

JANUARY 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.*

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

Principal's Message

Best wishes for a peaceful, blessed and happy year 2009 to all of the families at St. Anthony French Immersion School. May God's loving touch be with you. As we continue our 2nd term and the new calendar year, it is important to renew our commitment to work together; school, church and home, to provide the best possible Catholic Education for all St. Anthony French Immersion students.

On December 11, 2008, we celebrated our Christmas Soiree. It was a wonderful celebration of the spirit of the season. We thank the organizing committee of volunteer parents for a job well done.

Once again, let me wish everyone a year of peace and blessings. On behalf of the staff, thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Your principal,

Catherine Richard

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to the start of 2009. We hope that you and your family had a restful and Holy holiday. We are excited to be back to work with you and your children! A special thanks to all for your many good wishes and remembrances prior to the holidays.

Today we celebrate the solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. We rejoice in the way God showed the Magi how to find the baby Jesus. These Magi, who were foreigners, are a sign that Jesus came to save all people.

Kindergarten Registration

Junior/Senior Kindergarten registration for children born in 2004 and 2005 takes place from January 19th to 29th in all London District Catholic elementary Schools. Please call the school to make an appointment. Documents needed in order to complete the registration are: a birth certificate, a Catholic baptismal certificate, Ontario Health Card, proof of your home address, and if appropriate, passport and landing papers. Should you have any questions pertaining to the registration process, please call the school at 519 660-2777.

All new parents seeking information regarding a French Immersion education are invited to attend a meeting on Wednesday, January 21 at 6:30 pm in the library.

Please help us spread this news by telling your friends, relatives and neighbours if they have a child ready to start school in September!

UPCOMING:

Jan 8 - Mass at St. Justin's, 9:30 am

Jan 12 - School Council Meeting, 6:30 pm

Jan 14, 15 - Hot Lunch

Jan 14, 15 - Buster the Safety Bus presentations, starting at 1 pm

Jan 19 to 29 - JK Registration

Jan 21 - JK Information Meeting for new parents, 6:30 pm

Jan 21, 22 - Hot Lunch

Jan 22 - EQAO Parent Meeting, 6:30 pm

St. John JK Information Meeting for new parents, 6:30 pm

Jan 30- PD day - No classes

Student Absences

If your child is ill or will be absent from school for any reason, please telephone the school. Outside of school hours, please leave a message on our 24 hour answering machine.



Dressing for Canadian Winters



Children love to play outdoors during the winter season. It is very important that children be dressed appropriately in order to avoid frostbite. Here are a few tips:

- A hat should be worn at all times. It should be warm, close-fitting and cover the ear lobes.
- A neck warmer is also recommended. Avoid use of scarves as children can strangle on these.
- Snow pants are the best option.
- A pair of warm mitts is much more effective than gloves.
- Dry socks and waterproof winter boots will complete their winter outfit.

From you Public Health Nurse

The school strongly recommends that children bring an extra pair of socks, mitts and pants in their backpacks to replace wet items during the day.

Let It Snow, Do Not Throw



As the season changes to winter, we are faced with an issue that over time has remained the same...the inherent danger in throwing snowballs. Students caught throwing snowballs will receive recess detentions. Continued disregard for this rule

may result in further disciplinary actions.

School Council Meeting

Our January 2009 School Council meeting will be held Monday, January 12, 2009 at 6:30 in the Library. All parents are welcome. Please join us.

St. Justin's Parish News

Ongoing Opportunities:

Children's Choir for ages 7-12

Contact: Tina Lefave via the parish office

Children's Liturgy JK-Grade 3 at both Sunday mass times

Altar Server Ministry—Grade 4 and up

Contact: Peter Buckley at 519-872-4772 or the parish office at 519-686-2795

Weekly Mass times:

Saturdays at 5:00 pm, Sundays at 8:30 and 11:00 am

From the Librarian's Desk



First of all, a huge thank you to the St. Anthony Catholic French Immersion community for supporting the Scholastic Book Fair in December. It has been the most successful to date, with sales topping the \$2,600 figure. From that amount, the school library fund has \$675 in profit to spend on new materials. The next book fair is scheduled for Education Week in May. I'd also like to thank the parents and students who placed orders for English materials through the Scholastic Book Club. We earned nearly \$200 in coupons and free books in our first foray in buying English items through the various Scholastic catalogues. The next English order will be in March.

January is Family Literacy Month. Look for more details later in the month on how you can encourage your child to read, watch and listen to improve their literacy skills. We will also be starting the Forest of Reading program this month. Sponsored by the Ontario Library Association, the program celebrates the best books by Canadian authors. At St. Anthony, I will read ten picture books nominated in the Blue Spruce category before voting for their favourite in April. Grade 3 and 4 students will have the option of reading books from the Silver Birch Express and/or French language Prix Tamarack categories before voting for their choice of best book.

Mme Murphy

Inclement Weather



Please note, when the weather is bad we encourage families to listen to the radio. There are regular updates on bussing and school closures. If buses are cancelled in the morning they will not be running in the afternoon. It is very rare for the school to be closed after the school day has begun, however, in the case of an emergency or school closure, it is very important that your child's **EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION** is up-to-date. Your child's safety is very important to us. Please contact Mrs. Pettit if you have experienced a change in work or contact numbers, as well as emergency numbers. Please be advised our students go out everyday for recess unless a severe weather warning is in effect. If you feel your child is not well enough to go outside, they should remain home until they are well enough. If your child has an exceptional circumstance that would prevent them from going outdoors, please contact the school.

Christmas Raffle

Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Raffle. Anticipation was high on draw day! Our lucky prize winners were: Ginger Bread House: Brett, Snowman: Grace, Reindeer: Isaac, Bambi: Keira, World Records Book: Makayla and Vanilla Hand Cream: John.

Congratulations to all of our winners! Thanks to everyone who supported our raffle! Please watch for our next Webkinz raffle for Valentines Day.

School Council News

Happy New Year!

We hope you and your families enjoyed a wonderful Christmas season and are ready to get back at it (for many of us, work that is). As always, the new year bring with it hopes of making our lives happier, safer, and more organized. We wish you all the best in accomplishing your resolutions!



We are happy to launch Council's first In the Spotlight: Parent Volunteer Profile *featuring Teresa Duffy and Sarah Rameau*. We will be sending this home shortly.

IMPORTANT NOTE!



Meeting dates for January – June 2009 have been changed!

Our meetings will be held on the 2nd Monday of the month (rather than 2nd Tuesday).

The dates are as follows: January 12th, February 9th, March 9th, April 14th (Tues.), May 11th, June 8th

Backpack 411:



BUS CANCELLATION & ZONING INFORMATION

The last week of December, students were sent home with a yellow note regarding "zone-based" changes which provided information on changes to bus cancellation announcements. You need to know your zone, to get the right information about cancellations. To know your zone, go to:

www.mybigyellowbus.ca

Cheers,

School Council Chairs, Shannon Maheu & Anastasia Kyriakopoulos

Fundraising Committee Update

Happy New Year 2009! Our fundraising committee would like to commend you for your outstanding support with our first **Winter Raffle**. All of our prizes were donated by parents and grandparents, their workplaces and contacts. Students and their families sold many tickets... this large fundraiser could not have been possible without your involvement. We hope to have a bigger raffle with high- value prizes next year, so we are immediately collecting any gifts for December 2009, and will continue approaching new businesses for donations. Thank you to all of you!

Did you know that the "FREE KIDS MEAL" certificate from **Boston Pizza** can be used without having to purchase anything additional? Participating in the monthly reading calendar program benefits our library, your wallet, and literacy all at the same time.

January's **Panago Pizza** "Good Sport Award" goes to Emily Kovacs in Mme Welch's grade 2 class. Her family's help with the raffle, QSP fundraiser, and superb sales have made Emily very deserving of this acknowledgement. Panago Pizza certificates are redeemable for signature pizzas such as 'Pesto Shrimp' and 'Grilled Veggie + Goat Cheese', for example.

Ongoing projects include Mabel's labels (www.stanthony.mabel.ca), CAMPBELL'S labels and UPC collection, QSP Readers Digest magazines (www.qsp.ca group ID 6985), and GREENTECH recycling (cell phones and ink/ toner cartridges).

Upcoming events include **World's Finest Chocolate** cases that are coming home February 2&3. Please let us know if you wish to pick up your child's case at the school, or if you are unable to participate in this annual fundraiser.

Becoming a parent volunteer in the school is invaluable! We hope that each family can find time to come into the school to see that there is something for everyone. Volunteering directly benefits you as a parent by learning more about our school community, meeting other parents at our many socials, and is rewarding for you and your child.

Ministry of Education Resources

(Literacy & Numeracy)

All Grade 3 parents will be invited to an information meeting in January on Grade 3 EQAO Provincial Testing. A date and time will be forthcoming.

Helping your child improve his or her reading, writing and math skills is as easy as ABC 123 with new video resources, now available in English and French.

A-Apply what your child learns in the classroom to regular activities at home

B-Bring reading, writing and math into your family's everyday life. That could mean counting items at the grocery store or reading signs while you take a walk.

C-Check out ontario.ca/abc123 to view video podcasts and watch real families like yours using some practical ideas to help their children learn.

1. There's only **one** requirement for watching the video podcasts: a computer with a media player, such as Windows Media.
2. **Two** new videos will be posted every month—so bookmark the abc123 website and keep checking in for simple ways to help your child learn.
3. You can view the video podcasts in **three** different ways:
 - watch them online
 - download them to your computer or
 - put them on a mobile device with video capabilities (such as an iPod).

Complete instructions about how to download the videos are available at ontario.ca/abc123.

Besides the video podcasts, the abc123 website offers tip sheets and guides for parents who want to help their children improve their skills in reading, writing and math. These tips and guides are available in English and French, as well as Arabic, Simplified and Traditional Chinese, Farsi, Hindi, Korean, Punjabi, Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog, Tamil, Urdu and Vietnamese.

View full text at:

[Http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/abc123/eng/podcast/](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/abc123/eng/podcast/)

The London District Catholic School Board offers

Junior Kindergarten French Immersion for all Catholic ratepayers of London-Middlesex and Elgin.

Junior Kindergarten entry at St. Anthony Catholic French Immersion School for families residing South of Commissioners within the City of London, and at St. John Catholic French Immersion School for all other families residing in London, Middlesex or Elgin.

Please check: http://www.ldcsb.on.ca/school_elementary.asp

Important information sessions for parents will be held:

At **St. Anthony Catholic French Immersion School**

on **Wednesday, January 21, 2009 at 6:30 pm**

and at

St. John Catholic French Immersion School

on **Thursday, January 22, 2009 at 6:30 pm**

Registration for Catholic French Immersion will occur:

January 19 - 29, 2009 at each school, by appointment please.

St. Anthony Catholic French Immersion School, 1380 Ernest Avenue, London (519) 660-2777

St. John Catholic French Immersion School, 449 Hill Street, London (519) 675-4420

