



St. Jerome School
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Newsletter

March

2017

**Mississauga South
Family of Schools**

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Principal:

A. Aquino

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M. Vritsios

Parish Priests:

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St. Martin of Tours
905 279 5742

Catholic School

Council Chair:

M. Fleese

Web-site:

www.dpcdsb.org/jerom



LENT

Prayer for Lent

Blessed are You, O Lord our God,
You have made the sun to light the day
and the moon and stars to light the night.

Help us walk in Your light.

During this season of Lent, renew us through the gift
of Your Holy Spirit.

Help us grow in faith, hope, and love.

During this special time,

we remember that Jesus died and rose from the dead,
so that we might be free to love.

Help us grow to be the people You call us to be:

letting go of old habits of selfishness,

forgiving those who have hurt us,

giving quality time to our families,

and spending time in quiet prayer.



Virtue of the Month:

Kindness

As brothers and sisters who share one Holy Spirit, we are all valuable to God. We all deserve to be shown concern for our welfare and our feelings. We have all been given the Fruit of the Spirit called kindness.

God wants us to be kind to everyone we meet. God helps us to be kind to our family and friends because by being kind we are able to see God in everyone we meet. Let us help our students to remember that a kind person gives their time to help others, stands by their friends in time of need, shares with others, is polite, and cares about the feelings of others.

Faith Life



Grade 2 First Communion

The celebration of the Sacrament of First Holy Communion will be the following masses: April 29th at 10:30 am, April 30th at 2:00 pm or May 6th at 10:30 am. You must be registered with the church to receive First Communion this year.

Grade 7 Confirmation

The Grade 7 Confirmation this year will be held at St. Martin of Tours Parish on Tuesday, April 25th at 7:00 p.m. You must be registered with the church to receive Confirmation this year.

Lent 2017

Lent is a forty-day period before Easter beginning on Ash Wednesday. We skip Sundays when we count the forty days, because Sundays commemorate the Resurrection. Lent will begin on March 1st and ends at sundown on April 13th, which is Holy Thursday. Holy Thursday is the beginning of the mass of the Lord's Last Supper. Lent is a season that reminds us to repent and get our lives centered, our priorities straight and our hearts clean. This holy season offers us a new chance to say, "Yes" to God. Lent is a season of hope and with ashes on our forehead and hope in our hearts, we go forth to love and serve God and others.

Lenten Mass

Please join us for our Lenten mass. It will be celebrated on March 8th at 10:00 a.m. at the school.

The Symbols of Lent

For the First Week: It is the scale, symbol of temptation and good judgement.

For the Second Week: It is the white garment, a reminder of the transfiguration of Christ.

For the Third Week: Our symbol is the spring of living water. Jesus tells the Samaritan woman that anyone who shares in the life giving water that He gives will never thirst again.

For the Fourth Week: Our symbol is the light of the world. Light is especially chosen to remind us of the dignity and responsibility that is given to us when we receive baptism.

For the Fifth Week: The strips which fell from the body of Lazarus reflect the bonds of death, which Christ has broken.

Around the School

Parking on School Property

If you are choosing to park in the school parking lot, please park **only in designated parking spaces**. We ask that you do not double park or park along the back fence. For the safety of our staff and students please be careful when pulling out of parking spots and ensure that your child does not run in the parking lot or between parked cars. If your child is in grade 1 or higher, we ask that you use the Kiss N Ride when dropping off your child in the morning, allowing kindergarten parents to use the parking lot. If you are parking on school property please turn your car engine off when you are parked, we are an idle free zone. We thank you for your continued support.

Attendance

Late and absent students **MUST** be reported to the office. Please call our attendance line (this line is available 24 hours a day) at 905 273-3836, push "one" and leave a message. It is often very difficult to reach parents in a timely fashion and as always, the safety of your child is of our utmost concern. Remember to always inform the office if any of your contact numbers change. It is vital that our contact records are accurate at all times. We must always have the most current information in case your child needs you during the school day. We thank you for your continued support in this matter.

Public Speaking

Congratulations to Katherine U. who placed first in the intermediate division with her speech about The Moon Landing Was A Lie and also to Emily B. who placed first in the junior division with her speech about Minimalism. Both students went on to represent St. Jerome at the Mississauga South Public Speaking Competition. We are very proud of your achievements! Well done!

March Break

Parents please be advised that this year the March Break will be the week of **Monday, March 13th to Friday, March 17th**. Students will return to school on Monday, March 20th, 2017. We wish everyone a safe and relaxing break!

Student Immunization

Peel Public Health is reviewing immunization records of all students at our school beginning in January 2017. Peel Public Health must have proof that your child has been fully vaccinated (immunized) according to the Ontario Immunization Schedule. If you receive a letter, please ensure that your child has received the required vaccine(s), then give the date(s) your child received the vaccine dose(s) to Peel Health immediately to update your child's records. Not adhering to the Peel Public Health request may result in your child being suspended from school. For more information, please call Peel Health at 905-799-7700 or visit www.ImmunizaPeel.ca.

Kiss 'N Ride

PLEASE NOTE THAT CARS ARE NOT TO USE THE BUS LANE AT ANY TIME. Parents are also asked to use our proper Kiss 'N Ride lanes and not to pull into the school lanes. This is especially important this year as we begin to offer Full Day Kindergarten classes.

Parents please do not leave your car unattended in any of the Kiss 'N Ride lanes at any point in the school day, most especially at lunch time. If you are dropping off a lunch for your child please park your car in a designated parking spot or on the street. Please note that if you are using the Kiss 'N Ride you should not be getting out of your car to help a child exit, you should not pop open your truck to retrieve knapsacks, and all students must exit from the right passenger side of the car for their safety. We ask that parents use extra caution when using our Kiss 'N Ride lanes in the winter months. Please drive safely and take your time. Our focus is always to keep all of our students safe.

School Yard Safety

Just a reminder that student supervision begins at 9:00; students must not be dropped off at the school before this time.

Reporting Head Injuries

Even when it may appear to be insignificant, we inform parents of **ALL** head injuries at school which are reported to us. We do this in recognition of the potential danger of any injury involving the head area. We are not intending to alarm you, rather to keep you informed. Please remind your child to let a staff member know if they bump/injure their head at school.

EQAO

The EQAO (Education Quality and Accountability Office) testing of our grade 3 and 6 students will take place from May 24th through to June 7th. Please try to avoid scheduling any doctor's appointments or anything else that will take your child out of school during the testing dates. A letter to grade 3 and 6 parents with further information will be sent home closer to the testing dates with exact testing dates per grade.

Website

Parents are encouraged to visit our website! The site is **www.dpcdsb.org/jerom**. Please take the time to check it out. All school information and parent information is on the site and updated regularly. All previous and current newsletters are on the site. Our web-site is another excellent tool to keep parents connected to what is happening at school.

Criminal Reference Check

In compliance with Ministry directives, a Criminal Reference Check is **mandatory** if you wish to volunteer your services in the school, transport students and assist on trips. Copies of the Criminal Reference application forms are available in the office. An annual declaration is required for all valid Criminal Reference Checks that are on file in the school office. A Criminal Reference Check is mandatory this year if you plan to volunteer for both in school and out of school activities.

Flex Boundary

If you currently live outside the school boundary, and are attending St. Jerome on a flex boundary request, you will need to request flex boundary for next year. The "Flexible Boundary" procedure is reviewed annually. Please note that flex boundaries will be looked at on a case by case basis and are not guaranteed from year to year. If you are requesting flex boundary, please note that transportation is your responsibility. The Board will not provide either transportation or additional supervision for students admitted under this procedure. Note also that the students admitted under this procedure do not automatically become eligible for the secondary school serving the school. A separate request must be made to the secondary school principal. If you would like to be considered for flex boundary for the 2017-2018 school year, please submit your request in writing by March 31st, 2017. Please include the reason(s) for your request. These requests are only for students who will be in grades 1 to 8 next year.

Planning Ahead—Class Placements

In arriving at the decision for placement of your child for the upcoming year, every consideration is given to individual needs. This decision is made in collaboration with all staff who have been directly involved in your child's education this year. If you feel that there are specific needs which should be addressed in determining the placement of your child, please send us a letter to advise us of your concerns. We ask for all submissions to be sent to the office no later than Friday, April 28th, 2017. Your request will be considered at our grade promotion meetings. We remind you that it would not be appropriate to request one teacher over another as placements are subject to change. However, if there is other information regarding your son/daughter's learning style, or other considerations of which we ought to be aware, please advise us of these facts in your letter. **No letter will be accepted after this date.**

Are You Moving?

If you are planning a move, or have already moved, please let the office know. If you are moving to a new school we will give you a Transfer Form to take with you to the new school. If you are moving, but would like your child to remain at St. Jerome, please submit your request in writing.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

Please consider helping our wonderful team! Your time is truly appreciated and is valued by all our staff and students! Our next council meeting will be Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.



Let's wash our hands!

Hand washing when done correctly is the single most effective way to prevent the spread of infectious diseases such as the flu. Please help us to reinforce the proper techniques with your child.

1. Wet our hands
2. Soap our hands
3. Wash our hands
4. Rinse our hands
5. Dry our hands
6. Use paper towels to turn taps off....

Say goodbye to germs!

Bus Safety

Ensuring student safety is a very important goal to all those working with students. You are asked to review carefully the following rules for students while riding on school buses. Students not following these rules may lose the privilege of riding on a school bus.

Students are required to:

- ◆ Be at their stop at least 5 minutes before the pick-up time
- ◆ Listen to the driver when getting on and off the bus, especially when a road must be crossed
- ◆ Go directly to their seat and stay seated until they are let off the bus
- ◆ Follow all instructions from the bus driver, especially about where they put their belongings
- ◆ Not eat or drink, fight, swear or demonstrate other types of poor behaviour
- ◆ Not open or close windows unless the driver permits it
- ◆ Keep all belongings inside the bus
- ◆ Not damage the bus seats (students will be held responsible)
- ◆ Respect private property while waiting for their school bus
- ◆ Not talk to the bus driver while the bus is in operation unless it is necessary

Dates to Remember Mark your Calendar



March 1	Ash Wednesday
March 8	Lenten Mass 10:00 am at school
March 13-17	March Break
April 4	Grade 8 Graduation Pictures
April 14	Good Friday –no school
April 17	Easter Monday –no school
April 19	Dental Screening FDK, Gr 2 and 4
April 25	Grade 7 Confirmation 7:00 pm
April 26	Catholic School Council 6:30 pm

Planning Ahead:

PA Days:

May 12, June 12, June 30

March Break:

Monday, March 13 to Friday, March 17, 2017 inclusive

St. Jerome's Annual BBQ

Planning will start soon for our annual BBQ, which will be taking place on Friday, May 26th. The annual BBQ raises significant funds which the school council allocates for various items and activities that add to your children's educational experience at St. Jerome. Please support the BBQ with items such as gift certificates, tickets for events, new electronics, housewares, tools, toys and sporting goods. Please forward donations to the school. Thank you for your anticipated support! In the coming months we will be seeking parent volunteers, if you would like to help at the BBQ, please call the school. We look forward to seeing you at the BBQ!

Grade 8 Graduation Pictures

A reminder that grade eight graduation pictures will be taken on April 4th. Further information from the photographer will be sent home closer to the date.

Recess Reminders

We at St. Jerome have a NO CONTACT policy. This policy states that students are not to play any games or be involved in any activities in the schoolyard that involve physical contact. Games such as tackle football, touch tag, manhunt and like games are not allowed. If a game develops during the course of a recess break where contact becomes part of the game or activity, students are reminded to remove themselves from that activity and to report the contact to the nearest staff member on yard duty. Staff can easily be identified by their bright orange vests. Please reinforce with your children the inherent dangers of rough play, even when the intent is fun.