

# St. Luke Catholic School Winter Newsletter 2010

Mr. R. Di Domizio, School Principal, Mrs. M. Fowler, School Secretary (416) 393-5347  
Jim Saraco, Superintendent (416) 222-8282 ext 5371 Catherine LeBlanc-Miller, Trustee (416) 512-3409  
PLEASE CALL THE SCHOOL BEFORE 8:30 AM IF YOUR CHILD WILL BE LATE OR ABSENT.  
NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY IF THERE ARE ANY CHANGES TO YOUR PHONE NUMBER, ADDRESS, ETC.

## Welcome Back and Happy New Year!

May 2010 bring us Peace, Light and Hope.

## Lent

As we enter the month of February and approach the season of Lent, we learn more about Jesus' life on earth through our prayers and liturgical celebrations. We are reminded that the idea of Lent is the increase of one's spirituality. It is a time that we must reflect not only upon ourselves, but others as well. During Lent, we will remind and encourage our students to live as Children of the Light; performing actions which are good, just and true. For your convenience, attached is a Children of Lent activity sheet that families can complete together to make this Lenten season especially meaningful.

## Kindergarten Registration

Let our publicly funded Catholic schools continue your child's educational and spiritual journey.



### Kindergarten Registration has begun at St. Luke

**School.** Children born in 2006 are eligible to begin Junior Kindergarten in September 2010. St. Luke School focuses on the development of Literacy and Numeracy in a caring and nurturing environment. For more information or to book an appointment, call the school at 416-393-5347.

**Call, Visit or Join Us Today!** As announced on January 12th, St. Luke School will be offering full day JK and SK effective September 2010.

## Student Safety

A) St. Luke is an allergen aware school. There are children in attendance who suffer from a severe and life threatening food allergy to: peanuts (and products that contain them), tree nuts (i.e. almonds, pecans, hazel nuts etc.) EXPOSURE TO THE SMALLEST QUANTITIES CAN CAUSE SEVERE AND LIFE THREATENING REACTIONS. We would appreciate the cooperation of the entire school community in NOT sending any lunches or snacks that

contain peanuts or nuts, which could potentially harm a child.

B) Much appreciation to those parents and caregivers who have been respecting our Safe School Policy. Thank you for checking in at the office upon your visit and dropping off and picking up your children outside the doors they normally use. However, there is still some room for improvement. Our aim is 100% cooperation. When our students return from March Break, we will be strictly monitoring and enforcing this policy. Once parents/caregivers drop off their children in our yard, the expectation is that they **do not** accompany their children into the school. Similarly, parents should avoid accompanying their children into the school yard. Remember to always begin your visit at the main office. Thank you for your cooperation. *Safety before convenience.*

C) We are still experiencing a high volume of parent vehicles in our school parking lot at the end of the school day waiting to pick up their children. As a result, students are making their way through the parking lot unattended; allowing for a potentially dangerous but avoidable situation. Please always use Ossington Ave. or Roxton Rd. when picking up or dropping off your children.

D) There still are quite a number of students who are consistently late for school. The expectation is that students will be in the yard between 8:30 am and 8:40 am. **A student who is late (on average) 10 to 15 mins. a day, 3 times a week, is being denied 1620 minutes of instructional time a year. This equates to approximately 5 total school days of instructional time.** As well, they are missing out on morning routines, important announcements and they are disrupting programming. *Students who miss a great deal of instructional time are certain to encounter difficulty in keeping up with their school work.* We hope that you will work with us to help your child(ren) learn the value of punctuality.

E) With the colder weather here, please

keep the following items in mind:

*\*In the event of a snowstorm, please do not call the school to see if it is open. It is very rare for schools to close. Listen to your local radio station (i.e. AM 680) or watch Channel 24 to see if schools are closed or if school buses have been cancelled.*

*\*It is very important for students to dress appropriately for the winter season. Students should come to school with coats, hats, mittens, scarves and boots. **If a student is healthy enough to be at school, they are healthy enough to be outside for recess.** (Indoor shoes are highly recommended)*

*\*Upon the principal's discretion, children will remain outdoors at recess time unless the temperature, or the temperature in conjunction with the wind speed, creates a wind chill factor that could possibly lead to frostbite. For complete information on the Board's guidelines for weather conditions, please visit [www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org) and click on Policies.*

## Homework

Our second term Report cards will be coming home to families in early March. A large component of a student's success is the regular and daily completion of homework. When children complete homework, they consolidate and reinforce the learning from in-school experiences in a practical and meaningful way. Homework is a planned and purposeful activity that is linked to the *The Ontario Curriculum Learning Expectations, Learning Skills, and Ministry of Education Reporting Guidelines, and the Ministry of Education Curriculum Guidelines.* Below you will find Time Guidelines for homework. For a complete detailed Homework Guideline, link on to our TCDSB website at [www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org). You will find the guidelines under the "Student Link."

### Grade Amounts of Time

Grade	Amounts of Time
1-8	5 to 10 min. per grade <b>most nights</b>
Grade One	5 to 10 min.
Grade Two	10 to 20 min.
Grade Three	15 to 20 min.
Grade Four	20 to 40 min.
Grade Five	25 to 50 min.

Grade Six 30 to 60 min.  
Grade Seven 35 to 70 min.  
Grade Eight 40 to 80 min.  
(plus Read Aloud or Independent Reading)

## Numeracy and Literacy at Home

Thank you to all students and their families who joined us at our Family Story Night. The evening was a large success and helped solidify the partnership between the school and the home. For some more great activities you can do at home with your child(ren), visit [www.abccanada.org](http://www.abccanada.org). Thank you to Ms. Rosati, Ms. Ferracuti, Ms. Hinschberger and Ms. Bianchi who assisted in putting this event together.



## Scholastic Book Fair

Our December Book Fair was a very successful event. St. Luke school grossed close to \$2500.00 in sales. This equates to approximately \$1100.00 in book profits. All proceeds will go directly towards the purchase of new books for our school library. Thank you to all families for supporting this school initiative. Many thanks also to Ms. Ferracuti for facilitating this event. As well, many thanks to our parent volunteers and student helpers who assisted in many different ways.

## School Spirit Week

The week of February 22 to 26 is set aside for **School Spirit Week**. Several activities (indoor and outdoor) are being planned for students on some of these days. A complete list of activities will come home to families soon.

## Virtue of the Month/Pride Award Winners

Each month, we gather as a school community to celebrate student success. Congratulations to the following students who consistently displayed the virtue of **Charity in December**: *Rodrigo, Luke, Ashley D., Alicia B., Alexia Belo, Nicholas M., Tiago S., Emily L., Kyle F., Sarina M., Matthew M., Lexi, Lucas A., Daniel R., Thuy, Kiara J., Issac P., Nicole D.* Congratulations also to the following students who received pride awards for **Independent Work** in December: *Tiago R., Ethan M., Jordana, Amanda C., Alanna S., Selena D., Kirsten, Vanessa S., Christian L., Daniel C., Andreia R., Layla, Steven E., Kimberly, Brittany M., Alexander D., Adriano D., Agnes, Kylie Rodrigues, Marcus R., Evan A., Johnny C., Kevin S., Matthew M., Alexia A., Pedro P., Meghan L., Michael T., Alex B. Cerena T.,*

*Kayla G., Gabriel L., Lauren M., Sarah R., Victoria F., Amanda A., Carlos F., Nina P., Andreia M., Excelsia, Naomi, Alicia M., Ethan W., Meghan G., Emma A., Rebecca G., Rene, Michael S., Katie F.* Parents/Caregivers are always welcome to join us at this assembly. Check our monthly calendars for dates and times.

## School Events

### A) Q Mack

On Friday January 8th, Q-Mack, the infamous basketball trickster, wowed our students and reinforced his message of Increasing the Peace. St. Luke students had a fabulous time helping Q Mack with his tricks and all the while keeping a positive self image.

### B) Olympic Torch Relay

Thousands of onlookers and cheering fans were anxiously awaiting the arrival of the Olympic Torch at Nathan Phillips Square on Thursday, December 17th. Fifty students from the TCDSB and fifty students from the TCDSB were asked to play a part in the Olympic torch relay. The women's hockey team, students from St. Luke School and Our Lady of Lourdes School were provided with official Olympic toques and scarves and also matching gloves and sweaters. They were given flags representing one hundred countries participating in the Olympic Games. Accompanying the students to this wonderful event was a number of dedicated teachers and parents. It certainly was a night these students will remember for a lifetime.

The Olympic Torch Relay will travel over 45,000 km across Canada over 106 days, visiting over 1000 communities and will be carried by 12,000 people. More than 200 athletes will represent the Canadian Olympic Team when the games officially open on February 12, 2010 in the city of Vancouver. Thank you to Mr. Olsthoorn for helping to facilitate this memorable experience for our students.

### Dress Code Initiatives

In September 2011 all TCDSB elementary schools will have a common dress code. Attached to this newsletter you will find Questions and Answers pertaining to this new initiative. The Appropriate Dress Code will be a standing item at all future CSAC Meetings. You are invited to our next CSAC meeting on February 17th where we will continue to discuss the process for implementing the dress code at St. Luke School. We will keep families informed of our progress.

### Welcome Minister Best

On Wednesday January 13th, The Honorable Margaret Best, The Minister of Health Promotion visited St. Luke School. As part of National Non-Smoking Week, Minister Best met with Ms. Pacheco's grade 4 students who offered Ms. Best and our guests many reasons as to why Healthy Living is important for us all. On January 20th, six more grade 4 students had the opportunity to meet with Minister Best again at Ryerson University to help promote Weedless Wednesday.

## Welcome

The St. Luke School Community is pleased to welcome back Ms. R. Pacheco from her maternity leave. Thank you and best of luck to Ms. C. Albanese.

## Skating

Some of our junior and intermediate students actively embrace the Winter Season by going on skating trips planned by our staff. If you have any skates and helmets that you can donate to the school, they would be much appreciated. We are looking for girls and boys skates sizes 2 to 10.

## The Angel Foundation for Learning

We are pleased to announce that the Angel Foundation, the charitable organization devoted to assisting needy students in the TCDSB, has approved our school's funding request in the amount of \$500.00. These funds were used to help defray the cost for some of our intermediate students who went to Lake St. George in December. For more information about the foundation visit

[www.angelfoundationforlearning.org](http://www.angelfoundationforlearning.org).

## Community Corner

Did you know that the average school aged child with a disposable lunch generates about 31 kilos (67 pounds) of waste each school year. Consider working with your child to create a litterless lunch. It's as simple as packing stainless steel utensils, reusable sandwich containers and cloth napkins. For more information, visit [www.wastefreelunches.org](http://www.wastefreelunches.org).

## We're Still Online

Parents: You can now read or download our school newsletters and calendars off the Board's website. Just visit [www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org). Click on **Schools**. Go to *Locate a School* and scroll down until you find **St. Luke**.

## Toronto Police Safety Tips

**Below you will find some safety tips/streetproofing measures from Toronto Police Services that you may want to review with your children.**

Children should:

- always tell you where they are
- know how to use the pay telephone, including how to call long distance by dialing direct or using operator assistance. They should always have emergency telephone money with them.
- Memorize the telephone numbers (including area code) of home and a

neighbour

- Know their name, age, address, city and province
- Recognize Block Parent signs
- Go places with friends
- Never approach or enter a stranger's car
- Never say they are alone if they answer the phone or door
- Never let strangers in the house
- Never accept gifts from strangers
- Never enter anyone's home or car without permission from parents
- Know it's okay to say "no" to adults, especially if the adult wants them to do something which makes them uncomfortable or they know is wrong
- Know that it is unwise to believe stories such as a person wanting them to help find a lost pet, etc.
- Know that no one has the right to touch any part of his or her body that a bathing suit would cover
- Recognize suspicious behaviour and report it
- Know to tell you if someone has asked them to keep a secret from you
- Know what to do in case of unwelcome attention e.g. walk faster, go to a neighborhood store, head for a busy street, walk toward a group of people and wave as if they see someone they know
- Scream and keep screaming if something is wrong
- Kick and bite hard if someone grabs them
- Know that police officers are friends
- Parents are encouraged to give their children a "password" known only to them. This can be used when a stranger, a friend or family member approaches them and asks them to come with them.

When necessary use the following numbers for assistance or to report suspicious people or behaviours:

**Emergency Help** - 911  
**Metropolitan Toronto Police**  
**Radio Room** - 416-808-222  
**Crime Stoppers** - 416-222-TIPS

### They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

Thanks to the kindness and compassion of our entire community, St. Luke School was able to donate \$474.00 to the victims of the recent earthquake in Haiti. All profits from the January 22nd pizza lunch were forwarded to ShareLife who in turn will send the money to the relief efforts in Haiti. Thank you to those families who made private contributions as well.

### Free the Children-

### Me to We Group of St. Luke

During the months of October, November and December the Free the Children group of St. Luke has been busy with fundraising events and efforts to raise money for our Clean Water Well project in Kenya. In October, the Free the Children group hosted a Halloween gift basket raffle created and donated by Ms. Baillargeon. The winner of this prize was Ashley Maia in Ms. Marchese's grade 3 class. The Free the Children group raised \$125 with this raffle event. We would like to thank Ms. Baillargeon for her continued support and donations to the Clean Water Well project for Kenya. In November the Free the Children Group hosted a Gummy Bear raffle where students had an opportunity to guess how many gummy bears in a jar. The winner of the gummy bear raffle went to Mathew Aiello in Ms. Toste's grade 7/8 class. The amount raised from this fundraiser event was \$145. The Free the Children group of St. Luke would like to congratulate all the winners and their support. During the month of December, the Free the Children group sold nut-free cookies to raise money for our Water Well project in Kenya. This fundraising event raised \$256. Through all our fundraising efforts, St. Luke school community has now raised a total of \$3,100 for our Clean Water Well Project in Kenya. We would like to thank the St. Luke school community for their continued efforts and donations to this worthy cause. Thank you to Ms. Ortins for your continued work toward this initiative.

### CSAC Corner

The CSAC would like to take this opportunity to once again thank the St Luke Community for their continued support. We recently received wonderful donations of several board games for students to use during indoor recess. Many thanks to Flavio Volpe, Mark Rebello, Mary Gerretsen, Justin Da Silva, Manuel Da Silva for their generosity. Our chocolate fundraiser was again a great success. We would like to thank Patrick Nunes who donated a bicycle to be awarded as a fundraiser prize. A reminder that the QSP Magazine drive continues to take place. Visit the site at [www.qsp.ca](http://www.qsp.ca) to renew your subscriptions as well as place new orders. Please ensure to quote our school number 8676. Our next CSAC meeting will take place February 17th at 6:30pm.

### Dates to Remember

#### **Family Day (Holiday)**

Mon. February 15th

#### **Confirmation**

Sun. April 18th 3:00 pm

#### **First Holy Communion**

Sat. May 1st, 3:00 pm

#### **PA Day**

Fri. March 5th

(Parent/Teacher Conferences)

#### **March Break**

March 15 to 19

### CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL (CSAC)

Our 2009/10 Executive Council members are:

- Ms. M.J de Quintal (Chair)
- Ms. A. Maia (Vice Chair)
- Ms. F. Gerretsen (Treasurer)
- Ms. A. Maciel-Gomes (Secretary)

### 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
Connor Rollit, Student Trustee	416-512-3413