



St. Jerome Journal

October 2011

A Prayer of Gratitude

Gracious God in this busyness of my day, I sometimes forget to stop and thank you for all that is good in my life.

My blessings are many and my heart is filled with gratefulness for the gift of living, for the ability to love and be loved for the opportunity to see the everyday wonders of creation, for sleep and water, for a mind that thinks and a body that feels.

I thank you too for those things in my life that are less than I would hope them to be. Things that seem challenging, unfair or difficult.

In the silence of my soul, I thank you most of all for your unconditional and eternal love.

Amen



Celebrating Gratitude In Our Classrooms

The Importance of Gratitude

The choice to be grateful is not always without effort.

October's virtue is Gratitude, how apropos that we will be celebrating Thanksgiving in just a few short days.

Gratitude is the virtue that makes us aware and appreciate the gifts we receive each day. Our quote for the month "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad" (Psalm 118:24) will be the foundation for our work. To express thankfulness is a simple way to share our faith as it fills our hearts with a readiness to cherish all that we have. In this age of consumerism and the "me-centered" focus of today's culture, we must refrain from feelings of self entitlement. Materialism and consumerism prevent us from enjoying and being appreciative of all that we have. We cannot think that we have a right to demand without giving anything in return and without giving thanks for all that we are.

Developing Character through Gratitude

The goal of this virtue is:

- To help our students give thanks for what they have and for who they are instead of focusing on what they are not and do not have
- To help our students and ourselves learn to be attentive and to stop and enjoy the moments of happiness and joy in our lives. It is important to not lose our sense of wonder and thanksgiving for the simple things.
- To teach our children to be grateful for life itself and to live in accordance to the

purpose which we were created for

Exemplifying gratitude means:

- Giving thanks to God for the many daily blessings we have
- Focusing on the good in our lives and the good in others
- Not lamenting on what we do not have
- Recognizing the good in ourselves and giving our best to improve or to help other

128 Woods Street
Kirkland Lake, ON
P2N 2S4
705 567 5800
705 567 5838 Fax

Karen MacGregor,
Principal

Caroline Harvey,
Secretary

Glenn Sheculski,
Director of Education
877-422-9322

Tricia Stefanic-Weltz,
Superintendent
877-422-9322

Steve Malciw,
Trustee
705 643 2172

Rick Brassard,
Trustee
705 544 8055

Fr. Wayne Mills,
Pastor
Holy Name of Jesus Church
705 567 3932

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

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 promptly at 8:45 a.m. We are trying to teach the students to be responsible and be ready to begin their day of learning on time. Please support this goal by ensuring your child arrives on time before the final bell at 8:45 a.m. Together we are working to set a standard of behavior that will serve your child well in the future. Thank you for your support!

MacMillan's

Our MacMillan Frozen Goods fundraiser has started. Please make sure that you have submitted your order form by Monday, October 24th. 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.

School Pictures



School pictures for the 2011-2012 school year will be taken by Lifetouch on Friday, October 21st. Please mark your calendar!

Halloween Day / Activities

On Monday, October 31st we will be celebrating Halloween with some special activities. 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.



Parish Parent Meetings and Sacrament Dates



The following summarizes parent meetings and sacrament celebrations that have been planned for St. Jerome Grade 3 students. All events take place at Holy Name of Jesus Parish.

Parent Meeting: Sunday, October 16th at 7:00 p.m.

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

Catholic School Council

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

Mrs. Angela Davis-Witty	Mrs. Trish Adair	Ms. Jewel James
Mrs. Cynthia Young	Ms. Renee Willmott	Mrs. Julia Haskell
Mrs. Debbie Wilson	Ms. Melissa Burnside	Mrs. Melissa Coupland
Mr. Wayne McGinnis	Mrs. Candice Danchuk	Mrs. Victoria Schonfeldt
Ms. Sondra Laporte (Teaching Rep.)		
Mrs. Pat Spadetto (Community Rep.)	Father Wayne Mills (Parish Rep.)	

The first meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 19th at 6:30 p.m. All meetings are open to all parents, so feel free to join us!

Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention Week takes place from Oct. 9th – 15th, 2011. The Kirkland Lake Fire Services has invited your child to participate in their “Home Fire Escape Plan”. The winner will be designated as the “Fire Chief for a Day” and will be treated to a host of activities including a ride in a fire truck, tours of the station and media photo opportunities and a special lunch at McDonald’s with local dignitaries.



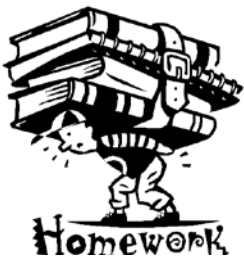
School Mass

Our next school Mass is planned for October 11th, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. Students will be bussed from the school at 12:45 p.m. and will return shortly after 2:00 p.m.

Bullying

As you are aware Bullying has been the hot topic of many news reports lately. It saddens us to see how bullying can affect a child and his/her future. At St. Jerome we strive to create a safe and caring environment for your child. Unfortunately, there are times when one child may tease or strike another child. We take these incidents seriously and deal with them as soon as we can. It is important to remember that Bullying is a repeated pattern of behavior over a prolonged period of time. An isolated incident is not bullying. We appreciate parents calling and letting us know about incidents of bullying but some of you may prefer using our confidential electronic form. Log on to www.ReportBullying.com and choose Kirkland Lake on the drop down menu on the left. The form will appear with our school name. The password is: Jerome (lowercase). We understand that sometimes students share things in the evening at home and busy parents may find using this confidential form more convenient.

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.