A Thanksgiving Prayer

A Thanksgiving Prayer

This Thanksgiving let those of us who have much and those who have little gather at the welcoming table of the Lord. At this blessed feast, may rich and poor alike remember that we are called to serve one another and to walk together in God’s gracious world. With thankful hearts we praise our God who like a loving parent denies us no good thing. Amen.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me..." - Matthew 25:35

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

The 2019-2020 School Year is running smoothly at St. Jerome School.

Thank you to staff, students and parents for a great September start and Open House. Thank you to all that attended our Open House and a special thank you to Trustee Bruno Iannicca, Superintendent Carine MacDonald and Fr. Gijo for attending. Thanks to the School Council for a "Big Screen Movie" donated by Ms. Diaz and Air Fun Rentals.

It is a wonderful school community of which to be a part!

This was a great evening to build community for all families and staff. We are analyzing data regarding EQAO scores. We continue to emphasize excellence in student achievement and student engagement with a foundation of Catholic values.

Thanksgiving is a time to give pause, to appreciate and to give thanks for what we receive on a daily basis. We give thanks for our family, friends, teachers and our school staff and community of St. Jerome School. Thank you to Ms. Adriano and Mrs. Metlin for coordinating the Thanksgiving Food Drive and for your generous donations. October’s virtue is empathy. Please talk to your children about the important meaning of this special virtue and join us for our virtue assembly.

The Terry Fox Walk was very successful and thank you to Ms. Vermeiren for organizing this year’s Walk for Terry. We raised enough money to have a "pie in the face" for teachers and principal! We thank Fr. Gijo for celebrating our Opening Mass on Sept. 30th and thank you to all those who attended.

On behalf of the St. Jerome staff, I extend best wishes for a Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving and Make Your Own Sunshine!

God Bless,

Connie Gale
Principal
EMPATHY

During the month of October, we will focus on the virtue of Empathy.

God has given us the ability to form connections with each other – to live together. Empathy helps us to connect and live together in safe, caring, inclusive communities.

An empathetic person...
- listens attentively
- watches people’s body language
- notices and responds when someone is upset
- can name her/his feelings
- can see a situation from another person’s point of view
- knows that different people may feel differently about the same thing

Let us pray this month, for the grace and strength to be people of empathy – people who can identify with and feel the concerns of those around us.

We want to thank you for supporting our efforts at home in reinforcing with our children the 10 virtues, which can be found in your child’s agenda.

CONGRATULATIONS ST. JEROME CATHOLIC TEACHERS

Thank you for the caring and generous ways in which you help our students grow in their Catholic faith and expand their knowledge, while developing important life skills and their love of learning. Your dedicated service to students, families, parishes and the broader community is instrumental in helping our students to excel. You inspire and help students to realize their dreams to build a better world! We commend you on October 5, 2019 World Teacher’s Day!

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

We thank everyone for contributing to our Thanksgiving Food Drive. The food will be donated to St. Vincent de Paul Society. We will still be accepting food donations until Thursday October 10, 2019. Thank you to Ms. Andriano for organizing the items for collection. Many families in need are appreciative of all that you give.

Happy Thanksgiving

ST. JEROME SCHOOL MASS

Our Thanksgiving and Opening School Mass was held on September 30, 2019 at St. Jerome School. The students were all engaged in Father Gijo’s homily. We would like to thank Father Gijo for his words of wisdom that he shared with our students and parents. We would like to thank the parents who were able to attend. Thank you to the Youth Faith Ambassadors, Mrs. Metlin and Mrs. Berardi for organizing the mass, and to our St. Jerome Choir for their inspiring musical talents which was led by Ms. Kimeda.
ATTENDANCE

Our attendance line is: 905-273-3836 (Press #1). Please call to register an absence. **You can call 24hrs a day including weekends if you know your child will be absent from school.** An answering machine is available to take information. Please provide the following information:

- Name(s) of student(s)
- Name of student’s teacher(s)
- Grade of student(s)
- Reason for absence

If an absence is not reported, our policy is to call home to verify student absenteeism. A parent or guardian must sign out students at the office who leave early.

All students are expected to attend school regularly and punctually. All students who arrive after 9:15 a.m. or 1:15 p.m. must sign in at the office. This measure is to ensure the safety of your child. We thank you for your continued support in following this procedure.

CUSTODY OF CHILDREN

On rare occasions, we are faced with difficult situations in which non-custodial parents arrive at school asking to visit their child or to take their child home after school. We are best able to serve and protect students when we are made aware of legal custody arrangements, visitation rights, and other special instructions. If legal custody matters affect your family, please ensure that our office and classroom teachers are aware of custodial arrangements between parents that may affect your child during school hours. Please ensure that a copy of the Court Order is on file at the school office.

PROGRESS REPORT

The Progress Report Card will be sent home on **Tuesday, November 12, 2019**. This report shows a student’s development of the learning skills and work habits, and general progress in working towards the achievement of the curriculum. Two elementary Provincial Report Cards will be issued later in the school year, one in February for Term One, and another in June for Term Two. There will be interviews on **Thursday November 14, 2019**. Interviews are by teacher or parent request at this time. **Friday November 15, 2019 is a Professional Activity Day.** There will be no school for students and teachers will be involved in provincial priority activities within a Catholic Context.

PICTURE DAY

Our picture re-take day is on **November 13, 2019** for those students who were absent on picture day.

ST. JEROME SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Thank you to all the members of the St. Jerome School Community for attending our Open House on September 19, 2019. It was a great success with parents and staff conversing in classrooms and throughout the school. The evening proved to be an excellent opportunity for the community and the school to make some positive connections.

We wish to express our sincere thanks to Trustee B. Iannicca, SO C. MacDonald and Father Gijo for attending. We look forward to continued opportunities to meet with you again!

SCHOOL HOURS

9:00 Supervision in the yard
9:15 School Entry
11:15 – 11:30 Morning Recess
12:15 – 1:15 Lunch
2:40 – 2:55 Afternoon Recess
3:45 Dismissal

Please note that supervision in the playground begins at 9:00 AM. Please do not leave your children unattended in the school grounds before the teachers begin their duty. Morning announcements begin at 9:20 a.m. promptly.

TERRY FOX DAY WALK

On **September 26, 2019** students and staff had the opportunity to remember Terry Fox and his courageous fight against cancer. All funds will be donated to the Terry Fox Cancer Foundation. Thanks to Mrs. Vermeiren, Mrs. Metlin and Mrs. Sisti for organizing the event and to all the students, staff and community members who supported the run/walk.
HALLOWEEN

We have many students with severe allergies this year. We remind families that if you are planning to send Halloween treats or loot bags to school that they cannot contain edible products. All edible products or loot bags that contain edible products (chocolates, candy, cookies, cupcakes, etc.) will be sent back home with your child. This will also help us promote a healthy snack school environment. In addition, we will also be stressing the fact that the most important aspect of our activities at this time of year is the celebration of two great Feast Days. November 1 we honour All Saints Day in our church, and we are encouraged to pray that we might emulate their example in our daily lives. On the following day, November 2, we will remember all those who have gone before us in faith by celebrating the Feast of All Souls. Again, we are reminded that while those who have died are out of sight, they are not out of mind or beyond our prayers.

ANAPHYLAXIS UPDATE

At Halloween we must be very vigilant as to what our children bring to school in the way of lunchbox treats. Our school has a number of students who have LIFE THREATENING allergies. All of our affected children have been well prepared to avoid the potential for a life threatening allergic reaction while at school. However, as a community, let us try to minimize the risks for this segment of our student population. Please carefully check the ingredients of any Halloween treats you put in your child's lunch-box.

SCHOOL SPORTS

Cross Country
Fall has arrived and so has Cross-Country running at St. Jerome School. Students have been training hard for the past few weeks and on Wednesday, October 9, 2019 the boys and girls will participate in the Mississauga South Family Meet at Erindale Park. Thank you to the coaches, Mrs. VanDeWiele-Kimura and Mrs. Kurpis

Volleyball
The Junior Volleyball teams have been practicing and preparing for their inter-school games. Thank you to the boys and girls that will be representing St. Jerome School during the season. Serve, bump, pass and spike boys and girls!! Thank you to our coaches, Mrs. Ladner, Mme. Falvo and Mrs. Metlin

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE PAYMENT SYSTEM

Our SCHOOLCASHONLINE Board Online Payment option is now up and running. Please take the time to click on the following link and register your children:

https://dpcdsb.schoolcashonline.com/

Please consider this payment option for all money transactions at school, such as, fieldtrips and order forms which are sent home. Once registered, you will be able to log in and make your payments online, avoiding the task of sending cash and cheques to school. REGISTER TODAY!!!
CONCUSSIONS

Recent research shows that a concussion can have very serious implications on a child’s cognitive and physical abilities. Parents and guardians are reminded that a comprehensive protocol, based on current research and best practices, has been developed to help parents, students, and staff prevent, recognize, and respond to a concussion.

AFTER HOURS SCHOOL ACCESS

When school closes at 3:45 p.m. students should be leaving with all the homework, books and all of their belongings that they may need for the evening. We strongly encourage students to be responsible citizens.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE FORMS

As required by the Education Act and the Ministry of Education, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board annually provides parents with information about cost-effective student accident insurance coverage via student courier. Although enrollment is voluntary, the board strongly encourages parents to take advantage of the inexpensive insurance coverage, especially if their child/children participate in sports, excursions/field trips, or, if parents do not have dental insurance coverage.

Enrollment is required in writing so there are two options for enrollment: 1) Complete the traditional form and mail it in or 2) apply online at www.insuremykids.com. If you have any questions please phone 1-800-463-KIDS (5437). Parents alone have the right to insure their children. These forms were sent out the first day of school. If you did not receive one, please ask your child or call the school.

STORAGE/ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION

Parents are responsible for ensuring that all medication and forms are updated annually. If your child requires medication, please have all pertinent forms completed and returned with the medication to the office as soon as possible.

NO CHILD WITHOUT MEDIC ALERT PROGRAM

The No Child Without program offers a free MedicAlert membership to students who attend our school and are between the ages of 4 to 14. If your child has a medical condition, allergy, or is required to take medication on a regular basis, then you should consider a MedicAlert membership through this program. For further information pick up a brochure at the school office, or visit www.nochildwithout.ca. If your child is already part of the program but his/her medical condition or contact information has changed, call 1-866-479-3220 Ext.1.

LOST AND FOUND

We often find lost items at St. Jerome School. Items like shoes, socks, hats, jackets, gloves etc. are collected and placed on our ‘lost and found’ rack. Please look through it to see if any items belong to you. Any remaining items will be donated to charity once parents and students have had an opportunity to review the lost items.

KISS AND RIDE PROGRAM AND PLAYGROUND SUPERVISION

The “Kiss and Ride” program takes place before school. A reminder to the St. Jerome community that our driveway is one-way.

We have reserved for cars to drop off and pick up students the area by the side of the school next to the park. We ask that when you enter the kiss and ride area you follow the arrows on the asphalt. The yellow arrow lane is a drive through while the white arrow lane beside the asphalt is the drop off lane. Please then follow the arrow signs on the ground to exit. You enter on the side of the building by the park for Kiss and Ride. All students are to exit the car on the asphalt side only for their safety.
Kiss and Ride is just like the one at the Go Station. You stop, let your child out and then drive away. Please **DO NOT** leave your car in the Kiss and Ride. **THERE IS NO STOPPING IN THE DRIVE THROUGH LANE** (the lane with the arrows.) This area is the only area where students are let off and picked up in the school area. Please do not stop in front of the school to drop off your children as this is the bus zone and a fire route. If you need to walk your child to the playground please park your car in a designated parking spot.

We would also like to remind parents that schoolyard supervision does not begin until 9:00 AM. Students should not be arriving before this time, as the playground is not supervised. Parents should not be in the supervised yard during school hours. Thank you for keeping our students safe. If you need to pick up your child and it is recess please come to the office to sign them out.

**OCTOBER IS WALK TO SCHOOL MONTH TURN YOUR ENGINE OFF**

Ten seconds of idling uses more fuel than restarting your engine!

You can reduce air pollution and care for the air we breathe by turning off your engine when your vehicle is parked.

You'll save money: Depending on gas prices, you can expect to save over $60 per year just by turning off your engine. Idling a vehicle for 10 minutes a day uses up more than 100 liters of gasoline in a year.

You'll breathe easier: By turning your engine off, you and others around you won't have to breathe in unhealthy exhaust fumes from a vehicle that is going nowhere.

**EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

Each and every school within Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board is required to have a fire emergency and evacuation plan. We are required under Board Policy to have three practice “Fire Drills” during the first term. The classroom teachers have and will continue to review these procedures with their students. We are also required to review “Hold and Secure”, “Shelter in Place” and practice “Lockdown” procedures. This procedure is to prepare students in case the police direct us to have a ‘lockdown’. We will continue practicing these drills throughout the school year. Teachers will be assuring their children that this is strictly a practice. Please be assured that we always have the safety of our children as our first concern.

**EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN**

In the unforeseen event that we should have an emergency at our school, we will evacuate to:

**Huron Park Recreation Center**
830 Paisley Blvd. West
Mississauga, Ont.
L5C 4P1
905-615-4820

Safety regulations and Board Policy require us to have this contingency plan in place. In the event of an evacuation to the high school, your child will remain at the evacuation site until we are able to contact you and make arrangements for pick up.

**HEALTHY EATING AND ECOSCHOOLS**

Our St. Jerome Eco Team will be working hard to keep our Gold Status! There are many ways our students and families can help with our initiatives. Regular use of recyclable containers for lunch and snacks, and reusable water bottles that can be refilled at school are some ways to be green! Boomerang lunches, taking home waste (banana peels, apple cores) reduce our school waste.

**HEPATITIS/ MENINGITIS/HPV9 CLINIC**
Peel Health will continue to offer free immunization against Hepatitis B/Meningococcal for students in Grade 7. It is given as a series of two injections over a period of six months. Also available is the HPV9 immunization for Grade 7 students. This is a series of three injections given throughout the year. The first date is scheduled for October 22, 2019. Consent forms for the HPV9 immunization for the Grade 7 students will be sent home. Consent forms for Hep B immunization were sent home and to be returned in June 2019. If you have any questions please call the Peel Health Department at (905) 799-7700. Health Departments, by law, must keep a current record of your child’s immunizations. It is the responsibility of parents to keep their child’s records up-to-date.

**SACRAMENTAL DATES**

**Grade 2s:**

Saturday, December 7, 2019  
**Grade Two First Reconciliation**  
10:30 a.m. at St. Martin of Tours Parish

Saturday February 1, Sunday February 2, Saturday February 8, and Sunday February 9, 2020  
**First Holy Communion Rite of Enrolment** at St. Martin Of Tours Parish

Saturday April 25, 2020 at 10:30 AM  
Sunday May 2, 2020 at 10:30 AM  
Saturday May 3, 2020 at 2:00 PM  
**Grade Two First Holy Communion** at St. Martin of Tours Parish

**Grade 7s:**

Saturday, November 9, Sunday, November 10, Saturday November 16, Sunday November 17, 2019  
**Confirmation Rite of Enrolment** at St. Martin of Tours Parish at Any Mass

Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.  
**Sacrament of Reconciliation and Rehearsal** at St. Martin of Tours Parish

Monday, April 28, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.  
**Grade 7 Confirmation** at St. Martin of Tours Parish

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**October**

- Monday October 1, 2019  Grade 7 parent meeting re. Confirmation @ St. Martin of Tours @ 7:00 pm
- Thursday October 3, 2019  Fall Pizza Days start until January 30, 2020
- Saturday October 5, 2019  World Teacher’s Day…Thank you to all of our staff at St. Jerome School
- Thursday October 8, 2019  Thanksgiving Food Drive Finishes – Thank you for all your contributions to St. Vincent du Paul Society
- Wednesday October 9, 2019  Mississauga South Cross Country Meet @ Erindale Park
- Wednesday October 9, 2019  First School Council Meeting @ 6:30 pm in our library
- Thursday October 10, 2019  Terry Fox Assembly @ 3:00 pm in our Gym
- Friday October 11, 2019  PA Day – no school for students
- Monday October 14, 2019  Thanksgiving Day – no school for students *enjoy your holiday with family & friends
- Wednesday October 16, Thursday October 17 & Friday October 18, 2019  CCAT Testing
- Monday October 21, 2019  Elections Day – we are a polling station for the election
- Tuesday October 22, 2019  1st round of Immunizations for Grade 7 & 8 students
- Thursday October 24, 2019  Wear Purple Day
- Thursday October 24, 2019  Child Care Worker & DECE Day – Thank you for all your hard work
- Wednesday October 23 – Friday October 25, 2019  Camp Muskoka for Grade 8 students