

October 2009

St. Denis Catholic School News



St. Denis Catholic School

67 Balsam Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M4E 3B8

Principal
Ms. K. Banfield

Secretary
Mrs. J. Mallia

Superintendent
Ms. B. Brand

Trustee
Mrs. A. Kennedy

Parish:
Father John New ton
St. John Church
416-698-1105

Hours of Operation:
7:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Lunch Hour:
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



Dear Families,

I would like to take this opportunity to say how pleased I am with the strong start we have made to the school year. The first month has now come and gone and I hope that your child is settling in well. There has been much activity inside and outside the classrooms of St. Denis. Our Open House was well attended and an excellent opportunity to learn about how the home and school can work together. The staff and I look forward to building on the early successes of this year as we, together with you, work towards creating a Catholic community that fosters the fullest academic, spiritual, and social growth of the children in our care.

As we begin October we are surrounded with signs and symbols that allow us to reflect, count our blessings and give thanks for those around us. As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving with our loved ones, I would like to give thanks to the wonderful folks I work with each day. Thanks to the parents and families who give us so many hours of their valuable time to support our students and teachers. Thanks also to the wonderful, caring staff members we have here at St. Denis.

Our warmest wishes to you and your family for a Happy Thanksgiving that is filled with relaxation and peace.

Yours in partnership,

Ms. Banfield

"QSP MAGAZINE DRIVE"

The QSP magazine drive was launched on Monday of this week which brings valuable dollars to CSAC to support various initiatives throughout the academic year. Students have now received their order packages. To help reduce the work load associated with this initiative and the waste of paper, we are encouraging families to **order on-line at www.qsp.ca** (group #8639). Those who wish to order through the school should make cheque payable to **ST. DENIS Catholic School**.

Orders are due on or before Tuesday October 20th, 2009.

Special thanks to Stephanie Eden for coordinating the drive.

Toronto Catholic District School Board Trustee 2009-2010

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Joseph Martino | 416-512-3401 | 8. Mary Ann Robillard | 416-512-3408 |
| 2. Ann Andrachuk, Vice Chair | 416-512-3402 | 9. Catherine LeBlanc Miller, | 416-512-3409 |
| 3. Sal Piccininni | 416-512-3403 | 10. Barbara Poplawski | 416-512-3410 |
| 4. Mary Cicogna | 416-512-3404 | 11. Angela Kennedy, Chair | 416-512-3411 |
| 5. Maria Rizzo | 416-512-3405 | 12. Paul John Crawford | 416-512-3412 |
| 6. Rob Davis | 416-512-3406 | Connor Rollit | |
| 7. John Del Grande | 416-512-3407 | Student Trustee | 416-512-3413 |



Mark your calendar for three exciting social events, as St. John's Church celebrates its 100th anniversary

1. Saturday October 17, 2009- Marriage Renewal Mass at 4.30 pm followed by a Family Pasta Dinner with all the fixings, priced to fit any budget, in the St. John's Church Hall. No reservations; pay at the door.

2. Sunday November 8, 2009 - Pancake Pandemonium Big breakfast following 9 am & 11am Masses in the St. John's Church Hall. Bigger and better breakfast than ever before, at the same low, family-friendly prices! No reservations; pay at the door.

3. Saturday November 14, 2009 - 100th Anniversary Gala. Celebrate our banner year with your parish friends at the fabulous Oasis Banquet Hall on Kingston Road.

Tickets for the Grand Finale Dinner and Dance available at upcoming weekend Masses; tickets are \$40 per person.

WALK-A-THON

Thank you to the many parents who helped make the walk-a-thon such a success by volunteering their time by being posted along the boardwalk. Thank you also to the parents who accompanied the classes on the boardwalk and to Purple Park. A huge thank you to Ms. Florian for the hours spent tabulating the monies collected from the fundraiser.



The students did a fantastic job collecting pledges and showing their St. Denis spirit on the day of the walk-a-thon. We could not have done it without all of you!

A special thanks to Mrs. Cecchini, Ms. Opena & Mrs. Brown for their coordination of the day.

EQAO RESULTS – There's Lots to Celebrate

St. Denis continues to celebrate student learning with above average EQAO results once again. The below charts indicates the percentage of students who are working at or above the provincial standard of Level 3. This is valuable data to our planning.

Primary Divisional Assessment (grade 1-3)

	SCHOOL %	BOARD %
Reading	88	62
Writing	90	72
Mathematics	88	72

Junior Divisional Assessment (grade 4-6)

	SCHOOL %	BOARD %
Reading	85	65
Writing	85	70
Mathematics	80	61

Further information is available through: www.eqao.com



With Halloween just a few weeks away, here are some basic safety tips that families may want to review with their children.

- Wear light or bright coloured costumes with reflective tape that glows in the dark
- Enlarge eyeholes in masks to improve vision or do not wear a mask at all
- Do not wear costumes that drag. This may cause tripping. Also, avoid riding a bicycle in a flowing costume as it may catch in spokes
- Eat a proper meal before going out so children will not be tempted to eat their candy

before taking it home for inspection

- An adult should accompany young children. Older ones should stay in groups
- Do not run back and forth across streets
- Do not go far from home

Guidelines for Halloween on Friday, October 30th at St. Denis School

- Costumes to be worn only on Friday, October 30th

- No masks, weapons or objects, which can be harmful or intimidating to others are permitted

- JK-Gr. 8 are encouraged to wear costumes to school

- Morning kindergartens will have a parade through the school

- All students who do not wish to wear a costume are encouraged to wear Halloween colors

Before bringing any treats for your child's class please discuss the issue with the classroom teacher ahead of time.

The annual school parade around the community will begin at 12:50pm - all are welcome to join us.

SAFETY FIRST!!

All schools have procedures in place that comply with Board policy to ensure the safety of their students.

Our goal is to promote a warm and welcoming atmosphere while at the same time providing the safest school environment possible.

Reminders:

- All visitors to the school must report directly to the office and sign-in (even persons who are permitted access to school premises, must first report to the office)

- Once school begins, ALL doors are locked.

- Please adhere to dismissal times; unless it is an emergency situation, we

ask that you write a note to the teacher to inform us of any changes in the end-of-day procedures.

- All drop offs and pick up must be through the office. Parents are not permitted to go to the classrooms during the instructional day. The office staff is available to assist you with any questions or concerns you may have.

- We encourage you to send a nutritious lunch to school with your child in the morning.

- Please inform the school whenever there is a change of address or telephone numbers (home, work and emergency contact).

PARKING:

Balsam, Spruce Hill and the staff parking lot

Due to increased staff throughout the day, a reminder that the staff parking lot is not to be used for drop off or pick up of students. We also ask your cooperation in honouring the designated bus loading zone on Balsam Ave. Please note that the signage on Spruce Hill prohibits parking in designated areas. Parking enforcement officers have been monitoring this area and have been issuing tickets. In addition, the number of cars parking illegally is becoming a safety issue because of the congestion it creates. Alternative legal parking is available on Queen Street Thank you for your cooperation.



CARDINAL'S DINNER

October 29th

The St Denis Catholic School CSAC is organizing an SDCS Parent Table at the Cardinal's Dinner on Thursday, October 29th. As you are aware, Archbishop Collins has become an outstanding and vocal advocate for the preservation and revitalization of Catholic education during these challenging political and social times, and

this dinner is a great opportunity for our Catholic parents to show their support of the Archbishop while simultaneously supporting the important charity work that is accomplished by Sharelife through this dinner. The cost of each ticket is \$175 which is tax deductible.

Archbishop Thomas Collins continues to reach out to us through Word, Worship and Witness -- We as a Catholic School community have this significant opportunity and responsibility to reach back to the Archbishop in appreciation of his support through our participation in this dinner and the great charity work that it supports. Please consider joining us on this remarkable night when the Catholic culture and history of this city is celebrated. For more information please contact the office.

HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE FOR GRADE 7 & 8 STUDENTS

High school application forms will be distributed to the students in grade 8 in early November. In hopes of getting your preference of high school, it is critically important that the due dates outlined in the application is adhered to. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Below are the OPEN HOUSE dates for our neighboring schools. Parents are encouraged to check out the board website which lists specific dates (www.tcdsb.org) for all TCDSB schools.

November 5

Cardinal Newman Catholic School
100 Brimley Road South
Scarborough, ON
416-393-5519



November 11

St. Patrick Catholic Secondary School
49 Felstead Avenue
Toronto, ON
416-393-5546

November 12

Neil McNeil High School (boys' school)

127 Victoria Park Avenue
Scarborough, ON
416-393-5502

Notre Dame High School (girls' school)
12 Malvern Avenue
Toronto (Scarborough), ON
416-393-5501

PIZZA LUNCH UPDATE

By now you have received the schedule the pizza dates up until February of 2009. Special thanks to Laurel Duquette, Clare Deans, and Lucie Florian for coordinating the lunches and the number of parent volunteers who help with the distribution of the pizza on the designated dates.



KIDS 4 KIDS:

Participation in ME TO WE

Kids for Kids is a group of kids helping other kids around the world. We sponsor and donate money, clothing, and food to needy villages and families around the world.

So far this year we had the pleasure of attending the Me to We Day at the ACC. It was amazing, there was speakers including Craig and Mark Keilburger, Pinball Clements, Jessie Cruickshank, and many others. There were performers including Justin Bieber, Hedley, and the Jonas Brothers. It was a truly magical day and we want to thank Mrs. Pinsonneault, Carolyn Bailey and Ms. Banfield for making it happen. Kids For Kids is challenging every person to bring in one food item for our food drive. If you have any question please contact Ms. Pinsonneault or Carolyn Bailey.

Hannah Casey
K4K Student Lead

WASTE REDUCTION WEEK October 19th - 23rd, 2009

Our school community is already aware of the many things that St. Denis has become involved in where environmental awareness is concerned. With Waste Reduction Week beginning on October

19th, we are hoping to motivate our student community to participate in this endeavour by to making a commitment to reduce waste in the school. You can help by packing a litter-less lunch for your children each day on this week (and for the rest of the year.) So stock up on those reusable containers!

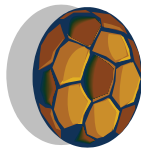
CSAC CORNER

St. Denis has a very active Catholic School Advisory Council (CSAC) which meets approximately every six weeks. The St. Denis CSAC also organizes fundraisers to support extra activities for the children at the school that would not be possible otherwise. On October 6th CSAC's Annual General Meeting & elections were held for the parent/guardian members for the 2009-2010 year. Congratulations and thank you to all who attended.

The executive for this academic year are:
 Angus Armstrong (Co-Chair)
 Leigh Kershner (Treasurer)
 Deanna Exner (Secretary)
 Sandra Molyneaux (Teacher representative)

The next CSAC meeting will take place on WEDNESDAY, November 24th commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Denis library. All parents and guardians are welcome to attend.

SOCCKER NEWS



Girls: We all went out and tried our best, and we had fun doing it!

Even though we didn't win, we still had the chance to go out and show some team spirit!

We would all like to thank Mrs. Brown for taking the time to train us! We learned a lot. Jessica gr.7

FALCON CHEER!!!!

My back aches, My belt's too tight, My hips shake from left to right, Chippio,ungowa.
The Falcons got the power, Chippio, ungow. **The Falcons got the power, singin' bang, bang choo-choo train come on Falcons you've got game!, get it, get it, get it, get it, got it, got it, got it.**

**BOOM, and let it roll,
 BOOM, and let it roll.**

BOYS: The first game we played was against St. John's Catholic school. We won the game 4-3! After that we all thought that we could make it all the way through. The second game we won 2-1 against St. Anselm. Then we found out that we had to face them again in the finals. We won the game 2-0 and we were heading off to the Regionals the next week.

In the Regionals we had to face St. Luigi. We faced them last year, and we lost. This year we won 1-0! We made it to the semi finals! We tied the game and went into a shoot out. We lost but we thought we had a great fight.

The intermediate boys soccer team thought that we had the most amazing coach Patrick Stewart and teacher supporter Mrs. Brown. The whole soccer team was very proud as to how far we made it. The team tried and came out to all the practices to get ready for the tournaments and we made it very far. The coach took most of his time to train us. So the whole team wanted to say **thank you** to all the supporters who came out to watch the boys play; especially coach Patrick Stewart, and Mrs. Brown.

Jacob Plant

**FALCONS TAKE THEIR PREY!
 1 2 3 GO FALCONS!**

Queens Park

When Mrs. Mohan's grade 5's went to Queen's Park we learned a lot of fun facts about the government. We learned where everyone sits in the legislative chamber, what certain people can do (how the clerk can adjust the volume of the MPP's microphone if the MPP speaks too long), that the chandeliers in the chamber have 52 light bulbs and weigh about 900 pounds!, We went to see the west wing which burnt down in a fire. It is now the only part of the whole building that was not made from Ontario's materials. It was made from Italian marble to make sure the fire didn't happen

again. We met and got our picture taken with our MPP, Michael Prue, who gave us all a small chocolate bar. This field trip made me more interested in politics and Government. By Carlyn Smith

Student of the Month



In September, we celebrated the virtue of hospitality. Students who stood out for their ongoing efforts to be hospitable were recognized. Congratulations to the following students:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Mrs. Molyneaux | Connor Moore |
| Ms. Lo - SK | Dylan MacLean |
| JK/SK | Liam McCullagh |
| Ms. Power | Nora Vincent |
| Ms. DiPietro | Isabella Coccimiglio |
| Mrs. Kunkel | Amelia Morrow |
| Mr. Gordon | Sarah Arnott |
| Ms. Pinsonneault | Connor Browne |
| Mrs. Manzer | Michael McKenna |
| Mrs. Mohan | Madeline Desjardins |
| Ms. Brine | Ethan Casey |
| Ms. Melo | Joshua Thomas |

The virtue for October is gratitude.

If the only prayer you say in life is thank you - it is enough.
Meister Eckhart

World Teacher Day

THANK YOU

On the occasion of World Teacher Day, MONDAY, October 5th, the PARENT COMMUNITY PREPARED AND DECORATED THE HALLS OF OUR SCHOOL WITH POSTERS THAT TRULY CELEBRATED THE EFFORTS OF THE STAFF for their commitment to Catholic Education. THE CUPCAKES WERE AMAZING AS WELL. A WONDERFUL SURPRISE



THANK YOU FOR celebrating this special day.