

FALL 2009 Newsletter



A Word from our Chair

This year, I have the privilege to work with an exceptional group of parents. These dedicated members of Parent Council donate their time and energy to contribute to the enhancement of student programming and recreation at St. John's. At meetings, we offer opinions and perspectives regarding the educational experience of your children. We organize and run several school-based events, and provide fund-raising opportunities through which author visits, contribution to class trips, Advent celebrations, and school t-shirts are available for your children. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our members and encourage YOU to get involved. Please take the time to come to a meeting or check out our web-site to see how you can participate.

Anna Dzongowski

Dates to Remember

November

Parent Council/Home and School: Nov 24th *

Green Team Mtg: *tba**

December

Christmas Lunch: Dec 16th

January

Hot Lunch Team: Jan 6, 6:45

Social Team Mtg: Jan 14 *

Communications Team: *tba*

May

Franco Follie BBQ and Silent Auction: May 7

** these meetings start at 7 pm in the library.*

Dear Parents

In an effort to better communicate with you, we are sending home this newsletter with what you need to know for the Fall. We plan to send home one in early January and again just after March Break. Please let us know what you need to know from us and we'll be sure to include it!

Merci

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who came to celebrate our St. John FI community! Many attended, lots of pizza was eaten, and we had some happy winners at the raffle! Also, **BIG THANKS** to the volunteers who helped with the whole night! A **BIG THANKS** goes out to our teaching staff that did a great job introducing us to our children's newest classrooms. **MUCH APPRECIATED!**

In September, Parent Council met for the first time and elected your new executive. Here they are:

Chair: Anna Dzongowski

Vice-Chair: Veronica Major

Treasurers: Cindy Howard & Kelly Todd

Secretaries: Daniela Albert & Michelle Carty

MEETING DATES

Council meetings have been set for the remainder of 2009:

November 24 at 7 pm

There will be no meeting in December.

The first meeting in 2010: January 12th.

Meeting of council will begin at 7pm in the Library. All are welcome.

Please note that all Agendas are posted on our website by the day of the meeting.

All minutes are posted as soon as approved at the following meeting.

T-Shirts

Once again Council has given the new students at our school (Grades 1 to 8) a new school t-shirt! Welcome to St. John's! Please remember to wear them on your field trips and at sport tournaments.

Limited number of long sleeve t-shirts are for sale for \$15. Please contact the office.

We're on the Web!

www.ldcsb.on.ca/stjohnfi/parentcouncil

Please take note!**• Parent input requested!!**

The provincial government wants your opinion. Please go to: www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/curriculum.html and give them feedback on their review of the Elementary School Curriculum.

• Awards for Teaching Excellence

There are six award categories that recognize individuals who make a difference in education:

- [Teacher of the Year](#)
- [New Teacher of the Year](#)
- [Excellent Support Staff](#)
- [Excellence in Leadership](#)
- [Team of the Year](#)
- [Lifetime Achievement](#)

Go to with Ministry of Education website <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/> and click on “nominations for top educators” on the bottom half of the webpage under the picture of the apple. Or go to: <http://www.news.ontario.ca/edu/en/2009/09/nominations-open-for-top-educators-in-ontario.html>

Fundraising News**Donations**

In September, a letter came home from Parent Council asking for a donation. When every family donates \$50, we will be able to raise about \$16,000. We will **not** be selling any other goods through council--no chocolate bars, no grapefruits, no poinsettias.

To date we have raised \$3,200 from 45 families! Thank you and keep them coming!!!

Please remember to send in your donation—it makes a difference.

Social Team News

On Wednesday, December 16th we will be hosting a Christmas Lunch for the Students and Staff. Anyone who is available to help out please let us know by leaving a note with the office.

Communications Team

We are looking for interested parents who would like to help us improve the flow of information from council to home. We currently utilize newsletters, the website and are working on creating a bulletin board. We need your insight. Please contact the office with your interest and we will be in touch.

Green Team News

Last year we spend some time submitting a grant request AND we received money to plant a tree! The tree has been planted and the kids are being its stewards!!

A HUGE THANK YOU to Tony Sousa from Parent Council and Dennis Leite from *D.G.L. Lawn Care and Home Maintenance* who generously donated and erected the fencing to protect our very special tree. The next Green Team meeting will be soon.

Hot Lunch News

Many thanks to the parents who came out at the beginning of October to count pizza orders. Our next pizza count will be on January 6 at 6:45 in the library.

Our new Hot Lunch offering started in October. This a new service being offered as parents asked for hot lunch alternatives. We got off to a rocky start but it is smooth sailing now. We thank everyone for their patience.

Catholicity Team

This is a new team and we are looking for interested parents who would like to help us bridge our faith from school to parish. Please contact the office with your interest and we will be in touch.

Board Watch Team News

Our team continues to watch activities at the Board. We continue to advocate for our school's needs at the Board level, including supporting the need for more spaces for French Immersion. If you are interested in becoming part of our team, let the office know.

Library Team News

We are looking for interested parents who would like to help us improve our library resources. This includes helping out with the Read-a-thon in the new year. Please contact the office with your interest and we will be in touch.