

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

Clerk-Typist: Mrs. E. Simone

Superintendent: Mr. Paul Crawford

Director: Ms. Ann Perron

April-June 2009

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

Congratulations to our Vice Principal, **Ms. O'Dowd**. As of September 2009, Ms. O'Dowd will be the new Principal of St. Francis Xavier C.S. Ms. O'Dowd will be missed here at Father Serra, but at the same time we wish her all the best in her new school. After many years with our school board and especially the many years she spent at Fr. Serra, **Mrs. Holzapfel** is retiring. Mrs. Holzapfel taught many of the members of our community and has indeed been a terrific teacher. Farewell and Happy Retirement! Our former Teacher-Librarian, **Mrs. Vecchio** also retired in April. We would like to take this time to wish Mrs. Vecchio a Happy Retirement as well. **Mrs. Karma** has been one of our F.S.L. teachers for the last few years. Her pleasant manner and rapport with both staff and students will be missed. Mrs. Karma has accepted a new position at St. Eugene C.S. **Mr. Merenda**, one of our grade 7 teachers, will also be leaving our school in September. Thank you Mr. Merenda for the two years you spent with us here at Fr. Serra and all the best in your new school. Another grade 7 teacher, **Mr. Cianfrini**, will also be leaving us. It was wonderful to have had Mr. Cianfrini here for Mrs. Lui, who will return this Fall. Good-bye to **Mr. Palmino**, one of our grade 5 teachers. We hope to see you again in the future. Our CYW, **Ms. Arbuthnot** has accepted a new position as a Youth Worker at Fr. Henry Carr S.S. We would like to congratulate Ms. Arbuthnot on her new appointment and wish her all the best!

Our school is a remarkable place to be and in no doubt because of our dedicated staff. Our new Principal in the Fall is **Mr. J. Pannozzo**. I'm sure he will enjoy his time here at Fr. Serra C.S. The staff's hard work and dedication to service continues to foster success for our students. Thank you staff not only for your professionalism, but also for your friendship. To the parents of our community, your generosity in the many charitable organizations that we assist, and the eagerness and enthusiasm with which you embrace new initiatives and challenges has been remarkable. As I move towards retirement at the end of this month I feel a sense of completion and satisfaction knowing that I was able to enjoy my tenure at such an exceptional school. Farewell and all the best to past and present staff members as well as the many families in the Fr. Serra Community.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR VP

On behalf of all the staff and students of Father Serra, I would like to extend a very big thank you to **Father Vito** for his past seven years of service to our school community. We have all benefited from his dedication to pastoral education, his knowledge and his generosity. He will be deeply missed, but we wish him good health and much success in his new parish of St. Clare.

As I move on to another school I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Father Serra community for their kindness and support over the past two years. I have truly enjoyed my time here and would especially like to thank the staff for all of their hard work, the members of CSAC and the many parent volunteers for their commitment to special school activities and, most of all, the students for their energy and enthusiasm. May you all enjoy a happy and safe summer and may God continue to bless you all.

M. O'Dowd

"FOR VACATION DAYS"

There's a happy sort of feeling, God,

That seems to come always

When school is closed and summertime

Brings back vacation days!

I'm sure you know just what I mean—

We're free to run and play,



To swim and go on picnics,

Or to fish the whole long day!

O thank you, God, for the ways

Of happy, free, vacation days!

Arletta Christman Harvey

Farewell

CSAC UPDATE

It was a great pleasure to represent the parent community over the past school year and we are pleased that despite challenging economic times, CSAC was able to fulfill all the promised initiatives on the current budget.

Thank you to everyone who responded to the Uniform Survey and the CSAC Fundraising and Initiatives Survey, which were distributed in the spring. Based on the results, Father Serra will maintain the current uniform for the next three years and McCarthy's will continue to be our vendor. As for the Fundraising Survey, the community voted 92% in favor of the status quo – Activity Fee and Pizza Lunch – as our fundraising activities for the 2009/2010 school year. The feedback received on funds allocation has been used to create the 2009/2010 budgets. Thank you for all your comments and suggestions; they will be carefully evaluated. Several classrooms returned the surveys on time however the entire school received Jumbo Freezes as a token of appreciation.

Thanks to the hard work of everyone involved in this year's fundraising initiatives combined with the conscientious spending of our many event committees through out the year, we were fortunate to end the year with a surplus. As a result, we were able to purchase an additional Smart Board with all the essential components, which brings the total number of Smart Boards at our school to three.

At the school mass in June, on behalf of the Father Serra Community, we presented gifts to Mr. Venditti and Mrs. Vecchio, who are both retiring, and to Father Vito who is moving to a new parish. Mrs. Holzapfel, who is also retiring, was unable to attend the mass but will be honoured and receive her gift at a picnic with the kindergarten students.

We offer our deep gratitude and best wishes to all the staff at Father Serra – those who are retiring, those who are transferring to other schools, and those who will continue to be part of our school community.

From the entire CSAC, we wish everyone a safe and fun-filled summer. We look forward to seeing you at the Welcome Barbeque and the AGM meeting in September. God bless!

Karen Lorenowicz and Shereen Persano, CSAC co-chairs

CHESS CLUB

Six players represented Father Serra Chess Club at the individual tournament in March. They were: Trevor Tung, Benjamin Biasi, Nicholas Carbone, Andrew Rossit, Alessandro Stefenatti and Anthony Olijnyk. All students demonstrated a very high level of play against some tough competition.

Fifteen members participated in the team chess tournament held at Msgr. Percy Johnson on April 3. All three teams played extremely well, with our **primary team placing third overall and our junior team placing fourth out of sixteen teams**. The team members were: **Primary:** Hayley Pinto, Cameron Pinto, Benjamin Biasi, Trevor Tung, Jonathan Alexandris **Junior:** Nicholas Carbone, Peter Zastawny, Alex Olechnowicz, Andrew Rossit, Sebastian Gri. **Intermediate:** Robert Adragna, Jeremy Zastawny, Alessandro Stefenatti, Olha Yaremchuk, Anthony Olijnyk,

Overall, we had between twenty five and thirty students who came regularly to practice their skills and enjoy some friendly games. Once again, a very big thank you to our parent coaches, Mrs. Zastawny and Mr. Olijnyk, for all of their time, effort and commitment to the Chess Club. Thank you also to the parents who drove students to the competitions. Congratulations to all of the chess club participants and thanks for another great year! **M. O'Dowd**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS 2009-10



First Day of School: September 8, 2009
Community BBQ: Sept. 16th (17th-R.D.)
Curriculum Night: September 23rd
CSAC, AGM & Elections: September 30th
Terry Fox Run: September 25th
Thanksgiving Day: October 12th

School Photographs: October 8th
P.D. Day: November 13th
Hallowe'en Howl: (t.ba.)
Parent-Teacher Interviews/P.D. Day
 Dec. 3rd 5:00-8:00 p.m., Dec. 4th: 9:00-12:00
Christmas Holidays: Dec. 21st-Jan. 1st
School Resumes: January 4, 2010

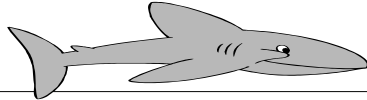
Family Day: February 15th
Ash Wednesday: February 25th
Parent-Teacher Interviews: March 5th
P.T.I./P.D. Day March 6th
March Break: March 15-19th
Good Friday-Easter Mon.-Apr. 2nd-5th
Victoria Day: May 24th
Last Day of Classes: June 29, 2010

ATHLETIC/TEAM NEWS

Intermediate Boys' Hockey: The Boys' Hockey Team made the school very proud by finishing 3rd in the City Championship. They played hard and showed school spirit throughout the whole tournament. The members of the team were: Phillip P., Luke R., Joseph O., Ryan M., Luke B., Jordan D., Alex T., Gianfranco M., Frankie C., Brent C., Charles D., A.J. G., Eric T., Nicholas N., Paul T., Angelo D., Christopher T., Samantha P. Finally, thank you to the coaches: Mr. Cianfrini, Mr. Gonano, and Daniel Stark for giving up their time to work with our team.



Swim Team-Congratulations to the Father Serra Sharks. Again this year the team participated at the TCDSST-2009 Swim Meet held at the Etobicoke Olympium Pool. Father Serra sent a total of 47 swimmers, who took part in the 135 Individual events and 16 Relays. Out of 25 schools that participated, Father Serra finished in 9th place. Individual finishes were: Anna H.-2nd in Butterfly; 3rd in Freestyle. The Gr. 8 Boys Relay Team: A.J.G., Rex P., Charles D., Leandro E., Sam N.:2nd in Freestyle, 2nd in the Medley. Special thanks to the high school coaches: Madison A., Victoria Z. Ella Z., Pamela V., Marco B. Thank you to Mrs. Ardizi and Mr. Gonano. Also to the Etobicoke Swim Team coach Bryan G. Thank you parents for driving the kids to the pool!



Intermediate W5H-On Monday April 27th, the Intermediate W5H Team competed at the City Championships for the second year in a row. The final;s were held at the Catholic Education Centre. Teams from St. Michael's Choir School, St. Agatha and St. Timothy were the finalists. We won our first game by a fair margin , which put us into the finals. Our final game was against St. Agatha, a finalist last year. We were successful and were crowned City Champions once again. Team members were: Captain Alexander Jaffray, Frank De Bartolo, Paul Tkatch, Peter Pogorski, Graham Infuso, Steven Lin, Maria Locke and Joseph Dominici,. Thanks to the parents who came to cheer us on! The team was coached by Mrs. Berneche.



More Athletic Achievements....

Intermediate Girls Softball: The Intermediate Girls' Softball team played their tournament on June 11th. The girls played hard and finished second in the team's Division . The members of the team were: Alexandra F., Olha Y., Alessia M., Alessia S., Danielle W., Samantha P., Lauren S., Maria L.

Alessandra C., Nicole P., Julia M., Lauren F., Marlee B. Thank you to the coaches, Mrs. Berneche and Mr. Cianfrini for their time and hard work in preparing the



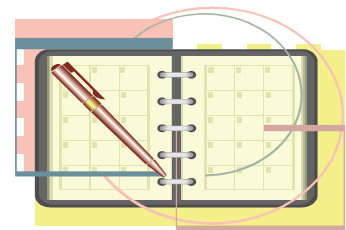
Intermediate Boys Softball: Congratulations to the Boys' Softball team for the dominating performance at the Softball Tournament on June 12th. Everyone contributed to an awesome display of offence and defence. The team won all games by a combined total score of 50 runs to 2, ultimately winning the Championship. The team beat St. Matthew C.S. 12-2 in the championship game. Thank you coaches: Mr. Rivera and Mrs. Ciaravella for their work in preparing the team. The teammembers were: **Eric G. , Brent C., A.J. G., Charles D. , Alex T., Eric T., Gianfranco M., Jonathan T., Steven M., Paul T., Matthew S., Adrian S., Peter B., Marco B.**

TRACK AND FIELD

Congratulations to the Father Serra Track and Field Team which had a very successful year. The team members worked hard and achieved excellent results. At the Divisional Meet, Father Serra finished **First** overall, out of 18 school teams. At the Regional Meet, where an incredible 60 students advanced, our team again did very well. The team finished **Second** out a total 48 school teams which participated. At the **City Championships** held at Varsity Stadium this year, 18 team members were participants in various events and once again they did Father Serra proud with their outstanding accomplishments. A thank you is extended to the coaches for giving their time to prepare the students in the various events: Mr. Rivera, Mr. Gonano, Mr. Merenda, Mr. Cianfrini, Ms. Berneche, Mr. Palmino, and Mr. Farrell. Special congratulations are extended to these students who participated at the City Track and Field Championships: **Dean L., Gianfranco M., Alex T., Eric F., Eric T., Julia M., Alessia S., Sam F., Marco F., Paul T., Clare Z., Jacqueline C., Bianca R., Azora D., Alyssa H.** The grade 8 Boys Relay Team was also very fortunate to participate in **The Festival of Excellence Meet** at Varsity Stadium, where the team placed 6th. The team members had the opportunity to meet many of the Track World Athletes including **Usain Bolt**.

AGENDAS

Agendas have once again been ordered for the 2009-2010 school year. They will be delivered to Father Serra at the beginning of September and *will be available for purchase during the first week of school.* The agenda is a great way to keep homework organized and provides an effective tool for communication between parents and teachers.



A Message from Father Vito

June 24, 2009—Feast of the Birth of John the Baptist

Dear students, parents, teachers and administrators:

On this day of the Birth of John the Baptist I send you greetings and best wishes for a safe, healthy and relaxing Summer holiday.

John the Baptist was called from his mother's womb and anointed with the Holy Spirit to become the one who prepares the way for the coming of the Saviour.

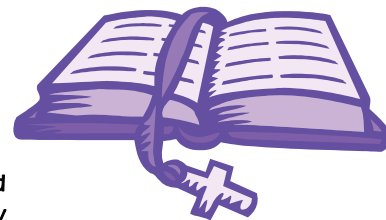
Each one of our children, each one of us, is indeed a blessing and a gift of God to the world, sent to announce the mercy and love of God to everyone. In the Gospel of St. Luke, the passage which was read in church today, the people were asking themselves: "What will become of this child?" This is the question we can ask of any child, of every child. We know that the grace of God is with them and will continue to guide them and protect them so that they may fulfill the mission God has set before them. They need our prayers, our support, our example and our love.

May you all enjoy the precious gift of Summer with family and friends. May our spirit also find nourishment in the weeks and months ahead. As your holidays lead you to discover new places, discover also the churches where other communities gather to worship. Pray with them. If you are welcoming visitors into your homes this Summer, invite them to join you in prayer and worship in the church you attend.

May God bless you with all the graces necessary to give witness to his love.

My prayers are with you.

Fr. Vito Marziliano, Pastor



Editor's Note: There will be an opportunity to "drop in" and share a moment with Fr. Vito and the other members of the community on Fr. Vito's last weekend here in our parish: Saturday June 27, after the 5:00 p.m. Mass (6-8) p.m.) and Sunday June 28th, after the 11:00 a.m. Mass (12 noon-2:00 p.m.) Come and share a story, enjoy some refreshments, meet other parishioners and friends. Fr. Vito looks forward to this opportunity to greet you personally and thank you for all that you have done and will continue to do in the life of this parish community.

Student Leaders-Leaders of Tomorrow...Leading Today

The year has come to an end and the student leaders have much to be proud of. We continued to run Snack Shack on Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday's during lunch recess. With the funds raised along with those raised from the Gently Used Uniform Sale and various other fundraisers, we were able to make a donation of over \$3 200 to The Children's Wish Foundation which will help grant 8 year old Ben's wish of a trip to Disney World this July. We also made a \$200 donation to The Toronto Humane Society. On June 5, 2009, a group of student leaders attended a Me to We celebration to honour various schools that promote the Me to We philosophy. The students were able to meet Princess Sophie, The Countess of Wessex as well as The Honourable David Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. The school was presented a plaque by the Princess which is on display in the bookcase. We wish to thank the students, staff and the Father Serra community for their continued support of all the student leader activities and wish them a safe and happy summer break. To the grade 7 students, we thank you for all your hard work, commitment and dedication and look forward to you joining student leaders next year. To the grade 8 students, we wish you good luck in all your future endeavours and hope you continue to let your leadership skills shine through in all that you do.

M.Arbutnot and D. Ciaravella

Angel Foundation and The Rotary Club of Toronto:

Thank you to the Angel Foundation and The Rotary Club of Toronto for their generosity towards a number of needy students within our own community. Their donations allowed our students to participate in class excursions to Brock University and Montreal. These experiences are important milestones in the lives of our students that will be forever remembered.



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



Visit our website:

www.plasp.com

ECO-SCHOOL NEWS:

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STUDENTS FOR SHOWING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP. THE STUDENTS WORKED HARD TO REDUCE WASTE AND CONSERVE ENERGY. AGAIN THIS YEAR FR. SERRA WAS A CERTIFIED ECO-SCHOOL, AND RECEIVE A SILVER AWARD. THE ECO-TEAM DESERVES A LOT OF CREDIT FOR THIS ACHIEVEMENT. FROM SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS TO GARBAGE CLEAN-UP OUR TEAM WORKED HARD. A SPECIAL THANKS TO MS. CARLOZZI, MRS. PALADINO AND MR. HENNESSEY FOR THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATION TO THIS IMPORTANT GLOBAL INITIATIVE.

Thank you to the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation for their donation of \$2,607.12 to support environmental education and activities at Father Serra School A very special thanks to Mrs. Carbone for her efforts on our behalf!

Author, Author!

During the third term, students from Father Serra were entertained and informed by three exceptional authors. Dan Yashinsky shared his stories with the Intermediates, Ruth Ohi captivated the primaries with her drawings and Eric Walters amused the Juniors with tales of his adventures and story writing techniques. Many thanks to the members of CSAC for making these presentations possible.