

Mother Teresa Catholic
Elementary School
78 Glenabbey Drive
Courtice, Ontario L1E 2B5
905-433-5512

“Do ordinary things with extraordinary love.”

From the Principal's Desk

OCTOBER 2011



Principal:
Cathy Dykeman

Parish Priest:
*Fr. Anthony
Ezeonwueme*

Secretaries:
*Donna Owens
Donna Minnema*

CSC Chair:
*Amany Bastien
Johnene Milan*

Superintendent:
Deirdre Thomas

Trustees:
*Granville Anderson
Peggy O'Toole*



During the month of October we celebrate the Catholic Virtue of EMPATHY. The link of Empathy to our Catholic School Graduate Expectations is strong and powerful - Empathy makes one a more caring family member, helps to develop responsible citizenship, assists us in listening critically and communicating with sensitivity, and reflects values founded in Catholic social teaching. Our school patron, Mother Teresa, is a shining example of Empathy.

Throughout this month, the children will be learning about the virtue of Empathy. Jesus showed us great acts of empathy during his time on earth. We have the same opportunity today to model empathy in our dealings with everyone in our lives. We understand empathy to mean the ability to identify with and feel other people's concerns. We believe that as members of a Catholic faith community, we share our identity as human beings coated in the image and likeness of God. Since we are one in the body of Christ, we are all brothers and sisters. As members of one family, we need to treat each other with care and concern for our feelings.

The link of Empathy to our Catholic Graduate Expectations is strong and powerful. Empathy makes one a more caring family member, helps to develop responsibility in our students and assists us all in listening kindly to others.

Most children have an innate sense of empathy that has been developing throughout their childhood. During this month, the theme of empathy will be addressed both implicitly through modeling or explicitly through classroom lessons and teachable moments, We would encourage your whole family to echo this approach at home as we work together to assist the children in our care as they develop into caring, peaceful citizens.

Please pray for the staff and students as we explore this essential virtue.

Sincerely,
Cathy Dykeman
Principal

Empathy is truly knowing
and understanding how
others feel, the ability to
walk in their shoes for
awhile, and letting them
know you understand.



October is the Month of
the Rosary.



CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

The election for the 2011-2012 Catholic School Council was held on September 29, 2011.

Meet the new Catholic School Council Executive

Co-Chair: Amany Bastien, Johnene Milan

Recording Secretary: Dave Simkins

Treasurer: Debbie Cullen

Parish Rep.: Iman Deal

Student Reps (announced pending parent permission)

Parent Reps.: Ruth Goodfellow, Dawn Hannah, Edie Pavicic, Karen Walker, Peggy Walsh

OECTA Rep.: Tina Collicutt

Next meeting will be October 6, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.

Hot Off the Press

WE HAVE NEW STAFF!

Please welcome Mrs. Barker, Ms. Imray and Mr. Sage. We are very fortunate to have them on our staff.

Good Bye to Mrs. Down, and Mrs. Murray (on Mat Leave). Good luck to you both in the future.

SCHOOL MASSES:

Our next Masses will take place at St. Therese Church.

Thursday, October 20th @ 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, November 17 @ 10:00 a.m.

Staff and students will be travelling by bus.

All students in Grades 1-8 are required to attend school Masses.

CALLING ALL SKIERS/ SNOWBOARDERS

We are hoping to run the ski/snowboard club again this year on Tuesday evenings from January 10 to February 14 for students in grade 4-8. Numbers have been dwindling the last few years so if you are interested make sure you listen for further announcements. If you have any questions, please call Mr. Hickey 905-433-5512.



CONTINUING THE MARATHON OF HOPE

On Tuesday, October 4th Mother Teresa Catholic School will hold its second Terry Fox Run in support of the Terry Fox Foundation. Each student was asked to bring loose change in order to participate in the run. We are still collecting but so far have raised \$760. Thank you to all participants for your spirit and enthusiasm in helping Mother Teresa continue the legacy of Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope!



Sensory-Friendly Films

During the year we will include in our newsletter the dates and times for a "Sensory Friendly Film" at the AMC in Whitby. Children with sensory issues have an opportunity to enjoy their favourite films in a safe and accepting environment on a monthly basis. AMC movie auditoriums will have their lights brought up and the sound turned down, families will be able to bring in their own gluten-free, casein-free snacks, and no previews or advertisements will be shown before the movie. Additionally, audience members are welcome to get up and dance, walk, shout or sing—in other words, AMC's "Silence is Golden®" policy will not be enforced unless the safety of the audience is questioned. Tickets can be purchased on the day of the event.

Check out our website for up to date newsletters, information, pizza forms and Lunch Lady forms.

<http://schools.pvnccdsb.on.ca/mothe16/>

Mother Teresa's Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive

Our community food bank has requested our help to replenish supplies at our food bank located in the basement of St. Therese Church. The food drive will run from Monday, September 26th to Wednesday, October 5th. Although all donations are greatly appreciated, the items listed below are in short supply:

Pasta, whole wheat pasta, pasta sauce, pizza sauce, canned tomatoes, tomato paste, Kraft Dinner, instant oatmeal packets, rolled oats, sugar, brown sugar, flour, rice, pancake mix, pancake syrup, muffin mix, cake mix, snack items for school, Ritz crackers, crackers, cereal bars, granola bars, cookies, pudding, Jello, juice boxes, peanut butter, jam, tea, coffee, canned milk, hot chocolate, large cans of juice, sidekicks, Hamburger Helper, Stuff'n Such, Mr. Noodle, canned vegetables, canned potatoes, canned beans, canned fruit, applesauce, canned ham, canned turkey, canned chicken, canned pastas, canned chili, toilet paper, Kleenex, liquid dish soap, laundry soap, shampoo, conditioner, bar soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, baby food, diapers and formula, mens and ladies deodorant, ketchup, mustard, relish, mayonnaise.

Students are asked to bring items to their classrooms or parents may drop off groceries to our front foyer. Our student Food Drive Committee will collect and package all food to be sent.

Parent Volunteers Needed:

The food will be delivered to the church after school on Thursday, October 6th. We are in need of a few vehicles and parent volunteers to help transport this food. We will begin loading at 3:45 p.m. and should have everything delivered by 4:30 p.m. If you are able to help, please contact our secretary, Mrs. Owens at the school office.

Thank you for your assistance in helping our community. If you have any questions or inquiries about the food bank, please contact Mrs. Potts.

We have so much to be thankful for!

In Canada we set aside the second Monday in October to celebrate our gratitude to God. As a country, as a school community and as individuals we have received many gifts and blessings. Let each of us take time to reflect on these gifts and to express our thanksgiving to God.

*As a Catholic School Community we will be collecting donations for the **St. Thérèse Parish Food Bank**. Please give generously.*

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

We thank you God for all your gifts. May we appreciate and value the wonders of our life and the wonders of people and nature in our country Canada. In valuing people and nature may we protect, affirm and build a better, more peaceful world. Amen.



2010-2011 EQAO Results

The individual student results of the Grade 3/6 EQAO assessment for 2010-2011 have been released. Students in Grades 4 and 7 who wrote the test in June have officially received their results.

Our Grade 3 and 6 Results of students scoring at level 3 or higher are as follows:

	GRADE 3	GRADE 6
READING	73%	55%
WRITING	79%	61%
MATHEMATICS	88%	45%

School, Board and Provincial Results can be viewed on the EQAO website (www.eqao.com).

Detailed information regarding our school results will be shared with our Catholic School Council at the October 6th meeting.

An EQAO Guide for Parents will be made available to all Grade 3 and 6 families as we get closer to the 2011-2012 assessment.

From the Sports Desk—Cross Country

Congratulations to our Cross-Country team comprised of 60 students from grades 3 to 8. These determined athletes ran through rain and mud and won four out of the six divisions. Our Mother Teresa Team came second overall out of eight schools. You were amazing!



We had several students who placed in the top ten or very close, for their category. They include: Isabel S. (5th), Victoria S. (7th), Josh M. (2nd), Marco C. (8th), Kylie M. (6th), Alex B. (10th), Tara B. (11th), Jax M. (5th), Josh M. (7th), Anthony S. (9th), Luke P. (10th), Calvin W. (12th), Brooke M. (3rd), Jordan R. (4th), Brooklyn B. (10th), Cassidy C. (13th), Raniel M. (2nd), Matt M. (6th), Luke K. (10th).

Many thanks to our volunteer student bikers: Evan S., Zach B., and Owen K. You did a great job ensuring that the runners made it around the rugged trails safely.

Our student marshals located throughout the woods did a super job of directing our runners. Our thanks to: Aaron B., Gabe M., Nicole F., Courtney M., Hailey A., Cassidy D., and Moriah G.

Our top two runners from each grade will move on to the School

A Special Thank You to Our Amazing Coaches!

Cross Country—Mrs. Potts, Mrs. Walchuk

Intermediate Soccer

Girls—Mrs. Collicutt

Boys—Miss Gibson

Soccer is Alive and Kicking at MT

Clarington Family of Schools' Intermediate Soccer Tournament

Tuesday,
2011

October 4,

at
Fields



Darlington

GO, MAGIC!



Mother Teresa Running Club is Going Strong!

Every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 12:45—1:04 p.m., you will see 130 Mother Teresa Students from grade one to eight running around a 500 meter trail on our yard and adjoining park. Their laps are tallied by our student volunteers. Twenty laps equal an achievement of 10 km. Many of our students have achieved this milestone and have certificates on our Mother Teresa Running Club Wall of Fame.

The running Club will continue until the end of October (weather permitting). We're sure many of these young athletes will achieve their 20 km or maybe even 30 km goals!! Keep up the determined effort. You are doing great!!

GO, MAGIC!

Safety is our #1 Concern!

SCHOOL ACCESS

Parents are reminded that we welcome you and other guests in the school, but respectfully request the following from you:

- ◆ For everyone's safety, parents and other adults arriving to collect students are to enter the school through the front doors only, stop at the office and wait for students there. Students will be called from their classrooms or the yard. Please sign your son/daughter out if you are taking them for any reason.
- ◆ Visitors who have an appointment with school staff are asked to sign in at the office upon arrival. The office will call the staff member to greet you.
- ◆ Parents wishing to meet with a teacher must call ahead and make an appointment. It is not always convenient for teachers to meet before and after school as they are often busy with duties, preparing for classes, attending meetings, etc. Dropping in on classes without notice can be disruptive. We greatly appreciate your consideration in this matter.
- ◆ Volunteers are asked to sign in at the office each time and wear a badge during their visit.
- ◆ Our school has a security entrance policy. All visitors must ring the buzzer in order to enter the school. If there isn't an adult in the office to greet you when you arrive, please be patient. Someone will be along to assist you shortly.

Safety is our #1 Concern!

Knowing who is on the premises is essential to ensuring the safety of our students and staff.



Hallowe'en—October 31st

Monday, October 31st is Hallowe'en so it may prove to be an exciting day for our students here at Mother Teresa. There may be special activities planned in various classrooms on that day.

Students in Grades 1-8 are asked to wear the Hallowe'en colours orange and black in order to show their spirit for the day. Masks and costumes are not permitted. Information about individual classroom events will come from your child's home room teacher.

We wish our students a safe and enjoyable Hallowe'en!

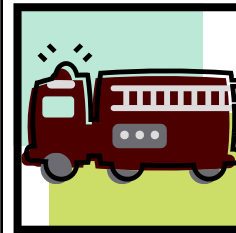
ALLERGY ALERT—ALLERGY SAFE ENVIRONMENT

We remind everyone that students who have severe life-threatening allergies to certain foods attend this school. Please do not send treats on October 31st unless authorized by the classroom teacher. Foods sent to school must not contain nuts of any kind.

When buying candy, or packing lunches, please look for the "SAFE TO SHARE" symbol on the package indicating a "nut free snack".



We thank you for your co-operation!



Fire Drills in October will take place on Friday, Oct. 7th and Friday, Oct. 14th.

A LOCK DOWN Practice will take place in November.. More information will follow.

Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding as we participate in these important safety procedures

Important Bus Safety Reminder

Please be aware that students are permitted to ride only the bus to which they have been assigned. Occasionally students will approach the principal or teacher requesting permission to go home on someone else's bus. Often these requests are to accommodate transportation to birthday parties, sleep-overs, etc. We cannot approve these requests. Alternate transportation arrangements must be made ahead of time between the parents of the children involved.

Students who do not normally ride a particular bus to and from school are not permitted to travel on that bus even occasionally as they would not be covered by the Board's Insurance Policy. Thank you for your understanding.



Please Note:

In the event of emergency situations only, exceptions can be made. There is a BUS PASS procedure in place to cover emergencies. Requests must be made in advance to the principal.

IDEAS TO SHARE WITH YOUR CHILDREN

What does Empathy sound/look/feel like at Mother Teresa Catholic School?

EMPATHY SOUNDS LIKE...

"I am happy for you!" "You look upset."

"I know how you are feeling." "I bet that hurts."

EMPATHY LOOKS LIKE...

...a sad face when someone is hurt or upset.

...helping a friend with their work when they look like they need a helping hand.

...a big smile on your face when someone else is feeling happy or excited.

...going over to someone who looks like they are in pain, and trying to make them feel better because you know how it feels to be hurt.

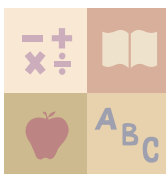
EMPATHY FEELS LIKE...

...knowing inside what it feels like to be happy, sad, and glad, and letting others know that you understand.

...understanding how a friend feels when they are happy.

...a pat on the back.

...a hug!



Transition into High School Information for Parents/Guardians of Grade 8 Students

Ginette Poulin is the Student Success Teacher of Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School. Her role is to help grade 8 students make a successful transition to high school. She will be visiting our grade 8 classes regularly to help prepare students transition to high school.

She has met with the students to explain various academic pathways available and diploma requirements.

If you need to reach her you can call the school 905-404-9349 or email her at gpoulin@pvnccdsb.on.ca



Other Important News!

REPORTING TO PARENTS

A Progress Report will go home to parents/guardians on Tuesday, November 15th. Parent/Teacher Interviews will take place on Thursday, November 18th beginning @ 3:45 p.m. by request only.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD In the main hallway of the school, there is a bulletin board that may be used to post items of interest to the Community: church bulletins, school newsletters, workshops for parents, etc. Please see Mrs. Owens if you have items to post.





Happy Thanksgiving from St. Therese Parish



Dear Principals, Teachers, Parents and Students,
As Thanksgiving approaches, it gives us a chance to look at all the blessings we have in our lives. Let us take the time this Thanksgiving to thank God for all the wonderful blessings He has given to us: our families, our friends, our principal, teachers and our parish community.

Father Stan Chu Ilo



Upcoming at Your Parish

October 3rd. Pot luck after our 11 am Mass.

Bishop DeAngelis will be joining us. All are welcome!

Oct. 4th—Blessing of animals following 7pm Mass

October 8th—Visit of Cap de Madeline to our Parish at 6:30pm

October 14th—7:30 pm—Free Seminar “How to Keep Cool with Your Kids” A presentation in the church hall at 7:30 pm.

There is no charge. To register please contact Stacey Gauvin at 905-433-1924 or sign up at the entrance to the Church.

October 23rd—Parent “Welcome Home” Sacrament Meeting in the hall for First Communion parents, 10 am—Noon.

October 28th – Mass with Prayers for Healing @7pm

October 28th—Seniors Tea 11:30 am

October 28th at 7:30 pm — Family Movie Night in the hall.

No Admission, refreshments will be sold.

October 30/31st – Youth Masses hosted by our Parish and the students of Good Shepherd School. All youth are encouraged to attend one of the weekend masses and join with the youth in the reserved youth pews.



Thanksgiving

