

October Newsletter
St. Matthew the Evangelist C.S.

**ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

60 Willowbrook Drive
Whitby
(905) 430-8597



**NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 2004**

**Principal
P. Cauley**

**Vice-Principal
R. Chacko**

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**MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE
TEAM**



Dear Parents/Guardians:

September has come and gone! "Time flies when you are having fun!" so say the experts and that's exactly what we have experienced here at St. Matthew the Evangelist Catholic School.

Congratulations to the entire staff for a very smooth start. The classes are moving along very well with routines and programmes in place.

A big thank you to all our parents who took time off their busy schedules to meet us on Meet the Teacher Barbecue on September 16th. It was a pleasure meeting families new to our school as well as those who have been part of the St. Matthew community for a while. Many thanks to all our parents and students who assisted with the barbecue, especially Mrs. Hopper, Mrs. Laturski, Mr. & Mrs. Kroes and their daughter, Jessica, Mrs. Ellis and her daughters Catherine and Elizabeth. Many hands make light work and your assistance is greatly appreciated.

We would like to welcome our new Educational Assistant, Mr. Floyd, who will be replacing Mr. Thompson. We thank Mr. Elliott for his work with the students at St. Matthew's and wish him all the best as he explores a new career.

The Catholic School Advisory Council elections were held on September 21st. **Congratulations to the following parents who were nominated and elected to the Council...**

Johanna Hopper	Chair
Joanne Ellis	Vice-Chair & Parish Rep.
Linda Correia	Secretary
Sandra Harris	Treasurer
Anne O'Brien	Council Member
Bob Ayres	Council Member
Ashley Augustin	Council Member
Anna Booth	Council Member & Community Rep.
Maureen Moloney	Council Member
Elly Pierre	Council Member
Roxanne Bruno	Council Member
Audra Chamoun	Council Member
Mary Lepore	Council Member
Nicky Nearing	Council Member
Wendy Villemaire	Council Member

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October is the month of Mary and traditionally the month of Thanksgiving. You may find it interesting to know that the squash soup or pumpkin pie that we enjoy on Thanksgiving weekend originated here in North America. The early settlers from Europe had never seen pumpkins, but when plants transported from Europe failed to thrive in the harsh climate, the settlers were happy to discover these edible vegetables.

Thank you in advance for your generous contribution to our **Thanksgiving Food Drive** which will run until Thursday, October 7, 2004. In previous years, your generous contributions to our Thanksgiving Food Drive enabled us to send several boxes of non-perishable food and grocery items to help the needy in our region. We are looking forward to a successful effort this year in support of St. Vincent's Kitchen and Holy Family Parish. Your kindness and caring is much appreciated.

Happy Thanksgiving and May God bless you and your families.

Sincerely,

.....
P. Cauley
Principal

.....
R. Chacko
Vice-Principal

SCHOOL HOURS AND SUPERVISION



8:30 am	Yard Supervision begins
8:45 am	Morning classes begin
10:15 am	Morning Recess
11:30 am	Lunch
2:00 pm	Afternoon Recess
3:10 pm	Bus dismissal
3:15 pm	School Dismissal



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Parent Advisory Council News

It was nice to see so many familiar and new faces at the first Parent Council meeting last week. Mr. Cauley welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited parents to become involved in the St. Matthew School community. A guest speaker, Mrs. J. Maxwell explained an instrumental music program that she was offering to teach to intermediate students who were interested in learning to play an instrument. It was explained that instruments would be available for up to 40 students.

Nominations were accepted and elections were held for positions on the Parent School Council. The following people were elected and appointed to the 2004/2005 Parent Advisory Council:

Chairperson: Mrs. Johanna Hopper
Vice Chair: Mrs. Joanne Ellis
Treasurer: Mrs. Sandra Harris
Secretary: Ms. Linda Correia
Business Rep: Mrs. Anna Booth

Principal: Mr. Paddy Cauley
Vice Principal: Mrs. Remy Chacko
Teaching Rep: Mrs. Judy Henry
Parish Rep: Mrs. Joanne Ellis

The purpose of the Parent Council is to act as an advisory body to the school Principal and provide ideas and opinions about educational issues. The Council also initiates and supports Parent Volunteer Committees that promote school spirit and enrich the health and safety of our children. Thanks to the dedication of our parent volunteers the following programs will continue to be offered to your child(ren) this year.

- ❖ Pizza Lunch – Beverly Oke-Hickey, Ashley Augustin
- ❖ Milk Program – Mrs. Elly Pierre
- ❖ Milkshake Day – Mrs. Wendy Villemaire

We are still looking for someone to coordinate the volunteers for the **Parent Safety Patrol Program**. The Coordinator is responsible for ensuring that two parent volunteers are available before and after school to safeguard the arrival and dismissal of students. If you are interested in this position please contact the office at 905-430-8597.

The next Council meeting is on **Tuesday October 19, 2004** at Holy Family Church. Father Reddy is having a mass at 7:00 p.m. for all of the School Councils. The meeting will be held in the Church Hall following the mass. Please join us to find out what's happening at St. Matthew's this year.

Johanna Hopper
PAC Chairperson

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OPENING SCHOOL MASS

Our school-wide welcome back Mass was celebrated by Fr. Reddy in the gym on Thursday, September 21st. On that day we also celebrated the Feast of St. Matthew. We would like to thank our Liturgy Committee and Mr. Prior and Mrs. O'Donnell's grade 2 classes for organizing the liturgy. Also, the grade 2 classes were responsible for prayers over the announcements every morning for the month of September and they did a fabulous job. Thank you once again.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE



Our Thanksgiving Food Drive will continue until Thursday, October 7, 2004. This year, as in previous years, donations will be sent to St. Vincent's Kitchen.

Donations of canned goods and/or grocery items will be gratefully accepted. Most needed are items such as : canned meats, canned fish, canned soups, cereals, milk powder, baby food, dried pasta, etc.

Merci

CASUAL DAYS FOR CHARITY

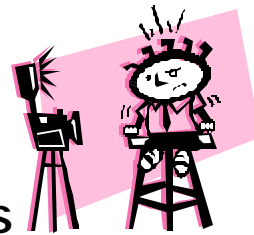
The staff at St. Matthew the Evangelist will be involved in charitable fundraising throughout the year. Staff will be dressing casually on Fridays. However, they will be paying a "fee" to do so! The funds generated will be used to support charity.

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JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN



Welcome to our new **J**unior **K**indergarten students and their families.
We hope your educational experience at St. Matthew's will be an
enjoyable one!



SCHOOL PICTURES

School picture day is October 7th. Please mark this date on your calendar.

STUDENT AGENDAS

Our school agendas have been successfully implemented in grades 1-8. Students are required to use these agendas daily and we continue to encourage parents to use them as a means of communication with your child's teacher. Please remember to initial your child's agenda daily. Thank you to all parents who promptly sent in the money for the agendas. A reminder to those parents who have not yet paid, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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MILK PROGRAM

Mrs. Pierre and Ms. Augustin are our milk coordinators for this year. We would like to thank them in advance for the work they will be doing to ensure that our students have the opportunity to purchase a healthy drink. Thank you also to our Intermediate students who will be distributing the milk to the classes.

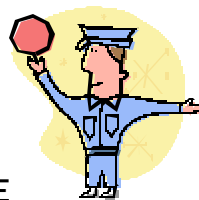
MILK SHAKE DAYS



We would like to thank Mrs. Villemaire for once again running the Milk Shake Days at St. Matthew's. Milk shake days are as follows:

October 22, 2004
December 3, 2004
January 28th, 2005
March 11th, 2005
May 6, 2005.

You will soon be receiving an order form.



KISS N' RIDE

OUR KISS N' RIDE PROGRAM IS DESPERATELY IN NEED OF A COORDINATOR AND VOLUNTEERS. IF YOU CAN SPARE 20 MINUTES IN THE MORNING AND 20 MINUTES AFTER SCHOOL, PLEASE CALL MRS. NESTIC AT THE SCHOOL. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO VOLUNTEER EVERY DAY OF THE SCHOOL YEAR. IF YOU ARE UNSURE ABOUT YOUR ROLE AS A KISS N' RIDE VOLUNTEER OR COORDINATOR, PLEASE SPEAK TO MRS. CHACKO (VICE-PRINCIPAL) WHO WILL BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO ASSIST.

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Message from Mrs. Sumi, our Kiss N' Ride Coordinator:

Dear Volunteers:

As of October 1st, I am unable to coordinate the Kiss N' Ride program due to new commitments. I will be able to help out by doing a couple of shifts per week, but I will not be checking to make sure that each shift is covered.

Please help us out as much as you can and let's pray for a Coordinator and about five more volunteers. Please spread the word to let people know of our dire need.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Caroline Sumi.

PYLON HELPERS

A big thank you to the following students from Mr. Walsh's Grade 8 class who assisted with putting out the pylons for Kiss N' Ride. They are ...

Mitchell S., Nicole V., Thomas O., Jacob S., Amanda W., Nataly V., Ainslee S., Brianna M., Paul W., Jose S. & Nicolas R.

HAND TO HAND PATROLLERS

Many thanks to the following students from grades 5 & 6 who have volunteered to be Hand to Hand Patrollers. They will be helping to bring Kindergarten students from Kiss N' Ride to the classrooms during morning drop-off and afternoon drop-off. They are...

Samantha W., Elaina D., Samantha C., Christina C., Danielle H., Rachel R., Kimberly I., Ashley M., Jessica P., Julia B., Nicholas M., Danielle M., & Melissa R.

BUS SAFETY AND EVACUATION PRESENTATIONS



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Bus Safety and Evacuation presentations were offered to all our students quite recently. The students were educated on how to ride a bus safely and how to evacuate from a bus in the event of an emergency. We thank Laidlaw for making this presentation available to us.

ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST CROSS COUNTRY TEAM



Congratulations to all those students who joined this year's Cross Country Team. Those who are competing on the 6th of October are now jogging for a solid 25-30 minutes around the St. Matthew's block. They have made the qualifier to participate at Dagmar this fall! For those who are joining us for the exercise.....you are doing amazingly well! Thank you to all of the volunteer parents who have helped out at our practices. You are much appreciated!

All of those parents who volunteered **to supervise on the day of the meet**, are to meet the Team **at Dagmar** for 9:45 a.m. (Bring a chair to watch the excitement!) Your child has been sent home with the permission form which must be returned, with the bus money, as soon as possible. Remember, your child **MUST** be at school for attendance and instruction on the day of the Meet. It is necessary for them to be **on the bus to go to the Meet**. If you would like to take them home after their race, you may do so by telling Mrs. Albis, Mrs. Bortoluzzi, Miss Cushing, or Mrs. Michaud that afternoon that he/she is going home with you. Without your cooperation, we would not be able to attend. Happy, healthy walking to all of you!

Sincerely,

**P. Bortoluzzi, M. Albis
A. Cushing, J. Henry,
M. Michaud**

STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Beginning November 2004, we will be continuing the "Student of the Month" program at St. Matthew's. The program is a vehicle for recognizing and affirming the qualities we would like to see our children develop and demonstrate to others. The "Student of the Month" will be chosen by the classroom teacher and that student will receive a certificate, a token and a special place on the "Student of the Month" bulletin board in the front foyer.

SCHOOL SPIRIT DAYS

This year we plan to have "Spirit Days" on the last Thursday of every month starting in October 2004. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28TH IS "ORANGE AND BLACK DAY" at St. Matthew's. Please note this very important date in your calendar! Reminders will be put on the announcements closer to the time.



ST. MATTHEW PIZZA DAYS

Thank you to the Pizza Day Committee (Beverley Oke-Hickey, Rhonda Barone, Robyn Schultz, Christina Marques, Ashley Augustin and Marilyn Rizzo for organizing and coordinating Pizza Days at St. Matthew's. It is quite a privilege! Please see the attached letter outlining all the dates.

WANTED ! VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for parents/grandparents to help us with our library and our reading program at St. Matthews. If you can volunteer a few hours of your time to help in our library or to read and listen to primary children read we ask that you give us a call at the school. Also, if you expertise in a particular area (crafts, art, etc.) and would like to share that with our students, please call us.

Volunteering has a very positive impact on a school and we are grateful for the time that our volunteers donate.

The attached sheet outlines some of the areas you can be involved in. If you are interested, please fill in the sheet and send it to the attention of Mrs. Chacko (Vice-Principal). Thank you in advance for your time.

NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOMS

Mr. Lia's JK/SK Class...

I would like to thank all the parents/guardians and students who came to visit me during school visits. It was a pleasure meeting you and I look forward to a fun and educational year with your children. I would also like to welcome the returning and new SK students to my afternoon class.

During the month of October, we will be busy establishing routines and learning classroom rules. In addition, the kindergarten division is planning a trip to complement our Fall/Harvest theme. This trip will take place at the end of the month and I will send home a letter with all the details.



Have a great month!

Ms. Simms's Grade 1 Class...

Welcome back! We have had a wonderful September. The class is learning about "Apples," syllables, welcoming each other, patterning and so on. We are on Unit 3 in spelling. Borrow-A-Book has begun. Please make sure the books come back to school everyday. Library book exchange began last week. We go every Thursday afternoon. Poetry duotangs come home on Fridays and back to school on Mondays. The children are encouraged to practise reading the

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poems. Our first class trip is on Wednesday, October 6th. We are going to Nature's Bounty Apple Orchard. It's a really super place! Parents are more than welcome to join us. Let's hope we have nice weather!

Mrs. Kennedy's Grade 1 Class...

We have had a great start to the year. The children are adjusting to coming to school for the full day. They particularly enjoy playing in the big yard for recesses. It has been a pleasure getting to know one another. Every day we recognize and give special attention to a different child as our "Celebrity of the Day." The children have met my special friend "Rosie" who lives in our classroom, and they enjoy hearing about her adventures each morning. Our theme this month has been "apples" and we have been doing and learning a variety of things in language, math and science with apples. We are looking forward to our trip to Nature's Bounty Apple Orchard on October 6th. In math, we have been learning about sorting and patterning. The children recently brought home their "Borrow-a-Books" for the first time. Just a reminder that they are to read the book (or chapter) each night and return it the next day to change for a different book. The importance and value of your child reading each day at home is immense. We have so much to learn and do in Grade 1 and we are off to the races!!



Mr. Prior and Mrs. O'Donnell's Grade 2 Classes...

Welcome back to another year of learning. We thank God for returning us all safely.

This is a very important year for our grade two children as they will be receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion. Please pray for them as they prepare for the reception of the sacraments.

Reconciliation: November 8 at 1:00 p.m. at Holy Family Church
First Communion: April 17 during the 12:30 parish mass

The children of grade two did a great job in preparing for our school's first school mass of the school year on September the 21st. Prayers were recited well and songs were sung with enthusiasm. Thank you also to Fr. Reddy, altar servers and all others who were involved to help to make this a wonderful celebration of mass.

This month we will work on our Map and Globe unit. Students are practising their directions - north, south, west and east. We are reading and creating maps.



Bee...zzy Grade 3's

This year in Grade 3 we are off to a great start! The new school year 2004-2005 began "bee...autifully". We have been busy setting up routines, agendas, and timetables. During Religion we have welcomed our new students and returning students alike. The classes are preparing their welcome kites and setting up their goals and dreams for the future.

We are reading exciting stories and learning new vocabulary. We have learned about the different attributes in "Patterns". We are learning about our community and country in "Many Gifts".

In Science, we are examining and experimenting with soil. As you can see we are very "bee...zzy!"

The Grade 3 Teachers
Ms. Colucci
Mrs. Papapetrou



Mrs. Bortoluzzi & Mrs. Cowen's Grade 4 Classes...

The students have been busy during September! We have been establishing class and school rules and routines. The students are learning about our wonderful country, Canada. In math, we have been reviewing previous skills. The students have also begun writing fantastic creative stories. Hopefully, the good work will continue into next month.



Mrs. Lynk's Grade 4 Class...

During the month of September we got to know one another better through our math activities. We had a lot of fun collecting, displaying, and analyzing real data on topics such as our birthdates, number of family members, number of TV's in our homes, the way we get to school and shoe sizes. In October, we will explore large numbers as we investigate the question, "How can we show numbers?"

We have almost finished reading the classic novel "Charlotte's Web" by E.B. White. We are all enjoying this timeless story about friendships and relationships. We will continue with our novel study into the month of October through writing and oral activities.

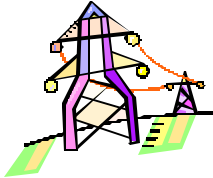
Mr. Cavallari & Mrs. Michaud's Grade 6 Classes...

Our year is off to a great start. It was a pleasure meeting many of you at our annual "Meet the Teacher BBQ." In science, the class has begun the unit on "Flight and Electricity." The students are enjoying conducting various types of experiments.

In social studies, the class is studying the Origin and migration of Canada's Aboriginals.

In religion, the class has been reflecting on the importance of God's love and friendship while expressing this importance through poetry.

Please continue to monitor your child's agenda with regard to homework and upcoming events.



Mr. Walo, Mrs. Stewart and Mrs. McDonald's Grade 7 Classes...

We would like to welcome all our grade 7 students to the beginning of a new Intermediate year. We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Mrs. McDonald, our new grade 7 music and science teacher.

In Mrs. McDonald's science class we have begun learning about the nature of science and the many ways to look at a problem using the "Dot Problem" method. In music, we are reviewing and learning basics such as rhythm, tone colour and pitch.

Congratulations to Mrs. Stewart our history and gym teacher on her summer wedding. In history, we are learning about aboriginals, European explorers and New France. In gym, we have begun our unit on Volleyball.

We welcome Mr. Walo back to grade 7. In Mr. Walo's art class we have just completed a "nine box challenge" where we had to develop a 2-dimensional art piece using a variety of shapes. We have also completed work on our art portfolios to store all our beautiful art work. In geography, we are learning a variety of mapping skills that geographers use on daily basis.



Mr. Walsh, Mr. MacDonald, & Mrs. Henry's Grade 8 Classes...

We have quickly settled into our school routines for this year. In some ways, it's as if we never left! We all enjoyed a great summer and are prepared to settle into achieving our new goals for our last elementary year of school. These goals can be read in the Annual Education Profile Booklets. This year is sure to be a terrific "growing" year for all of us! Many of us have already signed up to do community services (which needs to be completed prior to Confirmation in April) around the school and are participating on school teams. Please ask your child about the Community Service necessary for Confirmation. A note will be sent out on the first week of October stating dates and information to you, the parent. Most of us have been

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completing our every day homework assignments. We are now being tested in many areas of the program. Study is imperative!

These upcoming dates are only a few to remember:

Deadline registration date (at the Church) for candidates of Confirmation is October 11th!
Students brought letters home last week as a final reminder to parents that they **MUST** register their child for Confirmation at Holy Family Church as soon as possible.

October 3rd, Sunday, at 6:05 is the Oshawa Generals Game. Congratulations to Kristen Mc., Marla D., Savanna G., and Courtney C for representing our school by singing AO Canada.@

Picture Day, Thursday, October 7th.

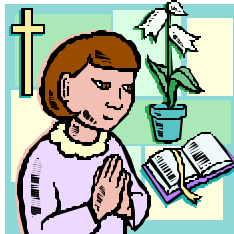
Cross Country Meet is on October 6th, rain date on the 8th.

Flag Football Tournament is on October 19, with October 22nd as a raindate.

Thanksgiving Celebration for class and parents.....October 8th. More news to follow. Class mass/reflection included. Luncheon! Thank you for donating to the Apot-luck@luncheon.

November 25th.....Design and Tech.

PRAYER FOR THE HUNGRY



**Dear Jesus,
we pray for all those
who are hungry in our world.
You know how terrible it is
for people to go to bed hungry
and then wake up without food.
May each of us learn to share
what we have been given in your name
so there will be enough food
for all people
AMEN.**

Bless This Day. Patricia Mathson