



# St. Anthony Newsletter

ISSUE # 2

October 2008

## Principal's Corner



It is hard to believe that the month of September has passed and that October is well underway. On September 23, we celebrated our Opening Mass at St. Anthony's Church. The music, readings and Father's homily helped to reinforce our school board's new spiritual theme: 'We Care for God's Creation'. Throughout the school year, staff and students will explore our call to stewardship which encompasses all of life and creation and which is central to our Catholic faith. A care for all of life and the gifts and blessings of our God is part of our Christian perspective.

On Monday, October 20 at 9:00 a.m. the school community will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at the Church. We look forward to parents joining us as we give thanks for God's many gifts.

### Parent Program Night

Parent Program Night was held on October 1st. A special thanks to all parents in attendance. For those unable to attend, important program related handouts were sent home. If you did not receive these, please contact teachers through the student agenda.



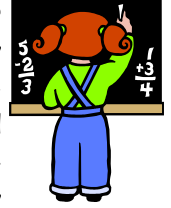
Interviews will be held in early December, following the distribution of first term report cards. Details will follow.

### Board and School Improvement Plan

The Ontario Ministry of Education has mandated that each school board in Ontario and their respective schools review and update Improvement Plans for the 2008-09 school year. Once again, the board has built their plan around three cornerstones: Success for Students, Success for Staff and Stewardship of Resources. We at St. Anthony's have devised our plan along the same lines, taking into consideration EQAO scores and other relevant data.

In terms of Success for Students, our goals surround English Language Literacy and more specifically the area of Non-Fiction Writing. A SMART (strategic and specific, measurable, achievable, results-based and time-bound) Goal for January 2009 has been set. Other aspects of our School Improvement Plan include goals surrounding acquisition of 'Gospel Values' related to character and diversity, improved 'Mathematical Literacy' and increasing 'Student Engagement' through transitioning and inclusionary practices.

If you wish to know more about the school's improvement plan please do not hesitate to contact the office.



### Safety



#### Gladstone Ave./Rochester St./Preston St.

- Just a reminder that students should be accompanied by an adult or an older, responsible student when walking to and from school in the Gladstone and Rochester to Booth street area. A number of our students walk along Preston Street to their bus stop. Children should be accompanied to the stop by an adult especially due to the construction that is currently underway.

**Bus** - Rules have been reviewed with those students who take the bus. Please continue to go over these with your child/ren. Infractions are taken very seriously and parents are advised. Repeat infractions may lead to suspension of bus privileges.

**Playground** - Please emphasize with your child the importance of playground safety and the need for rules such as refraining from those games involving body contact and rough play. As well, review with him/her the Play Structure Safety Rules as outlined on page 4 of the student agenda.

**Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up** - When driving your child to and from school you are reminded not to stop

in front of the school. This is a 'No Stopping' zone to be used by those children who arrive by bus and taxi only. Children should be dropped off and picked up by parents at the Willow Street gate.

### Indoor Shoes

Out of respect for our caretaking staff and for health and safety reasons, children are **required** to have a pair of shoes at school which are reserved for indoor use only. It is suggested that these be 'running style' shoes (i.e. rubber-soled, lace-up) in order that they also be suitable for participation in gym classes.



### Sports News

#### Girl's Soccer Tournament

The Girl's Soccer Team traveled to McMaster Catholic School on Friday, September 19 to represent St. Anthony School in a board wide tournament. The girls' team played three games where they demonstrated excellent leadership, team work and cooperation. The girls were dedicated to daily practices for two weeks prior to the tournament. Congratulations to the following team members: Kianna Oliveira, Phung Kim La, Kimberly Segundo, Rachel Lawson, Ashlee Barnabee, Ophelia Rosales-Salinas, Courtney Billings, Rosaleen Nguyen, Julia Pham, Priscilla Chen, Ruth Imonikhe and Sambath Bun .

**Thank you Mrs. Draper and Mrs. Fallon for your devotion in coaching the team to reach these fine results.**

#### Boy's Soccer Tournament

The Boy's Soccer tournament was held on September 26 at McMaster. The team showed excellent sportsmanship, teamwork and soccer skills. The soccer team had a record of three wins and zero losses. All the hard work during the practices really paid off. Mr. Bellemare was really proud of the way the boys conducted themselves throughout the day. Congratulations to the following team members: Santiago Botero, Kevin Tran, Joseph Vo, Michael Nguyen, Karl Pfeiffer, Nicholas Bassi, Morgan Baker, Peter Bui, Marcio Paulo, Tommy, Tyler Bilings, Jeremy Thein, Andy Lam and Geoffrey Carty.



**Thank-you Mr. Bellemare for the time and effort spent coaching the team to excellent results.**

### News from the Environment Club



To help celebrate our board theme 'We Care For God's Creation', the children in Grades One through Six participated in the Fall Cleaning the Capital project. Each class was responsible for a different section of the playground and school area. The students collected several bags of litter as well as yard waste like leaves and twigs. They did an exceptional job and the playground and school area are neat and tidy. It is very important to encourage children from an early age to take ownership and responsibility for the environment. In the new year, we hope to participate in the Spring Cleaning the Capital 2009 event. A special thank-you to Mrs. Rupnik and Mrs. Wallace for the time and effort spent organizing this event; an important springboard for entering into St. Anthony's commitment to 'Care for God's Creation'.

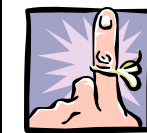
### St. Anthony's Choir Performs at City Hall

On September 12, the St. Anthony's School Choir was invited by former student and owner and editor of *Il Postino*, Angelo Filoso, to perform at the unveiling of the Firefighter Memorial at City Hall. The students were lead by Grade 4 and 5 teacher Sarah Falloon, an expert musician who recently joined the school staff. A special thank-you to Mrs. Falloon for the excellent job of preparing the students under very short notice. Thanks also to Mrs. Wallace for accompanying the choir and providing additional supervision.



### School Council Elections

An election meeting was held on September 16. The turnout was disappointing and technically we were unable to form a council as defined in the St. Anthony School Council Constitution.



Amanda Smith and Jessica Wilmott have agreed to be co-chairs of the council. Ms. Wilmott will also act as secretary. The position of teacher representative will rotate from one month to the next. Meetings will be held the first Tuesday of most months at 6:00 p.m. in the staffroom. All parents are welcome

and encouraged to attend. Reminder notices will be sent home a day prior to Council Meetings being held.

**Note:** If we are unable to involve more parents, it may be necessary to cancel many council-related programs and activities e.g. fundraisers, pizza days, family fun day and barbeque, etc.

### Messages for the Catholic School Parents' Association (CSPA)

The CSPA is the regional group representing all parents in our Boards. Please visit our CSPA website at <http://www.ottawacspa.ca> to learn more about us and what we do to support parents and their children in our schools. Any and all parents and school council members are encouraged to join our mailing list. We send out a monthly newsletter with information on our meetings, parent workshops, Board information, School Council information and Ministry of Education information. We encourage and welcome schools to send us information to share with others schools, especially workshops or fundraisers. Please contact Communication Officer, Caroline Bachynski at [cbgv@rogers.com](mailto:cbgv@rogers.com) to sign up.



### United Way



The Board's United Way Campaign begins on October 8, 2008. Over the past few years, the Board has successfully raised funds for the *Catholic Education Foundation (CEF)*. The CEF is a charitable foundation recognized by the United Way, here in the City of Ottawa. The funds are directed to educational programs or emergency response for impoverished children in our Catholic Board. If you already support the United Way through your employer, you may like to direct your contributions to the CEF. Please note the Charitable Registration No: 89003 6122 RR0001. If you want to contribute directly, please ask your school principal or contact us at your Catholic School Parents Association. Visit [www.ottawacspa.ca](http://www.ottawacspa.ca) for a United Way pledge form.

### Ontario Focused Intervention Project

St. Anthony School will continue to participate in the Ministry sponsored 'Ontario Focused Intervention Project' aimed at improving student achievement in



literacy and numeracy.

Schools who are OFIP schools have the following advantages:

- additional funding to ensure adequate resources to run comprehensive literacy/numeracy programs
- additional opportunities for professional development for teachers on the implementation of a number of high yield strategies identified by the Numeracy and Literacy Secretariat

### Literacy Coach

We are grateful that St. Anthony School continues to receive assistance from the school board in the form of a 'Literacy Coach'. Children from KP to Grade 3 come to the 'Literacy Room' or 'Book Room' for oral language development, phonemic awareness activities and reading. They work in small groups, two or three days a week, with literacy coach, Mrs. Hogan, a master teacher. Our 'Book Room' contains a variety of leveled books and other resources which are shared throughout the school. St. Anthony's staff as a team focuses on increasing the literacy performance of our students. Both the 'Literacy Coach' and 'Book Room' are important supports for the student success goals embedded in our 'School Improvement Plan'.



### Sacramental Information

This year, grade two students who are Baptized Catholics, will prepare for and have the opportunity to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation. During second term there will be an important sacramental information meeting held at the church for parents of children involved. Please watch for details.



**NOTE:** If for some reason your child did not complete the Sacraments in Grade 2 and you would like him/her to do so, please advise the school through their agenda and we will ensure their participation in the preparatory classes.

### Christian Community Day



Please be reminded that this Friday, October 10 is a Professional Development Day. Staff throughout the board will gather at the Civic Centre to

participate in the OCSB's annual Christian Community Day. The day will expand upon the board's spiritual theme: 'We Care for God's Creation'.

### Gold Star Awards



The area of recognition for September was for Courage based on trust in God. The following students have demonstrated their growth in this area: Lukasz St. Jean, Elinam Havor-Nutogo, Sandra Castillo, Geoffrey Min, Elisabeth Luanda, Kiara Tavares, Joshua Hinterman, Sambath Bun, Nicholas Bassi, and

Jamie Kelley.

In October, students will be recognized for growth in compassion through listening to, helping, and forgiving others; thereby sharing God's love with everyone.

### Breakfast Club

This year, we are pleased to have as our Breakfast Club Monitor, Sarah Harder. Sarah is a .75 Educational Assistant entering her second year at St. Anthony School. She is well-known and respected by the school community.



All children are welcome to participate in the Breakfast Club. While there is no charge for this service, we rely on donations and grants, including contributions from parents of participating students who can afford to donate. Please contact the principal if you would like to make a donation.

### After School Program



Once again, Mr. Jean Yves Paul is volunteering his time to organize and coordinate an exciting program for our students. The children can choose from a number of activities such as: computers, reading, cooking, arts and crafts, sports, etc. **Note: Due to lack of volunteers, this program is at risk. At the end of the first session (December 20) the program will be reassessed and depending on volunteer participation, may or may not continue to operate.** If you are able to help Jean Yves, please contact the school. The main role of a volunteer is to assist with supervision of children while participating in the various activities.

### EQAO Results



Results of the provincial tests in Reading, Writing and Mathematics written by grade three and six students last May were recently released. The graphs provided indicate the school's results and compare the percentage of

St. Anthony's students scoring at levels 3 & 4 (at or above the provincial standard) with the school board and the province.

As with past results, we continue to review them with a view to recognizing strengths and areas for improvement. Our 'School Improvement Plan' sets goals for future gains particularly in the area of Reading Comprehension and Non-Fiction Writing.