

March 2009

St. Gerald Catholic School News

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Second term report cards will be sent home on March 10 and we look forward to welcoming parents/guardians for parent/teacher conferences on the evening of March 12 and the morning of March 13. This is an important occasion both to celebrate your children's successes and to collaborate with their teachers on strategies for future successes.

On February 20, we received a very special visit from our Superintendent of Education, Mr. Mc Morrow, and officers from the Ministry of Education regarding our best practices and achievements. Our visitors spoke with members of our CSAC, visited our Gr. 1 and 6/7 classes, and had a productive conversation with teachers from all divisions. It was rewarding for us to celebrate our successes and to know that some of our strategies will be shared with educators throughout the province!

Our March break this year is scheduled from March 16 – 20. Best wishes to all members of the community for this welcome opportunity to enjoy a needed break from our regular work.

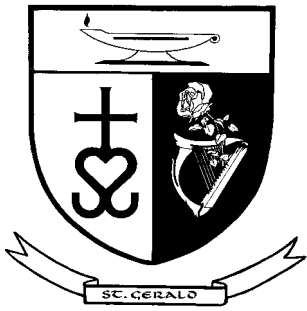
Please join us on Wednesday, March 4 at 7 p.m. for our next CSAC meeting and on Tuesday, March 31 at 9:30 a.m. for our next school Mass.

Sincerely,
R. Leone

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2009

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. Oliver Carroll | 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 |



St. Gerald Catholic School

200 Old Sheppard Avenue
Toronto M2J 3L9
Tel. (416) 393- 5319
Fax (416) 397-6330

Principal:
R. Leone

Superintendent:
M. Mc Morrow
(416) 222-8282 ext. 6312

Trustee:
J. Del Grande
(416) 512-3407

Parish:
Holy Spirit Catholic Church
3526 Sheppard Avenue East
(416) 293-7974

Enrollment:
240

Hours of Operation:
Office Hours 8:30 – 4:30
School Hours 9:00 – 3:30

Lunch Hour:
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.



Reflection and Prayer for March

On Ash Wednesday, we entered our Lenten journey. Disciplined by penance, strengthened by our spirituality, we come to know that Lent is a time of the Lord's favour, a time of conversion and growth. As a Christian community, we embrace this time, with a deep desire for conversion, a true longing for holiness, and a looking forward to the sacred days of Easter.

Lord God,

During this Lent, help us to remember how great you are and how small we are.

Help us to turn to you often in prayer and awe.

When the Forty Days of Lent are finished, let our hearts be so full of your greatness that we will be ready to celebrate the joy of Easter.

May our Lenten promises teach us to thank you

for every moment that we breathe and live, even when life brings pain.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

School Mass

Please join us on Tuesday, March 31 at 9:30 a.m. in the school gym for our next Mass.



Catholic School Advisory Council News (CSAC)

The next scheduled CSAC meeting is on March 4, 2009 at 7 p.m. in the library.

All are welcome to join us.

Toonie Drive - Nelson Mandela Children's Fund

This year, we collected \$245 for this very worthwhile cause. Thank you to everyone who brought in "loonies and toonies".

Plans for 2009 – 2010

Thank you to parents who have returned our letter asking whether or not your children will be returning to St. Gerald School in September 2009.

This information assists us with planning for the next school year. In a small school such as ours, losing or gaining a few students can have a big impact on our organization of classes and staffing. Knowing our families' intentions well in advance avoids the re-arrangement of classes in September.

We understand that some families may not be entirely sure of their plans at this time, but please return the form as soon as possible.

Kindergarten Registration

Please call our secretary, Mrs. Astill, to register children for September 2009.

Parents are asked to bring the following documentation:

- ✓ Birth Certificate
- ✓ Catholic Baptismal Certificate
- ✓ Ontario Hospital Card
- ✓ Proof of Address (i.e., telephone bill, heating bill or taxes)
- ✓ Valid proof of immunization
- ✓ Parents' work numbers
- ✓ Doctor's name and phone number
- ✓ Emergency contacts and phone numbers

Report Cards – 2nd Term

Report cards for all students will go home on March 10, 2009.

Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled for Thursday, March 12 in the evening and for Friday, March 13 in the morning.

Please return the form requesting an interview time as soon as possible.

A note will be included with the report cards, indicating the time for your meeting.



There will be no school for students on Friday, March 13, 2009.

Visitors to the School

Parents and guardians are always welcome at St. Gerald School, but for the safety of our students, certain procedures must be followed at all times.

All visitors to our school, including parents, guardians and caregivers, are expected to begin their visit at the school's office. This policy must be followed at all times, including at lunch and dismissal times.

Visitors will be asked to sign in and wear a visitor's badge so that students can clearly distinguish between visitors and strangers to our school.

Updated Contact Information

It is extremely important for our office to be able to contact parents/guardians during the school day, particularly in case of an emergency. Please ensure that we have updated phone numbers. Also, if parents are traveling out of town, we need to know in writing who will be caring for the children during their parents' absence and who we should call in case of an emergency. Thank you for your cooperation with this important safety request.

Bus Loading Zone

Please note that the area directly in front of the school is a bus loading zone and must be kept free at all times. We have special needs students who are dropped off and picked up at various times throughout the day.

For our students' safety, please use the parking lot or park outside of the bus loading zone when visiting the school.

Student Allergies

We would like to inform you that there are children in our school with severe life threatening food allergies to peanuts or nuts. This is a medical condition (anaphylaxis) that causes a **severe reaction** to specific foods and can result in death within minutes. As this affects the entire school community, we are requesting that you **not** send foods with your child to school that contain peanuts or nuts.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher or the school's office.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Virtue for March - To err is human; to forgive is divine!

The virtue for the month of March is **Forgiveness**. The prayer by St. Francis of Assisi – **Make me a Channel of Your Peace** – eloquently describes all of our aspirations as individuals. During March, we are encouraged to take some time to reflect on the following:

*“...that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
not so much to be understood
as to understand,
not so much to be loved, as to
love;
for it is in giving that we
receive,
it is in pardoning that we are
pardoned...”*

Our hope is to strive to:

console those in need,

understand the challenges of the various members of our community and the world,

love to support one another and celebrate student achievement,

giving of ourselves on a daily basis,

pardon those who may have offended us and continue to work with them for the benefit of all.



Monthly School Assembly

On April 1, 2009 we will celebrate the students selected for displaying “Forgiveness” in their relationships with others.

March Break March 16 – 20, 2009

The school will be closed during the week of March 16 – 20, 2009. Enjoy!



