

# St. George Catholic School



## Newsletter January 2009



### Principal's Message

Happy New Year! I hope that you had the chance to rest, relax and recharge over the holidays.

January always gives us the opportunity to start fresh, to continue with what has been working well and re-examine things that may not have been working for us and to make changes.

The winter term can often be the most productive for students. By now, students are very familiar with their teachers, the routines and the expectations.

The Staff of St. George Catholic School appreciates your continued support and cooperation as your child(ren) travel along their educational journey. The continued partnership of Home, Church and School remains crucial to develop a well-rounded person.

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school for assistance or clarification. Communication between the Home and the School is important for all partners.

### Morning Supervision

A reminder that yard supervision does not begin until 7:50 a.m. Students who are walkers, or who are driven to school by parents, should not arrive before 7:50 a.m.

### Allergies

Several students in our school community have very serious allergies to nuts. These children could die from eating or simply touching this food. The staff of St. George School cares greatly about all students. For this reason, we continue to restrict all peanut butter and nut products from our school.

### Thank you

- for all the cards, gifts and best wishes that were extended to the staff this season. They were very much appreciated.
- for the large quantity of toys and gifts that were donated to our special family.
- to Mr. Chris Watkins, we offer our appreciation for continuing to volunteer his time to the chess club.
- Also to Mme Colette Rowley, for volunteering to coordinate the Christmas pageant and to the teachers for their support in this endeavor. Bravo!
- to all parents/students who ordered school clothing, this order was a success and we hope to offer the chance to order again in the near future.

• again, to all parents who attended our Christmas pageant on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at St. George.

### Do you know this Person?

#### Description:

- Uses really innovative teaching methods
- Supports students who face difficult challenges
- Builds strong relationships with parents and the community to help students learn
- Fosters a culture of equity and respect
- Encourages students to explore new possibilities, take risks, and solve problems in a creative way.

#### Last seen:

- In schools and school boards across Ontario

If you know someone who fits this description, please visit [www.ontario.ca/teachingawards](http://www.ontario.ca/teachingawards) for more information.

The Premier's Awards for Teaching Excellence celebrate outstanding school and school board staff. The awards are a great way to thank the people who make a difference in your school.

The deadline for nominations is January 31, 2009.

### Inclement Weather

We have approached the time of year that there may be inclement weather days. Since our Board is so large geographically, the Board is divided into zones. St. George Catholic School students live in zone 4 which is North and South Dundas and zone 5 which includes North and South Stormont. If transportation is cancelled in an area, no buses will enter or exit the area. Parents / Guardians must be aware that if the buses are cancelled in the morning – there will be **NO** buses in the afternoon.

### School Council Meeting

Our next school council meeting will be Tuesday, Jan 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 in the computer lab at St. George. As always, everyone is welcome to attend.

### Help your children with their abc123s using new online videos

Every day at school, your children learn important skills. As a parent, you can help develop and strengthen those skills by encouraging your children to apply what they've learned in the classroom to regular activities at home and in the community.

Pointing out words on signs or buildings helps children practice their reading and learn new words. A trip to the grocery store provides

a great opportunity for a math and vocabulary lesson. Your refrigerator can act as a central learning zone where you post puzzles or games.

To complement these activities, a new series of video podcasts is now available online at [ontario.ca/abc123](http://ontario.ca/abc123). These videos will help you identify lots of ways to support and develop your child's reading, writing and math skills. They are aimed at parents of children from preschool through Grade 6, and feature real families just like yours, learning together through everyday activities.

New videos will be posted every month and are available in English and in French.

All you need to watch the video podcasts is a computer with a media player, such as Windows Media. You can watch the videos online on the abc123 website, or download them to your computer for future viewing. You can even put them on a mobile device, like an iPod, with video capabilities and watch them on the go!

Complete instructions about how to download the videos are available at [Ontario.ca/abc123](http://Ontario.ca/abc123).

Besides the video podcasts, the abc123 website offers tip sheets and guides for parents who want to help their children improve their skills in reading, writing, and math. These tips and guides are available in English and French as well as a number of other languages.

### Smoke-Free Ride

If you're a parent who smokes, you know it can be hard to resist lighting up while driving. But smoking in the car increases your child's risk of getting serious illnesses, even if your windows are open. Ontario has recognized the importance of this issue, and on January 21, 2009, it is no longer allowed by law to smoke in vehicles with passengers under 16. If you think it's the right time for you to quit smoking and give *your* kids a smoke-free ride, call the Eastern Ontario Health Unit at 613-933-1375 or at 1 800 267-7120 and ask for the Health Line.

### S.E.A.C.

The next Special Education Advisory Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 28, 2009, at the Kemptville Board Office. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m., and as always, all interested people are encouraged and welcome to attend.