

NOVEMBER 2010

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St. Jean de Brébeuf School

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Principal's Message

It is a time for us to be quiet and listen. It is a time to mediate to think about the Gospel of the word. Blessed are those who work for peace. (Matthew 3:9) During November, when we pause to remember the men and women who sacrificed their lives in war, we often think about our Christian call to be peacemakers. We have no Roman soldiers but we have opportunities every minute of the day to contribute to the peace of our classrooms, our school, our homes and our communities. Let's all continue to work for peace at St. Jean de Brebeuf.

Victoria Northcott, Ph.D.

Prayer for Peace

God of peace and justice, guide our hands and hearts to make our world full of peaceful places: homes of hope and warmth, schools of safety and caring, parishes of welcome and reverence, communities of creativity and respect, countries of justice and freedom, continents of harmony and unity, and a world where humans take their rightful place as nature's guardians. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, Prince of Peace. Amen

(taken from Words for the Journey for Kids, page 29)

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 1, 2010
Hep B Vaccinations for gr. 7
students

HPV Vaccinations for
Gr. 8 girls & Pasta Day

November 5, 2010
Pizza Day

November 8, 2010
Hot Dog Day

November 10, 2010
Picture Retakes

November 12, 2010
Pizza Day

November 15, 2010
Pasta Day

November 17, 2010
Report Cards go home

November 18, 2010
Three-way conferences
5 - 9 p.m.

November 19, 2010
P.D. Day – No School
Three-way conference
9 – 3:30 p.m.

November 22, 2010
Pasta Day

November 26, 2010
Pizza Day

November 28, 2010
Advent Begins

November 29, 2010
Pasta Day

Remembrance Day

There will be a school observance of Remembrance Day in the gym at 10:15 a.m. on Thursday, November 11th.

Poppies will be available to students this week. Your child may bring a donation to the Royal Canadian Legion to obtain a poppy.



Picture Retakes

Picture retakes will be done on November 10th.

Please note that the students in Mrs. Rogers's class will have their class photo done on this day as well.



Report Cards

First term report cards for students in gr. 1-8 will be sent home on November 17th. Kindergarten students do not receive a report card until second term. All parents are invited in for an interview to meet with the teacher during the evening of November 18th OR during the day on November 19th. More details will follow

Professional Development Day

There will also be no classes on Friday November 19th as it is a Professional Activity Day. This day will be used for Parent/Teacher conferences.

More details will follow around the dates and times that will be available for parents to come in and celebrate their child's learning accomplishments.

Terry Fox Update

We were blessed with a beautiful day for our annual Terry Fox Run, and we were sure he was smiling down upon us because of the enthusiasm we displayed! Thanks to the continued support of our community's friends and families, we were able to raise a grand total of \$2013.00! Congratulations goes out to our top fundraiser, Amanda P., who raised \$220.00! You should be proud, Brebeuf!!

Fall Food Drive

"We are going to have to get a bigger car!!"

That was the reaction from the gentleman who came to pick up all of the food that the students of St. Jean de Brebeuf collected for the Fall Food Drive! Our generosity and concern for the well-being of others was apparent once again. The donation table in the front entrance was overflowing! Thank you for your kindness!!

Christmas Concert

St. Jean de Brebeuf is already busy preparing for an upcoming Christmas Concert. It will be a musical extravaganza with drums, recorders, singing and a musical play. All classes will be involved. Thank you to Mrs. Weeks for getting Santa's elves ready ahead of schedule! Stay tuned for the date and time.

Parish News

We welcome Father Boniface who will be visiting our gr. 5 – 8 classes on Wednesday November 10.

SJB Sports Desk



On October 21/2010, the Cross-Country Running team took part in a meet at the Tottenham Observation Area. It was a blistery cold day, but that did not stop the team from running fantastically. The Int. Girls team placed first overall. Victoria D. came 3rd, Claire B. placed 6th while Cloe N., Nicole D., and Cailyn P. all ran very well. In the Jr. Girls division, Samatha S. placed 13th while Jessica K., Cassandra D., Alisha F. and Hannah D. ran very well. Adrian M. placed 2nd for the Int. Boys, while Matteo P. and Josh M. ran very well. Adam R., Kevin V., and Jessie C. ran well in the Jr. Boys division.

Thank you for a great day! I look forward to next year.

A special thank you to those volunteers who helped drive the team to the meet. It is very appreciated!

Mr. Marwick

Give the Gift of Warmth

One focus of the knitting club this term is to knit booties and bonnets for babies. These will be delivered to various hospitals Christmas Eve. We invite everyone to join us. You can drop off your knitted items in the special gift bag at the office. If you're looking for simple patterns, please have your child pick one up from Mrs. MacFadden, Mrs. Jeffries or Mrs. Weeks.

Easy Bonnet Pattern

Using size 7 needles, cast on 60 st.

Row 1-10: K1,P1

Row 11-24: alternate K rows and P rows

Row 25: (K4, K2tog)

Row 26: P

Row 27: (K3, K2tog)

Row 28: P

Row 29: (K2, K2tog)

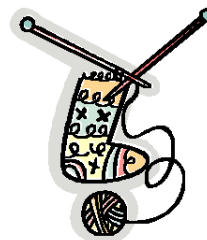
Row 30: P

Row 31: (K1, K2tog)

Row 32: P

Row 33 (K2tog)

Cut yarn leaving long tail. Draw yard through remaining stitches and pull tightly. Sew edges together.



Jeffries Journal

This month, I would like to encourage all families at St. Jean de Brebeuf to 'Fall' back into Reading Routines. I know that many of the students are now involved in Home Reading programs, and I really recommend this as a valuable routine in your homes.

According to an article entitled, Why Your Child Should Read for 20 Minutes Every Day, from the U.S. Dept of Education, it only takes 20 minutes a day. Try the following exercise, and decide which student would you expect to be more successful in school, and in life.

Student A reads 20 minutes five nights of every week;
Student B reads only 4 minutes a night... or not at all!

Step 1: Multiply minutes a night x 5 times each week.
Step 2: Multiply minutes a week x 4 weeks each month.
Step 3: Multiply minutes a month x 9 months / school year

By the end of 6th grade, if Student A and Student B maintain these same reading habits, Student A will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days, while Student B will have read the equivalent of only 12 school days. One would expect the gap of information retained will have widened considerably and so, undoubtedly, will school performance. In the end, Student A will read better, know more, write better, and will have a better vocabulary. Let's 'Fall' back into Reading Brebeuff!!

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Information

Reminder to Parents re: Grade 7 and Grade 8 Immunizations

Nurses from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit will be in school over the winter providing immunizations to grade 7 students and grade 8 girls who provided consent. Consent forms and fact sheets for the hepatitis B and meningococcal conjugate ACWY vaccines for grade 7's and Human Papillomavirus vaccine for grade 8 girls were sent home in September. The consent forms and fact sheets are available on the [immunization page](#) of the health unit's website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Your Health Connection at (705) 721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.

Know Your Zone



Our school community is located in the SOUTH SIMCOE COUNTY inclement weather zone.

Last year, four weather zones (north, south, east and west) were created in Simcoe County. This approach allows for a partial bus cancellation when weather is severe in a particular area. The goal is to provide more students access to school bus transportation.

For example, this means that buses may be cancelled in the north zone, but are still running in the south, east and west weather zones. If your child is bussed to school, it is important to be aware of the inclement weather zone for our community.

As always, you can visit our board website at www.smcdsb.on.ca or listen to the local media for bus cancellation notices, including partial cancellations in an inclement weather zone.

School Community Council Year 2010-2011

Please contact the school council if you have questions about how to get involved at the school, or if you are looking for information from a parent perspective. Our e-mail contact is as follows: SJBSCC@gmail.com. Our next School Community Council meeting will be held on: **November 15, 2010** at 6:30pm at our school library, **all parents are welcome to attend**. If you would like to be added to our School Council e-mail list, please contact us at the above e-mail. The Minutes of School Council Meetings are available at our school's front office.

The 2010 Prime Minister's Awards Call for Nominations

Guidelines and nomination forms for the 2010 Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence and Excellence in Early Childhood Education are now available. Nominations will be accepted until November 30th. New this year, a special Space Award will be offered to a teacher (or teaching team) who demonstrates exceptional innovative and creative teaching in the areas of space sciences, technology, engineering and/or mathematics. Visit www.pma.gc.ca for details.

Chocolate Sales at the School

Starting on Wednesday, November 10th and every Wednesday thereafter (until we run out of chocolates), we will be selling Caramilk Chocolate bars at the school for a toonie (\$2.00) during the lunch hour.

New Parent Engagement Policy

The Ministry of Education released its new Parent Engagement Policy in early September 2010. This new policy is available for all parents to view (and print) at the following website:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/involvement/PEPolicy2010.pdf>



November 11th.
Let us not forget...

Note: on the reverse side of this page is a list of Tips for Parents on how to effectively communicate with school, and try to resolve any issues or concerns you may have. Please take a few minutes to read it.

New Progress Reports this Fall

A new format for student achievement will be coming out this month. Please visit

www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/forms/report/card/reportCard.html for more information.

The EDGE

The **EDGE** is an exciting youth ministry for grades 6, 7 & 8 at **Holy Martyrs of Japan**. This program is designed to allow youth to come into a welcoming, safe environment and participate in fun activities that challenge them to think about God as well to build friendships with other students. **EDGE** meets on Monday evenings in the church hall from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. All children in grades 6, 7 & 8 are welcome to attend. Please contact Ray Reitzel at the LifeTeen line at Holy Martyrs of Japan, 905-778-0373, or by e-mail bradfordlifeteen@gmail.com for more information.

Combined Grades (An Introduction)

If you would like to have some information about Combined Grades, please visit the following website at:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/combinedClassrooms/combinedClassrooms.pdf> for a brochure on the subject with clear and concise information. If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the school.

A Day of Remembrance

Every year on **November 11**, Canadians pause in a silent moment of remembrance for the men and women who have served, and continue to serve our country during times of war, conflict and peace. We honour those who fought for Canada in the First World War (1914-1918), the Second World War (1939-1945), and the Korean War (1950-1953), as well as those who have served since then. More than 1,500,000 Canadians have served our country in this way, and more than 100,000 have died. They gave their lives and their futures so that we may live in peace.

TIPS FOR PARENTS

School – Home Cooperation

Parents sometimes need to talk to the teacher about schoolwork, their child's relationship with another student or their child's special needs. Most teachers are used to getting these kinds of calls from parents and want to help your child succeed in school.

Parents as partners in education

In Ontario, parents are encouraged to be key partners in their children's education. In fact, there is now a part of the Education Ministry that is dedicated to helping parents become involved in their children's education and school community.

But the system can sometimes be confusing or intimidating. Who should you talk to if you have a question or problem?

If you want to talk to the teacher on the phone, call the school office, leave a message and the teacher will call you back.

If you want to meet with the teacher, call the school office and leave a message that you want to make an appointment to meet with the teacher. If you think your child needs extra support or a special program, you can ask for a meeting with the teacher and other staff at the school. Some schools can also provide interpreters.

Here are some tips for talking with the school staff:

First - Talk to your child

- Ask your child questions to help you gather information.
- Try using "open-ended questions" like, "What do you find difficult about ...?" "Tell me what happened..."
- Listen to what he or she says and ask more questions.

Talk to your child's teacher or the school's guidance counsellor

- Talk to the teacher about your concerns and how your child feels.
- Try using comments like "My child told me that..".
- Ask questions to help you understand school policies and procedures.

- Listen to the teacher's point of view and suggestions.

Talk about what you and the teacher will do so your child gets the same message from both of you.

- If your school has a guidance counselor, he or she can give you information about the rest of your child's courses and advice about how to solve social or educational problems.
- You can take time to think about what the teacher has said; you don't have to decide anything right away. Agree to talk again to see if the solution is working.

Talk to the principal or vice-principal

If the teacher is not able to help, speak with the principal or vice-principal. They may be able to help directly or involve other teachers or other staff at your school.

Talk to the school superintendent or your trustee

If the problem still isn't resolved, you can contact the school superintendent or your school trustee for assistance. The school secretary or principal can tell you how to contact the superintendent or trustee or you can go to your school board's website to find the information.

Remember to:

- Be informed: Find out about your school's policies.
 - Attend all regular parent-teacher interviews and events. It is easier to solve problems if you and the teacher have already met.
- Attend any meetings about your child that the school invites you to. (e.g. special education, IEP, school discipline)
- If your problem can't be easily solved, keep written notes about important meetings and conversations.
- Ask for an interpreter if you are not comfortable expressing yourself in English.
- Concerns about our children can be upsetting. Try to stay calm. People are more likely to listen to your concerns if you express them calmly.

For more information:

- Visit the Ministry of Education website at: www.edu.gov.on.ca
- Call People for Education at 416-534-0100 or obtain copies of this tip sheet in other languages at: www.peopleforeducation.com
- Visit www.settlement.org/edguide for videos and information in many languages.