

## **St. Mark Council Corner – September 10, 2007**

### **Welcome back to another exciting year at St. Mark!**

#### Thank you

All of the members of your School Advisory Council would like to thank you once again for your support during our fundraising activities last year and for your hours of volunteering. We are a small group who would not have achieved as much without both your support and generosity. We hope you will consider joining us at council meetings in the year ahead. If you are able to volunteer some of your time please fill in the form attached and return it to the school or contact the office. School Council nomination forms are also available at the office.

#### Council Meeting

Our first council meeting of the year will be Monday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the school library. All existing council members from last year and interested parties who have filled out nomination forms should attend. Everyone is welcome!!

#### Fundraisers

Our first fundraiser will be the Halloween dance-a-thon in October followed by a chocolate fundraiser for Valentine's Day. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 from the dance-a-thon and with your support I am sure this event, once again, will be a great success. Any donations that you are able to provide in the form of prizes, for the students, for either of these events would be greatly appreciated and can be dropped off at the school.

Our gym makeover is well underway and looks amazing. Funds from the dance-a-thon will be allocated to complete the transformation as well as to ensure workshops for students across all grades and to help our teachers provide our students with curriculum enhanced materials and programs. We will keep you updated.

Our Pizza and Hot Lunch programs will also continue this year. We please ask that you familiarize yourselves with the deadlines and mechanics of these programs to ensure that your child receives his/her lunch. Forms have to be filled out and handed in, on time, with payment in order for processing.

#### Notice Board

Council has a new notice board - as you enter the school, on the left, hanging on the wall just outside the school office. Minutes of each council meeting will be posted here, as well as information that may be helpful to parents. This will be updated on a regular basis. Information is also posted on the school website which is listed on the school newsletter that is published each month.

#### Uniform Survey

We please ask that all parents fill out the survey form that is attached. Many parents have expressed a strong interest in having a school uniform. In order to move ahead some criteria needs to met and this survey will assist us in this area. Your cooperation would be greatly appreciated – an 80% positive response would constitute moving forward with this initiative.

#### QSP Magazines

For those of you who ordered magazines last year and would like to renew you can do so by logging on the QSP website at: [www.QSP.ca](http://www.QSP.ca) . Use our group Id# 8375 and our Campaign # 41609 for renewing your order to support our fundraising campaign.

## ST. MARK UNIFORM SURVEY

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In order to move forward with the possible implementation of a school uniform at St. Mark, we need to establish that we have 80% interest within the school community. To this end we require each family to respond to this survey. If a positive outcome is reached, implementation would not be until September of 2008. A program would also be put in place to ensure that uniforms that cannot be passed to younger siblings may be resold/used again within the community. Volunteers are standing by to do the work necessary to look into various establishments that could offer uniforms at an affordable price, one that would fit everyone's pocketbooks. There are pro's and con's regarding uniforms and we have provided you with a number of them below, hopefully this will help you in reaching a decision.

For Uniforms	Against Uniforms
Encourages respect, responsibility and safety in our schools. Many Catholic and public schools are at present considering or already have uniforms. Enhanced sense of school spirit, professionalism and equality. Lower long-term clothing costs. Reduced peer pressure. Decreased violence and theft of designer clothing. Encourages a more focused approach to learning and removes some of the distractions faced by students. Provides a form of identification of students, thereby providing a safer learning environment. Easy identification of students on field trips.	Initial cost can be significant for families with several children. Difficult for schools to enforce with parents as well as students. Unless items are well marked, theft may be a concern. If uniform assistance is required, may take money from other areas. May stifle a child's creativity and likened to being militaristic. How can the school community promote compliance at all ages? Children grow very quickly and may need several sizes in one year. Not legislated by the ministry so dealing with persistent non-compliance will be very difficult.

Names of Children Attending St Mark	Grade Child Is Currently Placed	Yes, I would like a uniform (X)	No, I would not like a uniform (X)

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Family Name (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_

# Volunteer Form

	<b>Name (Please Print)</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Day of Week Available</b>
<b>All Star Reading</b>			
<b>All Star Math</b>			
<b>Kiss n'Ride</b>			
<b>Safe Arrival</b>			

All Star Reading and All Star Math are programs run during the day at the school, times and days yet to be decided. Kiss n' Ride and Safe Arrival are at the school each morning only – Kiss n' Ride from 8:15-8:30am and Safe Arrival 8:20-9:00am.

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Thank you for taking the time to read all of the above.

School Advisory Council