



St. Helen Elementary School

Growing together in Christ

September 2019

1325 Bodley Rd
Mississauga, Ont
L5J 3X1
(T) 905-822-4564
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Principal
P. Basran

Head Secretary
D. Vieira

Director of Education
M. Mazzorato
905-890-1221

Associate Director
D. Del Bianco
905-890-1221

Associate Director
D. Amaral
905-890-1221

Superintendent
C. Macdonald
905-890-1221

Trustee
S. Hobin
905-890-1221

Custodians
John Taylor
Mariano Camello

Parish
St. Christopher's
Parish
1171 Clarkson Rd. N
Mississauga, ON
905-822-1171

Pastor
Fr. Jaime Perea & Fr.
Scott Young

School Website:
<http://www.dpcdsb.org/HELEN>

Prayer for a New School Year!

Our Heavenly Father,
We thank you for the opportunity to begin this new school year.
We ask that you bless the students and the faculty that make our school a great place.
We pray that you will guide us in all ways, so that we will seek your will in everything that we do.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord, Amen.



Administrators' Message

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On behalf of the entire staff, we would like to welcome you and your children to the 2019-2020 school year at St. Helen School. It promises to be challenging and rewarding. To the many families joining our school community for the first time, we extend a special and warm welcome. We would also like to extend a greeting of best wishes to our Junior Kindergarten children who are starting school for the first time, and we hope that they will develop many happy memories of our school as they begin this very important journey.

St. Helen would also like to welcome back Father Scott, Father Jaime and the parish team at St. Christopher. We look forward to working with you to help nurture the faith of our students. We are fortunate to continue working with our Catholic School Trustee, Mrs. Sharon Hobin, the Chair of the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board and Trustee for Wards 2 and 8. Trustee Hobin is a wonderful advocate for our students and school community. We are also blessed to be under the direction of Superintendent, Mrs. Cairine MacDonald. Superintendent MacDonald has a wealth of experience in Catholic education.

Thank you to Mrs. Vieira and our staff for their work in collaboration with families to ensure a smooth and successful transition for all members of the St. Helen community.

A special thanks to our custodial team, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Camello for all of their hard work over the summer in preparing our school.

Working as a community will ensure that St. Helen continues to be a school that is centered by our faith and striving toward academic excellence.

Wishing everyone a wonderful school year.

God Bless,
P. Basran



September Virtue – FAITH



To begin the new school year, we'll focus our attention on the first of our virtues - **Faith**. Faith is the great virtue of believing in God and trusting that God is with us.

A faithful person believes that we are created, guided by and destined to be reunited with God.

A faithful person believes that God's plan for us includes the right to be safe, especially at school.

From the perspective of the Catholic Graduate Expectations, a fair person...

- † Prays regularly and reverently
- † Learns from Scripture stories
- † Honors people's God-given names
- † Assumes that there is good in everyone
- † Accepts the God-given worth of themselves and others

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
(Heb. 11:1)

Our Parish Team

We would like to take this opportunity welcome Father Jaime and the entire St. Christopher Parish to another school year. We truly appreciate all of their hard work and above all their dedication to the entire St. Helen Community. We look forward to their continued spiritual guidance with our staff and students!

The Virtues Initiative

A key aspect of the Board's strategic direction is the continued development of safe, caring, inclusive Catholic school communities. As a Catholic Community, we are called to learn, grow and become more like Jesus. Catholic education provides us the opportunity to integrate the virtues into our students' daily activity. The virtues will be celebrated every month during announcements, in class during discussions, and during the **Living Our Faith Awards** assemblies.

✓ September: Faith	✓ October: Empathy
✓ November: Conscience	✓ December: Hope
✓ January: Self-control	✓ February: Respect
✓ March: Kindness	✓ April: Love
✓ May: Acceptance	✓ June: Fairness

St. Helen Staff 2019 - 2020

FDK	L. Porter
FDK	Y. Evans - DECE
FDK	J. Dawe
FDK	C. Espinoza-DECE
Gr. 1	K. Bianchi
Gr. 1/2	D. Rocco
Gr. 2/3	D. Long
Gr. 3/4	D. Pietrangelo
Gr. 4/5	T. Bonaccorso
Gr. 6/7	A. Sharman
Gr. 7/8	P. Maguire
FSL	J. Bradford
Librarian/ESL	R. Kelly
ERW	C. Irwin
Planning Time	M. Curran
Psychologist	V. Nelson
Social Worker	H. Jivraj
Speech Pathologist	K. Tsui
Child Youth Worker	M. Lapp
Custodians	J. Taylor
	M. Camello
	P. Basran
	D. Vieira
Principal	
Secretary	

Yard Supervision

Please do not send your child/children to school before 8:45 a.m. Staff supervision of students in the playground begins at 8:45 a.m. To ensure your child's safety, we appreciate your cooperation and understanding in this matter.

Welcome!

We would like to welcome new staff to St. Helen: Mr. Maguire (Grade 7/8) and Mr. Lapp (Child & Youth Worker) are wonderful additions to our school community. They each bring a wealth of experience and enthusiasm. Welcome!

Professional Activity Day



Friday, **September 13th, 2019** is a Professional Activity Day. Students do not attend school on this day. Teachers will be involved in professional development and reorganization of classes if necessary.

Picture Day



Picture day will be on **Thursday, October 3rd, 2019**. Be sure to bring your big smiles! Photo re-take day will be on **Friday, November 8th, 2019**.

Open House/Curriculum night



Our annual Open House will be held on **Thursday, September 19th, 2019**. Mark this date on your calendars and plan to attend to meet your child's teacher. More information will follow.

St. Helen Introduces Online Payments

St. Helen and Dufferin-Peel CDSB have introduced a convenient online payment system for purchases related to school (e.g., pizza and lunch orders, field trip costs, etc.). Please register now so that you can use this system for purchases in September.



School Hours

School will begin at **9:00 AM** and conclude at **3:30 PM**.

Lunch Hour: 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

Morning Recess: 10:25 AM to 10:40 AM

Afternoon Recess: 2:25 PM to 2:40 PM

Student Information

It is important that we have up to date records of your address, phone numbers, and emergency contacts in the event that the school must contact you regarding your child. Please inform the office or your child's teacher if any information changes throughout the year.

Student Absence and Arrival Time



We ask that parents continue to call to notify the school if their child will be absent and/or late. Your phone call to the school saves us time trying to ensure your child is safe. Remember that you can call the school twenty-four hours a day to report your child's absence at 905-822-4564- **press 1**

School Organization



September 2019 school organization is based on projected enrolment established through the School Board. Again this year the government is capping primary (JK-3) at 20 students. It is understood that this Ministry initiative has resulted in more

combined grade classes, with a reduced student-teacher ratio. Based on enrolments within our boundaries during the first two weeks of September, we may need to reorganize the classes. **Please note that your child's classroom assignment is tentative until new enrolments or withdrawals are completed during this time frame.** If your child's placement or classroom teacher changes, you will be notified. Only those students affected by reorganization will be moved. We ask for your continued support and cooperation.

Storage and Administration of Medication



Parents are responsible for ensuring that all medication and forms are updated annually for any student who requires medication to be administered at school. If your child requires medication please have the necessary forms completed and return them, along with any medication, to the office as soon as possible. Forms are available at the school office.

Anaphylaxis Plan



We have a number of staff and students in our school who have severe allergic reactions to peanuts, peanut butter, peanut oils, sesame, peanut by-products, shellfish, and seafood. As in the past, we are asking you to not put anyone at risk. Do not send any **PEANUTS, PEANUT BUTTER, PEANUT OILS, SESAME SEEDS AND ANY PEANUT OR SESAME BY-PRODUCTS, PINENUTS, SHELLFISH, OR SEAFOOD INTO THE SCHOOL.** This includes products like Nutella as well as Sushi. Please also be aware that some salad dressings contain oyster juice which can cause a serious anaphylaxis response.

Please do not send any food products to mark a child's birthday. Student birthdays can be acknowledged by sending non-food items such as a pencil or pen to celebrate a child's birthday with his/her peers. Thank you for your co-operation in this very important matter.

Picture Taking

Picture taking is not permitted by the public or media without signed parental consent. Please be aware that no pictures of students are to be posted on the inter-net. Parents are reminded that due to confidentiality and privacy laws, pictures should NOT be taken at school events such as concerts, sports games, or liturgical celebrations. Your cooperation and support is greatly appreciated.

Visitors to our School

All visitors and parents are asked to enter the building through the front door and report the office. Please sign in and obtain a visitor's sticker if you plan to remain in the building, for any reason, during school hours.

Criminal Reference Checks

Anyone working in our school as a new employee or volunteer must have a Criminal Reference Check completed by the Peel Police. If you are considering volunteering for a school trip during the school year, please get a form in the school office.



Communication between home and school is greatly enhanced by parental involvement with the Catholic School Council. The aim of the Catholic School Council is to promote the vision, values, sacramental life and Catholic practices of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board and the Catholic community it serves and to advise the principal and the Board.

Please see attached a council nomination form. These forms must be submitted to the office by Monday, October 9th.

Pizza Days & Sub Days



Information will be included in the first day package being sent home to all students.



School Bus Courtesy Seat Policy



At this time, transportation is available to students who are **deemed eligible only**. Please access the following website to determine if your child is eligible for transportation **businfo.stopr.ca**.

Those wishing to access the Courtesy Bus Seat policy are asked to put their request in writing and return it to the office. Depending on availability, seats will be allocated **early to mid October**. The Courtesy Bus Seat policy requires parents/guardians to apply every year a seat on the bus if they live beyond the eligibility requirements

JK - Grade 1 - 1.0 Km

Grades 2 – 4 - 1.6 Km

Grades 5 – 8 - 2.0 Km

Field Trips and Excursions

Educational trips that extend learning opportunities are encouraged. Teachers must follow appropriate Board procedures and, by law the school must have on file permission forms which must be signed by parents. **VERBAL PERMISSION will not be accepted.**

School Agendas



School agendas have been ordered for children in Grades 1-8 to assist your child in organizing his/her time. The teachers will be reviewing the importance of the agenda with their students. Your child is responsible to record their homework, upcoming projects/assignments, important dates, and teacher notices in their agenda. We are asking that you check your child's agenda on a daily basis to keep informed.

Custody of Children

On rare occasions, we are faced with difficult situations in which non-custodial parents arrive at school asking to visit their child or to take their child home after school. We are best able to serve and protect students when we are made aware of legal custody arrangements, visitation rights and other special instructions. If legal custody matters affect your family, please ensure that our office and classroom teachers are aware of any custodial arrangements that may affect your child during school hours.

Fire Drills/Lock Down Procedures



We are required to conduct three fire drills in the fall and three in the spring. We are also required to practice two lock down drills during the year and one Shelter in Place. Lock down drills involves students moving away from the classroom door to a location within the classroom away from windows. Lights are turned off and the doors are locked. These practices are to ensure that students and staff are prepared in case we should need to go into lock down. Lock down would be initiated by police and Board security personnel.

Message from our Superintendent

A Message From Our Superintendent, Mrs. Cairine MacDonald

Welcome back to another exciting year of learning, and a warm greeting to those students and families beginning their education in the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board community. As the Superintendent for the Mississauga South Family of Schools, I look forward to working with you, your local trustee Mrs. Sharon Hobin, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board and representative of Wards 2 and 8, parish priests Father Scott Young and Father Jaime Perea, Principal Paul Basran, Head Secretary Debby Vieira, teachers, and support staff who put the needs of children first and believe in the potential of each and every child.

I wish all the families in the Mississauga South Family of Schools a successful and productive school year, full of wonder and learning and witnessing the love of our Lord. Education is a co-operative endeavor, and as parents and guardians, you play a foundational and essential role in your child(ren)'s success. We look forward to working alongside you in setting high expectations for learning, achievement, and well-being. By working together, we will continue to support our students, families, and schools and assist them in realizing the wonderful promise of Catholic Education within Dufferin Peel.

Through our combined efforts, Dufferin-Peel will continue to be a leader in the education of many more generations of faith-filled and community minded citizens who will have a positive impact on our future.

God bless,

Cairine MacDonald
Superintendent, Mississauga South

Front Door Monitor System

For visitors and parents to our school, in order to assist you better:

Please stand facing the camera and ring the bell once. Please wait for a response....remember, schools are busy places!

For the safety of our students, we ask that you always state the reason for your visit

We also ask for your patience and understanding if there is a wait at the doors. Often our school secretary is away from her desk for photocopying etc. **Thank you for your cooperation and support!**

DPCDSB is now on Twitter! For the latest board news and information, follow us



@DPCDSBSchools.

Please follow St. Helen on Twitter

@StHelenTweet

Please visit our St. Helen website at:
<http://www.dpcdsb.org/HELEN>





MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 First Day of School 	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Parent Council Meeting @ 6:30 pm	12	13 PA Day – No School for students	14
15	16 Mr. Sub Day 	17 Pizza Day 	18	19 Pizza Day  Open House BBQ	20	21
22	23 Mr. Sub Day 	24 Pizza Day 	25 Virtue Assembly @ 11:00 am	26 Pizza Day 	27	28
29	30 Mr. Sub Day 					