

FATHER SERRA C. S.

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

416-393-5391

THE FATHER SERRA TIMES



September-October 2008

Principal: Mr. Venditti

Vice Principal: Ms. O'Dowd

Head Secretary: Mrs. Barbaro

Clerk-Typist: Mrs. Dinner

Director of Ed.: Mr. Nemes

Superintendent: Mr. Crawford

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Let us all rejoice in the Lord and keep a festival in honour of all the saints. Let us join with the angels in joyful praise to the Son of God.

Dear Parents,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome the many new families to our school community. Once again our annual BBQ provided a wonderful venue for these new families to become acquainted with the

Father Serra School Community. A special thank you is extended to our BBQ Committee for the continued hard work and a successful community event.

Congratulations are also extended to the new council, in particular Mrs. Persano and Mrs. Lorenowicz, our new CoChairs of the CSAC. We are confident that 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.

Finally, a warm welcome to our new staff members: Mr. Cianfirini, Ms. Drywski, and returning Ms. Arbuthnot and Mr. Palmino.

A NEW ADDITION FOR OUR SCHOOL

Our New Facilities Committee, spearheaded by Mrs. Persano, met with the board's Facility and Planning Dept. on Sept. 16th. The preliminary meeting dealt with the proposed plan to construct an addition to our school. Our committee provided input regarding the needs of our school with respect to the original concept design presented and look forward to a revised proposal.

Update About our Portables:

We are in the process of replacing one of our portables on the site and repairing a second one. Along with CSAC we have been in contact with board officials to expedite our situation with the two portables and other areas of our site that are in disrepair. At this time we have relocated two classes.

This has placed a strain on our school and we are dealing with the situation the best we can. All programs are continuing and being taught. As a school community we hope that this matter is dealt with quickly and effectively so that we can continue to offer our students the excellent programs and activities that are indicative of Father Serra School.

SAFE, PEANUT & NUT FREE, SNACK IDEAS

All Fruit

Snack: Cheese Dip, Popcorn, Plain Rice Krispie Squares, Kellogg's Pop Tarts, Dunkaroos, Lays and Hostess Plain/Ruffled Chips, Hot Rod Pepperoni Sticks, Sun Ripe Fruit Leathers, Smart Food, Pringle's Potato Chips, Tostitos, Doritos

Crackers: Original Ritz, Triscuits, Premium Saltines, Goldfish, Vegetable Thins, Christie Crispers, Snackbread

Cereals: Honeycomb, Fruit Loops, Corn Bran, Regular Cheerios, Rice Krispies, Shreddies, Raisin Bran, Corn Flakes, Corn Pops, Kellogg's Nutri-Gram Bars, Special K Bars

Cookies: (mini sizes are unsafe), Teddy Grahams, Regular Oreos, Christie's Scooby-do's Crackers, Christies Dinosaur Cookies, Arrowroots, Fudgee-o's

Candy: Allan's Gummies, Allan's Fuzzy Peach, Allan's Carnival Pops, Allan's Sour Cherry Blasters, Kit Kat, Smarties, Coffee Crisp, Nerds, Extra Sugar Free Gum, Dentyne Gum, Fruit by the Foot, Rockets by CeDe Candy, Twizzlers Red Licorice, Skittles, Lifesavers, Tootsie Rolls, Starburst, Fruitella, Mr. Freeze, Fruit Roll-ups, Sour Patch

Tim Horton's Tim Bits and all Bulk Food and M&M's are unsafe!

"Lest We Forget"



On November 11th we remember the many who died in the hopes of maintaining a free and democratic nation that we call "Canada". Let us remember and honour those lives and those that continue even today, to ensure that as Canadians we enjoy the peace and blessings of living in our great country.

TCDSB TRUSTEES—2008-2009

WARD

- 1 Joseph Martino
 - 2 Ann Andrachuk—Vice Chair
 - 3 Sal Piccininni
 - 4 Mary Cicogna
 - 5 Maria Rizzo
 - 6 Rob Davis
 - 7 John Del Grande
 - 8 Oliver Carroll
 - 9 Catherine LeBlanc-Miller—Chair
 - 10 Barbara Poplawski
 - 11 Angela Kennedy
 - 12 Paul John Crawford
- Student Trustee—James Dempsey

Health and Safety

The Health and Safety of our students and members of the school community remains the top priority. We have indicated a number of measures and policies in the current student agenda, however, we would like to highlight as well as bring forward a few other suggestions to ensure safety for all of us:

All visitors should continue to visit the office and sign in and will be given a Visitor's Pass if necessary.

All returning and new volunteers, are required to complete the revised TCDSB Volunteer Application if volunteering on an ongoing basis.

If your child is **anaphylactic** please ensure that the school has medication and the appropriate updated documentation to administer the medication. Our staff was re-trained in September.

Our first Lockdown drill took place on October 3rd. Our next drill is scheduled for April 3rd. During the lockdown drill practice signs will be posted on the doors and we ask that all visitors do not visit or disturb the school during the drill.

School Uniforms are important components in the safety of our children and we ask that parents ensure that their child is wearing the official school uniform before leaving for school unless it is a School Spirit Day. Please review the Code of Behaviour in your child's agenda and also a brief outline on the other side of our November Calendar.

Game-boys, MP3 Players, expensive collector cards, and toys are not to be brought to school. **Cell Phones brought to school must be turned off and stored in a safe place.** These items are often lost or taken by others, therefore, it would be wise to leave them at home.

Thank you

MARK YOUR CALENDARS 2008-2009



PADays: October 10th, October 24th, February 13th, June 26th., Dec. 5th, March 13th (Parent Teacher Interviews)

Advent Mass: Monday., Dec. 15th at 7 p.m.

Breakfast with Santa: Fri. Dec. 12th 9:30-12 a.m.

Christmas Break: Dec. 22/08-Jan. 2/09

Family Day: February 16, 2009

March Break: March 16-20th

Good Friday: April 10th

Easter Monday: April 13th

First Confession: March 30th, 7:00 p.m.

First Communion: Sat. May 2nd, 2:00 p.m.

Confirmation: Mon., April 20th 7:00 p.m.

Graduation: Wed., June 22nd, 7p.m.

Last day of school: Thurs. June 25th,
3:30 dismissal



CSAC NEWS

Catholic School Advisory

Council 2008-09

I am pleased to introduce your new CSAC for 2008-09

Mrs. Shereen Persano *Co-Chair*

Mrs. Karen Lorenowicz *Co-Chair*

Mrs. Joanne Hills *Treasurer*

Mrs. Rita Tonelli *Parent Rep.*

Mrs. Mackie Sichetti *Parent Rep.*

Mrs. Teresa Visic *Parent Rep.*

Mrs. Carbone *Secretary*

Mrs. Pisani *Community Rep.*

Mr. Fred Duprey *Parish Rep.*

We wish to thank the school community for the overwhelming response to the Activity Fee as most of you have sent in your monies swiftly. A reminder notice will be going out to families who still need to return their forms. We also thank all the parents who have offered to volunteer their time and energy for our many school activities. You will be contacted by a CSAC representative shortly.

As we approach the holiday season, we look forward to several events and initiative that strengthen and nurture our school community.

Coming up after the Hallowe'en Howl will be our Christmas celebrations: Advent Mass and Break-

fast with Santa. More information will be sent home in the coming weeks.

Father Serra Catholic School is blessed with an enthusiastic and engaged parent community. Parents wanting more information will find the CSAC bulletin board, located outside the main office of the school, is a great resource. We also encourage you to come out for the monthly CSAC meetings held every 3rd Wednesday of the month. And you can always e-mail us your questions, comments or requests at csac.fatherserra@tcdsb.org.

We are your voice, so make yourselves heard.

ATHLETIC/TEAM NEWS

Boys and Girls Soccer Teams:

Although our girls were last year's City Champions, they were not able to repeat this year but finished a respectable second place at the Divisionals, this Fall. Our Boys also played hard and placed fourth in the Divisionals. Thank you to our coaches, Mr. Farrell and Mr. Cianfrini.

Girls Soccer: Elisa A., Alessandra C., Marlee B., Nicole P., Alessandra S., Jacqueline D., Lydia N., Julia M., Sara S., Lauren F., Stephanie D., Sierra L., Diana U., Alessia M., Alexandra F., Cassondra H., Laura G., Olha Y. Coach: Mr. Cianfrini

Boys Soccer: Angelo D., Joseph O., Eric T., Eric F., Frankie C., Josh H., Dennis P. AJG., Paul T., Charles D. Mark Z., Mackenzy K., Michael M., Ramon F., Peter B., Adam L., Luke R. Nicholas M., Coach: Mr. Farrell

Boys and Girls Volleyball:

The season will soon begin this November, however, both teams have played exhibition tournaments to prepare for their divisionals. Good luck to both teams and their coaches, Mr. Cianfrini, Mr. Rivera, and Mr. Merenda.

STUDENT LEADER REPORT

"Leaders of Tomorrow, Leading today"

The 2008/2009 school year started early for the student leaders. Our first initiative was a gently used uniform sale at the Welcome Back BBQ that raised about \$600.00 for our Children's Wish Foundation of Canada Campaign. This was followed by our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive that was destined for the St. Francis Table. A group of student lead-

leaders went to the St. Francis Table on October 9th to volunteer their services and sort out all the donations. We hope to go again to help serve in their restaurant.

Last year our "Giving Day" promotion with The Bay was a great success so we are holding it again this year. Thank you for supporting us again.

A group of student leaders attended the Second Annual "Me to We" Conference at

The Ricoh Coliseum on October 17th. They were inspired by many speakers and performers that included Craig and Mark Kielburger of "Free the Children", actress Mia Farrow, The Right Honourable John Turner, and Jessi Cruickshank from MTV.

We wish to thank the students and the entire Fr. Serra community for all their continued support. —Mrs. Ciaravella and Ms. Arbuthnot

THE SCHOOL GUIDANCE CORNER

The Elementary School Counsellor in Your Child's School

Elementary school counsellors are certified teachers who have taken further training and specialized in guidance and counselling.

Aims of Elementary School Counsellors

- To assist all students to learn to be responsible for their own behaviour
- To develop in children an under-

standing and acceptance of the strengths and weaknesses of one's self and others

- To assist principals and teachers to identify children with special needs in learning, behaviour or getting along with others-needs which affect growth in all areas
- The prevention of and early attention to problems which may hinder the child's education
- Assist parents, teachers and principals in locating and using suitable school and community resources

- Teach children to acquire and use information essential to their career awareness and development

Teach children how to make decisions, solve problems, communicate and relate to others

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!

From the desk of Father Vito (All Saints Parish)

Dear Friends,

With the feast of All Saints', November 1st, we begin the official catechetical programs which will lead us to the celebration of the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation this coming Spring. Congratulations to the families who have registered their children in the program.

This is the year of St. Paul, marking two thousand years since his birth. The apostle Paul gave witness to Christ in word and deed; overcoming obstacles of all sorts and eventually giving his life as a witness to Christ.

As parents, educators, pastors, etc., we are given day by day ample opportunity to give witness to Christ. May our young people learn from our example what it means to put it into action the faith we profess.

Over the next few days our schools will each receive an icon of St. Paul to enthrone in a place of honour, as a reminder to the community of the great blessings which the apostle has given us through his writings and his life. In January, a large icon of St. Paul, now journeying through some of the Toronto parishes, will visit our church at All Saints'. At that time we will hold special celebrations in honour of St. Paul in each of our schools. May the intercession of the apostle strengthen our commitment to give witness to Christ's love.

Blessings and peace to all.

Father Vito



Before and After School Program for 8 years in a row!

PLASP operates Before, Lunch and After School Programs in Peel and Toronto and also operates 17 child care centres in Mississauga and Brampton

121 Brunel Road, Mississauga, Ontario L4Z 3E9
Tel: 905.890.1711 www.plasp.com

McCarthy's

Is our official Uniform Supplier. You can check on-line at, www.rjmccarthy.com

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.

Thanks for your support.



Hallowe'en Howl

Our Father Serra Hallowe'en Howl Dance took place on Friday Oct. 31st. Our children had a great day dancing in their favourite costumes. This is one of our events organized through CSAC. Thank you to our volunteers, especially Mrs. Birket and Mrs. Sichetti.

