



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



"do ordinary things with extraordinary love"

SEPTEMBER 2010

From the Principal's Desk



Principal:
Cathy Dykeman

Vice-Principal:
Stephen O'Sullivan

Parish Priest:
Fr. Stan Chu Ilo
Fr. Peter Selvaraj

Secretaries:
Linda Reynen
Jane Hunt

CSC Chair:
Amany Bastien
Johnene Milan

Superintendent:
Deirdre Thomas

Trustees:
Maureen Day
Granville Anderson



It is with great joy and anticipation that I welcome each Mother Teresa family to another exciting school year. My name is Cathy Dykeman and I am honoured to be your new principal. I have been a Catholic educator for 30 years and bring to my current role a strong background in Special Education and Literacy. The staff and I look forward to the privilege of working with your children this year.

September is a month of new beginnings and new faces. Let us welcome the following new staff members to our school community:

<i>Mr. Stephen O'Sullivan</i>	<i>Vice Principal</i>
<i>Ms Deanna Imray</i>	<i>Grade 1</i>
<i>Ms Pamela Bruce</i>	<i>Grade 7</i>
<i>Ms Nicole Gibson</i>	<i>Grade 7</i>
<i>Mrs. Amanda Walchuk</i>	<i>Grade 7/8</i>
<i>Ms Carole Hendriks</i>	<i>Program Support</i>
<i>Mr. Joe MacDonald</i>	<i>Child and Youth Worker</i>
<i>Mrs. Mila Alexander</i>	<i>Educational Assistant</i>

Thank you to our custodians for making our school sparkle!

Thank you to all our teachers who have prepared exciting learning opportunities for your children.

Stay tuned for details regarding our planned Open House later in September.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Respect is an essential virtue because it presses us to show regard for the worth of self and others, and to value the sacredness of human life.

We are called as Catholic parents and educators to nurture and foster respect in our children. We must teach our children and model for them that all people should be treated with inherent worth and dignity. Respect is the cornerstone to preventing violence, injustice and hatred in our world. This virtue is vital for success in every arena of our children's lives now as well as in their future.

Catholic Virtue of the Month: RESPECT

Respect means:

- Treat others with consideration, courtesy and civility.
- Follow the Golden Rule.
- Be tolerant of differences.
- Use good manners, not bad language.
- Be considerate of the feelings of others.
- Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone.
- Deal peacefully with conflicts.
- Care for property and the environment.
- Obey the authority of the adults who are entrusted to care for you.



School Supplies

Early in September, each classroom teacher will provide the students with a list of school supplies for the academic year.

Materials such as pens, markers, crayon pencils, calculators, Math kits, lined paper, binders, Kleenex, etc. may be required.

All students must have a pair of indoor **light soled** running shoes to leave at school.

Required materials such as notebooks, pencils, erasers and rulers will be provided by the school.

Students will be issued textbooks. We ask for your assistance in ensuring that your child takes special care of these materials and returns them to school each day.

MEET OUR STAFF

Please see the back of the calendar to see a list of our staff.

School Agenda Planners



Planning for Success!

Once again, students in Grades 1-8 will use agenda books. These agendas assist the students in learning time management and organizational skills. The classroom teacher will provide time each day for your child to record their homework. The agenda also makes an excellent communication tool! Please check and initial your child's agenda daily to keep informed about projects, homework, tests, assignments and special events. Look for important notes in the plastic agenda pocket. You may wish to use the agenda as a way to send and receive messages to and from the teacher.

The first pages of the agenda contain some very important information about the policies and procedures of the school. Please review these pages with your child, particularly the sections that outline our Code of Conduct, Dress Code and Bus Safety.

The cost for each agenda is **\$5.00**, with a maximum of **\$15.00** per family. The money is to be sent to your child's teacher by **September 17th**.



Our First School Mass will be held on Monday, September 13th 9:45 a.m. at St. Therese Church. You are welcome to join us as we pray for a safe and successful school year.

School Attendance/Safe Arrival Policy

Regular attendance and punctuality are key contributors to student success in school.

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If your child is going to be absent from school, please call the school to speak with our secretary, Mrs. Reynen at

**(905) 433-5512 ...or leave a message on our 24 hour answering machine.**

If you know ahead of time that your child will be absent, please send a note with your child in advance or give us a call.

Our school operates a **Safe Arrival Program**. Parents of children who are absent will be contacted if no note or phone call is received.

If you are planning to take your child out of school for an extended period, such as a vacation, please notify the principal in writing so that arrangements can be made to provide you with the assignments your child will miss while you are away.

It is very important that children arrive at school each day on time. Our school day begins promptly at 9:05 a.m. If your child is late for any reason, he/she must report to the office to sign in so that your child is safely accounted for.

The school needs to know either by note or a phone call to the teacher or office if a student must leave the school early. Parents are asked to meet and sign their children out at the office.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

### IN THE DIGITAL AGE...

Students are encouraged to leave digital devices at home. Digital cameras, cell phones and mp3 players/iPods and such are very valuable. We do not want them lost or stolen. In the event that students use these devices at school, teachers will remove them and return them to students at the end of the day. If your son or daughter needs to bring a cell phone to school it should be turned off at all times. Due to privacy laws, no cell phones with cameras or digital cameras are to be used in school or on school property.



### LEAVING SCHOOL AT LUNCH

Letters of Permission (signed and dated each time) are required for those students who leave school during the lunch hour. Students from grades 7 and 8 **only** who normally remain at school for lunch may leave the school with their parents' written permission and are required to sign out at the office. Other students going out for lunch are to be picked up by their parents at the Office.

### A NUT FREE ENVIRONMENT ~ Severe Allergy Alert!

As there are several students with severe, life-threatening allergies enrolled at Mother Teresa School, and for the safety of these students, we must declare our school as a **NUT FREE ZONE!**

Students in all classrooms are asked to refrain from bringing any products to school that contain nuts in any form, including peanut butter. Please contact your child's teacher beforehand if you are sending treats to the classroom. There are many different foods that children might be allergic to, such as milk, fruit, wheat, etc. The teacher will advise you of any particular concerns involving snacks and treats.

Students are to eat their lunches and snacks in their own classrooms. Open food is not permitted in the hallways, schoolyard or on the school buses to further protect children with allergies.

We thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.



### Greetings From The Vice-Principal

I am honoured to have the opportunity to serve the Mother Teresa community as your Vice Principal. I truly appreciate how welcoming the students and staff have been as we prepare for a new school year. You have made it apparent that the foundation for this learning community is the Gospel Values of Jesus Christ. I am very excited to get to know everyone as we learn and grow together at Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary school.

Yours in Catholic Education,  
S. O'Sullivan

### Immunization

**A Reminder:** Students must receive the age 4-6 booster vaccination from their family doctor. The Health Unit requires this information from you. To update your child's health unit record or for more information, call

**905-666-6242 OR 1-800-841-2729 Ext. 6242**

**Love them, protect them, immunize them!**

Immunization helps to protect your children from disease. By law, parents of school age children in Ontario **MUST** provide either a record of the child's immunization or a valid exemption to the Health Unit. Children may be suspended from school if their records are not up-to-date. **Please note:** Under the Freedom of Information Act, The School is not able to release any information about your child to the Health Unit. It is a parent's responsibility to update immunization records.

### On the Medical Front

#### Illness/Injuries:

In the event a student becomes ill or is injured at school, he/she is to inform a staff member who will monitor the situation or provide appropriate first aid as needed. If the child is unable to remain at school and/or if the illness or injury is serious, the parents will be notified right away and the circumstances explained. If possible the student will remain in the classroom until the parents can collect him/her. In extreme cases, an ambulance is called and a staff member accompanies the child to the hospital to await the arrival of his/her parent.

#### Medications/Allergies:

The school requires a signed "**Consent Form**" for all children who must receive medication at school. This form must be signed by both the child's parents and physician, and must include updated photos (2) and medical information.

The school requires an "**Emergency Response Form**" be completed detailing the medical procedures to follow for those students who have medical conditions, such as allergies, chronic illnesses, etc.

### Student Sign-Out Book

Located in the main office, we have a **Sign-Out Book** for students who come and go during the school day. If you are picking up or dropping off a child because of an appointment, illness, etc. they must come through the office first. Thank you.

**Your Child's Safety is Our #1 Concern!**

## Information Items/September Forms

**School Accident Forms** will be going home this week. Should you choose to apply for insurance, please read the instructions carefully and mail the application DIRECTLY to the insurance company.

**Student Information Consent Forms** will be sent home this week. We require this information in case of emergencies.

Please complete one for each child and return to the school ASAP.

**The Election for the Catholic School Council** will take place later in September. Election forms are available from Mrs. Reynen in the Office.

**Gr. 2 students will receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion** this year. Information Dates will be forwarded in a letter re: Parish meetings, enrolment, ceremonies, etc. **An important meeting will take place at St. Therese Church Hall on September 22 at 7:30 p.m.**

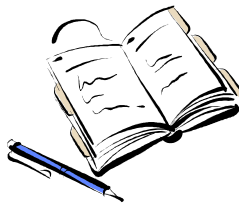
**Grade 7 students will receive Confirmation during the month of June. More information to follow.**

## Homework

Homework represents a tradition of partnership between home and school. It provides for cooperative effort involving parents, teachers and students. When students complete homework, they reinforce the learning that takes place during the day. Your assistance in ensuring that homework is consistently and properly done is appreciated by the teachers.

Please contact your child's teacher if your child exhibits anxiety or reluctance to do the work assigned. The teacher needs to know if the child takes a lot of time or requires considerable assistance to complete home work assignments.

Classroom teachers will provide additional information regarding homework procedures.



## Transportation and Safe Arrivals

**Buses:** In order to ensure the safety of all students who ride the bus, students are reminded that failure to follow the rules on the bus may result in a loss of bus riding privileges for a specified period of time.

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

**Bicycles, Skateboards and Roller Blades:** Students are to store their locked bicycles in the racks provided. The school assumes no liability for bike security. Students are to walk their bicycles when on school property at all times.

No skateboards, "wheelies", or roller blades are permitted on school property due to liability and safety issues.

### Supervision and Our Safe School:

Please note, our yard supervision begins at 8:50 a.m. Students are not to arrive to school before that time.

Parents are asked to say goodbye to their children

**WHERE.** If you need to see your child at anytime during the school day (even on the yard!), please come to the office, report your purpose and will be happy to get your child for you!



## Running Club For Fun & Fitness

Grades 5-8 will run before school. Grades 1-4 will

run at lunch time. Students will run first, come in for a supervised lunch period, then go out again for some fresh air. Students who go home for lunch can still do so at 12:20 p.m.

We would like to take 20 Grade 4-8 students to run 5km at the Scotia bank Waterfront Marathon on **Sunday, September 26, 2010** in Toronto. They will run 37.2 km at school and the final 5km in Toronto. They will receive a certificate and t-shirt for completing a marathon. More info to follow.



All Students in Grades 1 to 8 Are Welcome

Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays

Gr. 5-8 8:45 to 9:05 a.m.

Gr. 1-4—12:10 to 12:20

## Back to School Tips for Parents:

*Set aside regular time for Homework.*

*Find a special spot at home where Library Books can be kept safe.*

*Make sure your child gets plenty of sleep each night and has a healthy breakfast to start the school day off right.*

*Build a "can do" attitude in your child. When he/she tries something*

*new, praise the effort.*

*Establish a Homework centre for your child. A quiet place away from distractions is best.*

*Work with your child's teacher. Establish a partnership to support your child's learning.*

*Check your child's agenda everyday.*

## INTRODUCING OUR STAFF OF 2010-11

|                           |                              |                   |           |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Mrs. Deschamps            | JK                           | Mrs. Reynen       | Secretary |
| Mrs. Collicutt            | JK/SK & SK                   | Mrs. Hunt         | Secretary |
| Ms. Imray                 | Grade 1                      |                   |           |
| Mrs. McKay                | Grade 1/2                    |                   |           |
| Mrs. Daly                 | Grade 2                      | Mrs. Down         | Custodian |
| Ms. Allain                | Grade 2/3                    | Mr. Grace         | Custodian |
| Mrs. P. Alexander         | Grade 3                      | Ms. Sawdon        | Custodian |
| Mr. Hickey                | Grade 3/4                    |                   |           |
| Ms. Derhak                | Grade 4/5                    | Ms. Turcotte      | E.A.      |
| Ms. Murray                | Grade 5/6                    | Mrs. Royle        | E.A.      |
| Mme. Clark                | Grade 6 I.F.                 | Ms. Platts        | E.A.      |
| Ms. Gibson                | Grade 7                      | Mrs. Johnston     | E.A.      |
| Ms. Bruce                 | Grade 7                      | Mrs. Morishita    | E.A.      |
| Mrs. Walchuk              | Grade 7/8                    | Mrs. M. Alexander | E.A.      |
| Mr. Hanley                | Grade 8                      |                   |           |
| Mrs. Bennett              | B.E.S.T.                     | Mrs. Deal         | BRW       |
|                           |                              | Mr. MacDonald     | CYW       |
| Mrs. Hanley<br>Specialist | Learning Centre              | Mrs. Pigden       | E.A.      |
| Mrs. White                | Library Support Specialist   |                   |           |
| Mrs. Potts                | S.E.R.T.                     |                   |           |
| Mrs. Lantz                | S.E.R.T.                     |                   |           |
| Mr. Walsh                 | Program Support              |                   |           |
| Ms. Hendriks              | Program Support/Core French  |                   |           |
| Ms. Ryan                  | Program Support              |                   |           |
| Mlle. Gillard             | Core French/Intensive French |                   |           |
| Mr. O'Sullivan            | Vice Principal               |                   |           |
| Mrs. Dykeman              | Principal                    |                   |           |