

OCTOBER 2008 NEWSLETTER

October 3, 2008

Virtue of the Month: GRATITUDE

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**TORONTO CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
TRUSTEES 2008-2009**

Wards

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. Joseph Martino | 416-512-3401 |
| 2. Ann Andrachuk,
Vice-Chair | 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,
Chair | 416-512-3409 |
| 10. Barbara Poplawski
Honorary Treasurer | 416-512-3410 |
| 11. Angela Kennedy | 416-512-3411 |
| 12. Paul John Crawford
James Dempsey,
Student Trustee | 416-512-3413 |

ADMINISTRATION

- V. Tanzini - Principal
S. Fernandes - Secretary
D. Pippo - Thursday Clerk Typist
J. DiGiovanni - Superintendent
B. Poplawski - Trustee
R. Borges - CSAC Chair
M. Holowko - acting Head Caretaker

FR. JOHN MENDONCA - PASTOR

**ST. SEBASTIAN CHURCH
(416) 536-2302**

FAX (416-534-9376)

Principal's Message

On Thursday Oct. 2, parents and guardians had a chance to meet all of St. Sebastian's teaching staff and learn about this year's curriculum. The event had a great turnout and as a family, we had the chance

to celebrate many of our recent successes and to regroup to tackle our next set of challenges. Like a true caring Christian community, we were able to demonstrate to our children the spirit of sharing

food; acknowledge our academic successes (EQAO); and to recognize our charitable endeavors, such as raising over \$1400 for The Terry Fox Foundation for cancer research.. Thanks to all who attended.

Congratulations, Father John Mendonca

Twenty-five years ago today, Father John celebrated his first mass as a priest. The St. Sebastian School community would like to thank you for your many years of service to us, the Catholic Church. We would like to thank you:

- for welcoming the many babies to our family in baptism
- for administering First Communion so that all may share Jesus' body
- for helping adolescents confirm their faith
- for listening to our sins, and helping us to reconcile ourselves with God and our brothers and sisters
- for supporting other priests in our Church
- for uniting couples in marriage
- for anointing the sick so that they could be strengthened physically and spiritually



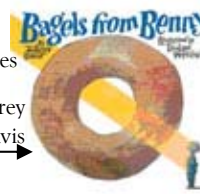
We also thank you for celebrating the mass with us these last few years. Your words of wisdom have helped to guide us in our faith..

As we present a token of our appreciation, we would also like to wish you many more wonderful years ahead. (Part of the our school liturgy, celebrated on September 25, 2008)

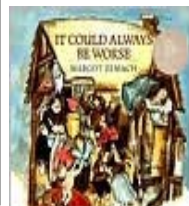
Virtue of Gratitude



← by Julie Markes



→ by Aubrey Davis



It Could Always Be Worse by Margot Zelmach; The Secret of Saying Thanks by Douglas Wood

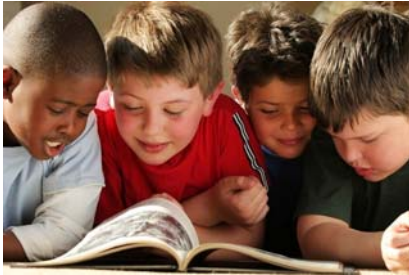
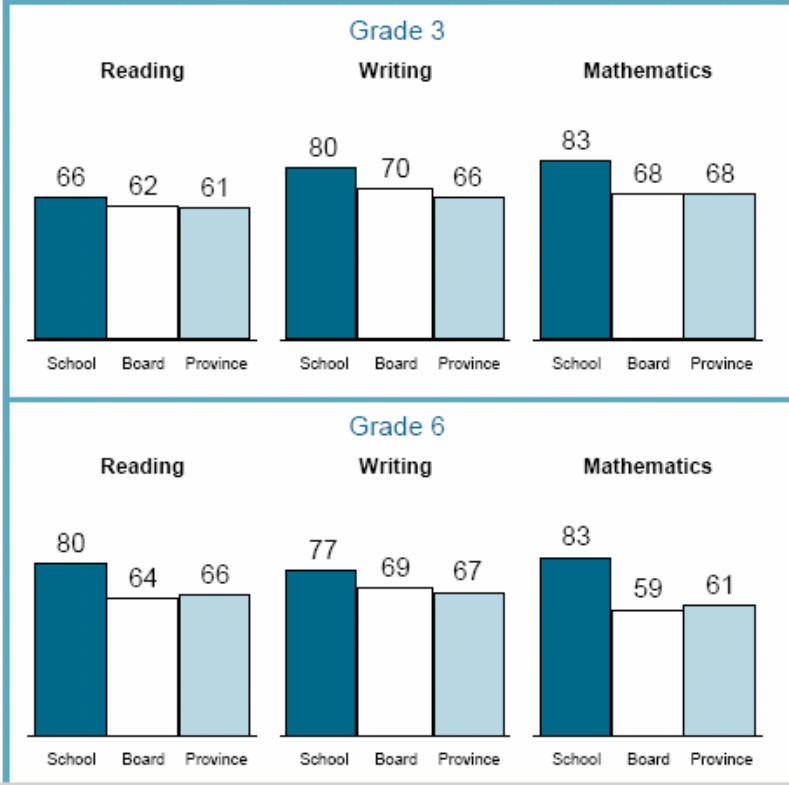


A Prayer of Thanks

- adapted from Fully Alive Grade 2
- Dear God, we thank you for our lives
- We thank you for making each one of us a unique person
- We thank you for each other
- We thank you for the many gifts you have given us
- Help us to see the gifts of other people
- Help us to share our gifts with each other
- Help us to care for each other the way you care for us.

Dear God we thank you for our lives.

PERCENTAGE OF ALL STUDENTS AT OR ABOVE THE PROVINCIAL STANDARD (LEVELS 3 AND 4), 2007-2008



News from CSAC.....

Our mission as Parent Council is to help facilitate the education of our children through fundraising activities and in doing so to promote a good moral and positive attitude at St. Sebastian. Our Magazine fundraiser has started and will continue until the 15th of October. This year, CSAC, is pleased to announce that there are two great prizes that students can win for raising the most money through their magazine sales. For the INDIVIDUAL who raises the most money in the whole school, the first prize winner will receive a CANON POWERSHOT 5 MP digital camera. The second prize winner will receive an APPLE SHUFFLE. Also for every sale/subscription that is made, the students' name will be entered in a draw that will take place on October 9th for a five pound chocolate bar. On behalf of CSAC, we thank you for your continued support.

All St. Sebastian grade 1 students will be offered the learning potential of The Family Literacy Collection. This is our second complete year of the program, where students have a chance to share reading experiences at home with parents/guardians. The schedule is as follows:

- **Phase 1: SETS 1&2**, (SET -1: October 29, SET - 2: November, 12)
- **Phase 2: SETS 3&4**, (SET -3: January, 28, SET - 4: February, 25)
- **Phase 3: SETS 5&6**, (SET -5: April. 30, SET - 6: May 13)

For PHASE 1, all schools will follow this schedule:

- Oct. 29th children in grade 1 will bring home SET - 1;
- Nov. 12th children will return SET - 1 and in exchange they will receive SET - 2; and
- Nov. 26th children will return SET - 2.



2008-09 CSAC Executive: R. Castro(Treasurer); R. Borges (Chair); D. Andrade (Secretary)

Academic News

Last week students in grades 3, 6 and 8 received their personal CAT-3 test result. This standardized test was written last spring by all students in grades 2, 5 and 7. On Oct. 2nd, students in grades 4 and 7 were given their individual EQAO results. EQAO was administered to all students in grades 3 and 6 early last June. Students on the whole performed quite well in all areas of Reading, Writing and Mathematics. Parents / guardians are asked to review their sons/daughters results carefully. The next standardized test-CCAT- will take place over three days starting Wed. October 8th.. Only students in grade 4 will be writing the CCAT.

To the left, gr. 3 (top) and gr. 6 (bottom) students at St. Sebastian are represented by the darkest bar (most left). Our grade 3 and grade 6 results are compared against overall Board and Provincial percentages. Our school demonstrated continued success (our students have been able to reach the provincial goal of having 75% of all students reaching Level 3 or 4). For example, last year, 83% of our grade 3 students attained Level 3 or Level 4 as compared to 68 % of the students in our Board and in our Province.. Congratulations to all! Keep up the great work!

THE FAMILY LITERACY COLLECTION

Implementation Plan 2008-09

After school tutoring.....

The On Your Mark Tutoring Program, is tentatively scheduled to start at the end of the month, taking place Monday and Friday afternoons between 3:30 and 4:30 pm. Teachers will be sending home applications to those students who best fit the program requirements. If you are interested in obtaining more information please contact Ms. Carter (grade 1/2 teacher).

World Teachers' Day—October 5th Thanking All TCDSB Educators For Their Service to Catholic Education



As we mark World Teachers' Day on October 5th, the Toronto Catholic District School Board takes this opportunity to thank all educators for their valuable contribution and commitment to Catholic education. We celebrate our school system, which is founded on the strength of our Catholic faith and the rich traditions of our Catholic Church. We celebrate our teachers who are called to serve a diverse student population, from a variety of backgrounds and each with unique needs and talents. We salute all our educators for their leadership and their untiring efforts to make our schools welcoming and exciting places of learning, and for helping us to fulfill our mission as a Catholic education community. We know that the teaching profession is challenging and satisfying; demanding and developing compassion, creativity and patience. Those who are called to teach will experience both frustration and triumph, joy and pain, success and struggle, and ultimately growth and a true sense of accomplishment. World Teachers' Day is a chance for us to acknowledge the dedication of our educators, who are integral to the development of strong Catholic school communities. Through their involvement, effort and enthusiasm, and with the support of our parents and parishes, our Catholic schools continue to thrive in an increasingly secular world.

Les Nemes, Director of Education Catherine LeBlanc-Miller, Chair of the Board

The Terry Fox Run 2008



Ms. Taylor with students at Albion Hills (Sept. 17th–19th). Students were able to appreciate and understand the meaning of ECOSCHOOL and the importance of waste reduction.



St. Sebastian's began another year by celebrating and supporting a Canadian hero by the name of Terry Fox. On Monday, September 29, we had an assembly that was organized by Mr. McDonald's Grade 8 class, followed by a walk around the neighbourhood to raise money for the Terry Fox Foundation. Last year St. Sebastian's students raised \$764.40 and this year we are proud to say that we beat that amount with a total of **\$1406.39**. A great thank you goes to parents, teachers and students for helping the fight against cancer.
by [Samantha Frias](#)



Above—intermediate boys soccer team and coaches Mr. Pereira and Mr. Howard (Sept. 23). Below—swimming at McCormick Pool.

Hospitality (virtue of Sept.) poster winner is Carina Cavalheiro from Ms. Chow's gr. 4 class.



The intermediate girls soccer team (coached by Ms. Albinowski, in action during tournament play Sept. 24.



Left—SK students during Pajama Day.

Right—Ms. Cina with families during Curriculum Night.



