

Canadian Martyrs Catholic School

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MAY 2009
Newsletter No. 10



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

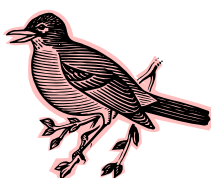
"Make us worthy, Lord, to serve our fellow men throughout the world who live and die in poverty and hunger. Give them, through our hands, this day their daily bread: and by our understanding love, give peace and joy." Pope Paul VI

On the heels of the Lenten season, we look for renewal of ourselves, our faith and our love for each other. This quote attributed to Pope Paul VI encapsulates the central message of our spring and can help us focus our faith goals: to renew by serving one another and to grow in this service to our fellow man. What better time to reflect on this than during our beautiful spring time when trees, grasses and flowers are coming into their own once again.

To renew ourselves through service we ignite and empower the life of our souls. Have you ever noticed how good it feels to do something for someone without the thought of getting a reward or recognition? It's such a powerful spiritual experience And so contrary to some of our North American culture where sometimes people do good things for some type of reward. Allowing ourselves this experience deepens the soul, strengthens our faith and does genuine good in the world.

What else could we ask of ourselves but to give unselfishly and kindly to those around us. Spring is a wonderful time to renew this commitment and to give thanks to the Risen Lord.

Alleluia!
Happy Spring!



CONGRATULATIONS!

Our Vice Principal, Mrs. J. Rienzo was appointed Principal of St. Helen Elementary School effective September 2009. Congratulations and best wishes for success in your new role leading a Catholic school community.

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 MAY: ACCEPTANCE

This month we will celebrate the virtue of *acceptance*.

One of the great wonders of the world we live in is that no two people are exactly alike. We may share biological families or national identity or cultural and ethnic identity but we are all very unique and distinct creations. God broke the mold every time!

It can also be a challenging fact of life if it makes us afraid. Sometimes differences are scary - especially if we haven't learned about or don't understand how people are different.

The virtue of acceptance describes our ability to look at the attitudes and actions of those around us and then just stop and consider without judging them. The virtue of Acceptance means that we look beyond what we see - a person's skin colour, ethnic background, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation and see a person created and loved by God.

An accepting person...

- Is friendly and open to all God's people, regardless of age, beliefs, gender, culture or ability;
- Sees the positive traits in all people even if he/she disagrees with them;
- Avoids judging or stereotyping others;
- Understands that there may be more than one way to do things;
- Sticks up for the 'underdog'.

Mother's Day

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

May 10th is Mother's Day.....a very Happy Mother's day to all the mothers and caregivers in our community. We are all eternally grateful for the love our Mother's give each of us.

SHARELIFE

Our community has done an amazing job once more of collecting monies for this important Catholic Charity. Staff collected \$1205.50 for dress down days; the Spelling Bee raised \$2352.18; our grand Sharelife total of \$ 3557.68 . Our top three fundraising classes were: Ms. Boem's grade 5 class; Ms. Tunney's grade 2 class and Ms. Engman's JK class. These classes will receive an ice cream treat.

Many thanks to all for being so generous. The cheque will be presented to Sts. Peter and Paul Parish at our final school mass on June 16, 2009.

SACRAMENTS

Congratulations to our Grade 2 students who received the Sacrament of First Eucharist on April 25 or 26.

Congratulations to our Grade 8 students who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 23 or 24.

Many thanks to Mrs. Tunney, Ms. Sohmer, Mrs. Ciampa, Ms. Smith and Mrs. Cardoz for preparing our students and to the Parish team at Sts. Peter and Paul Church for organizing the Sacramental preparation.

Our Catholic School Council also congratulates our students and has presented them with a gift to remember these important faith milestones.

CURRICULUM NEWS

EQAO PROVINCIAL ASSESSMENTS

All grade 3 and 6 students in Ontario will again be participating in the Education Quality and Accountability Office Provincial Assessments. The grade 3 assessments will take place May 27, 28 and June 3 and the grade 6 assessment will take place May 26 and June 2 and 4.

It is **critical** that students are present each day of the assessment and that they arrive on time. We ask the cooperation of parents in ensuring the attendance of their children by not scheduling family vacations or appointments during this time.

WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN MEETING

Parents of new kindergarten students registered for September 2009 are invited to attend a Welcome to Kindergarten information meeting on June 2 from 6 to 7 p.m. Information and a goodie bag of kindergarten items will be given to each family to help prepare children for kindergarten.

SUMMER LITERACY CAMP

Summer Literacy Camps will be held at a variety of locations in the Board from July 6 to July 31 from 9 a.m. to noon. 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.

GRADE 7 AND 8 SUMMER SCHOOL

Our grade 7 and 8 students are eligible to attend Literacy, Numeracy and ESL classes from July 6-24. Our students would be transported by bus from Canadian Martyrs to Metropolitan Andrei School. 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. Regular attendance is expected.

BECOMING A READING MODEL

Actions always speak louder than words and the examples you set for your child are some of the most influential things you can ever do. It's probably not surprising then, that setting the right example is the first step in establishing a home reading environment that will benefit your family for many years to come. The second is making sure there are books and other reading and writing materials available. Finally, you need to provide lots of positive reinforcement. Set some goals for yourselves.

Goal 1 Let your child see you read every day - a newspaper, magazine, cookbook, novel or brochure. This goes for both Mom and Dad, since research has shown that as boys mature, their reading habits will most closely resemble the reading habits of their fathers.

Goal 2 Join the local library with your child, then make at least six visits per year to the library together to pick out books of interest to both of you.

Goal 3 Subscribe to a magazine that the family selects together. That way all of you can look forward to receiving it on a regular basis.

Goal 4 Start a family library and add a minimum of 10 books for each family member each year. This doesn't have to be expensive... used books are a bargain at yard sales and used book stores. Book clubs also offer all sorts of options.

Goal 5 Be positive. The quickest way to shut down your children's interest in reading is to point out mistakes or criticize their reading material. Ask questions, talk about what each of you is reading, and provide lots of praise and encouragement.



SCHOOL EVENTS AND NEWS

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

The final Catholic School Council meeting for the year will take place on May 25 at 6:30 p.m. in the library. The agenda for this meeting revolves around goals for the 2009-2010 school year. We welcome your attendance.

UK VISITORS

On April 6 we hosted 5 teachers from the United Kingdom. These teachers visited our classrooms to learn more about the education process in Canada and met with staff to discuss how we support our English as a Second Language learners. They expressed appreciation to staff and to students for the welcoming atmosphere and their

education in our school system. Many thanks to Mrs. Hilton who coordinated their schedule.

SCIENTISTS IN THE CLASSROOM

Our Catholic School Council has once again this year allocated funds to support the Scientists in the Classroom program. Every class has had the Scientists in to work through units and to provide practical, hands on experiences. Many thanks to our Council for their on going generous support and to our many parents who volunteered their time to support the program sessions within the classroom.

GRADE 8 GRADUATION

The Graduation mass and ceremony will be held on June 22 at **5:30 p.m.** at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church. This is a change of time to accommodate John Cabot SS's graduation at 7 p.m.

Teachers are discussing with students potential activities for this important celebration. Information will be sent home with details as soon as they are available.

SENIOR KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION

We will be holding SK graduation ceremony in late June. Parent invites and details will be sent home in the next few weeks. All our parents, guardians and families are invited to come join the celebration.

VOLUNTEER TEA

A volunteer appreciation tea has been scheduled for June 3 from 1:30 - 3 p.m. Our volunteers will be invited to come by to celebrate their contributions to our vibrant school culture.

PEACE ROSARY

Our school has participated in the Peace Rosary throughout this year. The Peace Rosary works in conjunction with our Parish and volunteers come to the school once a month to prayer with our students. Many thanks to this group for donating their time and Rosaries to our classrooms.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

NEWSLETTER CONTEST WINNERS

At the end of our newsletter please find a coupon to complete and submit to the office indicating you have read this newsletter. A draw will be held for a prize. Deadline for submission is May 8. Congratulations to Julia A. who won the April newsletter reading contest.

EARTH DAY

Our students participated in the Mississauga 20 Minute Makeover Earth Day activities during the week of April 20. Students participated in yard and park clean up as well. Our continuing focus is on reducing waste and doing our part to keep our environment clean.

TRACK AND FIELD

We are once again developing teams to attend the Family Track and Field meet scheduled for June 8. The Board Track meet is on June 19. More details to follow.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

May 3-8 is Catholic Education Week. The theme this year is "Good News For All." Many in class events are planned for this week. A special display of student work is on display in the front hall.

Thank you also to our Faith Ambassadors - Mrs. Veselinovic, Mrs. Ciampa, Mrs. Bartollota and Mrs. Valtas - for coordinating the events for this week.

Attached is a copy of one of our students, Conchita D.'s speech on Catholic Education. Conchita placed 2nd in the Family of School's Competition. Congratulations Conchita!

CHESS TEAMS

Congratulations to the members of the Junior Chess Team who participated in the Mississauga East Chess Tournament at St. Edmund's School on April 3rd. The Junior Chess team members were Romeo C, Sachin F, Phillip F, Michael M, Benjamin L, Dilshan J, Carlo N, Daniel B, Adrian A and Vasco V. Over half of the students advanced to the elimination rounds. Congratulations to Romeo C who placed fourth at the tournament.

Congratulations as well to our intermediate Chess who participated in the Mississauga East Family Chess tournament at St. Edmund School on March 31. The students were James L, Mateusz C, Julian M, Pawel J, and Christopher F. Well done everyone!

Thank you to Ms. Engman, Mr. Sestito and Mrs. Hilton for coordinating and supervising this activity.

DUFF PEEL ANTI GANG FILM

Our school Board has developed an excellent film titled "Mouse". The film has made the news not only for being an excellent instructional film but also because it was selected as the Best Canadian Short Film at the ReelWorld Film Festival. To view the film, go to www.ctv.ca. The segment is titled 'Beacon of Hope'.

REMINDERS

VALUABLES

Please remind your child(ren) not to bring any items that might be of value. Items such as MP3 players, electronic games, special collector cards and sums of money should be left at home. Also, cell phones are not to be used on school property during school hours. The school cannot be responsible for lost items.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation eligibility is determined based on the home address of the child. Please be aware that until the bus companies settle their routes at the end of October, students who are ineligible for transportation will not be permitted to travel on the bus. If your home address does not make your child eligible for transportation then the child(ren) are not permitted to ride the bus. Please contact the school office if you are unsure whether your child qualifies or not for transportation.

Parents/guardians may write a letter to the principal to request a seat through the Board's Empty Seat Policy. These



seats would be assigned at the end of October. Please be aware that these seats probably will not be available this Fall due to increased and ever changing school enrolment.

LOST AND FOUND

Please remind your child to check the lost and found box in the primary area for items that may have gone missing during the winter. Students will be given an opportunity before the end of the year to check for their possessions before remaining items are donated to charity.

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 to flourish.

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 LISTS FOR SEPTEMBER

Class lists for September will be developed in the next few weeks. If you have educational reasons for requesting a particular classroom environment, please put this in writing to Mr. Blanchard by May 8. Requests for particular teachers or to be with friends will not be considerations for placements. All requests received by the due date will be given consideration.

SAFETY TIPS FOR HOT DAYS

- Stay in the shade as much as possible and out of the hot sun between 11a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Wear sunglasses that say UVA/UVB CSA certified.
- Use a sunscreen lotion or cream that is SPF 15 or more.
SPF means **Sun Protection Factor**. Using a highest SPF number gives you more protection from the sun.
- Use a sunscreen that says "broad-spectrum" on the label. It will screen out most of the UVA/UVB rays.
- Put sunscreen on your skin at least 20 minutes



before you go out in the sun.

- Don't forget your lips, ears and nose. These parts of your body burn easily.
- Sunscreen gets washed off by water and sweat. So, put more sunscreen on after you go swimming or if you are sweating.
- Drink plenty of water.

STREETPROOFING YOUR CHILD - SOME TIPS

- Tell your children to never go anywhere with a stranger, not to talk to strangers and to never take anything from them. You have to teach them what a 'safe stranger' is in case they need help. A safe stranger might include a police officer or a fire fighter.
- Develop a 'what if' game for your children, to get them thinking of how they would respond if they felt threatened or afraid.
- Know who your children play with and where they go. This includes keeping a list of their friend's addresses and phone numbers.
- Encourage your child to use a buddy system instead of walking alone.
- Know the route that your children take to and from school, and tell them to go directly home or to their babysitter after school.
- If possible, go with your child to the bus stop and meet them when they return from school.

SCHOOL PROCEDURES

Sometimes as the school year nears an end and the weather is fine, students need reminding about certain school rules/procedures. Although the teachers go over these from time to time, we are asking for your support in going over the expectations with your children.

In the Playground

- a) Students are to stay within school boundaries and away from the parking lot. Wrappers, empty juice containers etc. are to be deposited in the garbage cans.
- b) Students must ask permission to leave the school grounds (to retrieve balls, etc.). Students are not allowed to retrieve balls that go into the neighbour's yards. Students must have permission to enter the school during recess, before and after school.
- c) Students are asked to dress properly for all outdoor activities.
- d) The following equipment is not allowed in the playground: hard balls, bats (wooden or plastic), full size hockey sticks, skateboards, roller blades, scooters, bicycles and frisbees (unless the teacher is supervising a physical education class or coaching). Play fighting or contact sports/games are not permitted for safety reasons.

Bicycle Safety

- a) Walk bicycles on school property.
- b) Lock bicycles in the bicycle parking area for the day.
- c) Obey all bicycle safety rules.
- d) wear a helmet



Bus or Van Safety

- a) Be on time (be at least 5 minutes ahead of schedule in the morning).
- b) Obey the driver at all times.
- c) Get on the bus without pushing or shoving.
- d) Stay seated while the bus is moving and keep head and arms inside the window.
- e) Talk quietly. A respectful manner and appropriate language and behavior are expected.

- f) Do not eat or drink on the bus.
- g) Keep all balls, papers etc. in the school bag.
- h) Leaving the bus must be done in an orderly manner.
- i) Cross the street 10 paces in front of the bus. Make sure the bus driver has given the signal first.
- j) Do no trespass on private property while waiting for the bus or returning home.

Driveway Safety

- a) When arriving at school, wait until the car has come to a full stop, and then get out the passenger side, not the driver side.
- b) When going home, wait at the sidewalk until your parent's/guardians' car pulls up.
- c) Do not walk in-between the busses and cars to meet your parents!

Walking Safely

- a) Obey all traffic rules.
- b) Pay attention; do not run on sidewalks; look both ways when crossing.

**** Parents:**

Please drive very slowly and carefully when moving through the driveway, particularly at the beginning of the day and at dismissal time.

In Our Classrooms, students:

Show positive attitude and desire to achieve by:

- a) Completing opening exercises respectfully.
- b) Not using put downs or swearing.
- c) Being attentive while others are talking.
- d) Taking pride in our classrooms and school.
- e) Not rocking on chairs.
- f) Demonstrating respectful behaviour.
- g) Put forth our best effort at all times and always do our own work.
- h) Do not chew gum or wear hats.
- i) Follow the teacher's system for getting permission to leave the room (eg. signing out, pass card).
- j) Bring the proper clothing for Physical Education classes.
- k) Obey classroom rules and tidy up.
- l) MP3 players, PED's, cell phones, any other electronic toys, or games such as Pokemon, are not to be brought to school.
- m) All expensive, personal items should be left at home. The school cannot be responsible for personal items that are lost or stolen.
- n) Objects designed for use in the classroom for science and technology, art, phys ed or other curriculum areas, will be used only under direct supervision of a teacher and only within strict safety rules.

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 Catholic school area, or simply changing address within our boundaries, please let the office know as soon as possible.



GIFTED OPEN HOUSE AT ST. JEROME

St. Jerome will be having an Open House/Information Evening for parents/students on **Tuesday May 26th at 7:00 pm**. During this evening, we will have teachers and students present to talk about the program and show/demonstrate work from the classes.

THE FOLLOWING IS AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM ONE OF OUR PARENTS HERE AT CANADIAN MARTYRS WHO IS SEEKING YOUR HELP:

Dear Latin Community:

Everyday someone somewhere will need to find an unrelated stem cell match outside their immediate family. I myself, being one of these patients was just recently diagnosed with Leukemia. I need your help, as do the other over 700 other patients needing your stem cell donation so they can survive.

I am of Latin American heritage and need individuals that are from within my own ethnic group for the best chance of finding a match. Latin American Canadians such as yourselves, or your family members, are strongly urged to help.

Here's How You Can Help Now: Donate Blood

Blood and blood product transfusions are a critical part of cancer treatment and cannot happen without the selfless dedication of people like you. All we need is an hour of your time to donate blood at your local blood donor clinic.

Call 1 888 2 DONATE or visit blood.ca to find a clinic near you today.

Join OneMatch Stem Cell and Marrow Network

Many patients in Canada and around the world will need an unrelated stem cell transplant to survive. Unrelated means patients fighting Leukemia will have to find a person to donate their stem cells that are not part of their immediate family. If you are between 17 and 50 years old and in good health, please to go to www.onematch.ca and follow the user-friendly steps on how you can get registered. Please help me spread this information among other people on behalf of myself and the other 700 patients waiting in Canada for an unrelated match. Our family, as well as the other families need you to 'be the one.' We greatly appreciate your help from the bottom of our hearts.

I have read the May 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 May 8 deadline.