



**St. Boniface
Catholic School**
20 Markanna Drive
Scarborough, Ontario
M1M 2J1
416-393-5277

Principal
P. Stachiw

Secretaries
G. Da Silva
S. Filippi

Superintendent
G. Grant

Trustee
P. Crawford

Parish
St. Boniface
142 Markham Road
416-261-5983

School Hours
8:55 AM - 3:30 PM

Lunch Hour
12:00 AM - 1:00 PM



Catch the spirit!

St. Boniface Catholic School December 2009 Newsletter

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Thank you parents, family and friends of the St. Boniface Catholic School Community for helping us reach our goal by raising \$4,000.00 dollars through our annual fundraising dance-a-thon. This money directly benefits the students in so many ways as our parent council is always very supportive of all school events. So far, they have helped subsidize the cost of the student agendas, helped pay for busing to keep the cost of trips down and paid for our excellent presentations by D. O. and the Canadian Half-Pints earlier this year. We thank the parents for providing enrichment opportunities for our students. Because we reached certain financial targets with our fundraising, we will be having Hat Day, No Homework Day, Pajama Day and Movie & Popcorn Day throughout the year.

During Advent, we are especially aware of the need to personally prepare for the birth of Christ, during this hope-filled season. This year, let us fully participate in the Christmas story and let each one of us bring Christ into our world. During this time we ask that you keep the family of our Senior Kindergarten student who recently passed away in your prayers.

This year students will be asked to bring 'personal care products' to school during the month of December. With these offerings, the children will help spread the joy of Christmas to those in need by bringing Christ into their world.

Please join us for our Advent Liturgy on December 15th at 9:30 a.m. Together we will celebrate our faith and Jesus' greatest gift, the Eucharist.

*"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life".
(John 8:12)*

It is our hope that our homes and our community are filled with the light and peace of Christ at Christmas and throughout the year.

Sincerely,

P. Stachiw,
Principal

The Toronto Catholic District School Board does not dismiss early on the last day before the Christmas holidays. Therefore, dismissal on December 18th will be at the regular time, 3:30 p.m.

St. Boniface Church Mass Schedule for Christmas

December 24th at 7:00 p.m., 9:00 p.m., 12:00 Midnight

December 25th at 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

December 31st New Year's Eve at 5:00 p.m.

January 1st New Year's Day at 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m

Dates to Remember

Parent Council Meeting

Monday December 8 at 6:00 p.m.

Hat Day

Friday December 11

Advent Mass

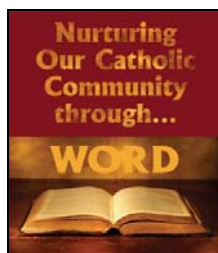
Tuesday December 15 at 9:30 a.m.

Christmas Holidays

December 21, 2009 - January 1, 2010

First Day Back

Monday January 4, 2010



As we enter the season of Advent to prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus, it is rather suitable that this month's virtue is CHARITY. Many of us are already engaging in the mad rush to purchase gifts to put under the tree on the 25th, but let us be mindful of the fact that charity is not always about giving material things.

Our quote for the month is "*Charity begins at home, but it should not end there*". As St. Thomas Aquinas described it "*Charity is friendship first with God and secondly with all who belong to God.*" (2a2ae, 25,4).

How can we practice charity and generosity in our community without necessarily giving material things? This month at St. Boniface we will be demonstrating charity by collecting personal care items for the community

Dance-a-thon Winners

Congratulations to the following students who won prizes in this year's dance-a-thon. Janson X., Mathea B., Jillian M., Reginald B., Nathaniel G., Angelo M., Reah S., Darrius T. and Hunter H. were all winners of our early bird draws. They received three different types of card games including Uno, Blink and Plinko. We will be announcing our individual student prizes and class prizes on Mon. Dec. 7 at our Spirit Assembly. Our Spirit Assembly for November had to be changed to Dec. 7.

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

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 occur involving weapons, hazardous chemical spill, or 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 practicing 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. No one will be allowed into the school at this time. This is the same procedure that will be followed in a real situation.

Important

- If students are late and you are dropping them off at school, the student must report to the office. A late slip will be issued and the student will then be asked to go directly to their class. *In an effort to foster independence, we would ask that parents not accompany their child to their classroom or portable.*
- The playground is for staff and students only.
- Please do not approach any of our students in the playground.
- All visitors to the school, including parents and guardians, must report to the office.

Come to the office and we will help you with any concern/question you might have.

Parent Teacher Conferences December 3rd and December 4th

Please take the time to visit with your child's teacher. Interviews are an opportunity for you to discuss and plan the academic success of your child(ren).

Studies have shown that children whose parents are involved in their education do better in school. Parent-teacher conferences are one way to get involved. Every time you attend a parent-teacher conference, you learn more about your child and strengthen the bond with your child's school. Getting to know the teacher and hearing his or her views of your child's progress actually helps your child succeed.

A Note About The Winter and Cold/Inclement Weather

In the interest of student health and school performance, the TCDSB continues to support students being outdoors during recess whenever possible. Children should be dressed appropriately, with hats, gloves, scarves, boots and winter coats.

Students will remain indoors during inclement weather. According to the approved guidelines, students will be indoors in the event of rain or the possibility of severe thunderstorms or lightning in the vicinity of the school. Students will also remain indoors when the temperature, or the temperature in conjunction with the wind speed, creates a wind chill factor that could possibly lead to frostbite.

We sometimes receive requests to have children stay in for recess because they are sick. We expect that students who are too ill to go outdoors for regular play periods will stay at home.

Any school closures, cancellation of classes or cancellation of school bus transportation, will be reported through the Board's 24 hour recorded telephone information line at 416-222-8282, Ext. 2873, through the Board's website, as well as through local television and radio broadcasts.

Please ensure that your child wears boots to and from school. We require that a pair of dry indoor shoes (slippers, sneakers, etc.) bearing your child's name, be kept at school for indoor wear. For safety and proper hygiene reasons, stocking feet, wet shoes or boots will not be permitted in the classrooms. This expectation is for all students in JK to Grade 8.

Parent Council (CSAC)

The CSAC is always looking for parent volunteers to help out on Pizza Lunch days and Hot Dog days. If you can volunteer, please contact the school. We hope to see you at our next Parent Council (CSAC) meeting on Dec. 7 at 6:00 p.m. in our library.

Student Transportation Website

The TCDSB is pleased to announce a new website developed by the Student Transportation Department to assist parents and families in locating schools nearest their home, to confirm the availability of bussing, and to provide other information relating to student safety and transportation issues. The website can be accessed via the Internet at:

http://www.schoolbus.to/c_home.asp

St. Boniface on the Web

Not only can you get the most up to date information from the TCDSB, but you can also find our monthly newsletters and calendars at our school website. You can find it at <http://www.tcdsb.org/schools/stboniface.asp>.

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2009-2010

Wards

1. Joseph Martino	416-512-3401
2. Ann Andrachuk	416-512-3402
3. Sal Piccininni	416-512-3403
4. Mary Cicogna	416-512-3404
5. Maria Rizzo	416-512-3405
6. Rob Davis	416-512-3406
7. John Del Grande	416-512-3407
8. Mary Ann Robillard	416-512-3408
9. Catherine LeBlanc-Miller	416-512-3409
10. Barbara Poplawski ,	416-512-3410
11. Angela Kennedy	416-512-3411
12. Paul John Crawford	416-512-3412
James Dempsey, Student Trustee	416-512-3413

Do You Know The "Roadblocks" to Good Grades?

First term report cards were recently sent home, much to the excitement or dismay of children across the province. While this academic ritual presents opportunities for celebration, it can also be a time for serious reflection and the forming of an action plan. There are many factors, which can lead to poor academic results.

The most common "roadblocks to good grades" include lack of sleep or proper nutrition, over-scheduling, and poor problem-solving skills. As teachers, we see the results of these every day--kids with their heads down on desks performing well below their potential.

So how many roadblocks do your kids have to face? Here's a short quiz. (For each statement that accurately reflects your family, score one point.)

1) Are basic needs being met?

- I ensure each my kids receive recommended amounts of sleep (8-12 hours depending on their ages).
- My kids eat multiple servings of fresh fruit and/or vegetables each day.
- I ensure breakfast is almost never skipped.
- I consciously work to limit the amount of sugar in lunches and/or snacks.
- I encourage my younger kids to bring home lunch leftovers.
- My kids engage in active play or exercise.

2) Are your children over-scheduled?

- We always make time for homework.
- My kids have the opportunity for "downtime" each night.
- We are not out more than 3-4 nights a week.

3) How do you approach homework?

- My kids' know there is always home work.
- We have a regularly established time and routine.
- I offer to help my kids review for tests, and look over assignments.
- I periodically check with the school if there does not seem to be assigned homework.

4) Do you maintain good communication with the school?

- I know about tests and important dates.
- I check my younger kids' agendas or organizers on a regular basis.
- I know how to contact my child's teachers.
- I speak to teachers when questions arise.

5) Do you foster problem-solving skills and independence?

- I try not to always bail my kids out of situations.
- I let them fail when it's not morally or life-threatening.
- I don't repeat myself over and over.
- I encourage problem-solving and independence in my children at home.

The results:

- 15 - 21: You are well on your way to ensuring your kids are ready for learning.
- 10 - 14: Good job! Now just look at ways to fine-tune your current situation.
- 0 - 9: You're headed in the right direction. You have a little farther to go.

In any case, the most important thing is to remain aware and vigilant against these potential roadblocks which keep so many children from achieving their full potential.

The Christmas Break period is from December 21, 2009 to January 1, 2010 (inclusive). Classes resume on January 4th 2010 at 8:55 a.m.

