

# FATHER SERRA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

111 Sun Row Drive, Toronto, ON, M9P 3J3

416-393-5391

## THE FATHER SERRA TIMES



Principal: Mr. F. Venditti

Vice Principal: Ms. O'Dowd

Admin. Assistant: Mrs. E. Barbaro

Secretary: Mrs. S. Zenko

Superintendent: Mr. Paul Crawford

January-March 2008

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

The Safety of our students has always been the most important responsibility that we share within our school community. Some concerns that we have monitored and continue to address will require everyone's cooperation in order to maintain that safety.

Our traffic concerns, both in the school parking lot and throughout the neighbourhood are constant reminders of the dangers our children can be exposed to. The Manager of Traffic Operations for the City of Toronto has re-

sponded to concerns brought forward by residents of our community. The report reminds everyone to refrain from double-parking, parking illegally, and other inappropriate parking maneuvers. We are bringing this to the attention of everyone in our community as a reminder of our duty to the children in our school.

Please remember that our parking lot is small and limited to staff parking only, especially at entrance times and dismissal time.

As we know this winter has been quite harsh with both

cold weather and plenty of snow. These conditions make our job much more difficult in maintaining safe walking areas around our school. Please be assured that our caretaking staff has been diligent in removing snow and ice from our property and the playground area.

Thank you in advance for your continued support and cooperation in helping us to maintain a safe environment for all members of our school community.

#### TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2005-2006

##### Wards

1. Joseph Martino	416-512-3401
2. Ann Andrachuk, Honorary Treasurer	416-512-3402
3. Sal Piccininni	416-512-3403
4. Mary Cicogna	416-512-3404
5. Maria Rizzo	416-512-3405
6. Christine Nunziata	416-512-3406
7. John Del Grande	416-512-3407
8. Oliver Carroll, Chair	416-512-3408
9. Catherine LeBlanc-Miller	416-512-3409
10. Barbara Poplawski	416-512-3410
11. Angela Kennedy, Vice-Chair	416-512-3411
12. Paul John Crawford Ashley Pereira, Student Trustee	416-512-3412 416-512-3413

### BACK TO SCHOOL 2008

Dear Parents,

We thank you for choosing our Catholic school for your child's spiritual, academic, emotional and physical development. We have dedicated teachers and support staff who make every possible effort to meet the individual needs of our students.

We trust that your children will be returning to continue their Catholic education in September 2008. Our Mission states that, "In a school community formed by Catholic beliefs and traditions, our Mission is to educate students to their full potential." Through all of us working together-

home, school and parish-we are confident that we will be successful in achieving this goal.

As we start to plan for the next year, we look to you for assistance. Please contact the office if your child will not be returning to our school in the Fall of 2008.

### JK REGISTRATION-2008-09

Please contact our school secretary Mrs. Barbaro for an appointment if you need to register for our Fall JK classes.

Our school has a limited number of spaces available and therefore, our first priority is to register students within our catchment area, and those

students who already have siblings in our school. Students outside the area will be placed on a waiting list. We thank you in advance.

#### Our Heartfelt Thanks

on Pancake Tuesday



Our annual Pancake Tuesday was filled with the sweet smell of pancakes throughout the halls of Fr. Serra C.S. **Thank you to Paul, the manager of the Golden Griddle, Woodbridge,** for providing the batter. Thank you to Mrs. Di Giulio and to our Pancake Parent Committee for another enjoyable and festive day.



# CSAC UPDATE

Dear Parents,

Spring will soon be upon us and we have been very fortunate through CSAC to accomplish many events with the ongoing help of parents, teaching staff and students.

Pancake Tuesday was another success! We would like to thank all the volunteers for their time and effort in coordinating this event. There is no news to report from the Facilities Committee. The school jerseys which were ordered in the fall have all arrived and they look great. The parent surveys will soon be distributed so that CSAC can plan and allocate for the appropriate funds needed for next year as well as plans for future fundraising ideas.

CSAC Co-Chairs

Eric Hopkins and Gino Franceschetti

CSAC Co-Chairs

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS 2007-08



### Easter Mass:

April 1st, 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. in our gym.

### Dental Screening, all grades:

April 1-4th

### Graduation Picture Re-Takes:

April 7th, 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

### ANNUAL DANCE-A-THON!

April 18th, 9:00-3:00 in our gym.

### Swim Meet at Etobicoke Olympium:

April 26th and 27th

### Junior Boys Volleyball Tournament:

March 28th

### Junior Girls Volleyball Tournament:

March 27th

### First Communion:

Sun., April 13th-3:00 p.m.

Photographs: 1:30 p.m.



### Confirmation Rehearsal:

Thurs. April 3rd, 7:00 p.m.

### Confirmation:

Sat. April 5th, 2:00 p.m.

Group Photograph 1:30 p.m.

### Grade 8 Graduation:

Wed. June 18th, 7:00 p.m.

All Saints Church



# ATHLETIC/TEAM NEWS

## Girls Basketball

On February 13th the Intermediate girls participated in a basketball tournament held at St. Gregory. The girls practiced very hard and played very well. They played a total of 3 games, playing St. Gregory once and St. Benedict twice. They were close games but unfortunately we lost. Our toughest game was against St. Gregory where we lost by only a few baskets. We came in 3rd place but we all had a great time and played hard. We would like to thank the amazing coach's Ms. Salgado-inho and Mrs. Lui for teaching us valuable skills and for their hard work. The team members were Alexandra C., Giuliana B., Rebecca P., Arian I., Kristyn W., Nicole R., Alexandra F., Valentina C., Nicole P., and Andrea T.

Dear Father Serra Community,

In October, Mrs. Lui's grade 6 class took part in the "Hockey Hall of Fame Writing Challenge". They were given a choice of three topics to compose a 250-300 word essay. Our class then had to select one finalist and submit the essay to the Hockey Hall of Fame for a chance to win a visit from the Stanley Cup to our school!

In February, Mrs. Lui was contacted by Kylie Allen, co-ordinator for the Promotions Department and was told that Sierra G. was chosen as one of the grade 6 finalists. We were given the opportunity to visit the Hockey Hall of Fame, listen to a presentation about the Stanley Cup by former Maple Leaf Ron Ellis, and have a class photo with the Cup. After hearing all 4 speeches, the judges will have a very difficult decision to make. Good Luck Sierra!

## Boys Basketball

On Tuesday February 12th, the Intermediate Boys Basketball Team travelled to St. Gregory's for the Divisional Tournament. They won their first game against St. Gregory by 10 points. They lost the next two games against St. Benedict's and Josyf Cardinal Slipyj. They place second in the tournament. This enabled the boys to face St. Benedict school in the Finals. They played hard but ended up in second place overall. The team members are:

Marco F., Paul F., Antoni C., Joseph A., Adam C., Philip B., J.J. M., Bradley M., Marco M., Nicholas S., Adam D., Paul T. Thank you to Mrs. Lui and Ms. Salgado-inho for all their time and support as coaches.

## FEBRUARY WAS PSYCHOLOGY MONTH

The common dream that parents have for their children is that they will have a good and happy and successful life. In fact one of the best predictors of the children who will be successful is that they have *a caring adult in their life*. As parents we often think our role is to protect our children from experiencing physical and emotional pain. In fact our role is to be there for our children when they encounter difficulties or life treats them unfairly. Many of the most successful adults have had to overcome enormous challenges to achieve their dream. Often they acknowledge that it was their parents' love and the encouragement to dream that kept them focused on their goal.

Children who do best as adults are those who have learned that they will survive even when things are going badly. Psychologists call this quality **resilience**.

Each of these examples shows us that when we face disappointment in life it is best to come up with a new action, instead of staying stuck in an unhappy state. Your job as a parent is to encourage your child when he or she is stuck and cannot move forward.

How children feel about themselves is determined by the messages that constantly run through their mind. These messages may come from parents, teachers, sisters, brothers, and other children. When facing challenges, these messages will determine whether children feel good or bad about themselves, and their ability to overcome difficulties. For example:

A child who gets a low grade on a project or test

may have a message like this going through their mind: "I never get good marks. I am just dumb. I can never do anything right. Nobody likes me."

The **resilient** child will put things into perspective. A resilient child engages in **positive self-talk**, and may have a message like this going through her mind: "I got a bad mark on my project because I didn't spend enough time planning. Next time I will start earlier and get help from my Dad".

**Help your children to develop resilience by helping them to change their negative messages into positive self-talk.** You can do this by making a habit of helping your children to identify their good qualities and achievements. You can use one of two methods to do this.

### Indirect Approach:

When your child is within listening range, tell your family and friends about his/her good qualities and achievements: "Marco is such a helpful child. He always helps his Dad with snow shovelling. And he is kind to his brother. When he has a job to complete at home or school, he just goes ahead and does it." Or, "Maria is such a thoughtful daughter. She baked cookies to celebrate her sister's birthday. She always reminds me of the things we need to buy for her school lunch. Her room is the tidiest in our house."

### Direct Approach:

You may need this method if the indirect approach is not resulting in an increase in confidence. In the morning, let your child know that today you want her to pay attention to the things that go well. That evening, put aside ten minutes to discuss things

that went well in your child's day. If your child focuses on the bad things in her day, let her know there will be time to talk about that later. Your child might need help to come up with good things. You can ask your child: "Did you get to school on time? What fun thing did you do at recess? Did you help with the younger children on the bus?" Your job as a parent is to write down three to four things that went well for your child. This will be used later on to remind your child of positive qualities and achievements. For the next three weeks, pick one day a week to remind your child to pay attention to what is going well. By week four, your child will have learned to tune-in to positive experiences. You can use your notes to write a "story" that will be specific to your child.

*For a younger child, it might look like this:*

"I am a thoughtful person who remembers to share treats and fun things with my friends. I do great work in art class. When I get home, I am the one who always takes care of the cat."

*For an older child or an adolescent the "story" might look like this:*

"I am a sensitive person with two best friends. I care about them. They care about me. I always have my sports equipment ready to take to school, and I always put it away when I get home. I am the one in the family who plans the TV viewing so that we all get to watch our favourite programs. I love my family and they love me even though we sometimes get annoyed with each other."

# A Message from Father Vito

*Dear Families and Friends of Father Serra Catholic School*

*May the peace and blessings of the Easter Season be upon you, your families and loved ones. Let us continue our journey of faith in giving witness to the message of love that the Gospel invites us to live day by day.*

*Thank you for all that you have done in preparing the children and our young people for the reception of the Sacraments. The celebrations of First Confession have truly been a blessing for all. We now look forward to welcoming the children to the Table of the Lord at their First Communion. Our grade 8 students celebrated a visit to our Parish with Bishop Boisseneau on Easter Wednesday. We look forward to the celebration of those students receiving of the Sacrament of Confirmation in April. As we continue through the Easter Season, let us meditate upon Christ and his life-giving sacrifice, and let us receive with joy his mandate to bring the Good News of God's love to everyone.*



School Age Programs for children up to 12 years of age, at this school.

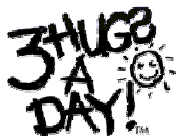
- Before School program—Breakfast served daily 7:30 a.m. to school start. \$29/wkly
- After School program — snacks served daily. School dismissal to 6:00 p.m.

#### Want to know more?

Meet with the PLASP staff at Father Serra or call the PLASP office at:

905-890-1711.

Visit our website: [www.plasp.com](http://www.plasp.com)

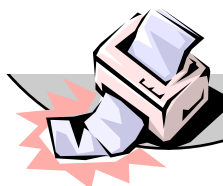


#### ITEMS TO COLLECT

All Saints Parish is collecting Dominion and Loblaws tapes. Please drop off in the Church Foyer.

#### Printer Cartridges

Students are reminded to continue to bring in their used cartridges to support the Greentec recycling project. The box is located at the main entrance to the school.



#### Student Leaders

All the student leaders would like to thank the entire Fr. Serra C.S. community for supporting all of our initiatives. We have almost reached our goal of \$ 10, 400 that we need to build a school overseas in a third world country. **We have raised \$ 9, 039** and hope to reach our goal before the end of the year.

The student leaders have been busy these last few months. In December they held a gently-used uniform sale as well as selling Gifts from the Heart. Both were very successful and raised more than \$ 700.00 for our Free the Children campaign.

Snack Shack is an ongoing initiative and has raised more than \$ 700.00 since the beginning of the school year. The snack shack will be closed until after Easter as many students find it difficult to eat the snacks with gloves on. We will continue to offer a wide variety of snacks which may include popcorn, fruit snacks, and nutri-grain type bars.

One of our student leaders, **Alexander J.** won first prize in an essay writing contest sponsored by the Human Rights and Race Relations. The award will be presented to Alexander at the board offices by our **Minister of Education, Kathleen Wynne.**

Our next initiative will be for the Hospital for Sick Children. We will be participating in the hospital's **Change Crusaders Campaign.** We will be collecting loose change to be deposited into our Money Jug and donated to the hospital during the annual **Sick Kids Radiothon, March 26th-28th.**