

Father Serra Catholic School

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Tel: 416-393-5391 Fax: 416-397-6095

Father Serra Times

October, 2009



Ann Perron

Director of Education

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2009-2010

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A Prayer of Thanksgiving

I thank the God of Heaven
For rains that soak the earth,
I thank the Creator of Earth
For food to nourish the world.
I thank the Saviour of the World
For fathers and mothers and children.
I thank the friend of children
For all the wonders of life.
I thank the spirit of life
For his abiding love.

Amen



BBQ/Curriculum Night

It was great to see so many parents during curriculum night on Thursday, September 24th.

The evening included an opportunity to review school policies, routines, expectations and initiatives, as well as providing an opportunity to meet teachers. You are encouraged to maintain regular communication throughout the year with our school.

We appreciate your support and we would encourage you to contact our school at (416) 393-5391 if you have concerns about your child.

*A special thank you to Mrs. Sichetti, Mr. Haynes, Mrs. McInerney, Mrs. Persano and Mrs. Richardson.

TCDSB Faith and Character Development Monthly Themes

Virtues of the Month

Matthew Chapter 22:37-40

September	Hospitality	February	Love
October	Gratitude	March	Forgiveness
November	Peacemaking	April	Justice
December	Charity	May	Compassion
January	Courage	June	Faithfulness

37: Jesus said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with your mind."

38: This is the first and greatest commandment.

39: The second most important is, "Love your neighbour as you love yourself."

The Virtue for the month of **October** is

GRATITUDE

How can we show gratitude?

Be grateful for all things in what we say, do and think.

The Elementary Guidance Counsellor

What does an Elementary Guidance Counsellor do?

The most important role of the Elementary Counsellor is to be an advocate for students as they strive to meet the challenges and demands of their everyday school life.

At Father Serra Catholic School, our guidance counsellor works to:

Help with the personal and academic growth of all students.

Develop educational and career decision-making skills among all students.

Promote the development of interpersonal skills among all students.

Provide services to the school community which will assist in the growth and learning of all students.

Our counsellor can help students to...

Do Better in School – Get Along With Others – Cope With Changes – Feel Good About Themselves
– Make Decisions – Understand Feelings –

What else does our guidance counsellor do?

Visits classrooms

Teaches lessons about: respecting yourself and others, identifying your feelings, solving problems peacefully, making friends and getting along with others, and other such topics

Meets with students individually and in a group for a variety of issues such as: family changes, grief/loss, anger/self-control, friendship/social skills, self-confidence, stress management, goal-setting

Meets with parents, teachers and other school specialists

Helps the grade eight students transition from elementary to high school

How does a student see the guidance counsellor?

They request to speak to the guidance counsellor

The teacher requests it

The principal suggests it

Mom or Dad requests it

Please remind your children that:

All children have the right to feel safe and happy at school; all children have the responsibility to ensure that their peers feel safe and happy at school!

Information Sheet and Permission Forms

Very important sheets were attached to the September newsletter. These sheets provide us with important information about your child:

- Updates about address changes and emergency phone numbers.
- Information about your child's health.
- Lunch permission and permission to go on local excursions.
- Permission for your child to be filmed or photographed by the media.
- Permission to have access to the internet at school.

If you have not returned these forms, please do so immediately. If you are unable to locate a copy, upon request, the school can provide you with another copy.

Importance of Homework

With the start of a new school year, your child is getting back into the habit of completing homework on time and with care. Here are a few of the many benefits of homework.

- It reinforces skills and concepts taught at school.
- It develops self-discipline, self-motivation, time management and organizational skills.
- It creates a link between home and school.

How can you as a parent help your child?

- Make sure your child has a good night's rest and eats a balanced diet.
- Provide a quiet, regular place to do work.
- Listen to him/her read, it does not have to be in English.
- Provide occasional words of encouragement.
- Contact teachers if you have questions or concerns about homework assignments.



Intermediate Boys' and Girls' Soccer

Once again Father Serra's Intermediate Boys' and Girls' Soccer teams participated in the 2009-2010 soccer season at Centennial Park. The boys participated in the divisional tournament on Monday September 21, and placed second in their division. The girls' divisional tournament was on Wednesday, September 23, and they came in third place. Both teams showed excellent sportsmanship, school spirit, and commitment. We would like to thank all the parent volunteers who drove the players to and from the tournament.

-D. Farrell and R. Gargano

CONGRATULATIONS!

Boys

CONGRATULATIONS

to the boys' soccer team:

- Peter B.
- Ramon F.
- Nicholas M.
- Adam L.
- Steven W.
- Mackenzzy K.
- Kale W.
- Adrian S.
- Luke R.
- Michael R.
- Steven L.
- Daniel D.
- Dean L.
- Mario O.
- Luke D.
- Sam F.
- Michael M.
- Joseph T



Girls

CONGRATULATIONS

to the girls' soccer team:

- Cassondra H.
- Alessandra C.
- Maria L.
- Cristina U.
- Rachel C.
- Layna O.
- Alessandra S.
- Tania C.
- Alessia P.
- Samantha P.
- Vanessa F.
- Lia D.
- Amanda M.
- Emma D.
- Payton C.
- Natalie M.
- Elise A.
- Lauren S.
- Stephanie S



Student Leader Report

“Leaders of Tomorrow, Leading Today”

The 2009/10 school year started on the right foot and early this year for our student leaders. Our first successful initiative was a “Gently Used Uniform Sale” at our first combined BBQ/Curriculum Evening. Thanks to our CYW (Miss Salgado) and Mrs. M. Pisani who both worked diligently with our student leaders Mackenzie, Sophia and Emma in organizing all the clothing and sorting them by size for our \$5.00 per clothing sale. Not only did we make a whopping \$676.00 in sales that will go to the FREE THE CHILDREN FOUNDATION, we also managed to sort through and assemble a huge bag of clothing for St. Dorothy (our sister school).

Once again, we will be having a FOOD DRIVE for non-perishable food and other items commencing on October 5th until Thanksgiving here at Father Serra for ST. FRANCIS TABLE. Below, find a list of what may be donated:

- cans of soup, vegetables, tuna, etc.
- pasta
- cereals
- vegetable oil
- cleaning supplies (dishwashing detergent, laundry detergent, household detergents)
- garbage bags
- coffee, coffee whitener
- tea

On October 5th, our student leaders will attend the Third Annual “Me To We Conference” at the Air Canada Centre with Mr. Gonano, Mrs. Lucia, and Miss Salgado. There, they will be inspired by many famous speakers of “Free the Children” and will also be on TV. The webcast can be watched live on www.ctv.ca/weday. We wish to thank the student leaders for their continued support and also the mentioned staff involved.

J. Leo-DelDuca

CSAC NEWS

We are pleased to announce your new CSAC for 2009/2010:

Co-Chair– Karen Lorenowicz

Co-Chair– Shereen Persano

Secretary-Christine Carbone

Treasurer– Joanne Hills

Community Rep– Marianne Pisani

Parent Rep– Rob Berton

Parent Rep– Lada Dowhaniuk

Parent Rep– Susy Gallucci

Parent Rep– Nella Palombi

Parent Rep– Mackie Sichetti

Parent Rep– Kathy Vena

Parent Rep– Teresa Visic

We are confident the new council will continue to work in tandem with the school as well as working with the many committees to continue the annual traditions and events.

SAFETY CONCERNS FOR OUR CHILDREN:

We ask that all parents and guardians reinforce the following street proofing strategies with their children:

Children should:

- Always tell you where they are
- Know how to use the pay telephone, including how to call long distance by dialing direct or using operator assistance. They should always have emergency telephone money with them.
- Memorize the telephone numbers (including area code) of home and a neighbour
- Know their name, age, address, city and province
- Go places with friends
- Never approach or enter a stranger's car
- Never say they are alone if they answer the phone or door
- Never let strangers in the house
- Never accept gifts from strangers
- Never enter anyone's home or car without permission from parents
 - Know it's okay to say "NO" to adults, especially if the adult wants them to do something which makes them uncomfortable or they know is wrong
- Know that it is unwise to believe stories such as a person wanting them to help find a lost pet, etc.
- Know that no one has the right to touch any part of his or her body that a bathing suit would cover
- Recognize suspicious behaviour and report it
- Know to tell you if someone has asked them to keep a secret from you
- Know what to do in case of unwelcome attention e.g. walk faster, go to a neighbourhood store, head for a busy street, walk toward a group of people and wave as if they see someone they know
- Scream and keep screaming if something is wrong
- Kick and bite hard if someone grabs them
- Know that police officers are friends
- Parents are encouraged to give their children a "password" known only to them. This can be used when a stranger, a friend or family member approaches them and asks them to come with them.

When necessary use the following numbers for assistance or to report suspicious people or behaviours:

Emergency Help - 911

Metropolitan Toronto Police Radio Room - 416-808-2222

Crime Stoppers – 416-222-TIPS

We need to all work together to protect our children from harm and to give them the confidence to deal with situations that they may encounter at home, at school, at play, within families and when out socially. We are committed to continue to do our best to provide the education, support and skill development opportunities for our children to help them be prepared.

CRIME STOPPERS - 416-222-8477

You Can Make A Difference



REPORT CRIME

CASH REWARD UP TO \$2,000.00

We don't want your name - Just your tip

If you have information about a CRIME and want to remain anonymous

Contact CRIME STOPPERS:

Call: 416-222-TIPS (8477)

Online: www.222tips.com



Toronto Catholic District School Board Launches

E-NEWS@TCDSB

In an effort to enhance ongoing communication with Catholic school supporters, parents, staff and students of our school communities, the Toronto Catholic District School Board is pleased to announce **E-NEWS@TCDSB**.

This electronic news service will provide regular e-mail notifications of the latest news and special bulletins from, and about, Toronto Catholic schools.

Anyone interested in receiving the latest news from the Board, is invited to visit the board's website at www.tcdsb.org and click on the E-NEWS logo on the homepage (left-hand column) to activate their subscription.

While the main purpose of this new function is to provide updated information on board wide initiatives and various local school activities to further promote Catholic education, the Communications Department is also able to send any school specific critical and/or urgent information directly to the parents who have subscribed from the affected school. The Board will continue to publish a variety of news and information on its website at www.tcdsb.org/news as well as posting urgent notices on its 24-hour telephone information line at 416-222-8282 ext. 2873.

We encourage you to subscribe to E-NEWS and to please spread the word to colleagues and friends in your community.



HOME SCHOOL CONNECTION

Tips for Parents/Guardians:

As a parent, you can support your child's learning both at home and at school in many ways. Here are some things you can do with your child:

- Continue to build a good relationship with your child's teacher, seeking advice and suggestions for learning.
- Establish with your child a consistent routine for completing homework, including a regular study time and location, and encourage your child to maintain the routine.
- Discuss school work, successes, concerns, and interests with your child.
- Encourage your child to "exercise" his or her mind by doing crossword puzzles, brain teasers and word searches.
- Continue to offer praise as your child attempts new learning and offer help and support when it is needed.



Message to Parents/Guardians regarding Lockdown Procedures

Emergency School Lockdown Procedures to be Introduced in all TCDSB Schools *“Keeping our Students and Staff Safe”*

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Toronto Catholic District School Board has a primary responsibility to ensure the safety of students and staff inside Board buildings and on Board property. In partnership with the Toronto Police Services and the Toronto District School Board, a city wide safety emergency school lockdown procedures plan has been developed.

The “Emergency Lockdown Procedure” is initiated should a high risk incident involving weapons, hazardous chemical spill, severe weather warning, student/stranger intrusion, etc. occur in the school or on school property, or there are circumstances in the vicinity of the school that could endanger the lives and/or the safety of students and/or staff.

We are now prepared to implement these procedures in our school.

In order for all students and staff to become familiar with the expectations during a lockdown, our school will be practising emergency lockdown procedures as we have normally done with fire drills. During these drills there will be signs posted on the entrance doors indicating that the school is in lockdown . The doors will be locked and no one will be allowed into the school. This is the same procedure that will be followed in a real situation.

We will be holding two lockdown practice drills during the school year. They will be held on:

October 22nd in the Fall and on **March 24th** in the Spring.

Sincerely,

J. PannoZZo

Principal

STUDENT(S) OF THE MONTH

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students. They displayed the Virtue of Hospitality for the month of September.

M. Palermo-Saraco (JK.)

Emily Ancimero, Daniel Berton

J. Salvadori (SK)

Kayla DePaolo, Julian Barone, Clara Guadagni, Nicholas Rego

P. Cameron (Gr. 1)

Liam Barry, Carlie Primomo

A. Pocklington (Gr. 1)

Samantha Clarizio, Hailey Sousa

C. Traynor (Gr. 2)

Matthew Memme, Sabrina Heitz

L. Pesegi-Galluzzo (Gr. 2)

Elisa Litrenta, Nicolas Futia

L. Pimento (Gr. 2/3)

Eric Falzone, Anthony Santini

I. Barton (Gr. 3)

Mary McKeddie, Nicole Martino

A. Simonelis (Gr. 3/4)

Cristian Mastrangelo, Matteo Marmugi, Haley Pinto

B. MacRory (Gr. 4)

Milena Gallucci, Sydney Mior, Andrew Fogetti



R. Troina (Gr. 4/5)

Alessia Rizzello, Stephanie Ancimer, Julia Stancati

T. Ganano (Gr. 5)

Rebecca Borg

J. Berneche (Gr. 5/6)

Vanessa Rasile

M. MacDonald (Gr. 6)

Caitlin Stange, David Spooner

S. Bellisario (Gr. 6)

Justin Tung, Andrew Stolarchuk

G. Lui (Gr. 7)

Daniel Deluca, Mario Felice

M. Parzei (Gr. 7)

Alexandra Reyes

D. Farrell (Gr. 8)

Sophia Romano, Emma Duprey

R. Gargano (Gr. 8)

Samantha Papasodaro, Maria Locke

M. Torrieri (Gr. 8)

Julia Salmena, Marco Bandiera, Alyssa Francavilla

