

THE BREBEUF BANNER

Volume 4, Issue 15

February, 2008

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Nature certainly is unpredictable. Just when we begin to think that Canada is becoming more like Florida due to Global warming, Nature reminds us that this is Canada! Hello winter. With the cold weather of January comes the end of the first semester.

Thank you to all our partners in Catholic Education: Teachers, EA's, Secretaries, Custodians, parents, guardians for their efforts in helping our students achieve success. Our goal is to graduate successful Catholic citizens. Together, our future is secure.

My congratulations to the many successful students who excelled and received credit in semester 1. Congratulations! Those who maintain an average of 80% or higher throughout the year will be entered onto our St. Jean de Brebeuf Honour Roll. Students who were not successful in a course should make necessary changes to their study

habits, course levels and personal agendas now. Please discuss the latter within your family. Certainly, our guidance and general staff are most willing to assist. Success is possible in Semester II. Best wishes.

*Our school community unfortunately suffered another loss of a staff member. Library Technician, **Linda Tomasone** passed away on January 14 after fighting liver cancer. Our community sends its deepest condolences to Linda's family. We will keep her in our prayers.*

Vice Principal, Anthony Mastroianni will be retiring as of January 31st. After some 32 years of dedicated service to Catholic Education Mr. Mastroianni began his career with the Toronto Catholic Board teaching at the elementary and secondary level. He later joined the York Catholic Board where I had the privilege of having him lead the

Special Education Department of Holy Cross Catholic Academy. Promoted to Vice Principal, Mr. Mastroianni served the Fr. Bresnani, St. Elizabeth and our St. Jean de Brebeuf community. We have been blessed to have his sense of vocation, experience, vision, organization and entertaining wit grace our school. Thank you Anthony. You have left your mark on SJDB. Best wishes.

Joining our Administration team is Vice Principal, Mr. Joseph Servidio. He is an experienced educator and administrator. He joins our community after serving as Vice Principal at Fr. Michael McGivney CHS. We look forward to Mr. Servidio's special gifts. Welcome!

Enjoy our newsletter. Look at the photos. You will see smiling faces. We are on the right track. Best wishes to all in Semester II.

R. Villani, Principal

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Joseph Servidio

Best wishes to Mrs. Mary Ellen Griffiths who has transferred to St. Elizabeth CHS after 3 years of service in our Mathematics Department. Congratulations to Mrs. Alice Wu who begins her maternity leave to care for her new daughter, Josephine. Welcome to our new staff members, S. Voltan, T. Giordano, C. Quartarone, D. McCullough and T. Noble. Looking forward to their many gifts.

A message from Vice Principal Anthony Mastroianni to the SJDB Community

It is with mixed emotions of happiness and sadness that I say goodbye to the SJDB community. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of you - students, parents, and staff for having welcomed me from the first day and making me feel right at home. Although it has been a relatively short stay - what a perfect way to end my career. In only three years, SJDB has established itself a truly Catholic Learning Community called to serve. I have seen on a daily basis a school that lives its motto of "Educating the Mind. Nurturing the Soul". I hope that in some small way, I too have contributed to this. It is now time to begin a new chapter in my life and as I continue on this journey, I will always cherish the memories of SJDB. I wish all of you health, happiness, peace and prosperity.

Best Wishes, Anthony Mastroianni



St. Jean de Brebeuf Catholic High School is a Learning Community called to educate the mind and nurture the soul with Jesus Christ as inspiration. Success in academics, development of character, and dedication to service will be achieved with support from the home, church and school.

STUDENT ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

*"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,
which means, 'God is with us.'"
- Matthew 1:23*

St. Jean de Brebeuf students continue to prove that they are burgeoning leaders in Catholic Education through the spirit of giving. Our students, by emulating Jesus, showed us their goodwill, and therefore, affirmed that Catholic education makes a difference in shaping the whole person. Students and staff, led by Student Council, opened their hearts to donate toys for our Third Annual Toy Drive; almost 500 toys and gift cards were delivered to Chum City Christmas Wish Foundation.

SJDB students reminded us of the true meaning of Christmas: that the fullest and most lasting sign of Christmas is to make peace, and allow others to see that giving in love conquers all.

In St. Jean de Brebeuf spirit, our school helped make a few Christmas wishes come true and has done so for the last three years!

May God Bless us, everyone!

... F. Scopelliti, SAC



Course Selection week begins February 11-15.

Careful considerations for course selection is an essential part of student success. During course selection week Guidance counsellors will be visiting Homeroom classes to prepare students to select courses properly. Some considerations for proper course selection may include level of difficulty and career pathway among others. There is a Course Selection night for parents planned for February 21st, 2008, however this event will occur only if sufficient numbers indicate interest. Please contact Mrs. Barone in the Guidance office at 905 653-5679 by Tuesday February 19th to make an appointment. *... R. Maurice, Vice Principal*

PREPARING FOR

THE ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST (OSSLT)

The SJDB community is once again preparing to support our students who will be writing the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) on Thursday, March 27, 2008. Students and parents are reminded that passing the OSSLT is a **graduation requirement**. To support our students we will:

1. Offer remedial literacy/OSSLT preparation courses after school. (4 weeks in February-March) which will be MANDATORY for all grade 10 students who have an overall semester 1 average of 59% or less or grade 11 students who are required to re-write the test and voluntary for all other students.
2. Deliver subject based OSSLT preparation lessons through the regular curriculum.
3. Have a preparation assembly prior to March 27, 2008 and provide students with tips and keywords.

Parents and students are also invited to go directly to www.eqao.com and begin preparing at home.

Best of luck students!

... A. Di Prima, Vice Principal

PARENT COUNCIL

I would like to thank everyone who participated in our raffle on parent/teacher interview night. Congratulations to all the winners. The money will be going back into the school where it is greatly needed.

Parent Council will be sending out donation letters to all parents, giving everyone a chance to make a contribution to our school's Arts Department. St. Jean de Brebeuf is a new school. Equipment is needed to enhance their wonderful per-

formances. With your generosity I am sure we can make St. Jean de Brebeuf a great school for our students and future students. Thank you for your kindness and support. Please join us at our next meeting - February 11, April 14 and June 9th, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

*... A.. Fiorillo-Curigliano,
President of Parent Council*

CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION

The Cooperative Education program at St. Jean de Brebuef has had a successful first semester, with more than 30 employers participating. Students are involved in both the 2 and the 4 credit program. Our students have successfully completed career experiences in a variety of professional industries. This success has led to the part-time employment of many students, and has given them a mass of knowledge regarding the world of work. As well, many of our students are on a pathway toward apprenticeable trades.

It is also with great pleasure that we welcome Mr. S. Pasquariello to our department and we are looking forward to working with our second semester students.

The success of the Cooperative Education Program at St. Jean de Brebuef is largely due to the continued effort and support of our business partners in the community. We would like to thank and recognize this semester's partners:

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|---|---------------------------------|
| Royfoss Chevrolet | JellyBean Daycare Inc. |
| O'Neil Electric | TGA Carpet Corporation |
| R&D Auto Service | Pine Valley Electric Co. Ltd. |
| St. Agnes of Assisi CES | Fast Lane Motors Inc. |
| St. Emily CES | Valtech Construction Ltd. |
| St. Veronica Madrid Hair Salon | Prima Mazda |
| R&D Auto Service | Manhattan Shades |
| St. Agnes of Assisi CE | Northwest Hyundai |
| St. Emily CES | Number 7 Honda |
| St. Veronica CES | Florio |
| St. Andrew's CES | Decora Window & Door System |
| NorthHill Private School | Highway 27 Auto Collision Ltd. |
| Suzanne B. Quinn Professional Corporation | GF Graphics |
| Skyline Motors | Joseph's Coiffures |
| Northview Pet Hospital | Michael's Arts and Craft Stores |
| Monti | Eikar Mechanical |
| Midas | |

... F. Favrin, Cooperative Education Coordinator



PASSPORT APPLICATIONS - New Rules



Please note that our Federal Government has introduced new rules for passport applications. The information requested for the Guarantor is quite personal and hence it may not be prudent for our staff to complete the forms. Please visit "Passport Canada" on the internet for complete information. Thank you for understanding.

... R. Villani, Principal

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

At the York Catholic District School Board we recognize that some students experience academic or social challenges in their high school years. With this in mind, we have in place Student Success Support Teams (S³T) in every high school. This team is comprised of a vice-principal, a guidance/student success teacher and a special education teacher.

Student Success Support Teams (S³T) will meet to discuss supports for some students. The team may examine academic results, learning styles, Grade 9 math assessments, Grade 10 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test results, and report cards. This dialogue is helpful for students who may require alternative teaching approaches and/or additional resources to facilitate their success.

We want all students that attend our school to be successful. Through the ongoing dialogue of the Student Success Support Team (S³T), we can ensure that all our students have the greatest chance for early and sustained success.

Thank you for your continued partnership as we work together on behalf of your son or daughter. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

CHAPLAINCY DEPARTMENT

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." (Mt.18:20)

The Chaplaincy team at SJB provides opportunities for youth to develop the gift of faith sharing; that is, the capacity to listen and to be open to God, who continues to reveal himself in the Church community represented in the small group which comes together in God's name. The fruit of this sharing of faith is always the 'building up' of the Church, the Body of Christ.

This year's Chaplaincy team welcomes a number of new staff mentors who will assist with developing youth leadership opportunities:

CSAGA – Catholic Students Against Global AIDS: Ms. Anne Shields-Williams & Mr. Adriano Parravani

Equity – Mr. Peter Binelli

Dignity of Life - Mr. Adriano Parravani

Chaplaincy team meetings will take place in the Guidance seminar room on the first, second and third Monday of each month:

First Mondays: Initiative Planning Meetings

Second Mondays: Spreading the *Good News* (School-based Faith Activities)

Third Mondays: Team Building and Leadership Skills

.... **J. Morson, Department Head**

Student Article - Student Chaplaincy Council

On Monday October 15, the Chaplaincy team teacher mentors and members of the Student Chaplaincy council gathered together for a very energized meeting. Mrs. Cosentino conducted the meeting in a very special and different way. The meeting was based on building leadership skills and learning how to strengthen teamwork skills. The first activity involved members of the Chaplaincy council in brainstorming ideas and opinions about what they felt a successful team was made of. It was agreed that trust, co-operation, respect and dedication make a team successful. The next activity helped students learn more about each other and the way that members felt about certain issues. The last activity was the making of a web using string. As the string was tossed from one member to another, each person tossing the string shared something about their reason for joining the Chaplaincy team: to share faith, to make friends who shared an open love for God, to grow in confidence, to make a difference in the community, to help others, to show their love for Jesus. Eventually a unique web was created and when one person tugged on their section of string, various people in the web felt the reaction. This activity helped us to realize how our actions on a team affect one another. When everyone does their part, the whole council will benefit. This meeting was very interesting and enjoyable!

by Anet Kieubert, Student

GOSSIP & RUMOURS: DID YOU HEAR?

Did you know that spreading rumours and gossiping is a form of bullying? It can be hurtful to individuals, friendships and entire groups of people. Sharing information is a way we stay connected to people, but circulating rumours or gossiping can damage you and other people you care about.

Remember, if you hear a juicy tidbit from a friend, who heard it from another, who heard it from someone in the hall, chances are this person doesn't care whether the story is true or not. Even if a piece of gossip is true, it can still be very hurtful because the information may be private and personal.

This type of bullying could be floating around any school community but it can only happen in our school if you participate in it. By standing firm in your integrity and refusing to spread rumours or gossip, you will catch the wave of respect from others and importantly yourself.

The next time you are confronted with rumours or gossip, ask yourself 'What would Jesus do?'

... **L. Stangret, Student Support Counsellor**

Drama Department - Upcoming Events....

On Wednesday February 13th St. Jean de Brebeuf's Drama Department will be presenting a play that has been entered into **The Sears Drama Festival**. This festival is a competitive and prestigious theatrical event. Our play, entitled Room 203, was written and is being directed by our grade eleven Drama student, **Daniel Paluzzi**. Please come out and support our production as your feedback will be greatly appreciated and considered before the final competition on February 27th. Thanks.

On Tuesday March 4th we will be hosting an Improv Tournament, where our Improv Team will be competing against Holy Cross ... this promises to be a fun filled drama night...more details to follow!!!

Sincerely, S. Artenosi
Drama Teacher

MODERNS DEPARTMENT

Happy New Year! Bonne et Heureuse Année! Felice Anno Nuovo! ¡Feliz Año Nuevo!

We are a proud Moderns department here at St. Jean de Brébeuf. This year, our school is offering three Latin-based languages - French, Italian and Spanish. As our school community grows in its population, our offerings in language courses continue to expand at the senior levels. Our Moderns team members include: Mrs. Campitelli, Ms. Di Benedetto, Ms. Riccardi, Mrs. Safieh and Ms. Quartarone.

To compliment course expectations, we have given our students the opportunity to experience day excursions to allow them to speak fluently in a different environment in the language being taught to them. The trips this semester included lunch at *le Papillon* French restaurant, a scavenger hunt at *The Toronto Zoo*, bocce at *Ansley Grove Community Centre* and breakfast at *le Café français* in our own cafeteria. In this new semester, it is our hope to continue to expose our students to places in Toronto where the French, Italian and Spanish cultures resonate.



This is the first year that our grade nine students who are taking academic French have been invited to compete in the Lions Club Speak Off Competition. The in school competition will take place late March and the final contest on April 12th. Our first semester students have already had the experience of presenting speeches on French-speaking communities (la francophonie) to their classmates and teacher. We look forward to seeing success in the area of oral practice during semester two as well. Bonne chance à tous les étudiants qui participeront à cette compétition de discours oratoire en mars et en avril!

As language teachers, we continue to encourage students to pursue learning languages while keeping their options open in other areas of study. There are students who come to realize in high school that their competence in applying the basic linguistic components of a language in a conversation or in written form is a gift they have. As we are aware, language is one form of communication. It is embedded in a culture and is one of the most powerful ways in which culture is expressed and shaped. St. Jean de Brébeuf is a diverse community where we can appreciate the mélange of home languages spoken by our students and staff. Minister Tu Cheng-sheng of Taiwan believes that languages are the way to knowing the world. He states: ***“Languages are the key to knowledge. Learning a language well is like opening a window and seeing another world. Otherwise, the window is closed and the world outside the window does not exist to you.”***

... S. Safieh, Moderns Department Head

PROTECTION OF ANAPHYLACTIC STUDENTS



Student Safety and health is a primary concern to all of us. Please note that the following is Board Policy.

In Accordance to Policy 209: Protection of Anaphylactic Students (approved April 18, 2006), under: Responsibility of Parent/Guardian, the Principal must ensure that the school is provided with:

- 1 up-to-date application of the **EpiPen**, to be stored in the office and clearly marked with the student's name and known allergen.
- 1 up-to-date application of the **EpiPen**, to be carried by the student to be clearly marked with the student's name and known allergen.

BOARD APPROVED APPLICATOR

The **EpiPen** is the only first aid applicator product to be stored and used in the York Catholic District School Board schools, for use in an anaphylaxis crisis.



The Vaughan Youth Cabinet invites all students of St. Jean de Brebeuf to join us on May 22, 2008 at the 2008 "**Be Heard! Take Action**" Youth Leadership Conference. The Conference is an event for Vaughan youth to learn about leadership opportunities in their city, participate in active workshops and be given an opportunity to engage in issues that affect their daily lives.

Beyond the learning experience, participants will have an opportunity to network with other amazing youth and become inspired with the knowledge of how to become emerging leaders within their city and beyond.

The Conference takes place on May 22, 2008, and registration is going on now! **E-mail info@vyc.ca** for more information on how to get involved!

Best regards, **Steven Xu**

STUDENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

We have started this academic year with many new faces and personalities in the Student Services Department. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the new members of the department.

Ms. Spizziri is an experienced Teacher coming to us from Cardinal Carter Catholic High School. She brings with her a rich background in teaching Literacy, having taught both English and the Functional Life Skills program in the past. She has been teaching both Learning Strategies and the Literacy Program here at Brebeuf. Welcome to Ms Spizziri.

As well, it is a pleasure to announce the addition of Ms Gollo to our teaching staff. Ms Gollo was formerly a Core Resource Teacher at St. Angela Merici, and has also taught the ISA Program and Intermediate Grades for a number of years. Her rich Special Education Background is definitely an asset to our

school. She has been continuing our Assistive Technology focus through the Learning Strategies class.



Appreciating our EA's

We also have a number of new Educational Assistants in the department this year.

Coming to us from Holy Cross Catholic Academy is Ms Serapiglia, a veteran EA.

She has been assisting our students on co-operative education and in the classroom this semester. Also joining us over the course of the semester, we have had the addition of Ms D'Ugo and Mr. Abate. We are sure that they will enjoy many productive days here with our students at Brebeuf.

Returning Staff in Student Services include Core Resource Teachers Ms Brusco, Ms Moore and myself. Continuing in their dedication as Educational Assistants are Ms Conforzi, Ms Grzelak, Mr. Russo, and Mr. Tricanico. Miss Smith also returns in the role of Educational Intervener.

As first semester comes to a close, we look forward to second semester when we will be preparing our first graduating class for their exciting transition to post-secondary studies and the world of work!

... G. Galloro,
Student Services Department