



# May 2011 Newsletter

## St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Elementary School

1774 RUDELL ROAD . NEWCASTLE . ONTARIO . L1B 1E2

TEL: (905)987-4797 . FAX: (905)987-7279

### Spiritual Theme:

**Believe, Love, Act: "The greatest among you will be your servant."**

**Matthew 23:11**

PRINCIPAL  
*Linda Bier*

VICE PRINCIPAL  
*Guy Charette*

PARISH PRIEST  
*Fr. P. Seabrooke*

SECRETARIES  
*Pat Ryckman*  
*Jane Hunt*

CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
COUNCIL CHAIR  
*Maria Kraemer*

SUPERINTENDENT  
*Ron McNamara*

TRUSTEES  
*Granville Anderson*  
*Peggy O'Toole*

**In Peace, Hope and Joy**

## Catholic Virtues into Action

### Tolerance

During the month of May, our school will reflect on the virtue of TOLERANCE. As a caring Catholic school community, our students thrive in an environment that stresses tolerance and acceptance of one another as an integral part of the daily life of our school. Tolerance is a belief that every person is sacred. It means more than "to put up with something or someone." It encompasses a set of values of fairness and personal responsibility that are the threshold to a peaceful and equitable society. Tolerance is learned and encompasses an array of values and principles related to respect, nonviolence and peace-making.

The staff and I would like to encourage parents during the month of May to talk to your child about tolerance. We sometimes label children's questions and observations about differences as impolite. Rather than treating them as teachable moments, we ignore or discourage such remarks because they make us uneasy. We encourage you to seize these moments as learning opportunities and help your child get past stereotypes and prejudicial images and into a deeper understanding of the world around them. Together our Catholic graduates will show themselves to be responsible citizens who respect, understand and affirm the history, cultural heritage and pluralism of today's society. It all begins here in our school and homes.

On behalf of the school community, we congratulate the students who celebrated their First Holy Communion on April 30th and May 1st at St. Francis of Assisi Parish.

## Catholic Education Week, May 2—May 6

During this week the Catholic community celebrates the unique and distinctive contribution that Catholic schools make to our students, our community and our Province. Catholic Education Week is a welcome opportunity to celebrate the Mission of our Catholic schools as they strive to integrate the Gospel values of Jesus Christ in every aspect of the school's life and curriculum.

This year's theme is "**Catholic Education: Celebrating the Spirit**".

Five sub-themes, one each of the five days of Catholic Education Week 2011, help staff and students to more clearly understand what it means to Celebrate the Spirit:

- The Spirit of Hospitality
- The Spirit of Understanding
- The Spirit of Wisdom
- The Spirit of Justice
- The Spirit of Gratitude

The students and staff at St. Francis of Assisi have worked hard preparing special events and presentations to celebrate Catholic Education Week. We hope that as many parents as possible can join us for the highlighted events found in the School Newsletter Calendar.

### Inside this issue:

Library News	2
Warm Weather Attire	2
Text Books and Library Books	4
Empower Hour	4
EQAO Calendar	3
Catholic School Council Corner	4

Check out our school web-site: <http://schools.pvnccdsb.on.ca/stfra14>



Mrs. L. Bier  
Principal

Mr. G. Charette  
Vice Principal



## 2011 Summer School

REGISTRATION BEGINS Thursday, April 26, 2011.

### GRADES 5 AND 6 LITERACY AND NUMERACY CAMPS

Students who are presently in Grades 5 or 6 at a Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board Catholic School can attend Literacy or Numeracy camps. These camps will run from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. daily for two sessions. Students can register for both sessions of the literacy and numeracy camps or choose one session. Registration deadline is Friday, June 10, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. \*Please note that parents are responsible for transportation. There is no bussing provided. Campers will have a daily health and physical education break.

**INTERMEDIATE SUMMER SCHOOL COURSES** - Grades 7 and 8. Daily 8:15—2:15 Improve literacy and numeracy skills with reading, writing and math remediation programs. Registration deadline is Friday, June 10, 4 p.m.

**SECONDARY SUMMER SCHOOL COURSES** - Grades 9 to 12 Full Credit - Credit Recovery - E-Learning—Upgrading Credit Courses - Transfer Courses  
Registration deadline is Tuesday, June 28, 2011 at 4:00 p.m.

Dates:  
Intermediate (Grades 7 and 8)  
Summer School  
Secondary (Grades 9 to 12) Summer School  
Session #1 - Monday, July 4 to Friday, July 15, 2011  
Session #2 - Monday, July 18 to Friday, July 29, 2011  
For full credits, Secondary students must attend Sessions #1 and #2.

**Summer School Sites**  
St. Mary's Catholic Secondary School, Cobourg  
St. Stephen's Catholic Secondary School, Bowmanville  
Monsignor O'Donoghue Catholic Elementary School, Peterborough  
St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School, Lindsay  
**Register at:** <http://www.pvncdsb.on.ca/schools/summer-school.asp>. Brochures are available at all Catholic schools, or on the Board's website. For further information call the Catholic Education Centre at (705) 748-4861, ext. 350, toll free at 1-800-461-8009, ext. 350, or email [summer-school@pvncdsb.on.ca](mailto:summer-school@pvncdsb.on.ca)

## Library News

### Red Maple Book Club:

The Red Maple voting was held on April 19th and our school winner for Fiction was "The Summoning" and for Non-fiction was "Bite of the Mango". We are awaiting the announcement of the Ontario-wide winner from the Ontario Library Association on May 11th. Our Red Maple club this year had 15 members and we read a total of 105 books! Congratulations everyone and thanks for coming out to the meetings!  
Mrs. Cormack & Mrs. Held

### Silver Birch Book Club:

The Silver Birch & Silver Birch Express voting was held on April 20th. Our school Silver Birch Fiction vote ended in a tie between "Home Free" and "Neil Flambe & the Marco Polo Murders". The Silver Birch Non-fiction winner is "How to Build Your Own Country". Our Silver Birch Express vote ended in a three-way tie between "Binky the Space Cat," "A Coyote Solstice Tale" and "A Different Game". The Ontario-wide winners for both Silver Birch & Silver Birch Express will be announced on May 12th. The Silver Birch club had 12 members and read a total of 87 books! The Silver Birch Express Club had 14 members who read a total of 130 books! Congratulations everyone and thank-you to those of you who came to the meetings regularly.  
Mrs. Cormack, Miss Punshon & Mrs. Biss.

Our primary students from Grades 1 & 2 were also involved in an OLA Forest of Reading Program called the Blue Spruce Award. These students were read 10 picture books and asked to vote for their favourite. Our school winner was "Have I got a Book for You!" by Melanie Watt. The Ontario-wide winner will be announced on May 11th.

## Warm Weather Attire and St. Francis Dress Code

A reminder to all students and parents that even with the warm weather fast approaching, there is still a need to dress appropriately for school. Halter tops, tube tops, tops which show the midriff, or have spaghetti straps, muscle shirts and tank tops are not appropriate attire for school. Shorts, shirts, and skirts should be a reasonable length (i.e. non-revealing, modest, respectful). Underwear should always be covered. Sandals, while cool, are not very safe in stairwells or the yard. Please select a light running shoe. Wear a hat and lotion sunscreen rather than spray since the spray can be a health hazard in order to protect from UV rays. Thank goodness it's Spring!

## Think Bowl

Special thanks to all students involved in our Eighth Annual THINK BOWL Competition. Twenty-three (23) teams were entered this year. Our school was well represented by both Junior and Intermediate teams. Congratulations to the Intermediate team from St. Francis of Assisi for placing **FIRST** in their respective division. Special thanks to Mrs. Gray and Mrs. Bruckman for preparing the teams for this event.

## Healthy School Award

Congratulations to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Elementary School from the Durham Health Unit on receiving the Healthy School Award and supporting health in our school! As a result, we will be entered into a draw to win one of 30 prizes for \$200.

## Jesus Christ is risen today! Alleluia

By the time you get this newsletter, we will be well into the Easter season, the great season of hope, a glorious 50 days of celebrating Jesus' resurrection and our own. The Easter season concludes on Pentecost Sunday. There are some exciting celebrations in our parish to tell you about. To begin with, most of our grade 7's will celebrate the completion of their initiation into the Catholic church by celebrating Confirmation, after celebrating a retreat day on May 10th. Grade six will also attend a retreat day in our parish hall on May 17th. On Saturday, May 13th, our Knights of Columbus will be operating their annual yard sale on the church parking lot. On Friday, May 27th, Deacon Ante Market will be ordained a priest for the Peterborough Diocese, giving us another young priest.

Fr. Peter Seabrooke,  
St. Francis of Assisi Parish

## All Winners Soccer Tournament

On April 6<sup>th</sup> our Fitness Friends group took part in the "All Winners Indoor Soccer Tournament" at Trent University. They played against teams from other schools and are to be congratulated on their sportsmanship throughout the tournament. While taking part in the games they showed compassion, empathy and caring not only for their own Fitness Friends but also to Fitness Friends on the other teams who were in wheelchairs. They passed them the ball so that they could score and feel good about themselves. A fun day was had by all and we are very proud of how the students represented our school.

### Everyone Wins When Everyone Plays

Mrs. Hegarty, ASD Worker  
Ms. Gavin, ASD Worker

## EQAO CALENDAR

The EQAO Assessment dates for this year are set as follows:

**Grade 3:** May 30th to June 3rd

**Grade 6:** June 6th to June 9th

If you have children in those grades, please avoid booking holidays or medical appointments, etc. on those dates. It is important that all grade 3 and 6 students participate in the full day on those dates. More information will follow.

## "Now Hear This"

Thanks to a government grant and support from the Peterborough, Victoria, Northumberland and Clarington Catholic School Board, every classroom at St. Francis of Assisi School has an Infrared Wireless Microphone System installed.

Using a microphone in the classroom benefits students and teachers. Research data shows that students' benefits may include improved student achievement and that pupils experience fewer distractions with the enhanced sound in the classroom. Teachers report better pupil participation. Students can clearly hear the teacher anywhere in the room and love to have the opportunity to speak and share by holding the microphone.



Please ask you child about this new technology.

## Together for Autism

During the week of April 26th - 29th we focused on raising money and awareness toward "Together for Autism". Students were encouraged to bring in toonies and small change for the campaign. Each student who brought in money received a puzzle piece to sign and colour. The puzzle pieces are displayed in a chain format starting at the office. We hope it will grow throughout the school. Top classes in each division will be receiving a treat. As a culmination to the week we viewed a movie in the gym on Friday, April 29th. The school will continue to collect money until May 6th.

## Kindergarten Parent Information Night Monday, May 12 at 6:15 p.m.



This meeting is for parents of children who will be attending Junior Kindergarten in September. At this meeting we will be outlining the kindergarten programme and answering questions. In addition, we will share important information regarding your child's teacher, class visits and staggered entry. The meeting will be held in the school library.

## Important Deadline Info re Bussing Request for Sept. 2011

In May of each year, parents of students who live out of bounds are required to submit a request for transportation for the upcoming school year. Please read the attached notice if this applies to you and your children. As well, if your child comes to school from daycare facilities or goes to a babysitter after school, you need to complete a "Transportation To and From Child Care Facilities" form. These requests must be made on an annual basis using the forms attached. Those families who submit their requests by May 30th will be given consideration as "first in the queue". Requests received after that date will not be considered until after October 1st, so it is important that you complete and return the forms in a timely fashion. Forms are available on-line at [www.stsco.ca](http://www.stsco.ca) If you require further information, please contact the school office.

## Imparting the Spirit Catholic Leadership Award

Congratulations to the award recipient for St. Francis of Assisi for exemplifying the Catholic Graduate Expectations. A grade 8 student, **Hannah Bourke**, is an example of Catholic values to the whole school community. Hannah is a leader who ensures that all students are included. She is a model for all of us. She goes about her good deeds with humility and good cheer. Hannah will receive her award at a special ceremony in Peterborough on May 4. We are proud of you Hannah.

**Literacy Event**

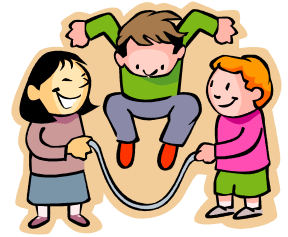
A fun filled "Trip Around the World" was enjoyed by all on April 27. Thanks to all the helpers and teachers who contributed their time and especially Mrs. Cormack and Mrs. Bier for their leadership of this event.

**Empower Hour**

We are edging closer to our CSC fundraiser. The Empower Hour Event will take place on Friday, May 13 with students participating in various activities planned for one hour throughout the day. The fundraising pledge sheets and the money can be submitted to the homeroom teacher anytime leading up to the event. The deadline for submission of all pledge sheets and money will be Monday, May 16th. Parents are reminded to sign off on the pledge sheets.

There are lots of great events planned for Education Week. We hope you are able to come out and see the great works of St Francis students. Our next council meeting is Monday, May 9 @ 6pm in school library. All are welcome to attend.

Maria Kraemer  
Chair, Catholic School Council

**St. Francis of Assisi Second Annual Empower Hour**

Please ensure that you read the flyer and fill in the pledge sheet regarding "Empower Hour" that will be held on May 13th. The fundraising pledge sheets and money can be submitted to the homeroom teacher anytime leading up to the event. The deadline for submission is Monday, May 16th. Thanks to the Catholic School Council and Mrs. D. Crawford for their support in this wonderful school fundraiser. As noted on the pledge sheet, the monies raised will offset the costs of class trips for 2011/2012 school year. Mrs. Bier

**Parent Police Coalition Meeting**

I attended the last Parent Police Coalition Meeting in April. It was very informative and the sharing between Police and Parents proved to be productive and proactive. I encourage parents to attend our next Parent Police Coalition Meeting

Location: Clarke High School  
Address: 3425 115 Highway Newcastle (close to the MacDonald's), North of Concession Road 3 (between Subway and Harvey's/ Shell gas station)  
Date: Monday May 16th, 2011  
Time: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
Topic: Drugs and Youth  
Speakers: Pinewood Centre and Center for Addiction and Mental Health

If you require any further information or would like to be placed on our e-mailing list please contact Constable Stacey Sullivan ([ssullivan@drps.ca](mailto:ssullivan@drps.ca) <<mailto:ssullivan@drps.ca>>) or Constable Sara Foote ([sfoote@drps.ca](mailto:sfoote@drps.ca) <<mailto:sfoote@drps.ca>>)

**Textbooks and Library Books**

Each year our school spends school budget and any additional Ministry allocations to purchase student textbooks. At times, it is sad to find that some students treat these books poorly and they fall into disrepair. Please encourage our children to take good care of texts and library books. They are quite expensive. **June report cards will be withheld until books are returned or a payment is received.** When spring cleaning, any "discoveries" should be returned to teachers promptly. Thank you for your support.

**1st Newcastle Scout Group Registration**

Monday, May 30, 2011  
Lion's Room, east side Newcastle Town Hall  
6:30—8 pm  
Beaver Scouts 5-7, Cub Scouts 8-10, Scouts 11-14, Venturer Scouts 14-17  
New members, please bring birth certificates and health card numbers.  
Call Dave at 905 987-4153 for more information.

**Happy Mother's Day**

Hail Mary, Mother of God  
Lady in blue, I love you  
Hail Mary, Mother of God  
Mary is our  
Mother too.

