

St James Journal

Volume 3 Issue 6

April 2010

Upcoming Events:

- Friday, April 2nd
-Good Friday-
- Sunday, April 5th
-Easter Sunday
- Monday, April 6th
-Easter Monday no school
- Tuesday April 6th
-Easter Egg Hunt for grades JK-3 sponsored by the Student Council
- Wednesday, April 7th
-Mad Scientist for Grade 3 and Grade 4
-Regional Volleyball Junior Boys
- Friday, April 9th
-9.45 School Mass
-FIRST RECONCILIATION following mass for Grade 2 First Communion students.
-Regional Volleyball-Jr. Girls
- Tuesday April 20th
-Snack Programme begins
- Wednesday, April 21st
-Cross Country Divisional Meet
-Anti-gambling workshop grade 7/8
- Thursday, April 22nd
-Grade 1 to Public Library
-snack programme
- Monday, April 26th
-Regional Cross Country Meet
- Tuesday, April 27th
-Cultural Theme Day-show of your culture/costume/flags etc
-snack programme
- Thursday, April 29th
-Spring Concert—classes who were not in the Christmas concert
- Friday, April 30th
-Fundraising Dance-A Thon
-Pizza Day

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From the Principal's Office

It is good to be back at St James again. Thank you to the many of you who kept myself and my family in your prayers and for your well wishes.

May you slow your hurried pace of life so you can be aware of, and enjoy, what you to easily take for granted.

It is with great honour that I share the news that St James Catholic School has been recognized by the Fraser Institute with a Garfield Weston Award for Excellence in Education. On Tuesday, March 23rd St James was recognized as a School of Distinction in the category of Determination in Academic Achievement. I congratulate our entire school community and staff for this job well done. The award commended us for our “proven commitment to excellence and continuous improvement” and that “our results should be a great pride to all involved” When in the school do check the display area in the front hall for our certificate of distinction. Congratulations to the staff, parents and students who all work together for our academic success.

Last Friday, March the 26th St James was in the dark, not due

to a power outage but by choice. All unnecessary lighting, computers, and other energy drawing items were shut off or down This allowed us to not use so much energy off the grid. I know many of your families also took part in a “candle only evening” on March 27th for Earth Hour.

It is with pride that I announce St James student community and all our effort in Haitian Relief. Though the generosity of our community we were able to send a cheque for \$703.37 to Sharelife from St James. Bravo

We have been chosen as 1 of 9 school with our School Board to participate in a TCDSB partnership with Toronto Hydro by having a Great Light Bulb exchange event at St James. The students will learn about energy efficiency, energy conservation and making better choices in our home. We have just been informed that this is a family event as we are invited to bring in 5 regular light bulbs and receive 5 new, free CFL light bulbs. Please see the insert and reply is an adult in your family can join us on Monday May 10th.. Toronto Hydro will not give these CFL light bulbs to children only adults and if we have a very small group-I think it would be good to share with a community that can take more advantage of it.



Boy's and Girls' Junior Volleyball Teams:
What a joy to be able to drive and attend the Boys' and Girls' Junior Volleyball Tournaments at St Matthew Both are girls and boys took the divisional crests and will be going on to the Regional Finals in the week after Holy Week. Check out our team names and photos in the next newsletter.

In April and we are already looking forward to next year. We have already enrolled about 20 new students for the coming 2010-2011 academic year. Tentative staffing models are being submitted to the superintendents for approval. Thank you to the many parents who have responded to our flyer by indicating their intentions to return next year and to the handful of our students leaving for other schools/programmes.

Mid May we will begin the process of planning for September. Student placement falls upon the staff. We meet to revisit our School Action Plan, follow up on Data Boards, and [work to determine class organization for 2010/11.](#) The first step in this process is to determine class organization consistent with the Ministry, Board and Contract guidelines. Our goal is to



To tell friends and neighbours about our gem of a school. Please share our website with your friends and neighbours so they can see all the great things that we as a community do.



*April Showers may bring May Flowers.
What a wonderful week we are expecting this first week of April.
Please ensure that you check the weather in the am, to ensure that children are dressed well. It may look nice and warm but the temperatures are still close to 0 in the am. Students can always take off extra coats, but we do not have any to lend out.*



establish effective working groups. We consider: learning styles, academic abilities, social group dynamics, special education needs, behavioural needs, gender balanced, previous teacher, and previous placement in combined grades. The teachers have been working with your students in class, and on the yard.

The task of planning for student placement falls upon the staff during this final reporting period. Staff will be meeting after school hours to determine class organization. The first step of the organization is to determine class organization, grade 1 to 8, consistent with Ministry, Board and contractual guidelines. Each child is individually discussed and placed according to what staff believes is best for each child. Our goal is to establish effective working groups that will benefit all children in each class. Teachers from both the sending and the receiving class, support staff and I will carefully consider the placement of each child via, yet not solely, the following criteria: Learning Styles
Academic abilities
Social group dynamics
Resource room and IEP needs
Behavioural needs
Gender balance
Previous teachers

I am sure that you can appreciate that creating the best and most functional class grouping possible is a task that requires much thought and careful planning. Accepting parental requests for a specific teacher would not be of the best interest of all children in the school, as it can restrict staff in forming what we consider the most ideal classroom groupings. The staff members who have

worked with your children all year know them well, and will make a determination of placement in the student's best interest.

However, if you feel that there are extenuating circumstances not listed above, or that additional clarification is needed, I ask that you submit your request in writing to me, with rationale for the school's consideration.



Should you know anyone who is searching for a great school. Please do send them our way. We still have opening in all grades. Do tell your friends and neighbours who have Kindergarten children at home to register their children as soon as possible.

Another piece of good news has just come to my attention:

Tristen Groves— has been selected as one of 20 students from across Ontario to serve as a Legislative Page at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario in Toronto. The programme is open to grade 7 or 8 students who have an interest in current affairs, and academic average of 80% or higher. Tristen also had to submit an application with reference letter and an essay outlining his achievements, involvements and suitability for the programme. Before he begins his 4 week session during which time he will be required to memorize the name, faces, and locations of the 107 MPPs. During his time at the legislator he will be involved in a number of activities such as delivering messages and water to the

MPPs in the Chamber, taking classes in Legislative Process and Mathematics and meet with key legislative players such as the party leaders and the Speaker of the House. Quite an accomplishment.



Thank you to the many community members who joined us on Wednesday, March 31st for the Stations of the Cross. Mrs. Mazza's, Mrs. Coch-rane's, Mrs. Gallo, and Mr. Demski's and Mrs. Bugeja are thanked for leading their students and preparing this wonderful celebration for this the holiest of Catholic Seasons.

St James has recently had some internal construction done—giving us a new state of the art PA (public address, communication) system. You may have told by your children or noticed the change in our bells and PA yourself.

Looking ahead to Blue and White— As you know, via the literature that has been sent home in my absence, St James will adopt a dress "colour code." I can be any combination of blue and white, or blue and blue or white and white, tops and bottoms. No jeans are allowed, but track pants and jogger are acceptable. I have checked numerous stores in the area, including Walmart, Zellers, Good Will etc have a wide selection to choose from.

March Virtue Recipients

FORGIVENESS

*To err is human,
to forgive divine!* A. Pope

Jahmilah Mitchell
Arthur De Moura
Ivy Pham
Gabriela Mendoza
Ali Ventura
Eduardo Luna Montano
Carla Andrade
Lucas Vuco
Nathalie Cabalfin
Erick Donoso
Naomi Saki
Bev Alula
Feven Negassi
Paul Maxwell
Antonio Sousa
Sinara Salazar
Kaitlyn Wheeler
Jesse Seguna
Maxz Macalino
Daniel Pereira
Cindy Vargas



Looking ahead:

April Virtue

*Let Justice
flow like a
stream, and
righteous-
ness like a
river that
never goes
dry. Amos
5:24*

Justice

April, with its celebration of Easter, has been assigned the virtue of JUSTICE. At this time we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus who is the Just One who died for the sake of the unjust, that He might lead people back to God. But justice is also an important part of Catholic teaching beyond Christ's Death and Resurrection. The need to do justice comes from the obligation to respect the dignity of every human person. This dignity comes from being created in



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God's image. Failing to respect human dignity, including failing to do justice, is a failure to respect the image of God in others.

CSAC- Catholic School Advisory Council

News

Hello Everyone

As this edition of the School Newsletter goes to print, it is hard to believe that we have only 3 months of School left. The Parent Council has been very busy these past couple of months trying to plan events for the remainder of the school year and into next fall. Our next fund raising event will be a Spring Dance A Thon to be held on April 30/10. Information regarding this event will be sent home with your child with this newsletter. We really appreciate your support in regards to these fund raisers as the money raised is put back into the programs enjoyed by your children.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Parent Council for all their hard work, without your support our programs would not run as smoothly as it does.

I would like to remind everyone that this fall the school

will begin following the School Boards Appropriate Dress Code Policy. This means that the clothing worn by the students will be a combination of white and solid navy blue garments (no denim/jeans). Also the clothing worn should not have any logos on them. If you are not sure what kind of clothing your children can wear, please feel free to stop by the school and have a look at the clothing display on the board outside the Office for some ideas.

I would also like to thank the Teachers for all their hard work in educating our children. Their hard work and dedication was recognized this year by receiving an Award of Distinction in the category of Determination of Academic Achievement from the Garfield Weston Awards for Excellence in Education Foundation. This award is based on continuous improvements in our EQAO results over 5 years. So regardless of which grade you teach you all have had a role in receiving this award.

On behalf of the Parent Council I want to wish everyone a Happy, Joyous and Safe Easter.

Zona Beckles
Chair

**St JAMES CATHOLIC SCHOOL
TCDSB**

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WEBSITE

[http://www.tcdsb.org/
schools/stjames.asp](http://www.tcdsb.org/schools/stjames.asp)

Remember to check our website and the enclosure for more photos of our events and happenings!

Please continue to check messages sent home regarding trips, special events, morning meals, sports etc. Communication between home and school is a vital part of student success!!

The Principal is Proud of Me

- Tristen Groves— has been selected as one of 20 students from across Ontario to serve as a Legislative Page at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario in Toronto. (more info inside)
- St James Catholic School for being recognized as a “School of Distinction” in the category of Determination in Academic Achievement.. Bravo—we are in the top 1% of the province –chosen 1 of 30 out of a possible 2742 in the Ontario
- Boys’ and Girl’s Intermediate Volleyball teams which both won their divisional championships and are headed to the regional meet next week.

Bravo! Thanks Kudos to:

- Our Junior Volleyball Coaches Mr. DosSantos and Mrs. Costanzo and the many staff who assist in covering classes for these teachers. At St James we celebrate that TEAM has no I in it.
- Our Cross Country Coaches– Mrs. Augustine, Mrs Wagner, Ms. Barrera for their time spent in warm up and as cheerleaders for our runners.
- Mrs Riccardi for taking on the task as morning snack manager.

Enclosures:

- *Dance A Thon donation envelope
- *Dance A Thon note
- *April Calendar to follow
- *CFL invite and response needed form



The Toronto Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (CPIC) will be holding elections in each of the Toronto Catholic District School Board's Wards in May 2010!

CPIC is made up of elected parent representatives, working with trustees and TCDSB staff. With a large city such as Toronto, this is a great opportunity for you, to become part of an important committee where parents are vital partners in their child's education. Parent representatives and alternate representatives are elected by their peers from each of the Board's 12 Trustee Wards. Meetings are held up to 6 times a year - a great way to meet new people, parents like you that are an important link between home and school; discuss and identify issues related to parent and community involvement; and contribute directly to board planning consultations and parent leadership initiatives.

If you are interested in joining the Toronto Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, contact your local school principal and CSAC for more information as dates and locations of the meetings will be coming soon! And keep up to date by visiting: www.tcdsb.org/parents/cpic.htm

The following is a message from our Trustee Barbara Poplawski re election date for our area.

Thank you for accommodating the change for our Ward 10 family of schools meeting
Bishop Marrocco/Thomas Merton Catholic High School
MONDAY April12 7-9pm

