



St. Gregory Catholic School Newsletter

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END-OF-YEAR NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2013

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Unbelievably, another year has come and gone! I would like to take this opportunity to extend particular thanks to my staff for their outstanding contributions. They demonstrate a genuine care and compassion for our boys and girls and always encourage them to strive for their personal best. I thank them also for their friendship and I congratulate them on a job well done.

I wish to thank the parents of our community for the ongoing support of our school community both financially and spiritually, as well as the friendship so many of you have extended. Your enthusiasm and commitment to the entire community is truly remarkable. Thank you for welcoming me to this community!

Students, thank you so much for always aiming to achieve your very best. You have made all of us at St. Gregory School very proud of you. Have a safe and restful summer!

Many heartfelt thanks to the St. Gregory Parent Council, (Mr. Grnak and his executive) on an outstanding job.

Sincerely,
G. Benedek



SUMMER PRAYER

Father, Creator of all, thank you for summer!
Thank you for the warmth of the sun and the increased daylight.
Thank you for the beauty
I see all around me and for the opportunity to be outside
and enjoy your creation.
Thank you for the increased time I have to be with
my friends and family,
and for the more casual pace of the summer season.
Draw me closer to you this summer.
Teach me how I can pray no matter where I am or what I am doing.
Warm my soul with the awareness of your presence and light my path
with your Word and Counsel.
As I enjoy your creation, create in me a pure heart and a
hunger and a thirst for you.
Amen.

REMINDER

Our last day of school is on Thursday, June 27th. Regular dismissal is at 3:00 p.m.



See you back on: Tuesday, September 3, 2013

For our return to school on Tuesday, September 3, 2013, we would ask that all Gr. 1 to 8 students gather in the yard at the grade specific signs at the 8:30 a.m. bell. (Parents are asked to remain outside of the yard area.) Our teachers will gather all the students specific to a grade and enter the school with them. Once inside the building, the teachers will then divide the students into their specific class assignments. (We had endeavoured to accomplish this outdoors last year and it was simply not feasible.) Our Senior Kindergarten students are asked to gather in the Kindergarten yard and will be collected by the SK teachers at bell (both in the morning at 8:30 a.m. and in the afternoon at 12:35 p.m.). Junior Kindergarten students will be taking part in a staggered entry over the course of the first week and will be contacted by the school as to the date that they will be starting.

GRADE 8 GRADUATION

On Thursday, June 20/13 our Grade Eight graduating classes started off the day by being acknowledged by the St. Gregory



students and staff in our traditional "clap out".

Our students then celebrated year's end with a boat cruise in Toronto harbor including a catered lunch and afternoon dance. At 7:00 p.m. the students reconvened at the church for Mass and their ceremony where the distribution of diplomas, presentation of awards and speeches took place. Students, family and friends then gathered in the school gym for refreshments and farewells. A most memorable day was had by all. Congratulations to everyone!



SENIOR KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION

On Friday, June 21, 2013, Ms. Vieira, Mrs. Rafferty, Ms. Pitoscia and their Senior Kindergarten students celebrated their Graduation with a ceremony in the school gym. All the graduates donned their mortarboards and celebrated in song and word. A fine job was done by all! Congratulations!

A sincere thank you to the teachers for making the pre-primary years so memorable for the children.



"Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; For, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven. What do you think?"

If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray?

And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that did not wander off.

So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost."

PARENT CORNER

During the summer months, children spend more of their time in public places like parks, libraries and recreation centers. It is always a good time to review the basic rules of safety.

Safety Tips for Your Children

Children should:

- Always tell you where they are.
- Know how to use the pay telephone and should always have emergency telephone money with them. They should memorize the telephone numbers (including area code) of home and a neighbor.
- 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 open the door to a stranger or let strangers in the house.
- Never say they are alone if they answer the phone or door.
- 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 no one has the right to touch any part of his or her body that a bathing suit would cover.

- Recognize suspicious behavior and report it immediately.
- 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 neighbourhood 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 uniformed police officers are there to protect.
- 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.



FAREWELLS

We will be bidding “adieu” to a number of our staff members as of the end of this school year. Moving on to new locations and/or other opportunities are:

Mrs. Reilly
Ms. Resendes
Ms. Vieira
Mrs. Martin
Ms. Iwasykiw

We wish them all the best in their future endeavours and thank them for their hard work and caring while here at St. Gregory School.

We look forward to welcoming:

Ms. Lisa DeFranco
Ms. Dina Italiano

CLASS ORGANIZATION & COMBINED GRADES

When the children come to school on Tuesday, September 3rd, a class

and grade organization will be already in place. The decision as to which class a child has been placed in is completed with discussion between the teachers and the principal. The various abilities, needs and strengths of the students are considered in their class placement. It is important to understand that due to a possible increase or decrease in enrolment, changes may need to be made in grade organization, teacher assignments and the placement of children, during the month of September or early October.

WHAT IS A COMBINED CLASSROOM?

Combined classes group children from two consecutive grades in one classroom. Schools combine classes for a variety of reasons. This includes organizing classes to meet student learning needs and combining grades to balance class size. All classrooms include students with a range of skills and abilities. Combined classes are neither better nor worse than single-grade classes. They are simply one of the many ways schools meet students’ academic and social development needs.

HOW ARE STUDENTS CHOSEN FOR COMBINED CLASSES?

Principals and staff consider a variety of factors when grouping children into classes:

- Learning styles
- Social skills
- Academic needs

At St. Gregory we strive to create a classroom environment that will support the needs of all students. Due to a ministry initiative that decreases the number of students from JK to grade 3 to no more than 20 students in each classroom, we will have combined classes next year. Teachers use many different strategies to teach students in

combined grades identifying the range of needs in the classroom and planning and programming to meet the needs of all students.



WASTE FREE LUNCH PROGRAM

The Toronto Catholic District School Board remains committed to the environment and continues to look for innovative ways to promote conservation through energy and waste reduction initiatives.

The Board approved the introduction of a “Waste Free Lunch Program” at all elementary schools in 2010. It was piloted at several elementary schools in Ontario and has been very successful, resulting in a significant reduction in waste going to landfills. This program is an integral part of the TCDSB’s commitment to promote and teach our students the importance of being stewards of the earth.

We, too, are looking to do our part and are asking you to fully participate with your child as we introduce/expand/continue a “Waste Free Lunch Program” at our school this year. Be part of helping us become leaders in this environmental friendly waste reduction program. It involves the following three steps:





1. To ensure the safety of students who suffer life threatening, anaphylactic reactions, please place all foods in reusable containers in their original package or wrapper. This will allow the food ingredients to be clearly indicated and help all staff and students to be aware of possible allergens introduced in the school environment.
2. Left-over food which can be disposed of in the green bin program available at your home will be brought back home in their containers by your child.
3. Lunches and snacks should be packed in re-usable containers, not disposable bags. In order to avoid spills, we ask that you use containers that are re-sealable.



Our hope is that this practice at school and home will teach all children to carry this awareness and behavior with them as they grow into young adults. Thank you for your on-going support with our school's environmental efforts. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school

SUMMER LITERACY ACTIVITIES

During the summer, it is important that your child continue to engage regularly in literacy activities. Below are some fun ways you can help your child maintain the gains made during the school year.

At Home

- Invite your child to keep a daily journal or diary in which she/he can write about day-to-day activities, books read, or special events. Older children might

keep a blog on a free online site <http://www.edublog.org>.

- Create a special place in your home for your child to read, write and draw. Keep writing materials, paper, scissors, books, etc., in this special area.
- Explore some interactive educational websites with your child.
- Encourage your child to write stories or create an online comic strip.
- Engage in discussion when watching T.V. with your child. Elicit his/her opinion. This will help your child formulate and express his/her thoughts orally, think critically and build vocabulary.
- Provide your child with sidewalk chalk to write messages on the pavement.
- If planning a summertime barbecue, invite your child to write the menu. Together you can write out the shopping list, read the recipes and help to cook the meal.
- Collect brochures, read them with your child and discuss places you plan to visit.
- Plan a real or virtual trip by exploring websites of places you want to visit.
- Have your child select favourite pieces of work from school notebooks and portfolios to create a scrapbook as a memory of their most recent school year.
- Create a scrapbook of summer memories or a vacation by having your child write and draw about special moments. Include memorabilia (ticket stubs, airline tickets, etc.),

photographs and brochures or download pictures from the internet.

In the Neighbourhood and on Excursions

- Take your child to the public library to join the TD Summer Reading Club. Your young teens can join Word Out: Teen Summer Reading and go online with other book loving teens to talk about favourite books. Check out the Toronto Public Library site for more details <http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca>.
- Download stories to iPods. This is a great idea for long car rides or a relaxing hot summer afternoon. See Downloads and eBooks at <http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca>.
- Have your child keep a word book to print words they see in the environment and on his/her travels (e.g., names of places, names of things, names of people, etc.).
- Before you leave on a trip, make a Bingo card of things you might see. When your child gets bingo, reward him/her with a comic, joke book or other fun reading materials.
- When you travel, bring games, books, word searches, crossword puzzles and writing materials that will entertain your child.
- Help your child learn a new and interesting word each day/week. Challenge your child to use it as often as possible.
- Pick something in nature to observe over the summer, talk and write about its changes (e.g., a tree, a flower, an insect, an animal, etc.).
- Engage in oral word games to extend your child's vocabulary (e.g., categories, I Spy, I Pack My Suitcase etc.).

To all students in grades 6 and 7

RE: Confirmation in 2014

Dear Students and Parents;

After consultation with a number of individuals on the subject matter, and with the –conditional- support of Bishop John Boissonneau, our parish will –on a trial basis- offer the Sacrament of Confirmation to the students entering grade SEVEN or EIGHT in September of 2013.

Bishop Boissonneau has approved the above on a trial basis upon my request that is based on my many discussions with both students, parents, and school management. My hope is to allow the students, and potential candidates, to better focus on the Sacrament without the distractions of other requirements that are demanded at the grade EIGHT level.

Enrollment for preparation classes will take place in the church this coming December. Confirmation will be in the spring of 2014. Classes will be in the parish hall on Wednesday evenings as in past years.

More information will be provided in the fall via the Parish Bulletin

May you have a peaceful and restful summer. Your body and mid may need a rest; how is your spiritual life? May I suggest that

You
Live while you are alive
Give thanks while you can
Join us for Mass when you are able.

Sincerely in Christ.

Fr. John

Rev. João (John) M. Bertão
Pastor