



**NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2008**

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St. Joseph Elementary School

We C.A.R.E.: Catholic Community, Acceptance, Respect, Excellence

A New School Year

*Good and Gracious God, as a new school year begins,
Fill the hearts of our students with an eagerness to learn
About the world you have created,
about themselves and most of all,
about YOU.*

*Bless our teachers with the gifts of wisdom and patience
That they may help students find the truth.
Give our parents generous heart
to support and encourage their children.*

*Help us all to work together to form a
community of learning that teaches
not only skills for success but also
all that we need to live our faith fully in the world.*

*On behalf of the staff of St. Joseph, I would like to
welcome everyone back to the 2008-2009 school year.
Thank you to the staff for all their work in preparation for
the new year.*

*A special thanks to Mrs. Carabetta for a smooth start.
Thank you to Mr. Serrano and Mr. Kippen for maintaining
a clean and safe environment.*

CATHOLICITY

We look forward to working with you and the pastoral team at St. Joseph Church in the development of the spiritual growth of our students.

We are fortunate to have St. Joseph Church in close proximity to our school. Throughout the school year, the parish team will be visiting our school and students will be making visits to the Church to celebrate school masses and receive the Sacraments.

2008/2009 Parent Information Meetings

All meetings and Sacramental Receptions will take place at St. Joseph Church. Dates will be announced in the October newsletter.

ANNUAL BBQ & OPEN HOUSE

St. Joseph School's Open House will be held on Thursday, September 18th. The evening will begin with dinner hosted by Gino's Pizza and our Catholic School Advisory Council beginning at 5:00 p.m. Order forms will be sent home next week. If you have not received one, please contact the school.

You are invited to come and meet your child's teacher and visit his/her classroom from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. All teachers will be in their classrooms and are looking forward to meeting the families of their 2008/2009 students.

This evening is intended as an informal "getting-to-know-you" opportunity.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2008
PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAY**

There will be no school for students.
Staff will be participating in school reorganization.

HOME-SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS

STAFF CHANGES

In June and over the summer, we bid farewell to Mrs. Elworthy, Ms Schirripa, Ms Mensah and Mrs. Briggs. We thank them for their contributions to St. Joseph.

Welcome to the following staff: Mrs. Leko, Mrs. Sajda, Ms Guthro, Mrs. DeRango, Mrs. Huber and Mrs. Dableh.

We are very happy they have joined the staff of St. Joseph School.

VIRTUES

In a school community, virtue formation contributes to a healthy positive learning environment by fostering a climate in which all members feel safe, confident and hope-filled about themselves, their relationships and their future.

Each month we will look at developing one of these virtues: Faith, Empathy, Conscience, Hope, Self-control, Respect, Kindness, Love, Acceptance, Fairness.

In October, we will be gathering to celebrate as a school community. Students who best exemplify the virtues of the month will be highlighted as "Students of the Month".

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

All students are expected to attend school regularly and punctually. In the event that your child will be late or absent, please telephone the school before 8:45 a.m. to inform us of the absence. The answering machine is available from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.

All students who arrive after 8:45 a.m. or 12:45 p.m. must obtain a late slip from the office. This measure is to ensure the safety of your child.

STUDENT AGENDAS

Student agendas have been purchased and will be distributed to students in grades 2-8. The cost is \$5.00.

Student agendas are a planning system that helps students develop organizational skills, time management and responsibility for homework completion. Parents/guardians are encouraged to review the content of the agenda with their child(ren) and to follow-up daily to support the development of positive work habits.

SCHOOL HOURS:

8:45	-	School Entry
10:50	-	Recess
11:15	-	Kindergarten Dismissal
11:45	-	Lunch
12:45		Afternoon Start
2:10	-	Recess
3:15	-	Dismissal

ENROLMENT

Please remember that our class lists are tentative for the first two weeks of school. Changes may occur due to growth and/or transfers. Should reorganization be necessary, please be assured that the needs of each student will be taken into consideration. Reorganization will take place on the first PA Day on September 12th.

INFORMATION UPDATE & STUDENT VERIFICATION SHEETS

Please keep us informed of **any** changes to home, work or emergency contact phone numbers. In the unfortunate event that your child is ill or injured, we must be able to contact a parent and/or babysitter immediately. It is important to keep this information current.

A student data form has been sent home with every student. Please fill in any missing information (i.e. student health card number), update phone numbers/correct any errors and sign where indicated. Please return this form to your child's teacher as soon as possible. This information is confidential and is used solely for school purposes.

GYM FLOOR

Over the summer months, a new gym floor was installed. We ask that, if possible, the students bring an extra pair of indoor shoes to school to use in the gym. For gym classes/DPA, all students must wear runners.

LUNCH STUDENTS

Please be reminded that the lunch hour is 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. If possible, students are encouraged to go home for lunch as a break in the school day is a healthy practice. Where children stay for lunch they will eat with their classmates and remain on school property throughout the lunch period. Supervision is provided by staff and a lunch supervisor.

Our school practice is that pupils who regularly remain for lunch are not allowed to leave school property to have lunch at nearby restaurants unless accompanied by the parent. Please help us care for your children and do not send notes to give permission for local food outlets.

If a lunch is delivered for your child, there will be a table set up in our front lobby for students to pick up their lunch. Please ensure that the lunch is clearly labeled with the student's and teacher's name.

PICK-UP AND DROP OFF POLICY

To ensure school security for students and teachers, the Board policy requires that **all visitors (including parents) must report to the office**. Parents or designated individuals are required to sign children in at the office when bringing them to school late and must also sign them out at the office when withdrawing them from school before regular dismissal time.

In our continuing concern for the safety of our students, we would like to minimize the amount of traffic in all hallways at arrival and dismissal times. **Please wait for your children outside their designated exit**. Teachers

will continue to meet and escort students to and from these doors at all times. These procedures help to ensure the safety of the students. Thank you for your cooperation.

MEDICATIONS

Please be advised that there is a Board policy on the storage and administration of medication. If your child requires daily administration of medication, please contact the Office as soon as possible.

PEANUT AND NUT ALLERGIES

In our school, we have a number of students with a severe allergy to peanuts and peanut products. For those students, small amounts of this allergen may cause an allergic reaction of life threatening proportions.

Due to the severe nature of this allergic reaction, we would ask for your cooperation in monitoring the food that your son or daughter brings to school. Please take the time to read the ingredients on the package. In particular, please avoid bringing snacks or lunches that contain peanuts as well as products that may have traces of nuts.

As well, advise your children to wash their hands often, especially after eating any peanut products, because these allergens can be transmitted from hands to toys, books and other objects. As well, inform them to brush their teeth or rinse their mouth after eating peanut products because even the smell may cause a reaction.

We appreciate that this may cause difficulties for some but we feel that this is outweighed by the potential harm that could be caused to an allergic child.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding in this matter.

PEDICULOSIS

Each school year it is common for outbreaks of pediculosis to occur among school children. The head louse is a harmless pest - a source of annoyance rather than disease. However, the incidence of pediculosis is increasing, and while researchers suggest that the problem occur in cycles - every few years, the reason for the increase is unknown. The school seeks parents' conscientious cooperation in routine inspection and where head lice are detected to assure that adequate treatment is administered. The family doctor or pharmacist can recommend appropriate shampoo treatment. Parents are asked to inform the school so that we can minimize the infestation.

In instances where pediculosis is diagnosed at school, parents will be called and requested to keep the child home until appropriate medication has been administered.

TRANSPORTATION

The Dufferin-Peel C.D.S.B. Board provides bus transportation for students according to these guidelines:

Kindergarten	1.0 km
Grades 1 - 4	1.6 km
Grades 5 & 6	2.0 km
Grades 7 & 8	3.2 km

The bus routes and times are posted inside the school doors. Some delays may occur during the first few weeks in September. Students should be at their stop at least 5 minutes before the designated times. Parents are responsible for ensuring that their child gets to and from the bus stop safely.

A reminder to please pay special attention to school buses with activated lights and extended stop arm. These signs mean **STOP** and children's lives are at stake. Please be aware of the law and protect our children.

Students who are on the bus list are expected to take the bus to and from school on a daily basis. Please contact the office if you are picking up a child who normally takes the bus home. This will avoid unnecessary delay to the bus' departure from our school.

Parents who wish to apply for busing under the "Empty Seat" policy may do so by contacting the school office after the second week of school.

KISS 'N RIDE

To ease the congestion and provide a safe environment for all of our students, parents/guardians who drive their child to school are asked to use our **Kiss & Ride Program**.

Lane 1, closest to the school building is the **Bus Lane**.

Lane 2, the middle lane is the lane that parents/ guardians use to **Drop Off** their child. Drivers are asked to stop beside the parent volunteer at the north end of the parking lot by the stop cone. Students should exit from the passenger side of the vehicle only. The vehicle door will be opened from the outside by a parent volunteer. Students should proceed directly to the school playground.

Lane 3, closest to the street is a **Drive Through** lane to be used only by teachers and visitors parking their vehicles.

If you wish to park and walk your child to the playground entrance, please park your car in the Municipal Lot across the street.

Thank you to all the parents who volunteer their time for the Kiss & Ride program. Your assistance is appreciated.

DOGS IN THE SCHOOL YARD

Please refrain from bringing your dogs onto school property. Some children are very frightened of dogs and even the best behaved dogs may react unexpectedly when confronted by large numbers of children.

FAMILY READING FUNDRAISER

Once again we will be participating in the QSP Magazine fundraiser. Just a reminder that order forms will be sent home the beginning of October to renew your subscriptions through the school. If you have a subscription rate lower than the QSP rate, this will be honoured.

NO CHILD WITHOUT

Our school is involved in the Canadian MedicAlert Foundation's **No Child Without** program. There is not cost for students who attend our school and are between the ages of 4 up to their 14th birthday to join MedicAlert through this program. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medication on a regular basis, then you should consider this program. A child's MediAlert identification can alert school staff, friends, coaches and others about your child's medical condition should an emergency occur.

For further information come to the office for a brochure or go to www.nochildwithout.ca. To register your child you will need a **No Child Without** brochure from the office.

If your child is already part of the **No Child Without** program and there have been changes to their medical condition, medications or emergency contact information, call MedicAlert at 1-800-668-1507 to update your child's file.

TERRY FOX WALK/RUN

We will be holding our second annual Terry Fox Walk/Run on Friday, September 26th. All students from grades 1 to 8 will be participating in a half hour walk/run in order to support cancer research. Please support our students in this worthwhile cause!

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP STUDENTS

- Talk with student about their studies, their homework and their school activities
- Listen when they talk
- Read together and set family reading times
- Limit TV/computer time. Watch TV with them and discuss what is viewed
- Encourage any type of writing (shopping lists, thank you notes, recipes, journals, short stories, letters...)

- Visit the library regularly. Help your child select books
- Check homework assignments and agendas
- Ask them to explain how he/she solves daily life problems
- Show them how to use what they are learning at school in everyday situations
- Request and attend student-teacher-parent conferences. Find out how they are achieving and how they can improve
- Encourage them to do their best and to set personal goals
- Recognize successes and show positive support

Sept 30- Early Release Day-11:45 a.m. dismissal, no afternoon Kindergarten classes
 Oct. 13- Thanksgiving Day- No school

BOARD'S WEB SITE
 The Board's Catholic Code of Conduct and School Council Policy are online at
<http://www.dpcdsb.org/pr>

2008-2009 STAFF LIST

L. Murrell	JK, JK/SK
E. DeSouza	SK
J. Leko	Gr. 1
J. Dove-Barrow	Gr. 1/2
O. Araujo	Gr. 2
R. Falcone	Gr. 2
A. Giljanovic	Gr. 3
A. Lopreiato	Gr. 3
L. Awoyomi	Gr. 4
A. Sajda	Gr. 4/5
P. Guerrizio	Gr. 5/6
J. Forsyth	Gr. 6
D. Guthro	Gr. 7
M. Gaskin	Gr. 7
E. Bernais	Gr. 8
E. Sandford	ESL
D. Coulson	SERT
R. Furtado	SERT/SERC
L. Huber	ERW
T. DeRango	ERW
A. Szymczak	Tch/Librarian
L. DaSilva	FSL
N. Dableh	FSL
C. Serrano	Head Custodian
D. Kippen	Custodian
K. Sliwa	Custodian
I. Carabetta	Head Secretary
M. Buczek	Principal

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

As required by the Education Act and the Ministry of Education, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board annually provides parents with information about cost-effective student accident insurance coverage via student courier. Although enrolment is voluntary, the board encourages parents to take advantage of the inexpensive insurance coverage, especially if their child/children participate in sports, excursions/field trips, or, if parents do not have dental insurance coverage.

Enrolment is required in writing so there are two options for enrolment:

- 1) Complete the traditional form and mail it in or
- 2) Photocopy the form and fax it to Reliable Life at 1-905-522-7211 or 1-800-463-KIDS (5437).

Parents alone have the right to insure their children.

SCHOOL POLICY ON THE USE OF PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES by Students on School Property

To promote respect for the dignity of all members of our school community and to enhance student achievement and safety, the use of a PED is strictly prohibited in the school (including portables) or during school related activities (such as retreats, field trips, sports events, etc.)

Failure to comply with this policy may result in the confiscation of the PED and/or disciplinary action as outlined in the Catholic Code of Conduct 2001. The school and the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board assume no responsibility for the loss, recovery repair or replacement for and PED brought onto school property.

It is the policy of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board that PEDs are to be kept out-of-sight, turned off and not used within school premises or during school sanctioned events. To prevent the loss or damage of PEDs, the school encourages students to leave their PEDs at home or in their lockers.

Upcoming Dates



- Sept. 9- Central Erin Mills ARC Public Meeting @ CEC @ 7:00 p.m.
- Sept. 12- PA DAY- No school for students
- Sept. 16- Central Erin Mills ARC Public Meeting @ CEC @ 7:00 p.m.
- Sept. 18- BBQ/Open House from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
- Sept. 26- Terry Fox/Walk Run