to serve and to love the children entrusted to us as we strive to continue achieving at such high standards despite the many challenges that present themselves each day.

Let's continue to remain in love with God's community here as we march together toward the busy months ahead and celebrate the beauties and love shown us during the Lenten season. Happy Easter 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



## VIRTUE FOR APRIL: LOVE

This month we will celebrate the virtue of love. God has given us many guidelines and examples of how to live our lives. He sent his Son Jesus to make sure that we could see what life could be like.

Jesus made one lesson clear above all lessons - the lesson of love. Love is not about us - it is about forgetting ourselves and looking out for the good of the other. That's what Jesus did - he forgot about himself on purpose. He chose to give up his life for the good of others - us!

Becoming a truly loving person is challenging. It takes prayer and concentration to get used to making little sacrifices for the good of others. Making little sacrifices on purpose so that others will have a bit of food, a bit of shelter, a bit of peace, a bit of quiet, a bit of fun and a bit of friendship. Through prayer and concentration, we can get better at showing love to everyone we meet.

A loving person....

- Wants the best for others
- Is willing to make sacrifices for the good of others
- Learns from the heroic lives of saints and holy people
- Knows that we are all lovable
- Prays for others.

### **SCHOOL LITURGIES**

Please join us for our spring liturgy scheduled for our Easter Liturgy on April 15 at 9 a.m. in the school gym.

### **SACRAMENTS**

Our Grade 2 students will receive the sacrament of First Eucharist on April 25 at 5 p.m. or on April 26 at the regularly scheduled masses at Sts. Peter and Paul Church.

Our Grade 8 students will receive the sacrament of Confirmation at any of the regularly scheduled masses on May 16 at the 5 p.m. mass or May 17 at the regularly scheduled masses at Sts. Peter and Paul Church.

Registrations, retreats and community service for the sacraments have been completed by these dates. Please keep these young people in your prayers as they embrace such important steps in their spiritual life.

### **SHARE LIFE CAMPAIGN**

The staff and students of Canadian Martyrs School continue to actively participate in Share Life fundraising. Every Friday staff dress down and donate funds to Share Life. In addition, the Spelling Bee raised considerable funds for Share Life. To date, we have raised an astounding \$3329.92 for Catholic Charities! Many thanks to Mrs. Manimendre for organizing such a successful campaign.

Share Life funds will be presented to the Parish at our end of year mass on June 16 at 9:30 a.m.

### **CURRICULUM NEWS**

#### **EARLY RELEASE DAY**

The Board has designated several Early Dismissal days for this school year to enable teachers to participate in curriculum development opportunities.

A reminder for parents that the third of our Early Dismissal days will be on April 2. Students will be dismissed from school at 11:30 a.m. Morning Kindergarten students will be dismissed according to their regular schedule. Students who normally travel to and from by bus will be transported home at that time.

### **SUMMER LITERACY CAMP**

Summer Literacy Camps will be held at a variety of locations in the Board from July 6 to July 31<sup>st</sup> for SK to grade 6 students. Please see the attached information regarding this program. Contact your child's teacher to discuss this possibility for your child and to obtain an application form. As indicated on the information sheet, there is a cost for this program - \$ 200 for 2 weeks and \$ 380 for 4 weeks.

### **GRADE 7 AND 8 SUMMER SCHOOL**

Our grade 7 and 8 students are eligible to attend Literacy, numeracy and ESL classes from July 6 to 24th. Our students would be transported by bus from Canadian Martyrs to our neighbouring school Metropolitan Andrei. Classes are from 8:30 - 12:30 daily. There is no cost for this program. If you believe your child would benefit from this program please contact your child's teacher for an application.

### **CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK**

Catholic Education Week this year takes place from **May 3- May 8, 2009**. During this week the Catholic community celebrates the unique and distinctive contribution that Catholic schools make to our students, our community and our Province. Catholic Education Week is a welcome opportunity to celebrate the mission of our Catholic schools as they strive to integrate the Gospel values of Jesus Christ in every aspect of the school's life and curriculum.

This year's theme is "**Catholic Education: Good News for All**". Five sub-themes, one for each of the five days of Catholic Education Week 2009, help students to understand the rich meaning of this year's theme:

- Day 1... Embracing Hope
- Day 2... Celebrating with Joy
- Day 3... Building Community
- Day 4... Growing in Integrity
- Day 5... Living with Gratitude

Catholic Education Week 2009 begins on a Sunday to highlight the partnership that remains the foundation of Catholic education. We particularly want to underline the relationship of Catholic schools with the broader Church community, especially with the parishes that remain the centre of the worshipping faith community.

Throughout Catholic Education Week, we ask you to reflect on the significance of Catholic Education's presence and contribution in our Church, and in our society. We invite all members of our community, especially our parents/guardians, to participate in the celebrations and activities that will mark

the celebration of Catholic Education Week 2009 at our school.

### **DISTRICT REVIEW**

Our school has been selected as one of five schools to participate in a Ministry of Education District Review. The Review consists of meetings with teachers and Admin to discuss how our students are achieving and the strategies we use within the classroom to help them be successful. We welcome the visitors to our school and are looking forward to discussions to further refine our curricular focus for the upcoming school year. Visitors may visit classroom on April 14 and 21.

### **EQAO**

All grade 3 and 6 students in Ontario will again be participating in the Education Quality and Accountability Office Provincial Assessments scheduled to take place between May 31 and May 11. At Canadian Martyrs, our students will participate in the assessments on the following days: Grade 3: May 26, June 2, 4 Gr 6: May 27, 28, Jn 3.

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.

### **SCHOOL EVENTS AND NEWS**

#### **HARMONY GROUP**

We are very pleased that a group of our grade 6 and 7 students will participate in a leadership training program here at Canadian Martyrs led by the Harmony Group.

Our Superintendent E. McGuire has funded this special project. Twenty five students will meet at lunch time in the school library once per week for 6 to 8 weeks to participate in developing their skills. We look forward to their final projects and how they will enrich our school community. Many thanks to Mrs. Hilton who will coordinate the sessions.

#### **UNITED KINGDOM VISITORS**

On April 6, our school will be visited by a group of teachers from Oxfordshire, UK. During their visit, they will be talking to staff members and students to further enhance their learning and to hear of the wonderful initiatives that our school and the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board have in place for our students. We welcome these visitors to our community and hope they enjoy their stay with us.

### **ALL STAR READING PROGRAM**

The All Star Reading Program, one of our supports for helping students achieve in reading, has stopped. The program involves volunteers and at this point we do not have anyone coming forward to help us with this important support. If you are someone you know would like to be part of this program please contact the school office. The schedule is flexible can be as little or as much as you can afford us in your schedule.

### **MARY MATTHEWS PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST**

Congratulations to Jessica B. for being the 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner at the Mary Matthews Public Speaking contest with her topic on Alcoholism.

### **PUBLIC SPEAKING**

Congratulations to Sachin F. (Gr. 5) and Conchita D. (Gr. 8) WHO represented Canadian Martyrs at the Family Public Speaking Competition on "The Value of Catholic Education".

### **DANCEATHON ERROR**

In October our Catholic School Council organized a Danceathon to raise funds for many worthy initiatives within the school. An error was made on some of the pledge envelopes indicating the company, Presswood, would issue tax receipts. In fact, the company will not be issuing tax receipts. As you are aware, the school is not permitted to issue such receipts. Our apologies for the error and the inconvenience it may have caused some of our families.

### **LIVING OUR FAITH AWARDS**

Living Our Faith Awards were presented to the following students for the month of March: Candice R., Gabrielle G., Alessia G., Andrew S., Marsela S., Nicole T., Isabel S., Chelsea T., Andrew Y., Jeremy D., Joanna H., Alanis P., Allen U., Markiyah V., Priscila G., Katelynn T., Matthew M., Aidan S., Damien F., Olivia S., Luciano F., Joesph G., Spencer C., Michael G., Gweynne O., Vanessa S., Gareth M., Matthew D., Sydelle S., Michael S., Vibusha D., Mason P., Daniel S., Gerrad J., Monica W., T'ziah K., Emily K., Camilo J., Ethan S., Andrea R., Mikhayla D., Cassidy R., Romina Q., Michael L., Chinedu U., Whitney L., Jaime R., Rocio S., Pranay N., Conchita D., Angelo G., Sadik H., Danielle S., Pawel J., Nicole N., Joesph R., Jose R., Paul N., Gaetano R., David T., Jade A., Marsha S., Eve M., Sandra M., Isabella A., Victoria M., Juan M., Andrea A., Jonathan L., Nikki T., Lawrence V., and Janice N. Congratulations students!

## **NEWSLETTER READING CONTEST**

Congratulations to Erika R. who won the March newsletter reading contest. Entries for the April contest are due to the school office by April 10.

## **KISS AND RIDE**

Parents please remember to drive through the Kiss n Ride to drop of your child(ren) and not to let them out of the vehicle at the front of the school or in the drive through lane. This is dangerous and irresponsible behaviour. Students are never to cross through traffic without an adult assisting.

Many thanks to our amazing volunteers Mr. D'Souza and Mrs. Falduti who make the Kiss and Ride run so smoothly.

## **REMINDERS**

### **LOST AND FOUND**

Please encourage your child to check the lost and found often. We accumulate a great deal of found items and have displayed them for several weeks before March break. Many of these items are very much usable. Any items not claimed are donated to local charities.

### **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.

### **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. Until we finalize our enrolment in September all class arrangements - and teacher assignments - are tentative. Please review the attached information pamphlet provided by the Ministry of Education regarding combined classes.

### **FLEX BOUNDARY**

As you may be aware, students who live outside our school boundary are not eligible to attend Canadian Martyrs School. However, from time to time, permission is granted for some of these out of bounds students to attend through the Board's Flexible Boundary Policy. These families will be receiving a letter in April requesting information regarding intentions for September 2009. If your child is attending Canadian Martyrs through this policy, please respond to the

letter that comes home as soon as possible. This is one of the pieces of information we need in order to plan for September classroom arrangements.

## **STUDENTS LEAVING FOR LUNCH**

Please be advised that students require a signed parental note before permission is granted to leave school property during lunch recess unless this has been arranged by parents beforehand. Notes are to be given to the office when students sign out. Students will not be permitted to call home if notes are forgotten. Please remind your child they must return at 12:30 p.m.

Many students do leave the school with permission to go to fast food places near by. Please understand that these students are not supervised when off school property during lunch recess and are the responsibility of the parent. This is especially important for parents of our primary and junior students to consider. In addition, the crossing guards do not operate at Central Parkway and Burnhamthorpe Rd and students cross there on their own.

## **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.  
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.

Thank you to these diligent City crossing guards who help us so much in ensuring students cross the busy streets safely.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL TIME**

We continue to have parents who expect students to be called from the classroom for a variety of reasons. Please be advised that instructional time will not be interrupted, unless there is a clear emergency. Any arrangements that at times precipitate these interruptions should be made prior to the child coming to school in the morning. Please inform your child's teacher in **writing** if you will need to pick up your child for a medical appointment that could not be arranged after school hours.

## LOCK DOWN DRILL

Last month we held a whole school lock down drill. This drill is to prepare for the unlikely eventuality that a dangerous person is in the school. At a signal, the teachers lock the classroom door and students lie on the floor away from doors and windows. Board policy requires two such drills a year. We hope we never need to use this process but we are prepared.

## SAFETY

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 at a designated spot and not in the hallways of the school;
  - parents are asked not to be in the schoolyard during 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 at the front of the school in the drive through traffic lane or the bus lane - parking control does continue to issue tickets and the school is not responsible for those who choose to break municipal laws;
  - the school day begins at 8:30 a.m. There will be staff 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;
  - please continue to phone in your child's absences.
- Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

## STREETPROOFING YOUR CHILDREN

- Make sure they know basic information about themselves: their name, address and phone numbers.
- Explain that it's okay to say no to adults who ask them to do anything that makes them uncomfortable.
- Tell them never to invite a stranger into their home.
- They are not to admit to anyone on the phone or at the door that they are home alone. If someone phones asking for their parents remind children to take a message and say their parents are busy and will get back to them.
- Tell children to never disclose the location of their bedroom or personal information about themselves to a stranger.

- If an unknown person approaches a child on the street or at home, advise the child to run away, yell and find a trusted adult.
- Use a code word that only the parent and child know if someone other than the child's parent is picking him or her up and the child doesn't know about it.
- Teach your child never to enter someone's car or home without the parents' permission.
- Teach your kids never to take a short cut home and avoid going down alleyways, strange places, deserted buildings or isolated areas.

## TRANSPORTATION

Transportation eligibility is determined by a student's **home** address. Only students eligible for transportation will be provided transportation. By the end of October flex boundary students and students who are not eligible for transportation may apply to the principal through the Empty Seat Policy for permission to ride the bus. These students must not ride the bus without permission and will be removed and parents contacted if this should occur.



At Canadian Martyrs the only students eligible for bussing are our kindergarten students.

Once the school office receives a letter requesting permission to ride, the Transportation Department will be contacted to determine whether there are seats available on the bus and a written response to the parent/guardian will be provided. Please be aware that no seats will be granted until the Transportation Department completes finalizes the bus routes by the end of October.

## 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. Families with students who live outside our school area are reminded they must apply through the Flex Boundary Policy to the principal for permission to attend the school in September 2009. Flex Boundary permission is for one year only.



## PARKING ON BOARD PROPERTY

Reminder that Parking is not permitted on Board property without permits. Violators will be ticketed and/or towed.

**DPCDSB ADULT AND CONTINUING EDUCATION ADULT COOP**

For more information please call us at:  
905-891-3934 (Mississauga)  
905-362-0701 (Malton) or  
[www.dpcdsb.org/coopcentre](http://www.dpcdsb.org/coopcentre)

Co-Op Office Skills Program  
Co-op Foreign Trained Professionals Program

- On-going adult registrations
- In class and field placement components

Life Long Learning!

**SECONDARY SUMMER SCHOOL 2009 DPCDSB**

Information regarding Secondary Summer School 2009 will be available the first week of April on the DPCDSB Adult and Continuing Education website.  
<http://www.dpcdsb.org/CEC/CNE/Credit+Courses/Summer+School+2009.htm>

Summer 2009 Dates  
New/Full Make-Up Credit Thursday July 2 to Friday July 31, 2009  
Make-Up Session 1 Thursday July 2 to Thursday July 16, 2009  
Make-Up Session 2 Friday July 17 to Friday July 31, 2009  
Brampton Locations  
\*Cardinal Leger SS \*St. Thomas Aquinas \*St. Marcellinus SS  
Mississauga Locations  
\*John Cabot SS \*Loyola SS \*St. Joan of Arc SS \*St. Joseph SS

**Canadian Martyrs Catholic School Prayer**

Dear Lord,  
Speak to us so that we members of the  
Canadian Martyrs Catholic School community  
witness that each of us  
is special in our own way.

Make each one of us  
like a little light that glows  
in the darkness of this world,  
A little flame that shines brightly,  
spreading Your peace, love and joy  
throughout the world.

Guide us through each day and night  
and  
let Your light shine through us.

Amen



I have read the April 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 April 10 deadline.