

St James Journal

Volume 3 Issue 8
June 2010

Please continue to check out our website

<http://www.tcdsb.org/schools/stjames.asp>



You will find an updated calendar of events, as well as photos and reasons to celebrate our fabulous school community. Do share it with friends, neighbours, and relatives, maybe they want to join the fun

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Principal's Report



I hope you all had a chance to read our 3 mini updates during May. Wow, the end of the year is almost here.

During May we:

- Had a Spring Concert
- Hosted a Light Bulb exchange
- Had a Dance-A – Thon
- Were visited by Tennis Tutors (grade 4-8)
- Our choir performed in the Music Festival—with raving reports from the adjudicator
- Got a fan for each class from CSAC
- Had Drama workshops (grade 4, 5/6 and 6/7)
- Had numerous students art displayed at the Woodbine Centre and the Atrium at the Board office
- Raised \$703.37 for Share Life and Haitian relief
- Participated in the City of Toronto 20 Minute Make Over
- Complete surveys for the Student Success Team (grade 6 and 8)
- Had a grade 7 student work as a Legislative Page for the Legislative Assembly of Ontario
- Participated in Music Monday
- Had many students represent us in the Cross Country Meets
- Began our Healthy Snack Programme—every Tuesday and Thursday of the month—Thanks Mrs. Riccardi
- Had many of our grade 8 students celebrate their Confirmation
- Sent 49 students and 5 teachers to enjoy 3 days in Ottawa
- Hosted our Welcome to Kindergarten Night for new JK students for the 2010 year
- Celebrated our Mother Mary with a special invite to our K and grade 8 mothers.
- Ate pizza
- Ate subs
- Had fun at a Tropical/Hula Day
- Enjoyed the donated yard materials partly donated by our CSAC
- Had a CSAC meeting
- Received HPV and Hep B immunization (grade 7 & 8)
- Celebrated our successes at teacher SSLN and HUB days
- Celebrated a School Mass

All this and the continued fine and varied in class experiences. Sometime I wonder how we manage to provide so many diverse experiences for our students, but I am proud of the fact that via the dedication of our staff, students and parent community, we do it. And we do it well.

Thanks to all and don't forget to read on, to our Kudos/Thanks section.

Looking forward to 2010/2011 Academic Year

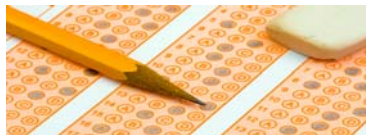
Now we are beginning the process of planning for September. Student placement falls upon the staff. We meet to revisit our School Action Plan, follow up on Data Boards, and work to determine class organization for 2010/11. The first step in this process is to determine class organization consistent with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



that we have set, and also we can see how what we can do in the areas to improve growth especially in the curriculum areas of Math, Reading and Writing within our own community. I will share the results and answer questions at the CSAC meeting in October.

Our grade 2, 5, and 7 will write the **CAT4**(Canadian Achievement Test). during this same time period These assessments have proven to be a good indicator of how those students will perform on the EQAO. Therefore these assessments give us valuable information that “informs our instruction”---allowing us to ensure that we provide the best programming (via classroom instruction, review and remediation) possible for your children

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.



EQAO and CAT4

EQAO, CCAT, CAT3, what ever happened to ABC and doe, ray, me???

The **EQAO** (Education Quality and Accountability Office) assessment s for the grade 3 and 6 students will be written over the next 2 weeks.

These assessments are but a “snapshot” in time. In comparison we can refer your child’s daily class experience as the DVD, or video. EQAO assessments are a culmination of all the learning done during the years before the assessment. As yet I have not received individual results, or any student materials. Once the school receives the results we, the staff and I will analyse the information provided to us, compare them to

Virtue of the Month-Quote for June: Faithfulness
Happy are those who have not seen, yet still believe.
John 20:29

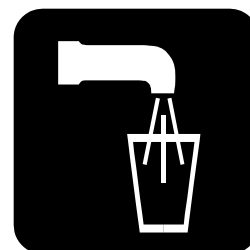


TCDSB Heat Protocol

When the City of Toronto Medical Officer of Health declares a Heat Alert. St James as well as other TCDSB schools respond accordingly. Some of our actions include: making numerous announcements reminding staff and students to drink plenty of water. Personal water bottles will be allowed on all student desks, staff will close south facing window coverings. If feasible, computers and lights will be turned off, If computers must be on, computer use should be limited to the am hours. School will limit outdoor play. Since the gym is generally cooler activities may take place there.

At St James, we leave a supervised door open to the yard, and I personally sit in the hallway with lights out, allow students to take drinks of water when they feel they need to, and rest in the supervised hallway with myself or another adult. This has been very successful in our first heat alert, and this protocol will continue to be employed during other heat alerts.

Please do note that our water is tested on a regular cycle and all faucets are purged for a prescribed period daily before the students arrival.



Upcoming Events

During the first 2 weeks of June we will be very busy, as our grade 2, 5 and 7 will be writing the CAT4 assessments, and our grade 3 and 6 will be writing the EQAO assessments (see info to the left)

Tuesday, June 1st

- Mrs. James and Ms Zinko's classes to Ontario Science Centre

Thursday, June 3rd

- Regional Track and Field meet

Saturday, June 5th

- First Communion at 2.30 at St James Parish (First Communicants are to arrive as per letters from teachers)

Friday, June 11th

- Sub Day

Monday June 14th

- Mrs. Wagner's and Mrs. Augustin's classes to the Toronto Zoo

Wednesday, June 16th

- 9.45 am Graduation Mass and final school mass at St James Parish

Sunday, June 20th

- Happy Father's Day

Monday, June 21st

- Mandarin Lunch for graduates

Tuesday, June 22nd

- Boat Cruise for grade 8
- AM Play Day for grade 1 to grade 6, grade 7 run events

Wednesday, June 23rd

- Michael Jackson theme day
- Grade 8 Graduation at 7 pm at St James Catholic School

Friday, June 25th

- SK graduation in the AM for all Senior Kindergarten students
- Pizza Day

Tuesday, June 29th

- Last School Day for students

TBA

- Talent show

Please keep up to date via class letters and other letters coming home, Don't forget to

is going on at school and do remember to check our website.



We are on the WEB!
www.tcdsb.org/schools/stjames.asp



Good-Byes:

- Mr. Carcasole our superb night caretaker/custodian has taken a 6 hour position at James Cullinan
- Mrs. Gallo will be retiring come September. We wish her many joys.
- Mr. DosSantos who would have been declared surplus to our staff has gotten a position as physical education teacher at 3 other sites. We will miss him and wish him luck
- Goodbye to the few families who are moving. We wish you well. St James will miss you.

Thank you to the following people/groups who have added to making ST James the wonderful place it is.

- Mrs. Augustin, Ms. Barrera, Mr. DosSantos, and Mrs. Wagner who were our grade 8 parents on the road on the Ottawa trip.
- Miss Mazza, Mrs Gallo and Mr Demski for the beautiful Mary celebration
- Mrs. Zinko and Mrs Costanzo for First Communion preparation.
- Mr. DosSantos and Mrs. Wagner for Confirmation preparation.
- CSAC for their dedication to the children of St James, and most recently for the outdoor activities and the coming up Play Day
- The entire staff for all their efforts for play day, as special thank you to Mrs. Costanzo
- Our Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches-Mrs. Wagner, Mrs Augustin, Mrs Costanzo, Mrs Ludkowski-Scace, Mrs. Barrera, and Mr DosSantos,
- To the staff who kindly gave of their time for our Welcome to Kindergarten night-Mrs Cochrane, Mrs. Costanzo, Mrs DiMichele, Mrs Pascucci, Miss Zinko, and Mrs Sabetti.

Dress Code and Coming for September Colour Code

As you know we have always had a dress code dealing with proper dress of all our students including items such as inappropriate slogans on clothing, shorts needing to be arms length, no undergarments showing (aka no low slung pants, and no straps showing) Girls are asked to wear respectful clothing including no spaghetti straps or tight suggestive tops.

I have warned a few students to not dress in a certain manner and the next time they do they will be asked to wear “

one of the offices” full cover up shirts

Please check what your son and daughter is wearing to school daily.

Coming in September:

St James along with many of other TCDSB schools we will be having a Colour Code of Blue and White. Any combination of Blue and White is acceptable but the only logo allowed will be the logo of St James Catholic School.. Our CSAC has

Found a local company that is providing us with St James T shirts for 5 for children and \$6.50 for youth and adult shirts. Our first order is in and they look great—Navy with a white logo.

Please watch for more information coming home regarding Hoodies and other T-shirts. Of course you are welcome to purchase blue and white items at your favourite stores such as Walmart, Zellers, Good Will etc.