



# St. Jerome Journal

October 2010

## *We Give Thanks*

Our Father in Heaven we give thanks for the pleasure  
Of gathering together for this occasion.  
We give thanks for this food prepared by loving hands.  
We give thanks for life, the freedom to enjoy it all  
And all other blessings.  
As we partake of this food,  
We pray for health and strength  
To carry on and try to live as You would have us.  
This we ask in the name of Christ, Our Heavenly Father.  
Amen



## *Principal's Message*

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our families a blessed and Happy Thanksgiving! We often take many of our blessings for granted and I feel truly grateful for the opportunity to be part of the St. Jerome community. It is the combined efforts of everyone – parish, staff, students and parents – that make this such a vibrant and caring learning community. By working together we move forward as lifelong learners striving for excellence in our personal, social, spiritual and academic growth.

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October's virtue is GRATITUDE, how apropos that we will be celebrating Thanksgiving in just a few short days. Our quote for this month is "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad" Psalm 118:24. "Thanks" is a simple word, but it is a precious fountain of faith in God, and it fills our hearts with a readiness to cherish everything we have. Although the world is currently experiencing economic challenges, and we may have difficulty saying thank you for some of our hardships, sometimes this can release us from that sense of entitlement that can prevent us from really seeing God's grace in our daily lives. The choice to be grateful is not always without effort. This month at St. Jerome School we will express our gratefulness through various clubs and activities. We look forward to an exciting year!

We are on the web: <http://www.ncdsb.on.ca/>

## **Staffing – School Re-Organization**

*Our Board has been in the process of meeting compliance with the Ministry initiative of capping classes in the primary grades at 20 students, with only 10 percent of classes across the board eligible to exceed the cap. At St. Jerome School, we experienced small reorganization as a result of shifts in our population and one teacher, Ms. Spadetto-Forward's maternity leave. This resulted in a split class to ensure compliance with the cap and to ensure balanced classes. As part of our reorganization, we now have a JK/K Immersion class and welcome Mr. Marc Lauzon to our community.*

Below is the current organization at St. Jerome:

JK English – Mrs. Linda Conrad

JK Immersion – Mme Melanie Gagnon

JK / K Immersion – Mr. Marc Lauzon

Kindergarten English – Mrs. Katherine Copeland

Grade 1 / 2 Immersion – Mme Jeanette Foy

Grade 1/ 2 English – Mrs. Pamela Peever

Grade 2 / 3 English – Mrs. Treena Fontaine

Grade 3 English – Mrs. Shannon Culhane

Grade 3 Immersion – Mrs. Tracy Lalande & Mme Pierrette Armstrong

Essential Skills Class - Ms. Sondra Laporte

Resource Teacher - Mrs. Tracy-Lalande

Physical Education/Health/Dance/Music - Mrs. Kathryn Skalecki

Physical Education/Health/Dance/Music - Mrs. Julia Spadetto-Forward

## **Fire Drills and Lockdown Drills**

As a precautionary measure, we will practice fire drills and lock down procedures throughout the year. We are required to hold 6 fire drills each year as well as 2 lock down drills. During the fire drills, students are asked to move safely and swiftly to the nearest exit to report to their designated area outside of the building. If an exit is blocked, students are reminded to use their alternate exit. We will have three of the fire drills in the fall and the remaining three in the spring. As a staff, we are preparing a lock down procedure based on ministry requirements and board policy. Once our procedure is finalized, we will communicate with you. Discussing these procedures with your child will help reassure the importance of these safety procedures. In the unforeseen event that we should have an emergency in our school, we will evacuate to Holy Name Parish Hall. Safety regulations require us to have this contingency plan in place. In such an event, your child will remain with school staff until we contact you.



## **Student Absences**

Student safe arrival at school is paramount. If your child is absent, please call the school to notify. This procedure helps to ensure the safe arrival of all students. If your child is late for school, they must check into the office before proceeding to class. Children must be signed out at the office by an adult.

## **Start Time**

Please be reminded that school begins at 8:45 a.m. this year...

### ***MacMillan's***

Our MacMillan Frozen Goods fundraiser has started. Please make sure that you have submitted your order form by Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. This is our major fundraiser of the year and we depend on the profit we make to support the many activities our students participate in. While we don't encourage door to door sales we hope that all friends and family will support this fundraiser.



Please ensure that cheques are made payable to St. Jerome School and that your orders are pre-paid. Orders will not be placed unless money has been received at the office.

### ***Halloween Day / Activities***

On Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup> we will be celebrating Halloween. Students are asked to wear orange and black. No costumes please !

### ***Pediculosis (Head Lice)***

From time to time, there may be cases of pediculosis or head lice in our school. This should not be a cause for alarm. Lice are a nuisance, but are not hazardous to your child's health, as they do not carry disease. One of the most important steps to both their prevention and treatment is knowledge . Head lice do not fly or jump. They can only hitch rides from one head to another, and they prefer clean scalp and hair. By the time that the nits empty egg sacs are noticed on the head of one child in a class or family, it is likely that other children also have head lice. If a child has pediculosis, we will ask the parents to come to school and pick up the child. We will recommend specific shampoos to get rid of the live lice, and for appearances sake you may want to remove the nits with a fine toothed comb. Please take time to verify your child as there have already been a few cases reported.



### ***Paperless System***

Will begin in November.

### ***Parish Parent Meetings and Sacrament Dates***



The following summarizes parent meetings and sacrament celebrations that have been planned for St. Jerome students. All events take place at Holy Name of Jesus Parish.

Parent Meeting: Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Please refer to the attached letter from our parish for further information.

## ***School Council***

On behalf of the School Council, I would like to welcome everyone back to extend a heartfelt welcome to our new families and faculty.

Congratulations to our parent representatives who have shown interest in our council:

Mrs. Angela Davis-Witty

Mrs. Victoria Schonfeldt

Mrs. Andra Pettenuzzo

Mr. Rikki Charlton

Mrs. Shana Bates

Mrs. Trish Adair

Mrs. Diane Dudgeon

Mrs. Gloria Ladouceur

Mrs. Lori Brohm (Non-Teaching Rep.)

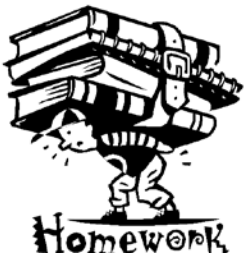
Ms. Sondra Laporte (Teaching Rep.)

Mrs. Pat Spadetto (Community Rep.)

Mrs. Susan Berlingeri (Parish Rep.)

The first meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Elections will take place at this time.

## ***The Last Word... Homework***



At St. Jerome School, our homework expectations are very simple. Our goal is to have parents engaged in their child's learning and to support you in that process. In order to develop strong literacy and numeracy skills we ask that you participate in the following activities with your child.

Monthly theme activities – JK & K

“Star of the Week” – JK & K

Book bags – JK to grade 3 (to begin mid-October – please follow specific instructions from your child's teacher)

Math calendars – Grade 1 to 3 – a practical activity for each day (please return this at the end of every month)

Thank you for supporting your child's learning.

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