

# Sacred Heart Catholic School Newsletter

Important Information & Upcoming Events

September 2009

## BACK TO SCHOOL 2009

### A message from Michael Buhler

Pastoral Care Worker

Northeastern Catholic District School Board

My emotions are always a little mixed when I bring my two children to the first day of school. The joys of summer are past, the intensity of life is picking up, and I am letting my children go into a large school with hundreds of other children. Will they be okay? Will they be happy or lonely? Will they feel safe and cared for? Like many other parents I know, my hope is that I will be able to accompany my children through their school year in as affirming, intimate, and helpful a manner as possible.

The Catholic school system understands that it does not educate children by itself. Instead, it sees itself as part of what is often called the 'Triad', which includes the school, the Church (including our faith tradition and local parish community), and the parents. In my experience, however, it can sometimes be difficult to know how to be involved in my children's education outside of helping with homework! A school is a busy place and it is not always easy to visit casually with teachers and principals while waiting for an invitation from them to participate in the school. Membership on a Catholic School Council is always an option, but this does not suit all parents' visions of how they hope to be involved in the life of their child's school.

As a parent, I have found that the best way to begin is to know what is happening on the school and class calendar. Then, with some intentional communication with the principal and classroom teacher, it is possible to become involved through volunteering at these school and classroom events. I encourage parents to consider this avenue. Parental involvement strengthens the link between the school and the community, allows for more talent and ability to be present in our schools, and is a wonderful

way to model to students the place parents can have in the life of children. A busy school cannot always strengthen the 'Triad' on its' own, it needs people from the parent and parish community who will patiently look for opportunities to step into the life of the school.

I hope that all of you, students, parents, teachers, support staff and administrators, will have a wonderful school year filled with many blessings.

Wishing the Peace of Christ to you!

## CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

An invitation is extended to all parents/guardians to sit on the Catholic School Council for a one year term. The nominations are now officially open and they will be closed on **Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.** We will then proceed accordingly. If necessary, we will have an election but if not, the parents will be acclaimed to the positions. Besides the parents on a Catholic School Council, the principal, a teacher representative, a non-teacher representative, a parish representative and a community representative are members of the Catholic School Council. The parish and community representatives may also be parents. The only rule is that the number of parents must be in the majority.

Please consider allowing your name to stand as a parent representative for the Catholic School Council. It is an opportunity for you to be a voice for Catholic education and to foster good relations amongst parents, staff, the local community and the related groups. Please call the school and leave a message with Mrs. Guertin or Mrs. Bougie if you are interested. The first meeting will be on **Thursday, October 1st at 6:30 p.m.** in the school library. At that meeting, we will establish a regular time for the meetings for the remainder of the school year .

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## CORE FRENCH

I am very pleased to announce that Mme Diane Pelletier has accepted the 0.5 Core French position as well as teaching the Grade 7/8 French Immersion class.

## OPEN HOUSE AND BOOK FAIR

We are hosting an Open House and Book Fair on Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic School. We would encourage as many families as possible to come and participate in the evening to meet the staff. The Grade 8 students and parents will have a meeting at 6:30 in Room 1 to discuss the Grade 8 Trip. Please note that the classes will be visiting the Book Fair on Wednesday and Thursday if you wish to send money with your child(ren) to purchase books at school.

## INTERNATIONAL PLOWING MATCH

The students and staff will be attending the IPM on Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. The buses will leave the school at 9:00 a.m. and return at approximately 3:00 p.m. We are extremely grateful to the Frogs' Breath Foundation for paying \$5 of the \$7 entrance fee and to the Northeastern Catholic District School Board for paying the remaining \$2 and for the cost of the bussing.

From plowing to prospecting, from managing a sustainable forest, to milking a cow, the education program of the 2009 International Plowing Match is dedicated to giving students of all ages a unique "hands on" life science learning opportunity.

The program will focus on the three resource sectors that form the base of Northern rural life and culture - farms, forests, and mines. Each section will feature interactive displays which will allow the students to experience the "real thing". The overall focus of the exhibit will be on long term sustainability and environmental stewardship.

## TERRY FOX WALK

The students will be participating in the Terry Fox Walk on **Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m.** Pledge forms will be distributed shortly and students must return their pledge forms to their classroom teachers on the day of the walk so that the results can be tallied. If the student still needs to collect more pledge money, then the form will be returned to the student at the end of the day. Students and staff are encouraged to wear red and/or white to school for the day as Terry Fox is truly one of Canada's great heroes.



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup> is a Professional Development Day for the teachers and the educational assistants. Therefore, there is no school for the students on that day.



## TOYS AT SCHOOL

A reminder to all parents that their children are not to bring toys from home to school. For example, stuffed animals, toy cars, Pokemon cards, etc. Electronic devices such as MP3 players, cell phones, IPOD's, CD players, personal video game devices are not to be visible on school property, at school related events or in any other circumstances that may have a negative impact on a member of the school community and on the school climate.

## CUTLERY

We are requesting that students bring the required cutlery to school to eat their lunches. Plastic cutlery is expensive and it is not recyclable.

