

FEBRUARY 2009



French Immersion

ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC FRENCH IMMERSION SCHOOL

LONDON DISTRICT CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARD MISSION STATEMENT:
To serve the Catholic student in a community that nurtures a living faith and provides a quality Catholic education that enables the individual to become a contributing member of the Church and Society.

www.ldcsb.on.ca/schools/anth

Working together to be the best we can be!
Ensemble on est meilleur!



Principal's Message

The month of February brings warm thoughts of spring. Let's hope we can soon put away the snow shovels and snow pants. The second term is well under way and report cards will be going home on Monday, March 23th. Special events are planned for the month of February, the Friendship Month.

February is also Hockey month. We look forward to having some of the London Knights hockey players come to visit our students. We will inform you of the date as it becomes available to us. When we have established the date of our Hockey week, the students will be invited to wear their favourite hockey jerseys.

Our winter Carnaval will take place on Friday, February 20 in the afternoon. Bonhomme will also drop by for a visit during the Carnaval.

The Arts are alive and well. The fortunate students of St. Anthony French Immersion have and will have the opportunity to attend many theatrical and musical presentations in the month of February.

On February 20th our JK's and grade 1, 2, 3 and 4 students will leave promptly at 9:00 am to attend a presentation of Snow White, which tells the story through narrative and music. This presentation will take place at St. Mary's Choir School. On February 24th our students will be entertained by a Jack Grunsky concert at 9:45 am held at the Forest City Church on Bostwick Road.

St. Anthony Catholic French Immersion School was very fortunate to have been front and center in the media. On Friday, January 23 we were highlighted in the London Free Press regarding our Bathroom Olympics, as well as our Literacy Initiative in wanting to make it in the Guinness World Records Book. Feel free to catch the Bathroom Olympics at www.lfpress.com/videos.

We are thrilled with the volume of our incoming JK and K new registrations. Our school is growing in leaps and bounds.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Your principal,

Catherine Richard



Kindergarten Registration

The Schools within the London District Catholic School Board held

Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten Registration

During the month of January, 2009

Registration is now ongoing at St. John French Immersion and St. Anthony French Immersion in London and Holy Family French Immersion in Woodstock. All three schools are pleased to offer placements for Junior Kindergarten.

Children born in 2005 and 2004 are eligible to register for the Kindergarten program. Documents needed in order to complete the registration are: a birth certificate, a Roman Catholic baptismal certificate, Ontario Health Card, and if appropriate, passport and landing papers. Should you have any questions pertaining to the registration process or wish to book an appointment, please call the school at

519 660-2777

Catholic School Graduate Expectations

Our vision of the Learner is that The Catholic School Graduate is expected to be: **A reflective, creative and holistic thinker** who solves problems and makes responsible decisions with an informed moral conscience for the common good.

In a time, which often seems to be without goals or enabling aspirations, we are challenged to declare ours and to dedicate our lives to their achievement.

In an age which seems more fearful of the future, we are directed to give an account of the hope that is within us. (1 Peter 3, 15)

UPCOMING:

February - JK/SK Registration is ongoing

Feb 4, 18 - Hot Lunch

Feb 9 - School Council Meeting, 6:30 in library

Feb 12 - Mass at St. Justin's Parish, 9:30 am

Feb 13 - Pink & Red Day!

Feb. 16 - Family Day - No School

Feb 17 - Media Violence Presentation

Feb 20 - Snow White Play am, Carnaval pm

Feb 24 - Jack Grunsky Concert 9:45

Feb 25- Milk orders due

Feb 25- Ash Wednesday Paraliturgie

Ash Wednesday Mass

We will be holding a paraliturgy in our library on Wednesday, February 25 at 1:00 pm for Ash Wednesday. Distribution of ashes will occur during the paraliturgy. Parents are welcome.



Family Day!

This is a reminder that February 16, 2009 is Family Day, a statutory holiday. There will be no classes that day. Please enjoy the day with your family.

Enjoy your statutory holiday with your family!

Gymnastics



Students in grade 1, 2, 3 and 4 are perfecting their gymnastic skills and those interested have participated in tryouts. The Gymnastic meet will be held at the Western Fair Agriplex on Tuesday March 10, 2009. A demonstration will be held in our gym at 1 pm on Monday, March 9th. All are invited.

School Council Meeting

Our February, 2009 School Council meeting will be held Monday, February 9 at 6:30 in the Library. All parents are welcome. Please join us.

FUNtastic Fridays

We continue to sell Kernels Popcorn in 3 delicious flavours (Butter Salt, Dill Pickle and White Cheddar) to our students every Friday for \$2 a bag. This is a nut-free snack, however it may contain traces of soya. If you wish your child to purchase popcorn, please send a toonie to school on Fridays.



February Raffle

We were overwhelmed with the response and success of our Christmas Raffle. Therefore we are sure that the children will look forward to our Valentines Raffle starting on Tuesday, February 3rd. Tickets will sell 3 for \$1 and the draw will be held on February 13th. We will once again be raffling an assortment of Webkinz, a Ripley's Believe It or Not book, a High School Musical tin of popcorn, a Valentine Gorilla large stuffed animal and also Valentine treats. Thank you for your participation!

Notes!

Reminder of school policy: notes are required for early dismissal, prior to a vacation, after an illness (unless you call,) for students leaving the grounds at noon hour, and if there is to be a change in how your child normally gets home. If a note is not given, the school will send your child home in the regular manner.

From the Librarian's Desk



We did it!!! St. Anthony Catholic French Immersion School staff, students and volunteers all helped in an attempt to break the world record for most children listening to an adult read in multiple locations across Canada on Jan. 23 and 24. We had 148 children and 16 adult readers read and listen to five Robert Munsch stories. We won't know for sure if The Guinness Book of World Records will accept our application until all the results are in from across Canada. However, it looks as if we will beat the existing world record of 78,791 by more than 100 per cent!

The world record attempt is only part of the school's focus on family literacy. Last week, you would have received a pink page to log family literacy activities -- reading, listening to music, watching a movie, playing a game, following a recipe, etc. Please fill it out for the period ending on Feb. 6 and return it to the library by Feb. 11. There will be a draw later in the month for valuable literacy prizes. Thank you for supporting your child's literacy journey.

Mme Murphy, Librarian

Did You Know....

- On February 19th at 7 pm, Catholic Central High School is hosting an important event, "Children Growing Up in a Violent World: Challenges for Parents and Educators"
- That Family Day is Monday, February 16th. There is no school that day. Enjoy time with your family.
- That the Big Crunch was a big, healthy success!

Arrive on Time

One of our educational goals is to prepare our students to be organized, responsible and contributing citizens. Please help us by ensuring that your children arrive for the **8:50 school bell**. Announcements begin at 9:00 am. Students should be present in their classrooms, so as to be attentive to the day's announcements. Students will thus gain a better understanding of the day's upcoming activities. Teaching your child to be prompt is an excellent life skill that he/she will carry into adulthood. If your child is going to be late on a particular day, please phone us prior to the beginning of the school day. If your child arrives late you need to have your child stop in the office to obtain a late slip. All late-nesses and absences are tracked by the Ministry of Education and will appear on your child's report card.

Agendas are also another important organizational tool. Please support your child ensuring the agenda is sent to school so that homework can be noted. The agenda also promotes parent/teacher communication.



The Bathroom Olympics

The Bathroom Olympics is a friendly challenge to see who could keep their bathrooms the cleanest, the boys or the girls. During the week of January 19, Mme Joyce Woldenberg and M. Bob Martin inspected the bathrooms each day to see if the toilets were flushed, the floors and the sink clean were clean, and the stalls were unlocked and the toilet paper was on the roll. Each day points were awarded to each team for the bathrooms that were the cleanest. At the end of the week, the boys and girls were tied. Congratulations to both teams for all their hard work. Special thanks to our wonderful judges for inspecting the bathrooms each day during the week.

Heart Smart Day



On Friday, February 13, we are encouraging students to wear and eat **RED**! We are asking students to bring in a red fruit or vegetable. Examples of RED choices are red apples, red grapes, strawberries, watermelon, cherries, red plums, cranberries, raspberries, pomegranates, red peppers, radishes and tomatoes. Did you know that a red pepper has more vitamin C than an orange?



St. Mary School

Choir and Orchestra Program

St. Mary School has begun the application process for entrance to Grade 5 for 2009/2010.

Brochures with application forms are available in all elementary schools. Please contact your principal for further details of the application and audition process or call St. Mary School at (519) 675-4423.

Applications are due to St. Mary School by

March 13, 2009.

Application to the program is open to all Grade 4 Students of the **London District Catholic School Board**. **All applicants must have a Catholic baptismal certificate.**

The brochure is available on the school's web-site:

<http://www.ldcsb.on.ca/schools/malo/index.html>

Home is where the Health Heart is!

It's a misconception that older people are the only ones who need to take care of their heart. Children's hearts need attention too, perhaps more than ever before. Obesity and overweight in children and youth affects almost half of those between 7 and 13 years. Over half of those aged 5 to 17 are not active enough for optimal growth and development. What can a parent do?

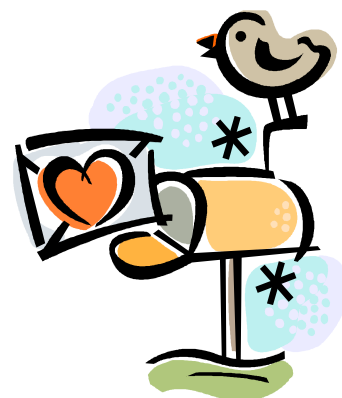
- Prepare three balanced meals a day.
- Try to eat dinner together.
- Have healthy snacks available.
- Regular physical activity as a family is just as important as good nutrition.
- Be a good role model.

By making these things a regular part of a child's life, they learn to make healthy lifestyle choices for the future.

(adapted from Canadian Health Network)

If I Could Be the Valentine Postman

If I could be the postman,
For just one single day
I'd choose to carry valentines,
So lovely and so fine,
I would not mind a heavy load,
Or mind my tired feet
If I could scatter happiness
All up and down the street!



School Council News

Hello families:

The winter season is just not ready to leave yet – we hope you have been keeping healthy and warm as the cold season persists! Tres froid!

We want to remind you of the School Council *Valentine's Day Party* being held in the Gymnasium on Thursday, February 12th from 6:30-8:00pm. We look forward to seeing you there (Don't forget to return your RSVP!)



From the comment box: Lunch Time Concerns

We want to thank-you for your time in stating your concerns via the comment box. The issue of lunch time has been an ongoing concern for parents, specifically regarding concerns that there is not enough time for the students to eat (we see the uneaten lunches coming home). At our meeting, we engaged in a lively discussion that ultimately focused on the importance of how we can maximize the 15-minute lunch time, given that extending time for lunch is not achievable in the short-term. The following information was discussed:



Teachers assist by (especially in JK/SK) 'starting' the lunch routine prior to the bell so that students are sitting at their lunch table ready to eat at the bell.

Volunteers note that students often 'talk first, then eat' – which leads to lunch not being fully eaten (despite teachers reminders to eat)

Several great **TIPS** heard from parents at the meeting were shared, here they are:

Talk to your child(ren) about eating rules – for example, 'eat first, talk later', eat in the class, talk, and play with friends outside later.

Volunteer in the classroom at lunch time (you only need to be there for 30 minutes!)

Choose easy to open snacks and pre-opened snacks so your child(ren) won't need to wait for help.

Label food for snacks with an "S" to save time. This saves time because students don't need to decide what to eat at snack time – they can just grab!

Send only as much as your child(ren) will eat – Don't send whole bag of carrots, it's too much food!

Praise your child(ren) for eating their lunch!

Practice eating lunch in 15 minutes at home (use a stopwatch or make a game of it)

Reminder: Lunch bell rings at 11:50am – students eat for 15 minutes – then the bell to go outside rings at 12:05pm. Students have 2 – 15 minute snack breaks (am/pm). Any uneaten food at lunch can be eaten during the afternoon snack.



Backpack 411: WANT TO HEAR MORE FROM SCHOOL COUNCIL?

A request for your email information was sent home last month. If you cannot attend the meetings and wish to hear more from the School Council, please return the form so you can be included in the email list. You will receive emails from the Co-Chairs regarding upcoming information, requests for volunteers for events and other information shared with School Council members. What a great way to get more in touch!

NEXT MEETING:

Monday, February 9, 2009 6:30pm FOCUS: Budget Allocations & Event Planning

School Council Chairs

Shannon Maheu & Anastasia Kyriakopoulos

Fundraising Committee Update

The fundraising committee is testing new products and ideas that we hope to introduce as future fundraisers. We will keep you up to date as the decisions are made. We welcome any new helpers, and their commitment to make St. Anthony's the BEST it CAN be!!!

Upcoming Fundraising Event

We are happy to announce that on Thursday March 5th, the **White Oaks M&M Meat Shop at 1067 Wellington Road** will be holding a School Day Fundraiser. Between the hours of 9 a.m. - 8 p.m., when you make a purchase from the White Oaks location, 10% of your sale will be donated back to our school - all you have to do is say that you are representing St Anthony's Catholic French Immersion School, its that easy! More information to follow later in February.

Chocolate Covered Almonds are being sold now. Each World's Finest case includes 25 chocolate covered almond boxes. Boxes are sold to friends, family, neighbours, and co-workers for \$2 each, and each case is \$50. Many additional cases available, simply send a note to your child's teacher, and you will receive another that day. Thank you to parents who have already contacted the office regarding picking up the case, rather than having it sent home. We are tracking classroom, and superstar (top selling students) this year, and there are sweet prizes to be won! Good luck and safe selling!

With the school now registering new students for September, it is time to properly label your child's uniforms with Mabel's Labels, if you haven't already. The teachers and staff really appreciate Mabel's Labels, and you will see them on backpacks, and shoes, throughout the school. No more going through the lost and found, no more announcements of missing uniform articles, www.stanthony.mabel.ca and order yours in minutes!

The GREENTECH recycling program is still in effect at our school. Please continue sending in unwanted cell phones, empty printer cartridges, ink/ toner packaging etc. This will help raise money for the Tree Planting Project that council is currently working on.

Speaking of trees, The McDonald's Restaurant night is on Earth Day, Wednesday, April 22 on the Commissioners/ Wellington Rd intersection plaza. A flyer will be sent home in April that has a VIP card attached. Come into that McDonalds on April 22 and buy drinks, dinner, and dessert! Every sale on the cards counts towards our profit goal of \$500. This will allow school council to fund trees that are desperately needed to provide shade in the hot summer.

Does your family know of a business or individual who could donate a prize or gift certificate of any kind for our next raffle. We already have \$50 gift certificate from McCarthy's uniform company, Best Western Lamplighter Inn certificates, and have send out close to 50 letters to local stores. Any gift is greatly appreciated, please send a note to the school for Sarah Rameau if you can help!

Our local A&P in the Commissioners and Wellington plaza is still collecting CAMPBELL'S labels and UPC's for our school. Do you know if your local grocer would do the same? We would love to hear from you, please send a note to school. Thank you for continuing to send these valuable labels into school. They are tracked regularly and can really add up fast if we can find a way to collect more.

The Boston Pizza Reading program has been going well and I hope the students are enjoying their free meals. Please send in a calendar for each child once the daily reading has been completed. Doing this will ensure our gift from Boston Pizza for the library.

Panago Pizza has been so supportive in allowing us to hand out good sport awards and readers gift certificates. If you haven't tried their pizza yet, you will have a great opportunity to during our Panago Pizza Certificate sales. These certificates are sold for \$10 and are redeemable for a gourmet pizza like their Quattro Formaggio or Veggie Mediterranean. The school receives 50% profit for these sales, and more information will follow after M&M's night on March 5th.

QSP Readers Digest magazine subscriptions are still available to purchase or renew at www.qsp.ca, and our group ID#)6985.

Children Growing Up In A Violent World: Challenges For Parents & Educators

Thursday, February 19th 2009, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Catholic Central High School

450 Dundas Street, London

With

Dr. Peter Jaffe

Faculty of Education, University of Western Ontario

Academic Director, Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children

Director Emeritus for the Centre for Children and Families in the Justice System

**Please register by Friday, February 13, 2009 at
l.steel@ldcsb.on.ca or phone: 519-681-5697**

Babysitting provided - if requested when registering

Sponsored by:

London District Catholic School Council

London District Catholic School Board

Thames Valley District School Board Parent Involvement Committee

Thames Valley District School Board

Elgin St. Thomas Public Health

Oxford County

Middlesex-London Health Unit