



St. Michael's Choir School

The Guiding Light

November 2010

Virtue of the Month - PEACE

"Peace I leave to you, my peace I give to you" John 4:27

Our Future Leaders at St. Michael's Choir School

St. Michael's Choir School has embarked on a new journey. As a community, we would like to continue building our future leaders in all aspects of their life. As a school, along with our parent community, our alumni community and our extends community we have the opportunity and ability to establish impressive pathways for our young men. The is a process that will start in the elementary school and continue up to grade 12.

Presently, the following is happening here at the school:

1. Grade 12 - These young men started the Benefit Choir while they were in grade 10. Each year, the graduating class is responsible for the organization and the presentation of the Remembrance Day Service at the Cathedral
2. Grade 11 - Students will be participating the Choral Leadership Program
3. Grade 10 - This year, the boys have started the Junior Benefit Choir
4. Grade 9 - The students have taken part in the High School Orientation Retreat
5. Grade 7/8/ - These young men started the Eco-Club and are part of the Confirmation Leadership classes
6. We have two high students representing the school in CSLIT - Catholic School Leadership Implementation Team

The future invites us all to allow our boys to use their talents and give of themselves not only to the immediate community, but to the extended local and global community. Students will be invited to participate in various leadership workshops in the near coming future.

Grade 8 Interviews

Mrs Zanette will be meeting with the grade 8 students individually during the month of November to discuss their transition from elementary school to high school.



St. Michael's Choir School Virtue of the Month

At the Choir School, we strive to teach, model and promote Christian virtues throughout the curriculum and in all that we do. Part of this effort includes a school assembly at the beginning of each month at which we discuss various virtues, those habits that help us to become the person God calls us to be.

At the elementary assembly, there are presentations about the virtue of the month and certificates given in recognition of those boys who have actively demonstrated the highlighted virtue of the previous month. In September, the virtue was 'hospitality'; in October it was 'gratitude'; and in November it is 'peacemaking.'

At the high school assembly, there is more of a focus on leadership education. We look at those virtues of true manhood. A real man, to use an Ignatian expression, is understood as 'a man for others'. We discuss those virtues, or habits, that help boys become true men. In September, we discussed the virtue of 'respect' – respect for God, for others and for ones self. In October, using the sword of St Michael as an inspiration, we talked about how a good man keeps his edge, how he stays 'sharp' in all that he does. In the month of November, we examined how a real man is 'considerate' of others. Inspiration for this virtue can be seen in the examples of St Joseph and Brother Andre, recently canonized as Saint Andre Bessette.

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. Student should look on www.electronicinfo.ca for the course requirements and the overall average required for a particular program at the university. It is important to remember that the final marks in semester one and the mid term marks in semester two will be looked at by all universities for consideration into the programs. 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 to assist them.



Family Literacy

Enter the Munsch at Home Contest for a chance to win a home visit from Family Literacy Day Honorary Chair, Robert Munsch. It's easy! Just write us a fun story with your family about playing games and submit it online. For more information go to:

<http://abclifeliteracy.ca/>

Scholarship 2010 - 2011



Here are some dates to keep in mind:

1. **Vari Scholarship/Bursary for Future Teachers**
Due December 1, 2010
www.vicu.utoronto.ca
2. **Terry Fox Humanitarian Award Program**
Due February 1, 2011
www.terryfoxawards.ca
3. **RBC Royal Bank Scholarship**
Due: February 1, 2011
www.rbcroyalbank.com/scholarships
4. www.scholarshipscanada.com or Studentawards.com

Connected Parenting Workshop

Raising Responsible and Motivated Teens

This workshop will explore the delicate bond between teenagers and their parents. Parents will learn to balance empathy with limit setting, to strengthen and deepen their relationships with their teenager. Jennifer Kolari will offer parents effective strategies to avoid power struggles, help their kids make safe choices and instill in their teens the confidence and resilience to say NO to their peers.

Presentation is on Wed. Dec 1, 2010 from 7:00 pm to 8:00 am at St. Antoine Daniel Elementary School 160 Finch Ave We. Call 416-393-5339 and respond by Nov. 26 or email Cindy Leigh at cmleigh@sympatico.ca

Learning Disabilities Association Toronto

The following workshops are being offered:

- The Friendship Club
- Keyboard for Kids
- Yoga for Youth
- Assistive Technology Training
- No Stress Chess

For more information go to www.ldatd.on.ca or call 416-229-1680



bridging the language barrier

At times, parent would like an opportunity to further extend their son's experience in French. The following services has been brought to our attention:

The Converse Centre offers children programs such as:

- o Group sessions: after school , Saturdays
- o Private instructions, French and Spanish tutoring
- o Remedial programs
- o March break programs
- o Summer camp at all levels

For more information go to www.conversecentre.com – email info@conversecentre.com – phone 905-826-3334



Summer 2011

Shad Valley is a four week residential summer enrichment program. Students live in residence at a host university located across Canada. This program is open to Grade 10, 11 and 12 students. Application deadlines are Dec. 9, 2009 and January 20, 2010. You must complete the application with an additional essay and reference letter. Bursaries and scholarships are available. Please see www.shad.ca. Note that a large percentage of places will be awarded to qualified applicants whose applications are received by the **Dec. 8th 2010 deadline.**

French Tutoring Services Grade 3 - 12

If your son is experiencing some difficulty with the French program and you may have been thinking about a tutoring service, this is one that has come our way:



For more information, please go to http://toft.ca/_english/ or contact them at 647-456-8638

The Guidance Newsletter is now available on the school website.

www.smcs.on.ca

Look under the "student" tab

Safe School

Ten bullying myths

What do parents really need to know about bullying? It's not necessarily what you think.

By Valle Dwight



Myths and misconceptions

Not a day goes by without another gut-wrenching tale of bullying making headlines. Schoolyards erupt in violence. Social-media sites turn into **cyber lynch mobs**.

Kids commit suicide after enduring months of abuse. Despite all the media attention, parents often remain in the dark about what actions to take when it happens to their children — or when their children bully others.

What can parents really do? What are the signs to watch for? How do you distinguish garden-variety personality conflicts between kids (which may include some mean behavior) from actual bullying? We contacted two experts, Drexel University professor and director of the Center for the Prevention of School-Aged Violence **Charles Williams** (aka Dr. Chuck) and clinical psychologist and author **John Mayer**, to illuminate the common misconceptions around bullying — and how parents can fight them.

Myth #1

You'll know when your child is being bullied



Just because your child doesn't tell you he or she is being bullied, doesn't mean it's not happening. In 2007 almost a third of middle and high schoolers **reported that they'd been bullied at school**. And those

are the ones who admitted it. "It's one of those silent issues," says Williams. Many kids don't speak up because they think that it will lead to more abuse — or that there is an unwritten code that kids shouldn't tell.

If you notice that your child comes home with torn clothing; starts complaining about going to school; has unexplained bruises, cuts, and scratches; or seems depressed and socially isolated, these are signs of bullying. If you suspect bullying, keep talking with your child and go to the school for help and input. Talk with your child's teacher, a school administrator, or a school counselor to see if they've noticed any problems and, if so, work with them to deal with the problem sooner than late.

Continue reading next month's newsletter for the next two myths.

Tax Tips for College and University Students



Fortunately, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) administers a range of programs and tax credits to help offset some of the costs of college and university. And, in many cases, it's not just the students, but those who help them financially that can file the claims.

More information can be obtained from the following site:

<http://canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/29886>