

The Wildcat Gazette

ST. ANNE - NEWSLETTER

October 5th, 2009

Happy Thanksgiving!

A Message from the Principal...

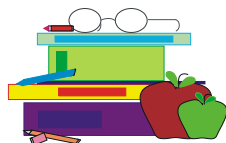
Well, we made it through the first month of school - and fairly painlessly! As some of you already know, we have restructured our primary division recently with the changes beginning on Oct. 5th. This was to accommodate our increase in enrolment in the primary division - the French immersion JK/SK grades specifically. This is wonderful news for St. Anne's and we should celebrate our good fortune!

As you know, we have been working very hard to ensure a safe and productive learning and playing environment. Through our Respect program we are starting to see considerable improvement in both the verbal and physical actions of our students. Although there is always room for improvement, our students are speaking more kindly to others and really working hard at being respectful of themselves, others and the school environment. I am so proud of the progress they and we have made since I have come here. This is truly what Catholic education is all about! We continue to work on and strive for all of our students to be able to:

- Take responsibility for their actions.
- Speak respectfully to others.
- Keep their hands and feet to themselves.
- Make good choices.

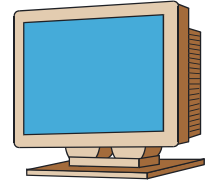
Wishing you all a very safe and happy Thanksgiving Holiday.
Sincerely,

Mrs. Betty Pichette



COMPUTER SAFETY

Please read the following and share/discuss with your child(ren) the importance of being safe on the internet. This was sent to me from a friend - author unknown:



After tossing her books on the sofa, she decided to grab a snack and get on-line. She logged on under her screen name ByAngel213. She checked her Buddy List and saw GoTo123 was on. She sent him an instant message:

ByAngel213:

Hi. I'm glad you are on! I thought someone was following me home today. It was really weird!

GoTo123:

LOL You watch too much TV. Why would someone be following you? Don't you live in a safe neighborhood?

ByAngel213:

Of course I do.. LOL I guess it was my imagination cuz' I didn 't see anybody when I looked out.

GoTo123:

Unless you gave your name out on-line. You haven't done that have you?

ByAngel213:

Of course not. I'm not stupid you know.

GoTo123:

Did you have a softball game after school today?

ByAngel213:

Yes and we won!!

GoTo123:

That's great! Who did you play?

ByAngel213:

We played the Hornets. LOL. Their uniforms are so gross! They look like bees. LOL

GoTo123:

What is your team called?

ByAngel213:

We are the Canton Cats. We have tiger paws on our uniforms. They are really cool.

GoTo123:
Did you pitch?

ByAngel213:
No I play second base. I got to go. My homework has to be done before my parents get home. I don't want them mad at me. Bye!

GoTo123:
Catch you later. Bye

Meanwhile.....GoTo123 went to the member menu and began to search for her profile. When it came up, he highlighted it and printed it out. He took out a pen and began to write down what he knew about Angel so far.

Her name: Shannon
Birthday: Jan. 3, 1985
Age: 13
State where she lived: North Carolina

Hobbies: softball, chorus, skating and going to the mall. Besides this information, he knew she lived in Canton because she had just told him. He knew she stayed by herself until 6:30 p.m. every afternoon until her parents came home from work. He knew she played softball on Thursday afternoons on the school team, and the team was named the Canton Cats. Her favorite number 7 was printed on her jersey. He knew she was in the eighth grade at the Canton Junior High School. She had told him all this in the conversations they had on-line. He had enough information to find her now.

Shannon didn't tell her parents about the incident on the way home from the ballpark that day. She didn't want them to make a scene and stop her from walking home from the softball games. Parents were always overreacting and hers were the worst. It made her wish she was not an only child. Maybe if she had brothers and sisters, her parents wouldn't be so overprotective.

By Thursday, Shannon had forgotten about the footsteps following her.

Her game was in full swing when suddenly she felt someone staring at her. It was then that the memory came back. She glanced up from her second base position to see a man watching her closely.

He was leaning against the fence behind first base and he smiled when she looked at him. He didn't look scary and she quickly dismissed the sudden fear she had felt.

After the game, he sat on a bleacher while she talked to the coach. She noticed his smile once again as she walked past him. He nodded and she smiled back. He noticed her name on the back of her shirt. He knew he had found her.

Quietly, he walked a safe distance behind her. It was only a few blocks to Shannon's home, and once he saw where she lived he quickly returned to the park to get his car.

Now he had to wait. He decided to get a bite to eat until the time came to go to Shannon's house. He drove to a fast food restaurant and sat there until time to make his move.

Shannon was in her room later that evening when she heard voices in the living room.

"Shannon, come here," her father called. He sounded upset and she couldn't imagine why. She went into the room to see the man from the ballpark sitting on the sofa.

"Sit down," her father began, "this man has just told us a most interesting story about you."

Shannon sat back. How could he tell her parents anything? She had never seen him before today!

"Do you know who I am, Shannon?" the man asked.

"No," Shannon answered.

"I am a police officer and your online friend, GoTo123.."

Shannon was stunned. "That's impossible! GoTo is a kid my age! He's 14 And he lives in Michigan!"

The man smiled. "I know I told you all that, but it wasn't true. You see, Shannon, there are people on-line who pretend to be kids; I was one of them. But while others do it to injure kids and hurt them, I belong to a group of parents who do it to protect kids from predators. I came here to find you to teach you how dangerous it is to talk to people on-line. You told me enough about yourself to make it easy for me to find you. You named the school you went to, the name of your ball team and the position you played. The number and name on your jersey just made finding you a breeze."

Shannon was stunned.. "You mean you don't live in Michigan?"

He laughed. "No, I live in Raleigh. It made you feel safe to think I was so far away, didn't it?"

She nodded.

"I had a friend whose daughter was like you. Only she wasn't as lucky. The guy found her and murdered her while she was home alone. Kids are taught not to tell anyone when they are alone, yet they do it all the time on-line. The wrong people trick you into giving out information a little here and there on-line. Before you know it, you have told them enough for them to find you without even realizing you have done it. I hope you've learned a lesson from this and won't do it again.. Tell others about this so they will be safe too?"

"It's a promise!"

That night Shannon and her Dad and Mom all knelt down together and thanked God for protecting Shannon from what could have been a tragic situation.

Please help keep our children safe!





Our school **Thanksgiving Mass** will take place at **St. Anne's Church** on Friday, **October 9th at 1 pm**. Everyone is welcome to attend and meet our current Parish

priest - Father Francis and welcome him into our school community.

We have invited all students to bring in non-perishable food items to be donated to the Food Bank as a visible expression of our faith. It is our hope that students will reflect on their blessings as they participate in this act of kindness towards others.

This year the grade 3 classes are preparing to celebrate three sacraments, First Reconciliation to take place this fall, First Eucharist and Confirmation in the spring. Preparation has begun at St. Anne's Parish with the first parent meeting on having taken place Sept. 24th. Thus far we have 11 children participating! We would like to congratulate all families who attended the church meeting to begin preparing for their first Sacraments within the church community. This time of preparation can be a very spiritual time for parents and children to continue on their faith journey together. If you missed the first meeting but would still like to attend, please contact our Facilitator Joyce Fontaine at 705-232-4874.

Our revised code of conduct, Newsletter and monthly calendar(s) can be viewed at the Board site at:

<http://www.ncdsb.on.ca/schools/stanne.html>

The October Calendar has already been sent home.

SCHOOL COUNCIL:

We are looking for members - please call the school if you are interested!

We have held off elections in the hope for more participants!



FALL LITERACY/ FUN FAIR

St. Anne's is hosting this event on Thursday, **Oct. 8, 2009 from 5-7 pm**. There will be fun activities for the whole family plus an opportunity for parents to look at literacy displays, receive free books for children in attendance and to check out our Scholastic Book Fair! Activities will include **FREE** hotdogs and snacks, Fish and Duck pond, Egg race and many other exciting events. We look forward to seeing you there!

You will find displays about Literacy to help you better understand the following teaching strategies for reading:

- ▶ **Modeled & Shared Reading & Writing** (teacher and students work together)
- ▶ **Guided Reading and Writing** (teacher helps students practice skills)
- ▶ **Independent Reading & Writing** (students work on their own to practice skills)
- ▶ **Word Study Activities** (develop phonemic awareness & spelling proficiency)

How can you help your child at home?

Here are some ideas:

- Read to your child as often as you can.
- Encourage your child to join in and "read." Point to the words as you read. For older students, have them read to you.
- Draw attention to print that is in the environment (labels, signs, cereal boxes, etc...)
- Read & write birthday cards, messages, grocery lists and letters together.
- Ask questions before, during and after reading (e.g.. What do you think will happen next?)

ABOVE ALL, BE POSITIVE & HAVE FUN!