



# St. Michael's Choir School

## *The Guiding Light*

December 2010

### *Virtue of the Month - Charity*

**“La tolérance est la charité de l'intelligence”.** Jules Lemaître

#### **Homework Tips**



##### **Develop a positive attitude**

It is important that family members come to an agreement on the positive value of homework. Gaining this consensus sets the stage for a successful learning environment within the home. Remember ... The attitude you express about homework will be the attitude your child acquires.

##### **Designate a quiet working space**

Distractions and homework do not mix. Provide a space for your child to do homework in a area that is free from distractions such as the television, computer games, friends, pets and telephones, for example.

##### **Establish a routine**

Consistency is a vital element in the learning process, especially for a child who needs structure. A homework schedule that includes a set time and space for completing homework reinforces the value of homework and becomes part of a regular routine.



##### **Create a Homework supply kit**

This kit can include materials that your child will use on a regular basis such as pencils, pens, ruler, paper, crayons, markers, glue, tape, scissors, sticky notes, paper clips, stapler, calculator, index cards, dictionary, thesaurus, etc. By having these supplies on hand, time is not wasted in searching for them when they are required.

##### **Provide guidance, not answers**

Homework is a key way for your child to learn independently, life-long skills. Giving answers regularly or doing homework for your child does not help him to understand concepts or develop skills. As well, it prevents the teacher from understanding where your child may require further support back in the classroom. If your child demonstrates signs of frustration with homework being assigned, it is important to discuss this with your child's teacher as soon as possible.

#### **Office of Catholic Youth**



The Office of Catholic Youth has a long tradition in the Archdiocese of Toronto. Over the years the OCY, have developed simple guiding principles to help the young in their work. The Office encourages young people to find opportunities to faithfully serve the Church and the community at large. The make every opportunity to provide potential service placement in the community or volunteer opportunities with their office. Programs office for the youth are: Leadership Programs; Youth Minister Workshops, Pilgrimages and Retreats; Archdiocesan Youth Rally; and Worth Youth Day 2011.

For more information on how to get involved with the OCY or within the community, log onto [www.ocytoronto.org](http://www.ocytoronto.org) or call 416-599-7676

#### **Grade 10 and 11 Option Sheet for 2010**

Regarding options selection, an information meeting has been scheduled for **parents and students of grade 10 and 11 students**. The meeting will take place at 7:00 pm on **Wed. Feb. 9, 2011**.

I welcome and encourage all parents to attend and familiarize themselves with the choice of program that is available at the Choir School. The meeting will be held in the cafeteria.



## Scholarship 2010 - 2011



Here are some dates to keep in mind:

1. **Vari Scholarship/Bursary for Future Teachers**  
www.vicu.utoronto.ca
2. **Terry Fox Humanitarian Award Program**  
www.terryfoxawards.ca
3. **RBC Royal Bank Scholarship**  
www.rbcroyalbank.com/scholarships
4. **University of Western Ontario, National Scholarship**  
www.registrar.uwo.ca/FinancialServices/  
NationalScholarship.cfm
5. [www.scholarshipscanada.com](http://www.scholarshipscanada.com)  
or [Studentawards.com](http://Studentawards.com)

## Grade 12 University Applications

The grade 12 students have received their PIN (Personal Identification Number), allowing them to register with OUAC (Ontario University Application Centre) and start selecting their universities and programs of choice. **All grade 12 students are reminded that they should complete their application prior to the Christmas Break in order to avoid computer slow downs in January.** The website [www.electronicinfo.ca](http://www.electronicinfo.ca) is an excellent way for all students to explore their options. **Please Note:** Initial admission to a program by all Ontario Universities will be based on your Semester I final marks and the Semester II mid-term marks. If there are students interested in applying to universities outside of Ontario, they must contact each individual university directly for the application forms. If the boys are concerned at any time, the guidance office is always open.

## Leadership Opportunities

1. Toronto Brigantine: Tall Ship Adventure for Youths  
For more information go to: <http://www.torontobrigantine.org/>
2. CSLIT - Catholic Student Leadership Impact Team - We have six grade 8 students that are now activity involved in the elementary division of CSLIT. Next meeting on January 6th.
3. High School - CSLIT - Next meeting on January 25th
4. Intermediate Leaders in Training Event - Jan 26th,
5. Intermediate Camp Olympia - May 1 - 3rd

## Career Evening Wed. Mar. 2, 2011



For all students from Grade 7 to 11 and their parents.  
More information to come in the new year.

## Safe School

### Myth #3

#### Fight back and you solve the problem



Many kids believe (especially if their parents tell them to) that hitting back is the best way to put a stop to bullying. "They say, 'You go back and hit him back,'" says Mayer, who insists that an eye-for-an-eye response is

ultimately ineffective and often hurts far more than it helps. Why? Although hitting back might bring a moment of satisfaction, it can lead to escalation. Mayer compares it to an arms race, with the weapons just getting bigger and more destructive. Instead, he recommends telling your child:

- **Tell an adult.** Make sure your child knows to let an adult know what's happening, whether it's a coach, a teacher, or you. "You need to let them know," says Mayer. "They can intercede to stop it."
- **Don't react.** Encourage your child not to cry, stop walking, or acknowledge the bully in any way. "This can be super-hard to teach kids, but it's what works," Mayer says. If your child responds, the bully will feed on it. By leaving the bully hanging, she or he will end up looking silly.

### Myth #4

#### Bullies come from the top of the social pecking order



Sometimes this is true, but more commonly kids who bully are often victims of abuse themselves or are going through difficult problems at home. They may even have cognitive disorders that impair their impulse control. "Something is wrong

with that kid in that time of their life," says Mayer. It doesn't mean all bullies will turn into criminals, he says, but at that time they are trying to wield power in an inappropriate way. The kid who bullies feels a lack of control in his or her own life.

Often issues at home, such as divorce, abuse, or violence, leave children feeling helpless. Kids who bully don't have the coping mechanisms to deal with that powerlessness. So what do they do? Get power the only way they can. Or as Williams puts it: "Hurt people hurt people." School administrators who understand this can address bullying more effectively by counseling bullies as well as victims.